



Message from Mrs Tyler

I was lucky enough to be able to accompany members of our choir yesterday to the O2 for the Young Voices Concert – what an amazing experience it was. I was so incredibly proud of our children (and Miss Baker, Mrs Lee and Mrs Ewing of course). The children were such wonderful ambassadors for our school and the singing could not fail to make everyone who witnessed it leave with a smile on their faces. Thank you to those parents who were able to come along – we hope you enjoyed it as much as we did. A special thank you to everyone who came out to collect us from the coach when we arrived home last night at 11.45pm and to the wonderful children who still all came to school with a smile on their faces this morning! Witnessing over 8,400 children's voices singing as a choir in the O2, with our children as part of it, has to be one of the highlights of my time as a Headteacher.

You will all have received the letter this week telling you about the NSPCC visiting our school on Tuesday and delivering their **Speak out. Stay safe.** assembly. The children here and at the Infant School were all given a Buddy's Big Workout sponsorship form to bring home so that we can raise money for the NSPCC to continue its work protecting children everywhere. The children will all be doing their 'workout' during PE lessons next week. It has been devised by Mr Sanders, following a joint meeting with our School Councillors and the School Councillors at the Infant School – a truly collaborative process! Our School Councillors were amazing – really supporting the younger children and respectfully managing the debate. Mrs Mathias and I were impressed with them all. Please can we ask that you support this worthy cause and our sponsorship efforts by helping your child to raise sponsorship and returning the completed envelope to the school office by Thursday 6th February. Thank you in advance – and please remember any donation, however small, still goes towards the NSPCC's vital work.

Have a wonderful weekend everyone.

Behaviour and access to inappropriate content

There have been some cases in school where children are replicating behaviours at playtimes and lunchtimes that they witness on screen at home – play fighting, and generally rough play. This has also included offensive language on occasion. These situations are **never** acceptable within the school environment. Can we please ask that you monitor closely the content of programmes and games that the children are watching and have access to – please consider the ratings that they have and remember to insist on parental controls. Valuable learning time can be wasted dealing with issues that have arisen because of unrestricted access at home to inappropriate content. Thank you.

Children's Achievements

Congratulations to:

- Isaac M in Parks recently ran the 50th Queens Parade Junior Parkrun AND the 50th Rushmoor Full Parkrun – both in the same weekend! Wow, what an achievement. Well done, Isaac!
- Maisie T in Curie who swims at Rushmoor Royals Swimming Club received a badge and certificate for completing Stages 1–7 in swimming, so has moved up to Level 8–10; she has also achieved her 100 metre badge and certificate. Fantastic swimming, Maisie!
- Amelie G in Luther King won the freestyle Gold with Honours medal and certificate which was awarded by the International Dance Teachers Association recently. Great work, Amelie
- Amelia H and Ben H-W, both in Attenborough, will be competing with the Farnham Youth Choir in the finals of the Barnardos National Choir Competition at the Royal Festival Hall on Monday 9th March 2020. Good luck to you both and enjoy the experience. We look forward to hearing about it when you get back!

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



St Michael's CE Junior School

know, and we shall ensure it is included in the next newsletter

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

Year 3 News

We have had a fantastic start to the new year and new term. The children have been enjoying their learning about South America and now a more focussed look at Peru. Through their Literacy work they have been reading The Great Kapok Tree story and it would be really helpful if you could ask them some questions about the story. Can they remember any of the characters? Could they describe what happened in the story? Where is the story set? The children are going to be writing their own version of the story but with a slight twist. They will be changing the tree to the Amazon river. Maybe you could look together at some animals that might be found in this river.

Maths has been revising and strengthening our learning in number and place value. The children enjoy problem solving and using what they already know to help them work out their answers. We then moved onto fractions and have been talking about what equivalent fractions are. We have also been practising counting forwards and backwards from any number in twos and tens, revising our four times table and we even introduced eights!

Science is focusing on looking at the human body, in particular the bones and the skeleton. We have talked about the role of the skeleton; the fact that it protects our major organs, helps us to stand up and allows us to move around easily. The children met Bob (our life size skeleton model) and used his structure to help them understand where their bones are in relation to their body. How many bones can your child name? We will be making models of human bones and muscles to help the children understand how they work.

We look forward to seeing many of you at our Parent Work Viewing on 14th February.

Year 4 News

It is the start of a new year, and the start of an exciting, new topic for Year 4. The children are enjoying discovering how the Ancient Egyptians lived, and we are using our learning about the pyramids as the inspiration for our dance sequences in PE. As part of their learning about road safety awareness, and road safety issues in the local area, our very own St Michael's school crossing patrol officer, George, visited Year 4 this week, and the children enjoyed asking him lots of questions about his job. We will be using these ideas to create Road Safety posters to share with other children at St Michael's.

We are really looking forward to our school trip to Hazlemere Museum on Thursday 6th February, and we would like to thank all the parents who have volunteered to help this time. We are also looking forward to seeing the children's home learning projects about the Ancient Egyptians. We hope that many of you will be able to join us at our next work viewing on Thursday 13th February. The children enjoy sharing the work that they have created in school, and this half-term they are particularly excited about sharing their thrilling Ancient Egypt mystery stories!

Year 5 News

It has been an exciting and busy start to the Spring Term for Year 5. We were extremely lucky to have a visit from Dan from the Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service last Friday who spoke to us about fire safety and what we can do to help keep ourselves safe. It was an informative and fun workshop. We have also launched our new topic 'Groovy Greeks'. The children have been enjoying looking at different maps and researching different countries in Europe as part of our Geography learning and discussing different sources of information in our History. We have been reading our new book 'Who Let the Gods Out?' and have been enjoying the story and using it as a starting point for our own story writing. We look forward to seeing you at our next Parent Work Viewing on the 7th February at 9.15am to share some of the exciting learning we have been doing.

Respect – Courage - Resilience



Year 6 News

Year 6 have made a positive start to the new term, and are thoroughly enjoying their new topic, 'Restless Earth'. Children have mapped the location of different volcanoes in Geography, and they have started to research a volcano of their choice, considering its impact on the population living nearby. Year 6 will present their findings in PowerPoints, created within our Computing lessons. In Literacy, our year group text, 'Survivors', has provided different opportunities for writing - so far, Year 6 have created a diary entry and newspaper report. The children have started to plan a collage in Art, also linked to our 'Restless Earth' topic, which is developing their creative skills! Fractions have been a focus in Maths, and the children are applying their knowledge to solving everyday problems. We are really looking forward to sharing our work with you at our next parent viewing on Tuesday 11th February.

PTA Update – A Message from Mrs Bundy

Thank you so much to those of you who responded to my email this week regarding the PTA and thank you to those of you who have volunteered to be part of the committee. Currently we still do not have anyone who has volunteered to be Chairperson which is essential for us to continue and we also need more members of the committee in order for the PTA to be a viable option.

Thank you, too, to those of you who suggested that we look at different ways of fundraising and different ways in which the PTA can be organised including sharing responsibilities and holding meetings at different times. We are always happy to do this and are always looking for new ideas and new ways of doing things. However, in order to do any of this we have to have a Chair in place to facilitate these new ideas and move forward with our fundraising. Please consider it!

If you are considering the role of Chair or to be part of the committee, please speak to either Lian or myself. We hope that someone comes forward and that we can continue the vital fundraising for the school.

St Michael's Church - Service for Families

St Michael's Church are piloting a new Service for families in Aldershot which will use 'experience' type learning to instruct on Faith and engage worship. It will be a party experience style aimed primarily at those with no or little faith.

The first 'taster' service will be held on Sunday 2nd February at 10.00am and will be based around the letter to Corinthians and in particular "what it might mean to be a loving community in Aldershot". It would be lovely if you could support this Service in our School Church. Please see attached flyer to this Newsletter.

Feeding Horses

We have been asked by a local horse owner to request that parents don't allow their children to feed horses to prevent the spread of disease, because there is an outbreak of equine herpes which has unfortunately been the cause of the death of some horses in the local area.

Weather warnings!

Please remember that the weather changes very quickly at this time of year so the children should all be prepared for wet and cold weather – coats are essential please in school, as we go out in all weathers!

Snacks

The following snacks are available for pupils to purchase from the school kitchen during the morning break:

- Milk Shake - 50p
- Orange/Apple Juice - 40p
- Bread - 25p
- Raisins - 25p
- Fruit - 30p

Twitter

Please follow us on @StMichaelsCEJun



Diary Dates

3 rd Feb	Year 6 Parents SAT's Information Evening
3 rd -7 th Feb	Year 6 Bikeability
6 th Feb	Year 4 Haslemere Museum
7 th Feb	9.15-9.45 am - Year 5 Work Viewing
11 th Feb	2.45-3.20 pm - Year 6 Work Viewing
13 th Feb	9.15-9.45 am - Year 4 Work Viewing
14 th Feb	9.15-9.45 am - Year 3 Work Viewing
14 th Feb	Year 5 Trip to Ufton Court
17 th -21 st Feb	Half Term
24 th Feb	Children back to school
2 nd Mar	3.30-4.30 pm PTA Meeting
3 rd Mar	Group School Photos
5 th Mar	2.30 pm Parent Forum
25 th Mar	Year 5 Work Viewing
27 th Mar	Year 4 Work Viewing
31 st Mar	5.30-6.30 pm Year 4 Easter Performance
1 st Apr	9.15-10.15 am Year 4 Easter Performance
1 st Apr	Year 6 Work Viewing
2 nd Apr	Year 3 Work Viewing
3 rd Apr	Last day of Term