



ST MICHAEL'S
C of E PRIMARY
HIGHGATE

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Newsletter December 2019 - Issue 3

Geraldine Gallagher
Headteacher



Message from Mrs Gallagher

Dear Parents and Carers,

December is a month of preparation, getting ready and enjoying the season of Advent. At school there have been lots of preparations and fun. We had another excellent Christmas Fair where we were joined by past and present families. The school itself has been beautifully decorated with the children's displays, scenery and Christmas trees. Each performance of the Nativity was stunning. All of the children and staff From Nursey through to Year 2 worked very hard and the children did us all proud. It is always a pleasure to see them grow in confidence each time that they perform.

We have had the pleasure of many musical performances across the school. Thank you to the pupils and music teachers for our recorder, clarinet and trumpet concerts. Again, it is a pleasure to see the children progress and a privilege for us all to enjoy their many hours of dedication. Our school choir and some of our Year 5 pupils performed in the Highgate Choral Society Family Carols. The children were great ambassadors for our school and gave an excellent performance.

On Wednesday, Year 6 will host our Community Party. This is a very special annual event which is very much appreciated by those who attend. Guests requiring assistance are collected by our parents. Pupils and parents prepare the hall for the party and throughout the afternoon the pupils provide table service for the guests. The pupils have prepared an excellent cabaret show which will entertain the guests throughout the afternoon. We are very pleased to be able to offer this to our community. It is an essential aspect of Year 6. Thank you to all of the parents for your generous donations of refreshments, presents and your time.

Each year group in Key Stage 2 plans and leads a whole school church service which all of the community is invited to attend. Year 5 will lead our end of term Christmas service at St Michael's Church at 9:30am on Thursday. This is a special occasion celebrated with all of the children from Reception to Year 6 and we warmly welcome all families.

A very special member of staff, Chris Evans, has been preparing to leave for her retirement at the end of this term. Chris has been a Teaching Assistant at St. Michael's for 22 years and is one of the longest standing members of staff. All of the colleagues she has worked with have been fortunate to be on the receiving end of her kindness and friendship. Chris has helped so many children and their families through their times of joy and sorrow and been a tremendous support to many. We are sad that Chris is leaving us but happy for her that she will have more time to spend with her own family. From all of the staff, pupils and families past and present we say a great big thank you to Chris and wish her a happy and healthy retirement.

Thank you to all of our parents and carers for your support. On behalf of the pupils, staff and governors, I wish you a happy Christmas and hope you are prepared for a joyous and restful time with your family.

Best wishes,

Geraldine Gallagher
Headteacher

Dates

6 January 2020

1st day back Spring Term

9 January

Open morning for prospective parents 9.30-11am

10 January

Year 4 Ancient Egypt workshop

24 January

Year 6 Owens family assembly and coffee morning

27 January

Year 5 trip to the British Museum

29 January

Individual pupil photos

31 January

Year 4 Tendulkar family assembly and coffee morning

7 February

Year 5 Pilkington Mills family assembly and coffee morning

11 February

Year 4 violin and cello concert KS1 Hall

14 February

Year 3 Lomu family assembly and coffee morning

28 February

Year 2 Lombardi family assembly and coffee morning

5, 6 & 7 March

Panto

9 March

Year 4 trip—Steve McQueen Year 3 photos at Tate Modern

13 March

Year 1 Bolt family assembly and coffee morning

17 & 19 March

Parents Evening 3.50-6.30pm

26 March

Quiz Night

27 March

Year 5 Adams family assembly and coffee morning

2 April

School Disco

Rec/Y1&2 3.45-4.45pm

Y3&4 5-6pm

Y5&6 6.15-7.15pm

3 April

Easter Bonnet Parade to Church
9.30am Easter Church Service led by Year 3

School Finishes 2pm

3 May

Footie funday

14 June

Fun run

4 July

Summer Fair

11 July

SMSA Camp Out overnight

21 July

Year 6 Leaver's disco 7-9pm

Last day of school year **2pm finish**

Christmas Carol Concert

On Saturday evening the Sing Up Choir (run by myself; Mrs Sorapure) and some year five pupils took part in the Christmas Carol concert at St Michael's church. It was a fantastic festival occasion and the pupils were areal credit to you and their school. Janet Betham from the Highgate Choral Society wrote to thank us and added how brilliantly the children sang and they really enjoyed their performance, especially the actions! Christina in Year five commented during the event "I'm a little nervous but I can't stop smiling." And that was also how Mr Holt and I felt too. We can't wait for next year.



EYFS Nativity Show

Well done to all the children in the Early Years who did a tremendous job performing the Nativity. The children behaved like true professionals remembering their lines and the words to numerous songs. Everyone left the performances feeling uplifted and very festive.



Operation Junior Watch



Last week six lucky children from Year 6 got the chance to be Junior Police Officers for the morning as part of Operation Junior Road Watch. Together with 5 real officers from the Met Police they spent the morning pulling over and interviewing a total of 10 speeding drivers on North Road. The embarrassed motorists were interviewed



by the children and asked questions that encouraged them to reflect on their driving habits outside our school.

After the operation the children got to try out a pair of handcuffs and look around the police car. It was a very educational experience and will help make North Road a little bit safer.



Recorder Concert

We held a KS1 & KS2 recorder concert led by peripatetic teachers Nancy and Elspeth. Both concerts were splendid and enjoyed by parents and the children



Thank you to Nancy and Elspeth for their nurturing tuition and to the children for all their dedication to their practice. It is always a pleasure to see the progress they make between concerts.

Clarinet and Trumpet Concert

All of our children leave St Michael's having studied at least one musical instrument. In Year 4 the pupils study the clarinet and trumpet or the violin and cello. Some pupils continue in their studies in Year 5 and 6.

Our Year 4 pupils and some Year 5 recently put on a great performance for parents and children. The Year 4 children have only been learning for a few months and we were very pleased with their progress and confidence. They did incredibly well.



CLASS TRIPS

Year 4 visit to Neasden Temple

In Religious Education, Year 4 have been studying Hinduism. A key question they have considered is —What is the importance of symbols, beliefs and teachings in Hinduism? The study culminated to a trip to Neasden Temple.

It was an insightful trip, the children considered the similarities between Christianity and Hinduism. As always the children's knowledge and understanding exceeded the expectations and they were amazed by the stunning architecture and craftsmanship.



Nursery—Year 2 Trip to Jacksons Lane Theatre

Our children went on their annual Christmas trip to Jacksons Lane. This year's production was Goldilocks and the Three Bears, which was a dynamic and entertaining performance.

"Double thumbs up (Ellie Y1)

"Quite Good" (Henry Y1)

"Amazing" (Hudson Y1)



School Uniform

In 2017 we revised the school's brand and visual identity in consultation with Parents, Governors, staff and children. Changes to our uniform came into effect September 2018 with a two year transition period in which children could wear the old or the new uniform.

The two year transition period for the school uniform will come to an end July 2020. This means that September 2020 the new school uniform will be compulsory

All stock items with the school's logo can be purchased through our uniform supplier—Stevenson's and details can be found on our website. www.stevenson.co.uk

The new uniform

- A white polo shirt with embroidered school logo
- A navy blue v neck jumper or cardigan with grey piping and embroidered school logo
- Navy blue trousers, shorts, pinafore, culottes or skirt
- Navy or white socks/tights
- Blue gingham summer dress
- Black shoes – we are developing an increasingly active timetable and so all children need to wear footwear that is conducive to being active at all times.
- PE Kit: Technical, non - crease top with embroidered school logo. Navy shorts, navy tracksuit bottoms. Black or white plimsols (indoors) trainers (outdoors)
- Reading folder and PE bag with school logo – purchased through Scopay and collected from the office



Letter from the Chair of Governors

Dear Parents and Carers,

Well, we've just about arrived at the end of term. The last few days before Christmas holidays. The Christmas fair now a successful memory and all the intense planning for the panto still to come.

This is the delicious season. Of anticipation, celebration and reflection. A chance to be with family and friends – and for everyone connected with St. Michael's to feel deservedly proud of a job well done.

The school has had a fantastic year. Our attainment and progress marks consistently rank well above national average. We have embarked on a programme of ambitious modernisation in terms of the school premises and buildings. And we stand ready for a likely OSTED inspection in the early Spring – intent on ratifying our view that the school is outstanding.

And yet, despite all this – I wonder if the overwhelming feeling for many parents, teachers, staff, caregivers and governors this Christmas time is one of tiredness. A desire for peace and quietude. And a real need for some levity, distraction and fun.

With Brexit in the fray, it has been a bruising last three years. Filled with emotion, diatribe, fiercely held views and division. And yes, that shows that we care. But it is wearing to always be vigilant; to always feel you must fight your corner. And to polish beliefs as if they were gems to be protected from the Other.

My guess is that the profound wish of many people this Christmas is for a period of healing, a new kindness and willingness to listen. To turn the corner towards more sharing and understanding. And to once again remember all that genuinely unites us in our island home.

I believe we have the template for much of what is needed right in front of us. In our children. And in St. Michael's School itself. Jesus said, "unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven."

This Christmas we can take our lead from our children – who have an unalloyed love of Christmas. Who share and show joy easily and who this Advent and Christmas season openly hope and dream. This kind of emotion puts our temporal concerns in perspective.

And we can take comfort in the ethos that remains St. Michael's greatest strength. There is a demonstrable kindness and caring about the school that is not just prefabricated for this time of year. It is tangible and actively infuses our vision that "a child's future is created every day."

Now in my eighth year as a governor, this is my last St. Michael's Christmas. On your behalf, I would like to thank Mrs. Gallagher and all the teachers and staff who work so hard throughout the year.

And gratitude and appreciation to all of you who together make up the wider St. Michael's family.

Be of good cheer this Christmas.

Yours sincerely,

Mark Dailey
Chair of Governors



Save the Children—Christmas

Last week the children came dressed in fun Christmas Jumpers to support Save the Children. Thank you to all the families for your generosity, we raised £600.



Christmas Dinner Menu 19/12/19

HARRISON
food with thought

Celebrate Christmas

Harrison Catering Christmas Lunch Menu...

Oven Roasted Turkey served with all the Trimmings...

Quorn & Stuffing Xmas Wellington served with all the Trimmings...

Oven Roasted Potatoes
Pigs in Blankets
Brussels Sprouts
Buttered Carrots
Steamed Green Peas
Sage & Onion Stuffing Balls
Gravy & Cranberry Sauce

Dessert of the Day...
Yule Log
or
Christmas Themed Ice Cream



History Holiday Activity

Ms Machin would highly recommend (especially year 4) visiting the Tutankhamun exhibition at the Saatchi gallery during the holidays.



Broken bones and injuries

To allow your child to return to school safely after a serious injury we ask parents to call the school and make an appointment to meet with either Mrs Sorapure or Mrs Parker to carry out a risk assessment.



Lost Property



Lost property is located in the green box under the arch by Reception — this is the place to look for any lost items.

Please label all clothing items, bags and water bottles clearly to ensure items can be returned to the correct child.

Admissions 2021-22

Please see our website for our proposed admission arrangements for the 2021-22 academic year.

The school is proposing the following changes to its admission arrangements: 1. To increase the points awarded to children who attend our Nursery from 1 to 2 points.

If you have any comments on the proposed arrangements, then please send them to Suzanne Dykes, St Michael's Primary School, North Road, London N6 4BG or by email admin@stmichaelsn6.com.

Please respond by: 30th January 2020.

Cake Sale Dates

10th Jan – Yr 3 Simmonds
 17th Jan – Yr 3 Lomu
 24th Jan – Reception Bronze
 31st Jan – Reception Pele
 7th Feb – Yr 2 Lombard
 14th Feb – Yr 2 MacArthur
 28th Feb – Yr 5 Adams
 6th March – Yr 5 Pilkington Mills
 13th March – sports relief cake sale
 27th March – Nursery
 3rd April – Joint Year 6
 24th April – Yr 1 Grey Thompson
 1st May – Yr 1 Bolt
 8th May – Yr 4 Tendulkar
 15th May – Yr 6 Kim
 22nd May – Yr 6 Owens
 5th June –
 12th June – Yr 4 Comaneci
 19th June – Reception Bronze
 26th June – Reception Pele
 3rd July – Yr 3 Simmonds
 10th July – Yr 3 Lomu
 17th July –



Nursery & Reception Admissions

We were delighted to show potential parents around our beautiful school in November. Our children did an excellent job as ambassadors; of taking parents around and showcasing the school.

Admissions queries, contact Suzanne in the office



Application Deadlines

Nursery—1st December 2019 (via school)

Reception—15th January 2020 (via school and Local Authority website)

SPORT

“This was a great opportunity for the girls to show off the skills they had all learnt in their after school club.”

Girls Football Club

On Friday 6/12/19 St Michael's Girls Football Club participated in their first competitive football tournament.

This was a Year 5 and 6 tournament (our team had girls from Years 2-6) hosted by Princes Park Youth Football Club in West Hendon and included teams from various different boroughs in London.

This was a great opportunity for the girls to show off the skills they had all learnt in their after school club. After a slow start the girls showed fantastic endurance and koinonia to turn things around and earn 5 points which meant they finished 3rd.

A special thanks to Miss Kelly and Mr Ronchetti and also Mr Whiting and Mr Martin-Bell for making the trip possible! Congratulations Girls.





Term Dates 2020-21

Autumn Term 2020

	Starts	Ends	Term Days
INSET	Wednesday 2 September 2020	Friday 4 September 2020	
Autumn 1	Monday 7 September 2020	Friday 23 October 2020	35
Holiday	Monday 26 October 2020	Friday 30 October 2020	
Autumn 2	Monday 2 November 2020	Friday 18 December 2020	33
INSET	Thursday 17 December 2020	Friday 18 December 2020	
Holiday	Monday 21 December 2020	Friday 1 January 2021	

Spring Term 2021

	Starts	Ends	Term Days
Spring 1	Monday 4 January 2021	Friday 12 February 2021	30
Holiday	Monday 15 February 2021	Friday 19 February 2021	
Spring 2	Monday 22 February 2021	Wednesday 31 March 2021	28
Holiday	Thursday 1 April 2021	Friday 16 April 2021	

Summer Term 2021

	Starts	Ends	Term Days
Summer 1	Monday 19 April 2021	Friday 28 May 2021	29
Holiday	Monday 31 May 2021	Friday 4 June 2021	
Summer 2	Monday 7 June 2021	Friday 23 July 2021	35
Holiday	Monday 26 July 2021	TBC	

Bank holidays

Christmas Day	Friday 25 th December 2020
Boxing Day	Monday 28 th December 2020
New Year's Day	Friday 1 st January 2021
Good Friday (Bank Holiday)	Friday 2 nd April 2021
Easter Monday (Bank Holiday)	Monday 5 th April 2021
May Bank Holiday	Friday 3 rd May 2021
Spring Bank Holiday	Monday 31 st May 2021
August Bank Holiday	Monday 30 th August 2021

Inset days: 5 days are set by the school for training; the school is closed on these days.

Holidays in term time: We do not authorise holidays in term time under any circumstances. Parents and Carers, please ensure that you do not book holidays or flights for before term ends or for after term has begun. Every day in school matters. We see the number of requests for time out of school for e personal illness rise considerably towards the end of each term.

All requests for leave during term time are monitored by the Headteacher who may wish to meet with you to discuss your request further.