



St Michael's CE Junior School

Message from Mrs Ellis-Davies

We have made it to half term and I, for one, am so grateful to each and every member of our school community who has supported us this half term. I hope that the children will look back on this half term and reflect on just how respectful, courageous and resilient they have been, and more recently how well they have adapted to the changes that have needed to be made in school with the recent rise in positive cases of COVID-19. As with many of our local schools, we have experienced a number of positive cases, but are continuing to seek advice from Public Health England to ensure that correct procedures are being followed.

I want to thank all parents for their support this half term, and again particularly more recently, with the understanding that so many of you have shown. Please could I remind you to continue to follow government guidance, and should your child develop any of the symptoms of COVID-19, book a PCR test and remain at home at least until the result is known.

I also want to thank our staff, who have worked so hard this half term to welcome your children back to school and create exciting learning journeys, which the children have fully engaged in. I hope they will take time for themselves over half term to recharge and get ready for our return on the 1st November.

Have a wonderful half term, everyone.

Children's Achievements

If your child takes part in activities outside school which merit a mention in our newsletter, e.g. sporting or musical achievements, please let the School Office know, and we shall ensure it is included in the next newsletter.

(adminoffice@st-michaels-jun.hants.sch.uk)

Year 3 News

It was lovely to speak to so many of you at Parents' Evening last week. We hope that you found it helpful and that it provided you with answers to any questions that you may have had.

In English, we have been looking at poetry. We have learnt about rhyme, syllables, repetition, alliteration and nonsense words. We are going to write our own poems about animals and publish them for our display. Our Guided Reading sessions have been based around the book 'Secrets of Stonehenge'. We predicted what we thought the book would be about, used a glossary to look up definitions of words and created our own word bank from them, identified words and phrases that captured our interest and answered questions about the text.

In Maths, we have learnt about the different types of coins and notes that we use in the UK, how to make certain amounts using different coins, how to add and subtract money, measurements (mm and cm), how to estimate measures, how to measure accurately, how to add and subtract measures and perimeter. They have been answering problem solving and reasoning questions based around these areas using APE (answer it, prove it, explain it) to support them.

In Science, we are currently focussing on 'Solids, Liquids and Gases'. We have learnt to describe the properties of solids, liquids and gases, the effects of heating and cooling and changes of state. The children have taken part in some experiments looking at melting, evaporating and the properties of gases. Our next Science unit will be based around magnets.

Thank you for all of your support and for working with your children at home. We appreciate it and hope that you have a restful half term holiday.

Year 4 News

Year 4 has been very busy so far this term and it is hard to believe that we are already at the end of our first

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half-term of the school year. In English, we have been learning about Legends. We have read several British legends including 'The Laidly Wyrn' and 'Tam Linn', and the children really engaged with the magical parts of the story 'Tam Linn'. Now, we are writing our own adventure stories based on the legend. On National Poetry Day, we explored the poem, 'The Magic Box' by Kit Wright. The children enjoyed discussing the imagery and descriptive language of the poem and they wrote a letter to the poet to let him know what they particularly enjoyed.

Over the last few weeks, our Maths learning has been focussed on using and applying efficient addition and subtraction mental strategies, times tables skills and measure. We have been learning to multiply and divide by 10, 100 and 1000, and we have applied this to converting units of measure. We have learnt how to find the perimeter of shapes and we applied addition and subtraction skills to reasoning and problem solving in measure. We practise times tables daily and all children now have a TT Rockstars login, so they should be familiar with the website and your child's class teacher will have set appropriate multiplication tables for each individual child.

We have continued with our 'Journey to Another World' topic. In Music, the children have started to develop their compositions using graphic notation. In Art, the children have been learning about famous artists, studying their techniques and practising their drawing skills based on musical instruments, which they will apply to their 'Journey to Another World' art work after the half-term. In Science, children have carried out investigations about light. In Computing, they have been designing and programming their own interactive scene from our English story 'Tam Linn' using Scratch. In RE, the children have been exploring the importance of God to Christians and people of other faiths. On Friday 16th October, the whole school took part in the Harvest Escape Room Challenge. Year 4 loved going back in time to solve the mysteries relating to the Biblical Harvest by decoding puzzles, answering questions and breaking secret codes.

Thank you for all of your help and support. We hope you have a lovely half-term holiday and we look forward to welcoming Year 4 back into school at the start of November.

Year 5 News

Recently in Literacy, we created a creature who could live on Pandora and we wrote an information text about them. We tried to include expanded noun phrases, formal language and fronted adverbials to make our writing even more engaging. Last week, we focused on our class novel, 'George's Secret Key to the Universe,' by Lucy and Stephen Hawking: we are really enjoying this story! We have summarised the events, and thought about George's thoughts and feelings. This week, we have written a diary from George's point of view.

Our Maths learning has focussed on Addition, Subtraction, Multiplication and Division. We have been learning to use written methods for addition, subtraction and multiplication, and how to use these methods to complete reasoning problems. Everybody now has a TTRockstars login. Your child's class teacher will have set appropriate multiplication tables. We have organised battles between the classes too – the children (and teachers) have been very competitive!

Year 5 have continued to learn about the Titanic this term and the children have studied different sources and thought carefully about what we can learn from them. There have been some fantastic discussions about how different accounts may come about and what makes a source reliable. In Science, the children have been learning about Space. We have learnt about how day and night occur and have planned, and carried out, an investigation into how much light a planet may receive.

We hope you all have a restful half term and look forward to seeing the children back in school on Monday 1st November.

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Year 6 News

This half term the children have worked extremely hard and have adapted to changes brilliantly – we are so proud of them. Thank you all for your continued support, it was lovely to get to speak to you during Parents' Evenings.

In English, we have begun looking at the book 'The Explorer' by Katherine Rundell and considered how characters and settings are created effectively. We have looked at grammar structures we could include e.g. relative clauses, parenthesis and expanded noun phrases and thought about how we can create a particular feeling or atmosphere for the reader. We created our own explorers and then described them and we are now beginning to describe the Amazon rainforest. There has been some fantastic writing!

Our Maths learning has focused on Addition and Subtraction and choosing the most efficient method to solve calculations. We have looked at when mental strategies may be more accurate and when a formal written method is needed. Moving on, we have looked at key mathematical vocabulary in Multiplication and Division such as, factor, multiple, prime, square and cube. The children have learnt what these terms mean and have been able to use them to describe their Maths learning. They have also completed some investigations to further their knowledge and have shown real enthusiasm, which has been lovely to see.

Year 6 have continued their topic 'The Road to Discovery' and have learnt more about Attenborough, Shackleton and Columbus, beginning to compare them to decide who they think is greatest. We have thought about their successes and failures and have created our own success criteria for how to be a successful explorer. The children have had some fantastic ideas and have shown brilliant discussion skills when sharing their opinions and responding to others' ideas.

We hope you all have a restful half term and look forward to seeing all the children back in school,

particularly those that we have missed during their period of isolation prior to the holidays.

Absence Reporting

Regular attendance at school is important for continuity of learning. However during the course of a school career there are likely to be occasions when absence is unavoidable and acceptable. Each absence is classed as authorised or unauthorised. Absences are coded as authorised where reasons are considered valid and unauthorised where no explanation or unacceptable reasons are given.

If your child is unable to attend school through illness you should inform us by telephone or email on **every day of absence**.

There are two ways you can report absence:

- By telephone – 01252 322933 and then choose option 1
- By email – adminoffice@st-michaels-jun.hants.sch.uk

Parents' Consultations

We hope that you found the information shared at Parents' Evening last week helpful. If for any reason you were unable to attend an appointment, please contact your child's class teacher or leave a message with the office, so that an alternative date and time can be arranged for you.

Reminder - Children in Need

This year our theme for Children In Need mufti, on 12th November, will be 'Be Bright, Be Seen'. We would like the children and staff to come to school in bright and fluorescent colours. This ties in with the launch for Road Safety week - 15-19th November.

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Coats

Please remember that the weather is changeable at this time of year so the children should all be prepared for the rain – coats are **essential** please in school, as we go out in all weathers!

Uniform

Please remember to write your child's name in their school uniform (including fleeces, jumpers and coats). We have a number of fleeces/coats/jumpers that get handed in without being named - it is extremely difficult to try to reunite them with their owner! Thank you. The lost property box has now been reinstated and is located in the area near the kitchen, just off the hall.

Leo Docherty MP's Primary Schools Christmas Card Competition 2021

Our local MP, Leo Docherty, has asked me to inform you that he will once again be running his annual competition for local schoolchildren to compose an original design for his 2021 Christmas card.

All Infant and Junior Schools from across Aldershot, Farnborough, Blackwater and Hawley have been invited to take part, and he would be delighted to receive submissions from pupils at our school.

This year's winning entry will feature as the design of his official card alongside the name, class, and school of the winning pupil. The card will be sent to hundreds of individuals and organisations across the constituency, many of whom Mr Docherty works with closely as the local MP, including civic leaders, community groups and local businesses.

All pupils that take part will receive a signed certificate of participation, and letters of commendation will be sent to the shortlisted entries of each school. A winner will be selected from the shortlisted entries, and he would be pleased to visit the school of the winning

pupil, before the holidays, to present them with their prize.

Entries are to be handed into the school office by no later than **Monday 8th November** in order that we can get them delivered to Mr Docherty's office.

Diary Dates

25 th – 29 th October	Half term
1 st November	Flu Immunisation Program
3 rd November	Prospective Year 3 Parent Information Evening
12 th November	Year 6 Trip to Mary Rose
12 th November	Children in Need mufti – theme 'Be Bright, Be Seen'
15 th -19 th November	Road Safety Week
18 th November	Year 3 Trip to Butser Ancient Farm
26 th November	Year 5 virtual trip – CCity Museum
7 th December	Rocksteady End of Term Concert
10 th December	Christmas Jumper Day
16 th December	Christmas Dinner
17 th December	Last day of Term
20 th Dec – 3 rd Jan	Christmas Holidays
4 th Jan	INSET Day - School Closed to all pupils

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