



Dear Parents and Carers,

This term started with the departure of Year 6 as they headed off to the Isle of Wight. Every Year a team of dedicated staff take Year 6 on a week's residential packed with activities and a few hours of sleep. An excellent time was had by all. A huge thank you to all of the staff involved in making this memorable experience so special; for their time, care and commitment. Thank you to all of the Year 6 children for being excellent school ambassadors.

Since returning they have been busy preparing for end of year activities and the next part of their school journey —Secondary school. Each year I tell the Year 6 leavers that we learn so much from them and thank them for their gift of helping us to be better teachers, better carers and better educators for all of the children who come after them. As well as saying farewell to Year 6 we will be saying good bye to some of our teaching staff and I have asked them about the gift they will take from St. Michael's and the gift they will leave behind. (Please see p6)

I have received a range of responses to my letter of 16<sup>th</sup> May, some very excited and positive, but some parents have expressed concerns, in particular regarding the proposed colour changes and length of transition. I can further reassure you that the new uniform will consist of similar items to what we currently have and there is no intention to introduce a blazer. Some of the clothing will be generic and some branded. We are going to take another look at colour options with a larger focus group of parents (the class representatives) and allow for a two year transition.

I will arrange a meeting with class representatives before the end of this term to look at a full range of uniform options in the current and proposed colours. Once the decision on the colour has been made we will follow best practise regarding cost and quality to source our supplier. As you can appreciate this review of colour has had an impact on the timescale for introducing the new uniform which will now be September 2018. I will continue to keep you updated.

We have had another busy and exciting month including the Fun Run - the children had a great time, thank you to all involved in the preparations and on the day. As you will see from the dates there are lots more exciting events before the end of this year which I look forward to seeing you at.

Best wishes,

Geraldine Gallagher  
**Headteacher**

## Year 6 PGL Trip

It was a very excited Year 6 who boarded the coach from school on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> June, ready for their journey to the Isle of Wight. We set off to waves and cheers from parents, and arrived a few hours later to a crowd of dancing PGL groupies ready to help with our luggage. Once cabins had been sorted and activity groups made, it was straight into an evening of fun and games, before the activities properly started on Tuesday and ran all the way through to the end of the trip.

And what activities! The whole Year group were really challenged to go outside their comfort zone and push themselves to the limit with scary high-ropes activities such as 'All -Aboard' and 'Catwalk', encouraged to co-operate as a group in difficult tasks such as 'Buggy Building' and 'Survivor'. Who knew that knots would turn out to be so important? Activities such as the Tunnel Trail and Sensory Trail proved to be very wet, very muddy, and extremely fun; children streamed back to the huts excitedly talking about how they'd had to crawl through muddy tunnels with zombies chasing them, or had negotiated blindfolded obstacle courses.

The fun didn't stop at the end of the day, either. Dinner-time brought mountains of food and a wealth of new chants, followed by the evening entertainment – this ranged from giant games of Ambush across the whole site to 'Dorm's Got Talent' – when everyone really gave it their all.

While the weather may have been varied throughout the week, it certainly didn't dampen our spirits – even when it poured down on Thursday evening's beach campfire – and everyone, teachers and pupils alike, really entered into the spirit of PGL! Thankfully, Friday brought the sun, orienteering and giant swings for all, leaving a happy but exhausted Year 6 to pile back onto the coach and wave the Isle of Wight goodbye. We all learnt a lot about ourselves and each other over the course of the week, and most importantly, we all had a great time. Little Canada, we will certainly miss you!



## Year 6 PGL Trip





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## Dates

### Thursday 22nd June 2017

9.30-12.00pm KS2 Sports Day

### Friday 23rd June 2017

Y5 Space Camp Out—overnight

### Monday 26th June 2017

All day Year 4 at the British Museum

### Tuesday 27th June 2017

Class photos

### Wednesday 28th June 2017

All day Y1 Seaside Workshop

1.30-3pm Year 4 Super 7 Cricket Event

### Thursday 29th June 2017

AM Year 6 Brain workshop

1.30-3pm Year 2 Super 7 All Sorts of Sports

1.30-3.30pm Coleridge at Waterlow Park

### Friday 30th June 2017

9.00 Y2 Cholmeley Family Assembly and coffee morning

9-12pm Y5&6 Quiz at St Pauls School Wood Green

### Saturday 1st July 2017

12-4pm SMSA Summer Fair

### Monday 3rd July 2017

1.30-3.15pm Year 3 Super 7 Tag Rugby Tournament

### Tuesday 4th July 2017

9.30-10am Y3-5 Wider Ops concert

All day Year 3-4 Kwik Cricket Tournament at North Middlesex Cricket Club

1.30-3.15pm Year Five Super 7 Tournament

4pm International Evening in KS2 Hall

### Wednesday 5th July 2017

7pm Anita's piano concert

### Friday 7th July 2017

9.00am KS2 Recorder concert and parents

All day Year 5 Football Tournament for Boys and Girls at Thomas More School

### 8-9th July 2017

SMSA Overnight camp out for families

### Monday 10th July 2017

All day Year 2 trip to Cutty Sark

### Thursday 13th July 2017

10-12pm Y3-5 Swimming Gala at Highgate

2.30-3.30pm Wider Ops Concert Coutts Class

7pm Y6 Concert to parents

### Friday 14th July 2017

Year Five sponsored Hobbit walk

### Wednesday 19th July 2017

1.45-3pm Picnic for nursery and new nursery children

7pm YR 6 Play to parents

### Thursday 20 July 2017

7pm YR 6 Play to parents

## Early Years Performance

We would like to say a big thank you to Juliet Weinman-Knight and all the students from the Central School of Speech and Drama who came to perform for the early years and KS1 on 14th June.

The students have been volunteering over the half term in the early years and supported the children in their play. They then designed a show for us around the theme of 'flight' as part of their studies.

The children really enjoyed the performance and especially enjoyed joining the actors on stage at the end for dancing!





## **Staff Leavers**

A special Thank you to the staff who are leaving us at the end of this academic year. Our school was a richer place for having them work here and their talents and contribution to St Michael's will long be remembered by those children who gained from their wonderful teaching skills. We wish them much happiness and success in their future ventures and hope they will take very fond memories of their time at St. Michael's with them.

**Annette Binks** is returning home to be closer to her family in Australia. 'St. Michael's is a wonderful school and I am very much going to miss my students and colleagues. The most precious gift I will take from St Michael's will be all the memories of the fun and funny times we have shared. The gift I have given is a fun and caring first school experience for the children. School is a wonderful place to be!'

**Abbie Williams** is returning to her family and dog Geoffrey in Wales. 'I will be working in a Reception Class in a beautiful school, very similar to St. Michael's. I completed my NQT training here and my first year as a qualified teacher. During this time I have enjoyed building warm relationships with the staff, children and parents. I couldn't have wished for a more amazing school to start my teaching career. The gift I hope to leave behind is an understanding of the Welsh culture that I have enjoyed sharing with the children. It has made me proud to be greeted with 'Bore da Miss Williams' every day.

**May Mak** plans to study for an MA in Education and International Development. 'My most treasured moment is being accidentally called 'mum' - that's when you know the children trust you! But honestly, I felt settled from my first day because of the smiles I received from children, parents and staff - St Michael's is a friendly school, through and through. What gift I'll be leaving behind: A love for origami and being creative.'

**Ruth Batham** has secured a studio and is leaving to pursue her Art. 'The most precious gift that I will take from St. Michael's is the importance of always challenging myself. I have watched daily as children in my class and other classes push themselves, go outside of their comfort zones and strive to always give more and do better. This has been inspirational for me. The most precious gift that I will leave behind is to encourage and celebrate the many diverse Artistic talents at St. Michael's ranging from parents to children. Through new Art Clubs, Art competitions, in-school exhibitions, parent volunteers, Art trips, new sketchbooks and displays put on the school website - I hope that your Artistic endeavours feel appreciated.'

**Rebecca Austin** is leaving to teach at an International school in the Netherlands. 'The gift I hope to leave behind is a love of stories. Listening to stories, telling stories, sharing stories, whether in the classroom, the playground, at a sleepover or in the park. With this love of stories, I leave behind the We Are Writers book which I hope will continue to be published every year. I also leave behind the book bench- an important reminder to always create a space for reading. The gift I take with me is divergent thinking. As a child, anything is possible and your imagination is limitless. As an adult, you seem to find yourself restricting your ideas to what seems plausible or logical. The children at St Michael's have a capacity to produce complex, creative, dynamic ideas from a single starting point or simple trigger. Teaching the children at St Michael's has reminded me to always look at all possibilities, especially those that aren't that apparent at first and to always remember this important lesson: anything really is possible.'

**Nick Fletcher** is leaving to join his husband in New York. 'The gift I will be taking away with me from St Michael's is my days spent getting to know some unique and wonderful children, and making friends who I will never forget. The gift I will be leaving behind is my teamwork and being part of this special team.'



**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****New on-site afterschool club****Energy Kidz**

We had a strong positive response to the survey sent out by Energy Kidz before half term. We are delighted to let you know that Energy Kidz will be starting in September with an after school club for all year groups from Reception to Year 6 from 3.30pm until 6pm on site at St Michael's.

For more information please visit: [www.energy-kidz.co.uk](http://www.energy-kidz.co.uk)

**New Staff for September 2017**

We look forward to our new staff members joining us.

**Francesca Mc Keown**, knows St. Michael's very well as she has taught here as a supply teacher for three years.

**Adrian Braune**, currently teaching in Hackney, knows St. Michael's as both his sister and wife are former pupils.

**Holly Stagg**, a former St. Michael's pupil, has worked in media and is looking forward to starting her second career with us.

**John Coffield** has taught across Key Stage 2 this year and is looking forward to having his own class.

**Rob Fletcher**, currently teaching in Winchester, will join us as a Class Teacher and the English leader.

**Gloria Davenport**, a former parent and Teacher at St. Michael's, has been a volunteer this year.

**Julia Machin**, has previously worked as a lawyer and is joining us from another Haringey School.

**Linda Kennedy**, our new Inclusion Leader for two days a week will spend the remainder of the week at New End Primary where she has worked for 22 years.

As is usual practice I will inform parents and children of their Class Teacher and the staffing arrangements for the next academic year in July.



### Year 5—Space

On Thursday 25th May Michael Franks, a space expert, came in to visit Year Five! He taught us about the planets, phases of the moon, how to calculate the size of the Earth (before technology) and much more! At the end everyone was able to see the piece of Mars and The Moon that he had brought in.



### Lauderdale House

Before half term, Year 6s took the opportunity to see the product of their hard work up on display in Lauderdale House. The display boards show case work from an Art/ History/ English/ RE trip and can be seen in Lauderdale House until mid July. As well as seeing their work, the children all enjoyed a picnic in the park!

### Matilda

Half of the Year 6s went to see an evening performance of Matilda. The show was incredible and the children's behaviour was outstanding in the theatre. Thank you to all the adults who made this trip possible!



### Year 6 leavers church service at St Paul's Church

Year 6 attended a special Church Service at St Paul's Church alongside all the other C of E and Catholic primary schools in Haringey. It was a lively service which consisted of performances by a superb steel band and a number of school choirs. Our Year Six children made a wonderful contribution to the service and read out bidding prayers that they had prepared in school. Catherine West also attended the Church Service and spoke to the children about the important lessons they will have learnt during their time in primary school and the exciting path ahead at secondary school. Overall, it was a most enjoyable afternoon.



## **Child Led Chess Tournament**

A group of children in Year 4 Barnett approached Mrs Parker with a proposal to hold a Key Stage 2 tournament. The boys had thoroughly thought through the whole process enabling non-player and more experienced players to participate.

They advertised the event around the juniors – collecting the names of those children who were interested. Then they offered tuition for those children new to the game of chess.

The competition commenced: the children in years three and four played each other. After a number of rounds we had two players (Aaron and Frederick)



from year four pitting their skills against each other in the year three / four final. Aaron was the winner moving forward into the Grand Final.

The year five six rounds were hard fought the tension and quality of chess was high. Finally, in the semi-final we had a battle of the minds between Theo and Alexander.

The Grand Final took place between the victory of the year three/four (Aaron) and year five /six (Alexander). Spectators stood silently admiring the chess skills before them.

The prizes donated by the organisers were presented by Mrs Gallagher in Fridays Collective Worship.



Finalists and organisers celebrate

## St Michael's went to the polls



We held our own elections last week, the day before the Nation voted in the General Election. We were able to use the actual polling booths and set up the hall as a real election station would. Children had to register, use ballot papers and place their votes in the ballot boxes. These were independently checked and verified. Years 1 to 5 voted after some very persuasive canvassing from four parties, Red, Green, Orange and Blue, the Green Party won.

Here are some snap-shots of the day's events.





## *From the Governors*

### **Future funding will be different...**

#### **More to do on fair funding**

Where are we on funding now post-election? This is not clear. Not least because we have a hung parliament. The Conservative manifesto included a change in their position so that no school would lose money (ie actual cash totals) following changes to the funding formula. This is welcome but independent analysts say this represents a 2.8% real-terms cut in per-pupil funding between 2016-2022. And we don't know yet whether this will be in the Queen's speech or how it might be changed.

So lots of uncertainty and lots still to do. Please support the efforts of the parents in the school who are taking the lead on fair funding for St Michael's. Thank you.

#### **Fundraising Working Group up and running!**

This week sees the first meeting of the Fundraising Working Group. Made up of four St Michael's parents and two governors, this group will be thinking how to raise significant sums for our longer-term capital works.

You may recall me asking for volunteers from the parent body for this. Well I am delighted to say four have stepped up and are joining the group: Helen Ram (Costello), Eva Axelsson Lewis, Abby Samuel and Robert Bahns. They are joined by two governors: assistant head Fran Sorapure and Mark Dailey who will chair the group.

A big thank you from me for your contribution to St Michael's!

#### **Our four funding pots**

Just a quick reminder on the sources of St Michael's funds. It's complicated I know!

1. **Our 'delegated budget' from Haringey.** This is the vast majority of our roughly £2 million annual budget and almost all of it goes on salaries (in keeping with other schools).
2. **SMSA funds.** The parents' body runs great social events that bring us together as a community and raise money too. This is about £40,000 a year. It pays for 'nice to haves' that enhance the children's day-to-day experience of school, for example the generous funding over three years of 108 iPads.
3. **Governors' Fund.** This raises money from parents through your regular donations (thank you!) and rental agreements. It pays for small-medium improvement projects such as the £75,000 needed to convert the old flat into music and intervention spaces.
4. **Fundraising Working Group.** This new group of parents and governors will raise significant funds for larger, longer-term improvement projects such as refurbishing all the classrooms on a rolling basis.

#### **Last thing – please vote 'yes' on 6 July!**

'Not another one!' as Brenda from Bristol said at the start of the general election campaign. Oh yes! On 6 July if you live in Highgate you have another vote to make! That's because there has to be a referendum on the Highgate neighbourhood plan. This has been put together by local people and – if you vote yes! – will help ensure Highgate develops in a way that considers our views. Please do vote and do vote yes!

Thanks for all your support. Together stronger!

Adam Garfunkel

**Chair of Governors**

## Y4 Volcanoes



Last term, Year 4 excitedly explored the wonderful world of volcanoes. We created a volcano dance in PE, created Haikus in English (amongst other activities) and finally ended our topic with an explosion!

Having made our own paper-mache volcanoes, we set about creating a volcanic explosion of our own using bicarbonate of soda and vinegar – the result as you can see in the photos was EXPLOSIVE!

*Bang! Crash! Boom!  
Wallop!*

*Yellow, orange, red,  
flames dance*

*on the volcano*

*Friedrich, Y4 Barnett*



*Fire pouring out  
Smoke filling the  
boiling air*

*People gaze. Silent.*

*Francesca, Y4 Barnett*

## International Day and Evening

On Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> July the children can come to school dressed in the traditional clothing or the colours of the flag for the country they are studying or their family origin. Our Evening will commence at 4:00pm, this is an opportunity for you to see the children's work, sample food and take part in or enjoy the entertainment.



Class name	Country studied	Class name	Country studied
Nursery Whittington	South Africa	Dickens Coleridge	Italy Canada
Waterlow Lauderdale	Uganda Uganda	Barnett Burdett - Coutts	Japan Iceland
Kenwood Lubetkin	India India	Orwell Marx	Greece Greece
Wilson Cholmeley	Jamaica Spain	Du Maurier Richardson	Nepal Nepal



## Campaign Action

Children and families of St Michael's have been involved in campaigning against the proposed school funding cuts.



*Children designed posters to illustrate their opposition to the cuts*



*Fair funding for schools protest picnic at Highgate Wood 26.05.17*

## Eco-Team

This year the Eco-Team have been working hard to create an action plan of things that we could do to promote a greener environment in the school.

On Friday 9<sup>th</sup> June the current Eco-Team held an assembly to share our new 8 golden rules for keeping St Michael's green.



The rules are up on the Eco-Team board for everyone to check.

Due to the efforts of each Eco-Team this year we have been awarded not only the Bronze Award from Eco-Schools but we have now been awarded the Silver Award. Each Eco-Team should be very proud of their achievements this year!





## Environment Morning

Every day is busy with lots of visitors at St. Michael's and Wednesday was no different. A team of Highgate pupils arrived around the same time as a group of performers laden with their props and a delivery of new playpod equipment. The Highgate pupils spent the morning assisting with various jobs. A diligent group helped Troy to fill holes in the field, reseed the grassed area in the top playground and clear the courtyard. Another group did a great job tidying the playpods, the green room and the Early Years outside area. The pupils proved that many hands make light work. Thank You to all of them for their time and effort.



## Year 6 JEP update!

Before the holidays, Year 6s invented and designed their own products to sell as part of the Junior Entrepreneur Project. They had the opportunity in groups to pitch their ideas in a Dragon's Den. Thank you to the Dragons who gave their time to help. The pitches were of a very

high standard and it was difficult for the Dragons to pick two winning ideas. In the end, 'Wonder Wings and Charms' and 'How To...Booklets' were the winners. The children then had a

captivating talk from Millie Kendall about her entrepreneurial background. She gave them invaluable advice about their own products and the children asked insightful questions. The children are now very busy making their products to sell at Fair in the Square.



## Haringey Netball Tournament at Highgate School

What a great day of netball. I am very proud of the girls. They played so well and competed consistently through what was a very full and tiring afternoon of netball.

The B team had some great games and played cohesively together. There were some really good moments and Hansika played particularly well.

The A team won all but one game (Won 6 Lost 1) in their pool only losing to eventual winners Campsbourne.

They then played Coldfall in a semi-final which could have gone either way but ended 2-1 to Coldfall. It was the same score in the third place play-off which was so close and again Weston Park were lucky to score the extra goal.

I feel they deserve huge praise. St. Michael's played fairly, with a measured amount of determination, oodles of competition and their team spirit and the support for each other was 100% .

Well done to the 18 members of the netball squad that attended.





## Year 4 Highgate Cricket

Girls and boys from Burdett Coutts and Barnett Class's in Year 4 enjoyed a morning of competitive cricket at Highgate School on the 26th May. Some excellent cricket was on display in beautiful sun-drenched conditions. Many thanks to Paul Webb at Highgate School for organising such a fun event for all. Many of the children said they would like to take up cricket as a result. We hope to see more involved soon.



## Tennis

Four tennis aces from Year 5 entered the newly organised Haringey Tennis Invitational Tournament at the Albert Road Recreational Park on the 16<sup>th</sup> May. Some great tennis was on display from the 8 schools involved with Talia, Ellie, Jake and Johnny competing admirably against some tough competition. Although not winners on the day, the children had an excellent attitude and were very proud of their achievements. Well done to them.



## **Year 5-6 Haringey Community Football at Powerleague**

St. Michael's attended the annual 6-a-side Haringey Community League event at Colney Hatch Lane on Wednesday 14th June.

Around 20 schools from all over Haringey took part in an event organised by Adem from Rhodes Avenue.

A sunny day and lots of amazing football made the whole event one to remember.

St. Michael's girls did incredibly well to reach the quarter-finals with 2 wins and a draw in the group stages. Well done to 'goal machine' Georgia in Year 5 for scoring many of the goals. Unfortunately the girls lost to Rhodes in the quarter- finals but were very proud of their achievements. Their attitude and energy was excellent.

The boys kicked off and found the going tough against a well drilled Rhodes team, losing 3-0. Not to be disheartened they came back fantastically well in the second game to beat Tetherdown 6-1. Unfortunately a couple more defeats meant that St. Michael's did not reach the next stage. However, all the boys can be proud of their attitude and hard work.





## Quad-Kid Athletics 2017

The annual Haringey Quad-Kid Athletics Tournament is always a highlight of the calendar year with many schools competing in a range of events. Quad Kids involves 4 boys and 4 girls from each school competing in 4 disciplines. These were the 600 metres, the 60 metres sprint, javelin, and long jump. The event finished with all children competing in the 8 x 50 metre relay sprint.

Held at the New River Stadium on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> May, Quad Kids was brilliantly organised by Dave Thomas and his Haringey team. It saw St. Michael's achieve a fantastic 5<sup>th</sup> place from 27 teams! A very pleasing achievement indeed with some outstanding athletes on show including our very own Luke who achieved a fantastic silver medal 2<sup>nd</sup> place overall from over 100 competitors.

Well done to all our team who impressed particularly with their excellent team ethic and support for one another. The team of Amira, Aldephie, Marlene, Alice, Luke, Jay, Alexander and Sean were incredibly proud of their achievements. A pat on the back from all at St. Michael's.





## Tag Rugby

St. Michael's sent its largest squad ever to the new London Skolars Tag Rugby event on the 25th May. A total of 23 girls and boys competed at the event held at the New River Stadium against schools amongst the best in the borough.

Our two teams achieved very good results and competed with excellent sportsmanship and dedication to the rules of the game.

Team 1 won 3, drew 1 and lost 1 against eventual winners Rhodes Avenue. Team 2 won 3, drew 2 and lost 1. A fantastic achievement for the squad with many girls and boys competing at their first ever tournament. Well done to them.



## St Michael's Sporting Calendar

June					
<b>Mon 26<sup>th</sup></b>	All week	Healthy Schools Week	St. Michael's	Skip 2 B Fit 2017 Challenge plus Ultimate Dodgeball Charity Event	R – Y6
<b>Weds 28<sup>th</sup></b>	1.30-3.15 p.m.	Year 4 Super 7 Cricket Event (5 of	St. Michael's	All Year 4 compete in cricket fun. (Maybe 2 separate days)	Year 4
<b>Thurs 29<sup>th</sup></b>	1.30-3.15 p.m.	All Sorts of Sports Day for Year 2		Year 5 to organise events for Year 2. Two 45 minute sessions	Year 2 (and Year 5)
July					
<b>Weds 5<sup>th</sup></b>	4-5p.m	Total Control Football	Whitefield School	5 a side football boys tbc TOURNAMENT	Year 5-6
<b>Fri 7<sup>th</sup></b>	All Day	Year 5, 6 a-side Football	St Thomas More School	Yr 5 Boys and Girls Teams. Entry direct to Alex Rosen at St Thomas	Year 5 only
<b>Weds 12<sup>th</sup></b>	4-5p.m	Total Control Football	Whitefield School	5 a side football girls tbc TOURNAMENT	Year 5-6