



# St Michael's CE Junior School

## Message from Mrs Tyler

I hope that everyone is keeping safe and well. You will all know from the announcements this week from government that the current situation with schools is to continue until after half term with the latest proposed date for reopening being 8<sup>th</sup> March. I imagine that many of you felt less than pleased to hear this news and I know that we in school received it with a heavy heart, whilst also knowing that this is the safest option for our community at this time. Please do remember that we are all thinking of you and are really enjoying the learning that you are sharing with us. In order to be able to ensure we are all able to come back together as a school as soon as possible, please do remember to follow the National lockdown guidelines and stay at home as much as possible.

You will all have received a letter from Mrs Bundy yesterday with details of (I hope!) an improved platform for accessing learning. She had been working on this alongside Dojo for a while but wanted to make sure it was viable before rolling it out across the school. We have, as you will know, had a few issues with Dojo this term – that only became apparent when the majority of the school went to remote learning. We were somewhat victims of our own success in not having to shut bubbles last term – Dojo could cope much more effectively with only a few self isolating and accessing remote learning – not so much with a large number of children at home! Thank you all for your patience with it and I hope that those of you who have said you like it will like Google Classroom even more. Mrs Bundy's videos to show everyone how to access will hopefully have helped. Please remember to get in touch with us via the Office if not and we will support as best we can.

Next week, rather appropriately, it is Children's Mental Health Week, and you will see more about this elsewhere in the newsletter. As part of the week we will also be focussing on Internet Safety Day – of course the two are so closely linked. Again, please take a look elsewhere in the Newsletter for more

information. If there are specific areas you are exploring at home within learning that we have not covered please do make sure you share these with your child's teacher. I have really enjoyed being signposted to certain work this week – and am ever amazed at the creativity and imagination, not to mention resilience shown by the children – and you, their parents!

Please do take care of yourselves. It is really difficult currently, I know, to focus on the positives of this time. However, Mrs Lee reminded me last week of the fact that even in 2020, which many of us would agree had been a less than successful year, there were many things to be grateful for (see the text box below) and this will be the same this year, believe me. We need to remember to focus on these positives as we go and never lose hope.

Have a lovely weekend, everyone.

### **In 2020:**

- The ozone hole over Antarctica closed
- Germany is changing 62 military bases into nature reserves
- Whales came back to the Atlantic Ocean after more than 100 years
- Great Britain reported the smallest number of people that became infected with HIV in history
- China, as the biggest air polluter in the world, committed to achieving zero emissions by 2060
- The number of victims of terrorism decreased for the 5<sup>th</sup> year in a row
- In 2020 people saved 48 animal species from extinction
- Scientists discovered 200 new animal and plant species. They also rediscovered some that they thought were extinct
- Kazakhstan became the 88<sup>th</sup> nation that committed to abolish the death penalty
- The elephant population in Kenya doubled
- Saudi Arabia and Palestine banned child marriages
- Demand for oil decreased for the first time in history and Denmark even promised to end its mining
- Scotland will provide menstrual aids to all women for free
- In Africa, polio has been completely eradicated. They owe it to the vaccine
- The vaccine against Covid-19 became the fastest developed vaccine in history

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## Year 3 News

Firstly, we want to thank all of you for your fantastic efforts with remote learning. We do not underestimate how difficult this is and we really appreciate all of your hard work and support. Please remember to contact us if you need anything.

We have really enjoyed seeing all of the children's work in English so far. We have been writing our narratives this half term and we are impressed with the work that the children have created. Their language choices, variety of sentence length and awareness of their reader has been fantastic. We hope you have been finding the videos useful and we look forward to seeing more of the children's writing.

In Maths, our focus has been on mass, time and number and place value. The children have worked so hard to improve their understanding of time and this has been evident in their work. We have also seen an increase in the use of both Times Table Rock Stars and Numbots, which is really pleasing.

Our topic is 'Where in the world?' this term and it includes our History, Geography and Music learning. We hope you enjoy learning all about the different biomes, rivers and the Mayans, and we hope that you manage to find out lots of new and interesting facts together. Thank you for your continued support.

## Year 4 News

Firstly, Year 4 would like to thank all of you for your fantastic efforts with remote learning. We know just how difficult this is and we really appreciate all of your hard work and support. Please remember to contact us if you have any questions or you need anything to support children's learning at home.

We have really enjoyed seeing all of the children's work in English so far. We have been writing our narratives set in Egypt this half term. Children planned their characters and plots and it was lovely to see their

stories develop. We were very impressed by their language choices and variety of sentence length as well as some of the great characters and exciting story lines. We hope you have been finding the videos useful and we look forward to seeing more of the children's writing. Details about our E-Library service have been sent out, and we hope you will enjoy the wide range of books that are available to borrow on-line.

In Maths, our focus has been on mass, money, time and multiplication and division. The children have clearly improved their understanding of time. We have also seen an increase in the use of both Times Table Rock Stars and Numbots, which has really helped! Please contact the office if you need your login details to be sent again.

This term, our topic is "From Hiero to Cairo". This includes our History, Geography, Computing and Art learning. We hope you enjoy exploring the world of the Egyptians and other civilisations. We still have a lot more to discover, and we hope that you manage to find out lots of new and interesting facts together. Thank you for your continued support.

## Year 5 News

It has been an interesting start to our Spring Term. Firstly, our thanks to all of you for your fantastic support with remote learning. We understand how difficult this is and we really appreciate all of your hard work. Please remember to contact us if you need anything at all.

We have really enjoyed seeing all of the children's work in English so far this half term. We have been writing our short quest narratives for this learning journey and it has been great to see the children's skill with sentence lengths and parenthesis develop. We hope you have been finding the videos useful and we look forward to seeing more of the children's fantastic writing.

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In Maths, our focus has been on statistics, shape and measurement and the children have been thinking carefully about how to reason using their mathematical knowledge.

Our topic is 'It's all Greek to me' this term and it includes our History, Geography, Music and Art learning. We hope you enjoy learning all about the Ancient Greeks and we hope that you manage to find out lots of new and interesting facts together. Thank you for your continued support.

## Year 6 News

Firstly, the Year 6 team really want to thank all of you for your amazing efforts with remote learning. We do appreciate just how difficult this is and we are so grateful for all of your hard work and support. Please remember to contact us if you need anything, or have questions.

We have thoroughly enjoyed seeing all of the children's work in English so far this half term. At the start of term, as part of our guided reading, we read a version of William Shakespeare's 'The Tempest' by Georghia Ellinas, and watched a BBC animation to really understand the storyline and the many different characters. We also read sea storm descriptions by other authors, to compare the descriptive language used too. Using this knowledge, the children retold part of the story and at the time of writing, the children are busy editing and preparing to publish – we cannot wait to read the finished pieces, both from our children at school and from our children at home. It has been great to see the children's writing skills develop during the course of this work.

In Maths, our focus has been on shape and coordinates recently, and we are now starting to think about the value of digits after the decimal point. We hope you have been finding all the learning videos useful.

Our topic is 'Shaky Ground' this term, and we will be learning more about earthquakes, volcanoes and other natural events. We really enjoyed seeing the children's towers try to withstand an earthquake at the beginning of the unit! We hope you enjoy learning all about our topic and hopefully finding out lots of new and interesting facts together. Thank you for your continued support.

## Children's Mental Health Week (1<sup>st</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> February 2021)

Next week is Children's Mental Health Week (1-7 February 2021). This year's theme is "Express Yourself". Expressing yourself is about finding ways to share feelings, thoughts, or ideas, through creativity. This could be through art, music, writing and poetry, dance and drama, photography and film, and doing activities that make you feel good. We will be exploring this theme in school and at home, as well as providing the children with opportunities to continue to develop strategies to support them with their mental health. On Monday, the whole day will be centred around mental health, and then the children will have additional activities to complete throughout the week. On Friday 5<sup>th</sup> February we would like to invite the children to 'express themselves', by wearing their own clothes if they are in school. We would like our children at home to get involved by sharing photographs of themselves in their own choice of clothes. Please, more than anything, make sure you take time as a family to talk about how you feel and how you can help each other.

## myHappymind

As many of you know, myHappymind forms a vital part of our school's mental health curriculum and we're delighted to be continuing this provision through this lockdown. myHappymind have just updated the parent resources that you can access as part of the subscription that we pay and we encourage you to check them out.

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To access them, all you need to do is click this link: <https://myhappymind.org/parent-resources> and they'll do the rest. **Please note that you will need to delete the old app and download the new app (using the link) to gain access.**

## Internet Safety Day (9<sup>th</sup> February 2021)

On Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> February, we will be taking part in Internet Safety Day. This is a national day organised by the UK Safer Internet Centre and it links well with our Children's Mental Health Week. The theme this year is 'Together for a Better Internet'. The children, as part of this day, will create a 'Kinder Internet Pledge'. As you can imagine, at this current time there needs to be a sharper focus on e-safety, with children spending an increased amount of time on internet-connected devices in both their leisure and learning time. This day provides an opportunity to reinforce the importance of staying safe online. At school, we use SID's top tips from CEOPs as part of our regular e-safety lessons.

SIDs top tips are:

- People you do not know are strangers. They are not always who they say they are.
- Be nice to people on the computer like you would in the playground.
- Keep your personal information private.
- If you ever get that 'uh oh' feeling, you should tell a grown-up you trust.

Below are some websites that you can explore both with your children and as a parent to find out more about e-safety and keeping children safe on the internet.

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/>

<https://www.childnet.com/resources/online-safety-and-computing/ks2>

<https://www.internetmatters.org/schools-esafety/primary/>

## Rushmoor Lottery – Please support our school!

A reminder that our school is now one of the good causes supported by The Rushmoor Community Lottery. This is a weekly lottery that raises money for good causes in Rushmoor. Tickets cost just £1 per week. Each ticket has a 1 in 50 chance to win a prize each week, with the top prize being £25,000! From every £1 ticket you buy, 50p will go to us, with another 10p to the other causes who are within the lottery. Please do consider supporting our school by buying tickets and promoting the Lottery. You can purchase tickets by visiting:

<https://www.rushmoorlottery.co.uk/support/st-michaels-cofe-junior-school>

Please see attached information giving details of how you could have a chance of winning 1 of 5 £100 Etsy Gift Vouchers in the National Draw (closing date 27<sup>th</sup> February 2021)!

## Hampshire Libraries Winter Reading Challenge Video

If you have not yet explored the Hampshire Libraries Winter Reading Challenge, please read on.

A video giving further details of the challenge is available on the [Hampshire Libraries YouTube channel](#) and via the [Kids' Zone](#) section of the library website

This year it's all about getting cosy together to share the love of reading. Children need to read or listen to any four books which can include books they read or listen to together, bedtime stories, non-fiction books, [ebooks](#) and [audiobooks](#). Every time they finish a book, they fill in an online [Winter Reading Challenge reading record](#).

Children's ebooks and audiobooks are free to download using Hampshire Libraries [BorrowBox](#) service, with lots of titles available without

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a wait. To use BorrowBox, you need a [library membership number](#) and [PIN](#). There are links to some of their recommendations on the Kids' Zone webpage as well as information about [downloading ebooks and audiobooks](#).

Children who can't easily access ebooks and audiobooks online can also use Hampshire Libraries' new [Ready Reads](#) click-and-collect service to borrow books. Library staff will regularly handpick a selection of books for those that request the service to collect from the entrance of their local library.

Parents and carers will find more details about the Winter Reading Challenge on the library service's new [Kids' Zone website](#). Children can register to take part online and keep a record of the books they've read. A collectors' sticker folder is also available for those children who can't easily access online services.

Children will be emailed a completer's certificate when they've reached a total of four books in their Winter Reading Challenge reading record. They'll be sent emails along the way when they add new books to their reading record.

If children aren't already a member of Hampshire Libraries, they can [join](#) to take part. Remember to let us know in school if you are taking part!

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