



St. Michael's CE Primary School Newsletter

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Issue 8

Dear Parents, Guardians and Caregivers,

We finished last term in high style quite literally stopping traffic as we paraded to Church in fine Easter bonnets. The children, as always, were great ambassadors for St. Michael's. Thank you to all of Year 3 for leading the service. The children read, acted and sang beautifully, it was a very special way to end the term.



Year 4 have completed their residential trip to Flatford. The children had a great experience and it was successful due to Mr Whiting's meticulous organisation. A special thank you to Mr Whiting and to all the other adults who volunteered their time.

This is now my fifth year at St. Michael's. I am proud of what we have achieved and excited about what we will go on to achieve as we continue to make St. Michael's school the best it can be for pupils and staff.

There were lots of exciting and inspirational moments in the last few weeks of last term and there are many more organised for this term which I look forward to seeing you at.

Best Wishes,

Geraldine Gallagher

Geraldine Gallagher

Head Teacher



Nursery Easter Bonnet Parade

Nursery classes have had a wonderful time participating in their first St Michael's Easter Bonnet Parade. Year 6 and our families came to watch and cheer as we displayed our beautifully decorated bonnets. In the lead up to Easter we have been looking at all the new life that has sprung up around us, adding 'shoots', 'buds' and 'frogspawn' to our ever-expanding vocabularies.



St Michael's Easter Parade

Dates

Tuesday 25th April 2017

10.00-14.00 Mini Tennis Y3&4—New River Indoor

Wednesday 26th April 2017

3.20-17.00 Y5&6 Total Control Football—Whitefield

Monday 1st May 2017

May Bank Holiday—School closed

Monday 3rd May 2017

3.20-17.00 Y5&6 Total Control Football—Whitefield

Friday 12th May 2017

9.00 Reception Class Family Assembly and Coffee morning

Wednesday 17th May 2017

3.20-17.00 Y5&6 Total Control Football—Whitefield

Thursday 18th May 2017

10.00-13.00 Y5&6 Tri-Golf Championships—Pavilion Tennis Courts Durnsford Rd

Tuesday 23rd May 2017

10.00-14.00 Y5&6 Quad Kids Athletics—New River Track

Thursday 25th May 2017

10.00-14.00 Haringey Tag Rugby Tournament - New River Fields

Thursday 18th June 2017

Y6 Leavers service at St Pauls School (school only attendance)

Friday 16th June 2017

9.00-9.30 Y6 PGL family assembly

Tuesday 20th June 2017

KS1 Sports Day (weather permitting)

Thursday 22nd June 2017

KS2 Sports Day (weather permitting)

Friday 30th June 2017

9.00 Y2 Cholmeley Family Assembly and coffee morning

Tuesday 4th July 2017

9.30 Wider Ops concert Y3/4/5

Wednesday 5th July 2017

19.00 Anita's piano concert

Friday 7th July 2017

9.00 KS2 Recorder concert



Thank you to all of the volunteers for their support of Science at St Michael's. It was fantastic to see the children's passion and excitement for Science ignited over and over.

Every single volunteer who worked with the children commented on how polite, interested and well behaved the pupils they worked with were. Everyone said how much they enjoyed their experience of Science week at St Michael's, so well done children – you are all fantastic Scientists.

SAFETY—CLOSING OF SCHOOL GATES



To keep our school secure and with the safety of the children in mind, the school gates will no longer be left opened before and after school. We ask that you leave the school grounds promptly after drop off and pick up to enable us to lock gates ready for the lessons to begin and to secure the school at the end of the day.

Before School

Clubs— starting Monday 24th April children are to wait accompanied in the top playground. Club leaders will collect the children at 8am promptly to start their clubs.

Breakfast Club— a member of staff will collect children between 7.45-8am from the top playground. Please wait with your child by the pedestrian gate.

If you arrive at the school after your child's club starts, you will be able to gain access to the school by buzzing the school office, which opens at 8am.

After School

After school the gates will be locked at 3:50pm.

Some members of staff have found adults in the buildings after 3:30pm. Please do not ask a child to open the doors to let you in. We are teaching our children to keep themselves safe and rules at school help them to understand how to keep themselves safe outside and at home.

Dates cont...

Tuesday 25th July 2017

9.30 End of Year Church Service at St Michael's

Last day of school year—finish 2pm

Y6 end of year disco

New School Year 2017-2018

Monday 4th September 2017

Inset Day—School closed—no children

Tuesday 5th September 2017

Children return to school



There has been a minor update made to the School's Medical Policy. You will find our policies on the school website for you to view at your convenience.

MUSIC

After Easter, St Michael's is getting a new Cello teacher, Mr Ben Jones, through the Haringey Music Service. He already has quite a few pupils but there are still some places available if anyone thinks that they would like to learn the cello. If so, **please contact Haringey music Service direct** (phone 020 8489 8960).

World Autism Week

The week before the Easter break was World Autism Week, when children had a chance to learn what Autism is and how it can affect people. Year 5 enjoyed researching famous people through history who may have had autism, and led a very interesting assembly on Wednesday. It was wonderful to see first-hand this celebration of diversity across the school, in which we helped children to celebrate individual differences. We were struck by the thoughtful and sensitive responses children gave during class discussions in particular. Thank you to all involved, especially Year 5 children and teachers, as well as parents who contacted us with their feedback.



Flatford



On Wednesday 15th March, Year 4 embarked on their first school residential trip to Flatford. The sun shone and the birds (and children) sang throughout the three-day trip.

Everyone had a fabulous time – an outdoor learning experience filled with fun, games, joy and laughter. Activities included; pond dipping, mammal trapping, compass orienteering and campfires, to name but a few. It was an enthralling trip for both children and accompanying adults alike, where new skills were developed and new friendships formed.

The high-energy, jam-packed trip was carried through upon return to school, where Year 4 outdid themselves in showing the rest of St Michael's how much fun was had at Flatford through their class assembly. The 2-nights, 3-day trip was condensed into a poem written by the whole of Year 4, the 'I've been bitten by a Boa Constrictor' campfire-song and a video, which was masterfully put together by Marlon.

We are all so proud of Y4 for once again representing St Michael's school as the 'best school' and 'school that Flatford staff look forward to having.' The children showed collaboration, perseverance, determination and respect throughout their stay – well done Y4. Special thanks goes to all the adults that accompanied the children to Flatford and made the trip so special and unforgettable.



Red Nose Day

Many thanks to everyone who took part in our 'Dress up in Red Day' last Friday for Red Nose Day. It was a real success with £518.46 raised in total towards the charity Comic Relief. We look forward to next year's fundraiser.

COMIC RELIEF



The children have been producing some wonderful artwork and to celebrate their efforts we thought it would be great for people outside the school to be able to see it.

Do you have a commercial space where we could hang or display some of the children's artwork or know of a space that would be suitable—please get in touch with Miss Batham

ART

Year 5 trip to Westminster Abbey

Marx and Orwell class went on an exciting trip to Westminster Abbey. The trip was for science week and was about Charles Darwin and his theory of evolution and natural selection. The children went up to Westminster Abbey and firstly learned about the history of the Abbey. Then had a talk with the real Charles Darwin. After that, they played a game about natural selection using a range of instruments as 'beaks' (based on Darwin's observations on finches in the Galapagos Islands). Finally they had a tour of Westminster Abbey.



Meditation Update

Meditation is being practiced every day in classes across the school. It has been inspiring to hear what a positive impact it is having on children's wellbeing:

Christian
Meditation



Spend some time with God.

'It makes me feel proud when I meditate.'

'It makes you calm down if you've been running about.'

'I get rid of my terrible dreams and things I worry about.'



Explorer who visited us

Nick Carter is an explorer. He has climbed Mount Everest, lived with remote Tribes and run across the Sahara Desert to Marrakesh in Morocco.

On Tuesday 28th March Nick visited to tell us all about his Sahara Escape and his adventures climbing Mount Everest. The children heard how he decided to change his life from being an engineer to explorer. That had many obstacles to overcome, ranging from his fears when having a small injection to saving a friend's life on the top of a frozen mountain. His personal values of commitment, passion and courage, matched our school values of endurance, working together and being the best we can be.

We are looking forward to seeing him again next term, when he will run workshops for individual classes. This is after he has completed another challenge of open water swimming across to France.

Good luck Nick our thoughts and prayers are with you.



Kirima Fundraising

Thank you to everyone who bought a raffle ticket for the Easter egg raffle which took place at the end of last half term. The raffle tickets raised £516.55 for our school partnership charity Kirima.



If you would like to make a donation to the charity please

visit the just giving page which can be found in the Community section of our school website. Many thanks for all of your continued support.



From the Governors

Let there be music!

Plans are underway to convert a flat on the school grounds into our single dedicated space for music. Thanks to parents who have contributed to the Governors' Fund, we are now able to double the number of dedicated rooms for children to practice and learn music from two to four. And we will be able to site them together in their own custom-designed space.

We value music highly at St Michael's. We have many pupils learning a range of instruments – drums, guitar, piano, recorder, clarinet etc. Some are learning more than one. While some learn outside school, many make use of the Haringey service where teachers come into the school and teach music to children during the school day. And as well as weekly instrument lessons in Year 4 and the active school orchestra, we have lots of opportunities for children to perform, such as concerts, class assemblies and even during lunchtime on the piano (their idea!).

At the moment we have two dedicated spaces where children are taught music, but with demand so high – that's a good thing! – we have to use other spaces. This is not ideal of course. So currently children might be taught in the green room or the art or science room. As their labels suggest, these spaces were designed or are allocated for other activities.

Currently configured as three bedrooms, we will be converting the flat into four dedicated music rooms. As well as that, we can retain the top space as a place where teachers can go to do lesson preparation and planning or an extra meeting space.

We will be shortly hearing whether 'change of use' has been agreed by the local authority and after that we have to apply for planning and listed building consent. As you might know, that takes a few months. But we intend to crack on and get children using the new spaces by early 2018.

Thanks again for your support to the Governors' Fund -- without it, this project would not be possible. Contributions can be made on Scopay or by standing order- details can be found on the website and at the school office

Together stronger!

Adam Garfunkel

Chair of Governors

Debating Tournament

All this term Year 5 have been having special debating workshops (delivered by Miss Myttas-Perris from Highgate School). On Thursday 23rd March Year Five Marx and Orwell went to an exciting debating tournament hosted by Highgate School. They competed in three rounds against 16 teams from schools around the area - Grafton School, Brookfields and St. Joseph's School. Although the whole year group went to support, there were three teams competing from the school - a Marx team (Aksel, Ava, Jonny and Talia), an Orwell team (Jasper, Bels, Lyra and Josh) and a mixed team (Nina, Adam, Daniel B and Hugo).

The children debated topics such as whether the media should be allowed to intrude on the private lives of celebrities, whether Batman and Superman were good role models, and whether there should be limits to speaking freely. All of the teams present competed very well, with Marx class winning all of their debates against some stiff competition. The final ended up being Orwell Vs Marx (the St. Michael's mixed team came third overall) debating for and against freedom of speech. Both teams debated excellently and made some fantastic points, demonstrating a good understanding of debating and fantastic skill. In the end Marx class won narrowly - arguing for limits on freedom of speech.

Overall it was a fantastic experience for all of the children, and we hope that they continue to develop their fantastic debating skills. Miss Myttas-Perris said that it was one of the closest competitions that she could remember and that to have two teams from the same school in the final was a real testament to our children. Both Mr Holt and Miss Mealey were extremely proud.



Congratulations Year 6 Mathematicians

Well done to all of the Year 6 children who took part in this year's National Primary Challenge.

63 000 pupils across the country entered in November, with 1932 pupils who scored 19 or more being invited to take part in the Bonus Round in February 2017. In the Bonus Round 93 pupils received Gold awards; 302 pupils received Silver awards and 483 received the Bronze awards.



Six of our children were invited to take part in the Bonus Round. All the children did extremely well. Five children received a Bonus Certificate.

Alex was awarded a Silver award and narrowly missed out on gold by one mark. Amazing achievement - congratulations!

There were only two children in N6 to be awarded the highest awards and both received a silver award.

School Playground Equipment

A polite reminder, please do not let your child/ren **use** the school playground equipment before or after school, as they are not adequately supervised.



National Primary Challenge

Bonus Round Participants

Isabella, Lucy, Marlene, Amira,
Eden and Alex



Year 2 Trip to Kenwood House

Year Two visited Kenwood House as part of their investigation of rivers. We have been studying the River Thames and its tributaries. From the high point of the Heath, we tried to identify famous landmarks from the London skyline, but were thwarted by the haze! We had more luck searching for the head waters of the River Fleet that emerge on Hampstead Heath. We recorded our discoveries in our sketch books.



Eco-Team

Congratulations to the current Eco-Team who have been working hard to come up with an Action Plan for making St Michael's a greener school.

Their efforts have led to us being awarded the Bronze Eco-Schools award.



Year 4 trip to the National Gallery



On the last week of term to tie-up Year 4's work on Flatford, Burdett-Coutts and Barnett class visited the National Gallery. The children were all excited to see 'The Hay Wain' by John Constable having previously recreated their own versions in Art and visited the actual location the painting is based on. Year 4 showed excellent observation and detective skills in finding new details within the painting such as a sunken barrel in the lake and distant workers in the field.



Just like Flatford, Year 4 were kept busy throughout the trip, exploring different paintings and artists whilst developing an appreciation for art itself.



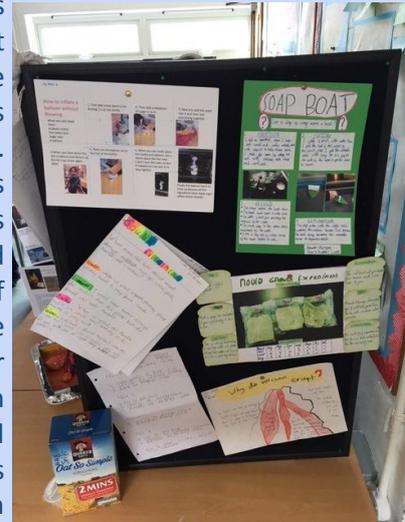
Mr Whiting and Miss Mak would like to say a big 'thank you' to the parent-volunteers who assisted on the trip. The children had a great time. It was the perfect end to our Flatford journey.





Between 13th and 19th March it was British Science week! To kick-start the week, the children did a Science experiment at home. Their findings were then displayed at the St. Michael's Science fair. It was fantastic to see the children's passion for Science on display and

all of the staff were extremely impressed with the quality of investigations that the children carried out. Four children were awarded the prestigious St Michael's Nobel Prize for Science after demonstrating outstanding Scientific enquiry skills, those children were Jonathan, Gaia, Anna and Edward. Well done to our Nobel Prize winners. We were very lucky that during the week various Scientists and experts volunteered to come and talk to the children about their field, and to also give exciting practical workshops.



Reception

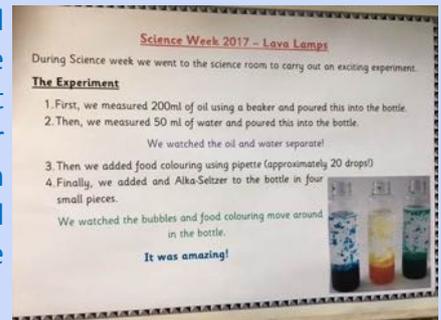
Nurse Claire Fowler came in to talk to reception about germs and how to wash their hands. She talked with the children about how germs spread and showed them the importance of washing their hands properly.



Year 1 & 2



Year 1 and 2 took part in a special scientific investigation in the science room. They looked at how different liquids mix and made lava lamps. Mr Fowler was extremely impressed with their behaviour, teamwork and measuring skills throughout the investigation. Well done Year 1 and 2.



Year 3

Year 3 were lucky enough to be visited by Nick Grassly who taught them about the significance of DNA research and carried out an experiment with them where they extracted the DNA of a strawberry. They also had a visit from pilot Richard Batey who discussed the effect of forces and aerodynamics on different aircraft and set up a run way in the Science room for them to try and land paper aeroplanes. Great fun.



Year 4

Year 4 had a busy Science week because as well as going to Flatford they had visits from two experts! Teresa Nicoli visited them and carried out a DNA extraction investigation with them where they extracted the DNA of a Kiwi. They also took part in an extremely exciting workshop led by forensic Scientist Magdalen Wind –Mozely during which they had to examine forensic clues and deduce who had been sending threatening letters to the school. So exciting.



Year 5

Year 5 had arguably the most busy Science week as they went on two trips and experienced an exciting food chemistry workshop. Both year 5 classes went to Westminster Abbey where they learnt all about evolution and took part in some interesting activities in order to try and prove Darwin's theory. They were also introduced to the wonderful world of food Chemistry by volunteer Rhian Booth who demonstrated some mesmerising aspects of Chemistry to the children most of which involved explosions. Thumbs up from an excited Year 5.



Year 5 & 6

Year 5 and 6 visited the famous Doctor Andrew Szydlo at Highgate school where he performed his legendary 'As if by Magic' Science show for them. More explosions....FANTASTIC.



Fencing

Congratulations to the members of Fencing Club who competed at the Fighting Fit tournament recently. St. Michael's performed very well with eight children in the senior group getting through the first round and four through to the quarter-finals, and two in the junior group getting to the quarter-finals. Well done to Luke and Theo for winning gold for their age groups. And well done to all other competitors for taking part with great skill and endeavour: Jasper, Sissy, Jake, Johnny, Aksel, Lolly, and Jay, Leo, Eden, Adrian, Hansika, and Alexander.



Haringey Gymnastic Tournament 2017

St. Michael's participated in the Haringey Gymnastic Tournament at Hornsey School for Girls over two days in March. The event included disciplines in body management, floor exercises and vault.

On Thursday 16th March, children from Year 3 performed brilliantly for the school, producing a high standard throughout. Well done to Heidi, Kyra, Rosie, Jasper and Louis for competing with such enthusiasm, agility and skill.

On Friday 17th March it was the turn of Year 5 & 6. A strong team of girls demonstrated excellent agility, elegance and skill, achieving many high scores. Well done to Grace and Alice from Year 6 and Grace from Year 5. Also well done and thanks to Aksel and Thabang who filled in last minute for the boys' event and helped the team to finish a respectable seventh place.

All of the children represented the school brilliantly and we are very proud of their achievements.





St. Michael's welcomes Nathan Fox – A sponsored Fitness Event

On Tuesday 7th March, St. Michael's junior pupils were treated to a visit of GB Olympic triple jumper Nathan Fox. Organised through Sports For Schools, Nathan led fitness circuits for Year 3-6 children which promoted the idea health and well-being and how this is good for the body and mind.

Nathan led fun and vigorous fitness circuits which included exercises such as spotty dogs, leg drives, push ups and star-jumps. Later he delivered an uplifting assembly to the children about his sporting experiences and the challenges he overcame.

The pupils certainly worked hard and through sponsorship helped raise money for new school P.E equipment and to help support GB athletes who might struggle financially to compete for their country. Well done to all and thanks to Nathan for coming to inspire us all to fitness.



SUMMER TERM 2017

April

Tuesday 25 th	10.00 am- 2.00pm	Mini Tennis Years 3 & 4	New River Indoor Tennis Courts	Culmination of primary tennis.	Years 3 & 4
Wednesday 26 th	4-5p.m	Total Control Foot- ball	Whitefield School	5 a side football girls Leave 3.20p.m.	Year 5 & 6

May

Wednesday 3 rd	4-5p.m	Total Control Foot- ball	Whitefield School	5 a side football boys Leave 3.20p.m.	Year 5 & 6
Wednesday 17 th	4-5p.m	Total Control Foot- ball	Whitefield School	5 a side football girls Leave 3.20p.m.	Year 5 & 6
Thursday 18 th	10.00 am – 1.00pm	Tri-Golf Y5&6 Cham- pionships	Pavilion Tennis Courts Durnsford Road	Open to all Haringey schools. Mixed boys & girls team Years 5&6.	Years 5 & 6
Tuesday 23 rd	10.00 am- 2.00pm	Primary Schools' Quad Kids Athletics Y5&6	New River Track	Open to all Haringey Schools. Teams of eight, 4 boys & 4 girls	Years 5 & 6
Thursday 25 th	10.00 am- 2.00pm	Haringey Tag Rugby Tournament	New River Fields	Open to all Haringey Schools. Sepa- rate boys and girls teams of 7.	Years 5

