



St. Michael's CE Primary School Newsletter

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Issue 7

Dear Parents, Guardians and Caregivers,

We are in full swing preparing for Easter and Spring is in the air. The children have created wonderful Easter displays which I hope you had the opportunity to view and admire during the Parent's Evenings. The choir and Year 3 are busy preparing for the Easter service.

This week is Science Week and Mr Fowler has arranged a great selection of activities for the children including the living eggs project.

There are a vast array of gifts and talents amongst pupils, parents, staff and governors and this was clearly evidenced in this year's pantomime. Thank you to all involved for your time and commitment.

Thank you to all of you who have responded to our *Vision Statement* for those of you who have not there is a short reminder on page 10.

Pauline Homer, our Senior Midday Meals Supervisor is leaving us to retire at the end of this term. Pauline has worked at St Michael's for twenty one years and is very well known to current and past pupils. We will all miss Pauline and wish her a happy and healthy retirement.

We are very proud of our children and their many achievements in all areas of the curriculum and I hope you enjoy reading about them in this newsletter.

Best Wishes,

Geraldine Gallagher

Geraldine Gallagher

Head Teacher



Paschal Candle

Paschal Candles

Year Five have been looking at Paschal candles. The term "Paschal" comes from the word Pesach, which in Hebrew means Passover. It is sometimes referred to as the "Easter candle" or the "Christ candle". We used multi-media art to create our own Paschal candles. We painted the light in water-colour and used card to make the candles.

Dates

Tuesday 14th March 2017

All day Y5 Orwell class trip to Westminster Abbey

Wednesday 15th

Y3 Swimming Cancelled

Y4—Flatford Trip (15-17th March)

Thursday 16th March 2017

All day Y5 Marx class trip to Westminster Abbey
13.30-15.30 Y5&6 Andrew Szydlo 'As if by Magic'
Science Show Highgate School

14.00-15.30 Gymnastic Event for Year 3-4 at
Hornsey Girls

19.30 SMSA Quiz Night

Friday 17th March 2017

9.00 –9.30 Y1 Kenwood Family Assembly and
Coffee morning

14.00 –15.30 Y5&6 Gymnastic Event at Hornsey
Girls

Y4 Flatford return

Sunday 19th March 2017

Y3-6 Joint Service at St Michael's Church

Wednesday 22nd March 2017

15.20-17.00 Y5&6 Total Control Football
Whitefield School

Thursday 23rd March 2017

9.00 Y4 Flatford Assembly

Friday 24th March 2017

Dress-up in **red** for Comic Relief

Tuesday 28th March 2017

All day Year 5&6 girls 7 a side event Whitefield
School

16.00-18.00 Tag Rugby

Wednesday 29th March 2017

09:00 & 18:00 KS1 SATS parent's information
sessions

Thursday 30th March 2017

School disco KS2 hall

Infants 4-5pm

Juniors 5.30- 7pm

Friday 31st March 2017

9.05-9.30 Easter Bonnet
parade

9.30-10.00 Church service
led by Y3

**End of term—school
finishes at 2pm**

Tuesday 18th April

Children back in school



Natural History Museum

Last half term Year 3 were studying the Stone Age and as a fun way to finish off the topic, Dickens class went on a trip to the Natural History Museum. They took part in a Dinosaur investigation where they worked collaboratively to uncover a Dinosaur fossil and use various techniques to identify its species.

It was great to see the children working so well together as a team to do this, they all make fantastic palaeontologists. The trip also linked very well to our Science topic on Rocks as the workshop helped the children to understand how fossils are formed. Thank you so much to the parents who volunteered, your help is very much appreciated.



KS1 Recorder Concert

The infant hall was filled with the sounds of spring when the infants held their recorder concert to family and friends last week. Their rendition of Vivaldi's Four Seasons Spring was inspiring. For some of the very young children it was their first public performance and they all played beautifully as an ensemble as well as some excellent soloists. Thank you to Nancy and Elspeth for all their hard work and encouragement. We all look forward to the next concert where they may play the next season of Summer.



The **Open-air classroom** is getting ready for spring 2017

It's too early to sow seeds, but our first batches of plants have arrived – including a few exciting and unusual edible plants. A fragrant Kaffir lime (excellent in Thai curries) will take up residence in the greenhouse. Japanese wasabi, redcurrants, blackcurrants, rhubarb and gooseberries will all go outside.

KS1 are enjoying working outside with Ciara and next term KS2 will reap the benefits in April, when we will be able to sow seeds. Look out for the next Big Dig in May. Mrs Sorapure will be in touch.



**We are collecting Sainsburys
Active Kids Vouchers
in the office**

Great Fire of London

Last half term Cholmeley and Wilson class were learning about the Great Fire of London. We made houses out of cardboard and paper based on the houses that stood in 1666.

We recreated the Great Fire of London on the school field.

Dash from Cholmeley class- "The fire got bigger and bigger until it turned black. I was interested and excited by our experiment"

Emily from Cholmeley Class- "It was super exciting because we got to watch our own houses burn down. Miss Gittins started the fire"

Lars, Cholmeley Class- "We really enjoyed watching and we learned a lot about how fire spreads. This was my favourite lesson in Year 2"

Giselle- "I enjoyed making the houses."

Louis- "I really liked decorating my house and I liked watching the fire spread"



Help at Home

A huge thank you to everyone who took part in our Optional Sponsorship: Help at Home. You raised £370 for new playground equipment. School Council are now in the process of working out what we can afford and then will be able to buy new things for the children to enjoy using.



STOP SCHOOL FUNDING CUTS

Thank you to the parent organisers and to all the friends, families and children of the school who participated in this event.



Living Eggs Project

This year, St Michaels is again taking part in the Living Eggs project where the children can watch a set of chicks develop over a period of two weeks.



Don't forget to login and have a look.

From the Governors

We believe our children's future is created every day

This is the new vision statement for St Michael's School. It captures the sense that every moment counts; that there are opportunities for our children to learn, grow and flourish whenever they are in school.

For our teaching staff, I know that the vision speaks to their potential to inspire our children every day they come to work.

As governors we feel it expresses the hope and confidence we have that our children will grow up to be positive, creative and engaged young people.

I was pleased to see this spirit expressed in the school playground this week, as the children used coloured chinks to share their concerns about the funding cuts that will come our way if the current plans for the National Funding Formula go through. As the children wrote on our playground, these proposed cuts would mean we lose £437 funding per pupil by 2019.

Now the children have had their say – it's your turn! You can respond to the consultation being run by the Department for Education. There have been emails from the school this week with more details on that.

I wanted to reassure you that though as governors we have to plan for a future with less funding from government, we are also aiming to retain everything that is special about St Michael's and even to enhance it. We are ambitious for our children and for the school.

We too believe our children's future is created every day. Our role is to take the long view of what that means and make sure we collectively stay on track. So we are supporting the head teacher and her staff in their efforts to ensure that not only tomorrow but every day is a great day for your children at school. It won't be easy but with support from parents and carers I know that St Michael's can continue to be the inspiring and nurturing school that our children love.

Together stronger!

Adam Garfunkel

Chair of Governors





Congratulations

The class with the best attendance is Year Four Mr Whiting's class Burdett-Coutts with 98% closely followed by Year Five Ms Mealey's class Marx.

Altogether the whole school's attendance is 97 %. Thank you and well done, especially to all those who felt slightly poorly but still came in keen to learn and do their best.

Attendance during school year	Equates to days absent	Which is approximately	Which means the number of lessons missed
94%	10 Days	2 Weeks	50 Lessons
90%	19 Days	4 Weeks	100 Lessons
85%	29 Days	6 Weeks	150 Lessons



Lateness

When a child arrives late at school, they miss important events like assembly, teacher instructions and introductions. Children also feel embarrassed at having to enter the classroom late. Due to the nature of our site and keeping children safe, when children arrive late either the class is disrupted by a call from the office or a member of staff needs to leave their teaching activity to collect the late child.

Naturally we do understand that unforeseen things happen in the morning rush to school. But the accumulation of late children is rather staggering.

Over the past **seven** mornings, since starting term, **65** children have signed in late in the office.

Children line-up and go into class at 8.50am.

Nursery	7
Reception	11
Year One	10
Year Two	12
Year Three	3
Year Four	10
Year Five	4
Year Six	8
Total	65



4th Plinth

Thank you to everyone who put so much effort into the 4th Plinth Project homework. The art work was so thought provoking, engaging and executed to a very high standard. The children enjoyed visiting the exhibition and photos of the show will be available to view on the school website under "galleries".



COMIC RELIEF

purchased at Sainsbury's and at Oxfam. For more information please visit the website:
www.rednoseday.com

On Friday 24th March 2017, St Michael's children are invited to take part in a fun dress-up day, raising money for the charity Comic Relief. Comic Relief is a major UK charity, with a vision of a just world, free from poverty. Children will be able to come to school dressed in something red (feel free to wear a red nose!). We ask that the children bring in a donation, which will be collected by your child's class teacher. Red noses can be

2016 Creations Competition

A huge congratulations to Theo, Adrian, Yonas, Jack, Jay and Eden in Year 6. They have been shortlisted for an award for their entry in 2016 Creations Competition. Their brief was to examine an aspect of Physics and create a piece to demonstrate their new learning. The boys worked really hard in their own time to design and construct an extremely impressive wind tunnel to demonstrate the aerodynamics of objects in different conditions. If they are successful their wind tunnel will go on display at Birmingham and Exeter Universities.

You can view their entry online at the following link

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aOcd2E41kz8>



Well done to everybody who entered the competition, you are all fantastic Scientists.

Robotics workshops

On the 23rd of February Year 6 and some of the children from Year 5 took part in Lego Robotics workshops. The children worked in pairs to build and program different Lego Robots. Nick, who ran the sessions said that he was extremely impressed with all of the children's behaviour, their teamwork and the way they applied their prior science and computing knowledge. Well done to all of the children who took part.



ST MICHAEL'S VISION

Vision: **'We believe our children's future is created every day'**
is brought to life through our

Mission: **'To nurture and inspire our children to develop a love of learning in a supportive Christian community and become the best they can be.'**

Our core values are the standards that drive our decisions and actions.



Endurance

Forgiveness

Koinonia

Creation

Friendship

Please let me know the actions you can/do take to fulfil the vision by sending your response to admin@stmichaelsn6.haringey.sch.uk. This anonymised information will be used in communications such as the website and open mornings.

The Eco-Team

The Eco-team have been looking at biodiversity this week and how we can improve the schools biodiversity. As our gardens are changing, we are now in need of a new bug hotel.

The entire Eco-team are busy designing their own bug hotels and we will be discussing the final design next week.

Everybody is welcome to submit a design whether you are part of the Eco-team or not.



Year 6 visit to Lauderdale House

Year Sixes took part in two pilot schemes in one. They visited the newly refurbished Lauderdale House to take part in a range of activities from Art to Drama to English to Religious Education to learn more about important stories from the past. Through their learning, they also completed the Arts Award booklets which will enable them to get their Arts Awards Certificates soon. Part of the Award involved sharing their learning with others. Year Twos enjoyed listening to what the Year Sixes had discovered.



SCHOOL DISCO

Thursday 30th March in the Junior Hall

****Infants disco (Reception to year 2) 4 - 5pm****

****Juniors disco (year 3 - year 6) 5.30 - 7pm****

Entrance fee is £3 (paid at the door) and includes a hot dog, a packet of crisps and drinks



Secondary offers

At the end of this academic year our Year 6 pupils leave us to go to secondary school. Each year approximately 50% go to state schools and 50% to independent schools. If a child has made an application for a state school they receive one offer. Pupils applying to independent schools can receive more than one offer.

This year's offers are:

Secondary School Offers for September 2017

State Schools	Offers	Scholarships
Acland Burghley, Alexandra Park, Archer Academy, Camden School for Girls, City of London Academy, Compton, Dame Alice Owen, Finchley Catholic High, Fortismere, Greig City Academy, Highgate Wood, St. Aloysius College, St. Marylebone, William Ellis, Wren Academy	59	N/A
State Grammar Schools	Offers	Scholarships
Queen Elizabeth's School, The Latymer	2	N/A
Independent Schools	Offers	Scholarships
Aldenham, Belmont, Channing, City Boys, City Girls, Devonshire House, Francis Holland, Highgate Independent, King Alfred, Merchant Taylor, North Bridge House, Queenswood, South Hampstead, St. Christopher's, St. Margaret's, The Haberdashers' Aske's Boys,' The Haberdashers' Aske's Girls,' University College School, Westminster Boys.	60	8

In May each year, parents from Year 4 and 5 are invited to a secondary transfer meeting. During this we inform you about all the different types of schools, the processes involved and how we support our children and the parent's journey through to secondary education. An individual meeting is available to all parents of Year 6 children in October.

Year 4 Football at Highgate School

30 children from Year 4 enjoyed a football friendly event at Highgate School on Friday 3rd March 2017. Boys and girls of all skills and abilities competed in four separate matches. The good news is that they won all their matches with some excellent football on show.

In one match Bruno scored a 'screamer' in the top corner from way out, whilst in the same match the Year 4's scored an excellent team goal with impressive pass and move football.

All of the St. Michael's boys and girls can be very proud of their attitude and excellent sportsmanship.



Haringey Basketball Tournament 2017

Two teams of boys and girls from Year 6 competed recently at the Haringey 3 v 3 Basketball event at Grieg Academy on Friday 24th February 2017. A very competitive day indeed with both teams starting off slowly before improving in the second half of the day. Well done to all the Year 6's that attended for their excellent skills and determination throughout. They were a credit to the school.





Highgate Dance Festival

Last Wednesday 1st March 2017, after lots of hard work and commitment, a team of very excited St Michael's School dancers took part in the brand new '2017 North London Dance Festival'.

Hosted by Highgate Secondary School, eight primary schools from North London performed in very different genres from acrobatic dance mix to Hip Hop and pure dance. The high standard was brought to a peak with four performances from A' level students.



We started the afternoon with group warm-ups led by 'A' Level dance students. This culminated in the teaching of their own choreography, making it very exciting to watch the full performances at the end of the school day.

A thoroughly enjoyable afternoon was had by all, completed with a feast of cookies and fruit to re-energise

The St Michael's team can certainly hold their heads high as they performed their dance amazingly well to huge applause with lots of praise from others school leaders.

SPORTS TIMETABLE SPRING TERM 2017

March					
Thursday 16 th	2.00pm	Gymnastics festival Y3/4	Hornsey Girls School	Open to all Haringey schools. Mixed boys & girls team.	Years 3 and 4
Thursday 16 th	All day	London School Games for Tag Rugby if school qualifies. Venue: Barn Elms		if we qualify	
Friday 17 th	2.00pm	Gymnastics festival Y5/6	Hornsey Girls School	Open to all Haringey schools. Mixed boys & girls team.	Years 5 and 6
Weds 22 nd	4-5p.m	Total Control Football	Whitefield School	5 a side football girls Leave 3.20p.m.	Year 5-6
Wed/Thurs 22 nd /23 rd	All day	London School Games		(if we qualify) – Crystal Palace	

