



# St Michael's CE Junior School

## Message from Mr Sammes

It has been great to have returned to St Michael's over the past fortnight and I am busy getting up to speed with the events that have taken place. The staff as always have been very welcoming of my return and equally highly supportive. My thanks goes out to them all for their hard work and continued efforts despite the challenges and pressures they continue to face. It has also been lovely to see the children and hearing about their on-going achievements.

I am liaising with Mrs Jones, the incoming Headteacher to ensure a smooth transition in January and know that she is very much looking forward to starting here at St Michael's.

As we approach the end of term we are preparing for the Christmas activities and I look forward to celebrating with the school and children.

## Children's Achievements

- Faythe H in Mandela has been doing her bit for our local community by litter picking with her family. Faythe proudly shared some of the photographs of the areas they had improved and the astonishing amounts of litter they had collected. A big thank you to Faythe and her family from us all!
- Megan I in Luther King and Nancy W in Parks, recently took part in the girl's U11 cricket trials for Hampshire and were successful, out of over 400 girls, in being asked to join the Hampshire Development Program, becoming part of a 14 strong squad and representing their Aldershot Cricket Club. Well done Megan and Nancy that is amazing!

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

## Year News

### Year 3

On Remembrance Day, the children created some beautiful pieces of work. They will be bringing these home to share with you. We were incredibly proud of the compassion and empathy that they showed when talking about people in the armed forces and their families.

In English, we read a story called "The king who banned the dark". The children wrote a persuasive letter to the king asking him to lift the ban on the dark. They had to think about the layout of formal letters, the persuasive language used, rhetorical questions, the reasons that they would include to try to influence the king's decision and how to write a powerful conclusion. They enjoyed acting out some scenes from the story and learning some new vocabulary such as: artificial, reign, advisors and banned.

In Maths, we learnt about multiplication and division, including the introduction of the 3 and 4 multiplication tables. The children were shown how to use concrete equipment, arrays, number lines and bar models to support their calculations. They learnt songs to aid their learning of the 3 and 4 multiplication tables. (These can be found on BBC Teach Supermovers.) We then applied our understanding to word problems and investigations with a focus on proving our answers and providing clear explanations.

In Science, we are currently focussing on magnets. We have asked the children to tell us what they currently know about magnets so that we can compare their knowledge at the end of the topic. The children could tell us where we might find magnets in real life and they told us what they think magnets do. Some of the children wanted to know how magnets work and how they are made. We have captured the children's questions and will return to them later in the term to ensure they have been answered.

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**Respect – Courage – Resilience**



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Our trip to Butser Ancient Farm was enjoyed by all. The children took part in 4 activities: weaving, spinning, chalk carving and an archaeological dig. The children were taught some interesting facts about the Stone Age, the Bronze Age and the Iron Age. They have a good understanding of the differences between the time periods and how farming and settlements developed within them.

## Year 4

It has been another busy half-term so far as we have continued with our topic, 'Journey to Another World'. Earlier this month, we celebrated 'Remembrance Day' and the children spent time discussing the poem 'In Flanders Fields' and used this as a stimulus for some lovely, touching poems to express their feelings about Remembrance and the symbol of the poppy. We also observed the two minutes silence in class on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> November.

In English, we wrote descriptions and poetry about autumn and winter, and at the moment we are writing travel brochures about visiting winter Narnia as a perfect holiday destination. Using persuasive and emotional language, the children have had to use their powers of persuasion to convince families to book a holiday in Narnia.

Our Maths learning has been focussed on Multiplication and Division and Fractions. We have been learning strategies to help calculate our times tables and learning about the link between multiplication and division. Children have applied this learning to solving multiplication and division questions. In Fractions, we have looked at equivalent fractions, tenths and hundredths, how to represent fractions as decimals and problem solving tasks.

In Science, we have started our Electricity topic. The children have been exploring how to construct a circuit, and the effect of changing components in the circuit. They will be applying this learning in Design Technology when they make their own shadow puppet

theatre based on Narnia, using simple levers and mechanisms.

In Art, we have started to plan our album covers. We will be applying sketching techniques to create an effective outline of an instrument, which will then be used on our album covers.

Thank you for your continued support.

## Year 5

Since our last newsletter report, we have commemorated Remembrance Day. Year 5 observed the two-minute silence so respectfully – we were very proud of them. We read and performed war poetry in English and created poppy art too. You should be able to see our artwork on our ground floor windows.

In Literacy, we watched a short video called, 'The Lighthouse'. It can be found here: <https://www.literacyshed.com/the-lighthouse.html>.

Using our previous learning, we wrote a setting description about the village, including expanded noun phrases, powerful adjectives and relative clauses. The children thought very carefully about the language they used, and incorporated words that were effective in creating a picture in the reader's mind. We will shortly be holding a village meeting to discuss how the lighthouse keeper could be persuaded to join in with more village events.

Our Maths learning has focussed on fractions. We have been learning about equivalent fractions, and started to order fractions with the same denominator and different denominators! All our children enjoyed taking part in 'Maths Week England' a few weeks ago too.

We have continued to learn about Titanic this term and the children have created some fantastic work, looking at the changes that happened because of the sinking of Titanic. Today, we took part in our virtual visit to SeaCity Museum in Southampton. We discovered different objects and learned more about real-life

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Titanic tales. We really enjoyed the experience and the opportunity to learn more about Titanic.

In Science, the children have just completed their unit about Space. We learnt about bigger masses exerting a bigger force of gravity e.g., Jupiter has a greater force of gravity than Earth.

We are really looking forward to seeing the children's Titanic projects next week and talking about what they have learned and enjoyed.

Thank you so much for your continued support.

## Year 6

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## Sporting Success

Over the last two weeks we have fielded 3 teams for football, which have gone down a storm!

St Michael's boys beat St Peter's 2-1 and 8-1 in a double header last week and the girls followed last night with a 3-3 draw with Elvetham Heath. All have been really tough games where our children have shown grit, determination and moreover, sportspersonship. All visiting coaches have been really impressed with all of the children's attitude and athleticism.

Well done to all those pupils that have taken part!

## Snack

A reminder please that snacks brought into school should be **HEALTHY** please. This is not in an attempt to be mean, but rather to ensure that we are encouraging the children to form good food habits and thus lead healthy lifestyles. Under no circumstances should foods containing nuts be brought into school.

## 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!

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## 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.

## Park Church – Reverse Advent Calendar

Please see attached the Reverse Advent Calendar which is in support of the Food Larder at Park Church – all donations will be greatly appreciated.

## Christmas at St Michael's Church

Please see attached flyer which gives details of all services that will be held at St Michael's Church during the festive season.

## Diary Dates

7 <sup>th</sup> December	Rocksteady End of Term Concert – Pupils only
10 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Jumper Day - children to wear Christmas jumper with school uniform today!
16 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Dinner / Christmas Party Day – the children can wear their own clothing to school on this day - Christmas themed
17 <sup>th</sup> December	Last day of Term
20 <sup>th</sup> Dec – 3 <sup>rd</sup> Jan	Christmas Holidays
4 <sup>th</sup> Jan	INSET Day - School Closed to all pupils

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