



ST MICHAEL'S
C of E PRIMARY
HIGHGATE

Christmas Newsletter

Geraldine Gallagher
Headteacher

Message from the Headteacher



Dear Parents and Carers,

We are coming to the end of a long term and the whole school community is looking forward to a well-earned rest. Children and staff have been very busy with their learning and with their preparations for Christmas.

Last week, I had the pleasure of spending some time in Nursery and Reception Classrooms. It is always a joy to spend time with the children and discuss their experiences with them; it is a great way to evaluate our work as it informs me of what we are doing well and what we can do to make things even better. The children are very engaged in their learning which is of a very high standard. They feel confident to work together and to speak about their experiences. I have included photos of some of their work within this newsletter. Usually, I would not comment on this as it is something so routine and ordinary: popping into classrooms and talking with the pupils. However, with the restrictions and ensuring we are working safely these 'visits' have become somewhat extraordinary.

The prospect of Christmas cheers us and lifts our spirits. Although we are not able to physically welcome you in to our celebrations, we still want to be able to share them with you. To that end the staff have been ingenious in their efforts to combine many of St. Michael's traditions with current restrictions. You will be receiving notice of the videos of The Nativity created by Early Years and KS1 and we will post photos of the many other festive events on the school website.





2020 has been a very unusual and challenging year in so many ways. Over the past nine months the school has experienced many changes which have required us all to make adaptations and to be patient. Usually, at this time of year we would have had many of the excellent SMSA events including the Christmas Fair. We look forward to some SMSA events in the near future.

We are pleased that the refurbishment of our school library will commence in the New Year and we are looking at a completion date for the end of January 2021. Thank you to everyone for your feedback and contribution to the designs.

Everyone in St. Michael's community would like to join me in thanking the pupils for their excellent attitude and hard work. The staff, governors and pupils would like to thank all parents and carers for all your support. Likewise, I am sure the pupils, parents and carers would like to join with me in thanking all of the staff and governors at St. Michael's School for their continued tremendous commitment to the pupils of the school.

I wish everyone a healthy, happy Christmas time and a good rest. May we all stay safe and I look forward to seeing you all on Monday 4 January 2021.

Best Wishes,



Geraldine Gallagher
Headteacher





New Phase & Subject Leaders

We are delighted to be able to announce the appointment of a number of staff members to positions across the school, including some new positions. We all look forward to learning from their expertise.

Phase Leaders	
Alexandra Cooper	<i>EYFS Lead</i>
Ellise Kelly-Jay	<i>KS1 Phase Lead</i>
Peter Hoskins-Holt	<i>Lower KS2 Phase Lead</i>
John Coffield	<i>Upper KS2 Phase Lead</i>
Subject/ Area Leaders	
Eleanor Orson	<i>English</i>
Adrian Braune	<i>Maths</i>
Roberto Ronchetti	<i>Science</i>
John Yeomans	<i>History</i>
Eleni Porfyridou	<i>Design & Technology</i>
Francesca Wood	<i>Staff Black, Asian & Minority Ethnic (BAME) Representative</i>
Laurence Davenport	<i>Charity Representative</i>
Ellise Kelly-Jay	<i>Phonics</i>
Laurence Davenport	<i>Religious Education (RE) Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) Relationships and Sex Education (RSE)</i>
John Coffield	<i>Geography</i>
Peter Hoskins-Holt	<i>Music & Performance</i>
Michael Whiting	<i>Physical Education</i>
Holly Stagg	<i>Art</i>
Lilian Verheul	<i>Modern Foreign Languages</i>
Shannon Kelly	<i>Computing</i>



Pastoral and Curriculum

For most pastoral issues the first point of contact in school for parents is their child's class teacher. Please contact them via the school office on admin@stmichaelsn6.com.

Absence and Sickness

For absences and sickness, we ask that you continue to inform us every day that your child is not coming to school. You can do this via telephone or email. Please call 02083407441 and leave a message on the sickness line, or email us on admin@stmichaelsn6.com.

In either case, please always give your child's FULL name and their class every time that you communicate with the school, as well as the full reason for their absence.

Covid-19

In addition, we now also require you to let us know if your child's sickness is Covid-19 related, whether that is because they have been required to isolate following guidance, or because they have exhibited symptoms. Please give this information clearly when you contact us.

If a child or anyone in the household receives a positive Covid test please fill out the Covid-19 Report form on the website

<https://stmichaelsn6.com/covid-19-report-form/>

Safeguarding

If you have any safeguarding concerns please email dsl@stmichaelsn6.com. This email will go to Mrs Gallagher, Mrs Sorapure, Ms Kennedy and Mrs Parker, our Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSLs).

Forgotten items

If parents or pupils forget to bring items to school there will not be an opportunity to bring it in late. If your child arrives without a lunch they will be given a school lunch.

If your child arrives without their musical instrument other arrangements for the lesson will be made where possible. Separate arrangements are in place for PE lessons, so a missing PE kit will not be a barrier to learning.

A note on attendance

If your child has an appointment (eg. medical/ dentist) during the day they will need to miss the whole day of school, because it will not be possible for staff to collect and deliver children from locations around the school during the day. This will be an authorised absence. Where possible, please make these appointments for Friday afternoons.

In the event that your child is taken ill we will telephone you at the earliest opportunity and we will expect you to collect your child as soon as you can.

EYFS Photos



Relaxing and reading with friends (top left)

Making Christmas cards (top right)

Designing a bridge to get out of the water (centre)

Studying artists and replicating masterpieces (bottom)



School Lunches

If you would like to change your child's lunch preference for the new term, please email the school office now, on admin@stmichaelsn6.com.

Dinners for the Spring Term will cost £145.00

Friday afternoons

We will be continuing to close early on Friday afternoons in 2021. Please make sure you remember to collect on time on Fridays.

PE Kits

It has been decided for efficiency and hygiene reasons that children in Years 1- 4 will return to the usual system of bringing in their P.E kit in school bags.

Children in Years 1-4 should wear their school uniform to school every day once again. As per the school policy, the children should bring in their kits on Monday and take them home on Friday for washing, unless your teacher requests differently.

All other year groups (Reception, Year 5, and Year 6) should continue to wear their P.E kit to school on P.E days until further notice.

Your contact details


If your address or contact details are going to change, please notify the school office as soon as possible, by emailing us on admin@stmichaelsn6.com.

Medication

If your child requires medication in school this will be sent home with them on the last day of term.

They should bring the correct medication back in on Monday 4th January at the start of the Spring Term.

If you need to discuss any changes to your child's medication, needs or care plan, please contact our SENCO by emailing the school office.



Charity update

Many thanks to the team of parents who have been facilitating a collection for our local food bank. At this time of year especially, donations are very important.

To ensure that we collect in a Covid-safe manner, please drop your donations off at **76 North Road before school on Friday mornings**, where one of our families has kindly agreed to make their front garden available for this - thank you.

The last collection of term is on **Wednesday 16th December**.

If you prefer, you can donate through the paypal link:
<https://paypal.me/pools/c/8nDnySd03r>

Whole School PSHE & Well-Being

Odd Socks Day

St Michael's recently attained our UNICEF Rights-respecting School Bronze Award and is working towards achieving Silver, which revolve around the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

During Anti-Bullying week, we encouraged children to appreciate ways that everyone is different and special with an odd-socks day.



Lost Property



Lost Property is sorted every other Thursday. Items with names in are returned to their owner during school hours by support staff.

Unnamed items are put on tables on the top playground at bedtime once a fortnight. To make sure that your property is not lost please name all of your child's clothing and equipment clearly.

Please put both first name and surname in all items of clothing, and on bags, bottles and lunchboxes etc.

Nursery

Nursery have been very busy preparing for Christmas. We had lots of fun mixing green paint and sticking on decorations, to make this beautiful forest of Christmas trees.



Well done Nursery for a brilliant first term, we are all very proud of you. Enjoy your Christmas holidays!

Admissions reminder

To start Nursery in September 2021: We are still accepting applications for September 2021 Nursery places. Please send your application in ASAP.

To start Reception in September 2021: You need to apply soon if you have not already done so. The deadline to apply for a September 2021 Reception place is the 15th January 2021. Please complete both the Supplementary Information Form and the Local Common Application Form.

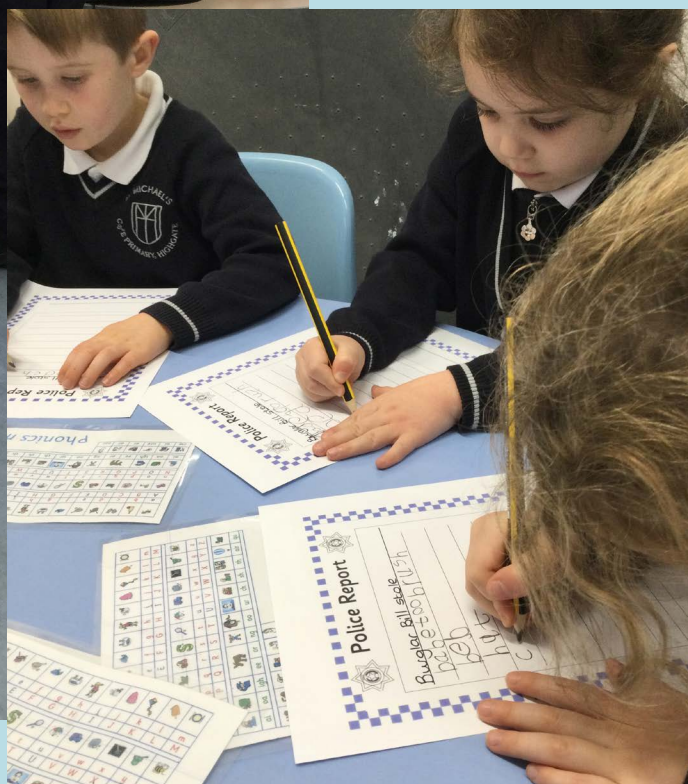
Please visit stmichaelsn6.com/admissions for more details on all of the above.

Reception

This term the children in Pele Class were really excited when a real police officer came to visit!

The children listened beautifully to PC Charlotte Bell as she showed us her uniform and told us about the amazing things she does each day. Afterwards the children enjoyed role-playing in the class Police Station and wrote their own police reports and tried to capture the baddies.

What great fun!



Bike Ability

Year 5 St Michael's pupils recently took part in Bike Ability, completing their Level 1 training course just before the temperature plummeted!

Over the course of a week, all Year 5 pupils had the opportunity to receive specialist instruction from our Cycle Confident instructors, Ben and Veronica. Every child had the equivalent of one full day of instruction over the course of a week.

They learnt essential cycling skills, building confidence with the aim of being able to cycle not only for leisure, but also to be able to cycle to school and back. Now, more than ever, it is a useful skill to be able to cycle to school.

In the Spring or Summer Year 4 will complete their Level 1 course, and Year 6 will progress to their Level 2 course, having completed Level 1 when they were in Year 4.

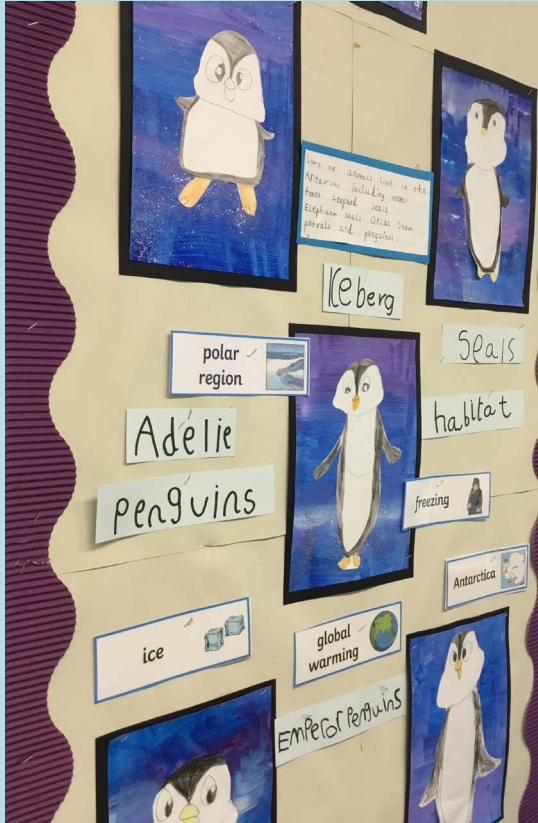
We are proud that we have established a consistent and progressive cycling programme at St Michael's, and we are looking forward to seeing many more children cycling to and from school in 2021.



Balance Ability

In 2021 we will be "rolling out" Balance Ability in EYFS. Balance Bikes are not just a tool for teaching children how to ride a bike, although they are certainly very good at that! More importantly, Balance Bikes teach essential balance, coordination and motor skills which gives children a foundation to build upon as they move into KS1 and take part in a wider range of sports and physical activity.

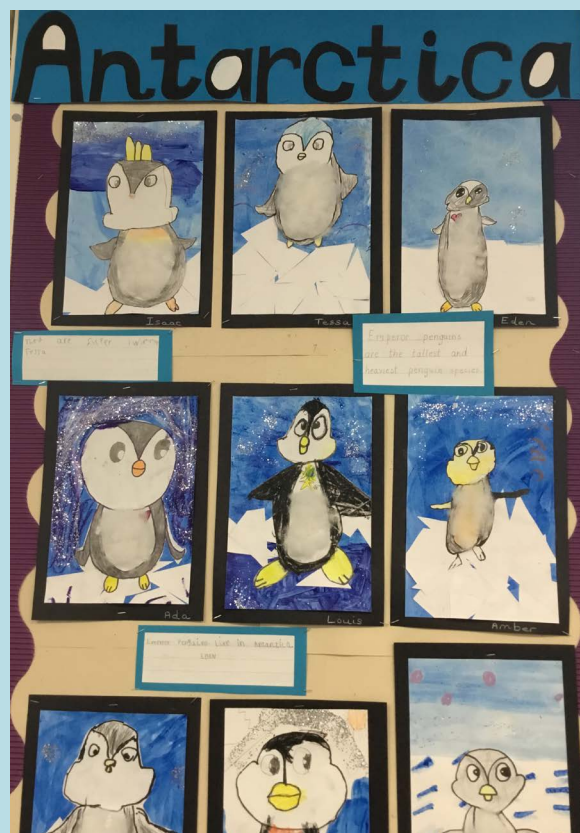
In Year 1 we have been learning about the seven continents of the world in Geography and have focused our learning on Antarctica. We have learnt about its very cold climate and the different types of Antarctic animals, especially penguins.



In Art, we drew our own penguins and used lots of different materials.

In science we have been learning about the different animal groups and what they eat.

we have been learning about the Antarctic in Year one this term the Antarctic is in the south pole and is extremely cold



We have been Learning about all the different types of penguins that live in Antarctica. Adelie penguins are sneaky. Chinstrap penguins are one of the smallest penguin

Year 2

Year 2 have been visited by Santa's elves!

Everyone was excited to see the two elves who mysteriously appeared over the weekend on our Christmas display.

We took the opportunity to draw and name our new friends in our English lesson.



Year 2

News in brief

Walk to School Week

Walk to School Week in November was a great success. We saw fewer cars causing congestion and air pollution and more bikes and scooters than ever before.

Remember, if you have to drive some of the way to school, please park a short distance away and walk the remaining distance.



Zoom assemblies

This term the school has been able to return to having assemblies, in a Covid-secure manner, using Zoom.

Each class joins the assembly from their own classroom. On Thursdays, the assembly is led by a member of the Clergy



Nativity Performances

EYFS and KS1 have been working hard on their Nativity performances which have been recorded and posted on the School Website.

Head over to www.stmichaelsn6.com to watch them.



Music instruction has returned

Whole Class Instrument Teaching and 1:1 tuition is now back for KS2. This will hopefully be extended to KS1 soon. Many thanks to all members of staff who worked so hard to allow these activities to re-start. We hope that all the children rediscover their singing talents soon though!



Year 3

Year three had some wriggly visitors for science this month. For our topic on rocks, we have looked at different soil types and how the soil around us is constantly changing.



One of the main reasons for this is translocation. Soil is moved about by animals and one big culprit is the humble earthworm.

Everyone enjoyed observing the worms, and we learnt a lot about them.

Year 3



Year 4

In Year 4 we have been studying abstract art and in doing so we have spent some time thinking about creating art that is not made in a realistic way.

All students had the opportunity to replicate the styles of two artists that had a big influence on abstract art – Joan Miro and Pablo Picasso.


Here is some of the work produced by the students in Year 4.



Rudolf

Thursday 26th November 2020.

LO: To evaluate a piece of art work



Title: Femme Assise

Artist: pablo picasso

What is this an example of (cubist, abstract, surrealism)

Explain how this artwork makes you feel?

It makes me feel ^{down} Sad because of the colours.


Why did you like this piece? (Talk about line, colour, creativity.)

I liked this piece because of the creativity, and the looky & cubes.

David

Thursday 26th November 2020.

LO: To evaluate a piece of art work



Title: The Singing Fish

Artist: Joan Miro

What is this an example of (cubist, abstract, surrealism)

Explain how this artwork makes you feel?

It makes me very excited and Happy. It makes me feel like I am dancing.

Why did you like this piece? (Talk about line, colour, creativity.)

I really like how he used the colours, he has a lot of creativity. I like the lines they look a bit like fire water. I love the picture.



Covid Safety - a reminder

Drop off

Please allow KS2 children to enter the top playground independently in the morning, to ease congestion. KS1 parents can still accompany them if needed, but are encouraged to allow children to enter independently if they are able to.

Once you have dropped off your child, please leave promptly.

Collection

One adult per family to collect

Wear a face covering at all times in the top playground and in the queue if it is difficult to socially distance.

Do not enter the top playground until your time, to ease congestion and create space.

Do not congregate outside the school gates - please observe the No Waiting signs. The pavement is narrow, and it is unfair to ask members of the public to navigate around groups of people.

Self-isolating

If any member of a household shows ANY symptom of Covid-19, the entire household, including siblings, parents and relatives living with them, must all self-isolate until a negative test result is received.

For example, if a child is collected from school with a raised temperature, their siblings will also need to be collected, and none of the children will be able to return to school until negative test results have been received. This is because the whole household needs to self isolate.



We have had a couple of occurrences recently where we have had to send siblings of children with symptoms home. Please make sure your whole household self-isolates if ANY person in the household has ANY symptom.

Raised temperatures and coughs are common

Although it is common for children to have a raised temperature or a cough at this time of year we cannot assume it is not Covid related, and therefore that child's entire household must self-isolate and the child must get tested.

When a negative test result is received the child (and their siblings) can return to school, as long as they are well enough to do so.

The school will provide advice if you receive a positive test result.



Year 5

In Pilkington-Mills, we have been learning about earthquakes. As well as studying their causes, we have also learnt how to stay safe during and after one. We're always ready for the sudden shout of 'EARTH-QUAKE!' to check our readiness for natural disasters!



Year 5

Adams

This term we have really enjoyed art and history. In history we have learned how to identify greek gods. We have also been doing top trumps on are favourite greek gods. We have enjoyed doing watercolour painting in art because it is a very special technique and it has been around for hundreds of years. In PE we have been doing pacing and dancing. In pacing we have done lots of stretching and drills, we have also been doing running. For dancing in PE we have been doing flamenco dancing for strictly come dancing. It was really fun and we learned alot.

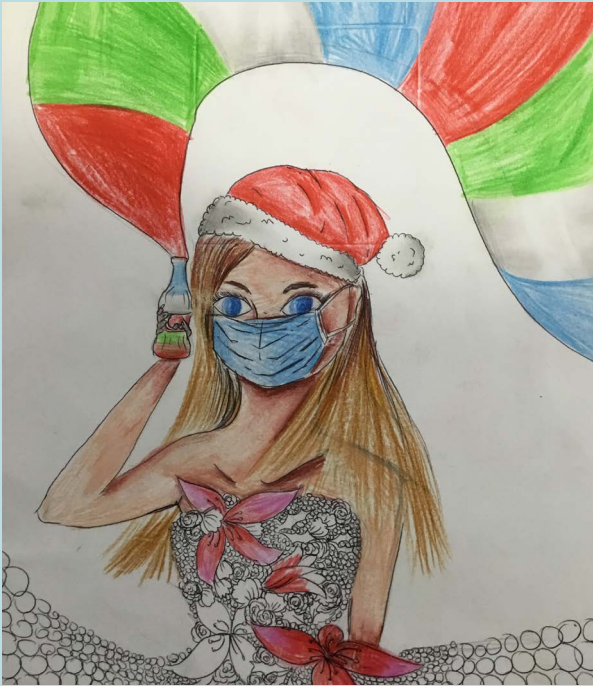
Molly, Panagiotia + Holly



Year 6 Kim

Year 6 Kim Class have been completing artwork for the recent anti-bullying week. They studied different forms of bullying and how we can work together to beat bullies.

Kim Class also studied the story of the 'Flight to Egypt' and created artwork for communal displays. Art was also enjoyed in designing their Christmas cards for 2020.



Year 6 Owens

Year 6 Owens Class have spent their Friday home learning sessions focusing on mountains. They have located mountains and mountain ranges around the world and in the UK, as well as carried out experiments to learn how they are formed.

Last week they created incredible works of art inspired by the mountain of their choice. We saw everything from paintings of Mount Fuji and Kilimanjaro, to sculptures of Everest, like this one here.



Letter from the Chair of Governors

Dear Parents, Carers and Children,

As we approach the end of term, and the end of a most unusual and challenging year, we have much to be hopeful for:

Vaccinations to protect us from the Covid-19 virus are on their way, thanks to the incredible efforts of scientists working together around the world.





Vaccination will be particularly important for our staff, for our parents who are Key Workers, and for older and vulnerable members of our community.

We are looking forward very much to our Nativity and Christmas shows. We are grateful to our teachers and support staff for all their hard work in preparing these performances. The way that we watch these will be different this year, but they will be as full of joy as always.

In the New Year the children will see the bulbs and blossom coming out in our school gardens, bringing new life and hope as they do every spring. Even though we have had a lot of restrictions on our lives this year, the natural world has thrived, and being out in nature has helped many of us this year. The Finance and Premises Committee of Governors meets regularly to plan the ongoing maintenance of our beautiful school grounds, and we are grateful to Troy and Perry for their hard work in looking after our school environment.





Of course, before that, we look forward to Christmas itself. The restrictions we find ourselves living under may mean our celebrations and family gatherings may be smaller; some of us will be conscious of loss, and of stresses we have at home and work. But our children will help to remind us of the true meaning of Christmas.

The Christmas Story is a story of love and of hope. At the start of our Governors' meetings we say a prayer, and we remember to keep the children's best interests at the heart of our discussions about the life of the school. This Christmas we may all wish to hold in mind those children who are less fortunate than ours.

Thank you

Thank you to every member of our school community for following the procedures that keep us all safe. I ask everyone to please keep this up right to the last day of term, so that you and our staff can safely see their families over Christmas. We know that we will need to continue to follow the safety procedures into the New Year, and until the vaccination programme is well established.

I also want to thank our wonderful children for their hard work throughout this term. It has been a great pleasure for Governors to hear about the children's progress since they have all been back at school, and we look forward to being able to visit in person again in 2021.

On behalf of the Governing Body, I wish you and your families a very Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year.



Cordelia Brown
Chair of Governors

