



ST MICHAEL'S
C of E PRIMARY
HIGHGATE

Easter Newsletter

Geraldine Gallagher
Headteacher

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have come to the end of another busy and successful term. We are very pleased with the smooth transition from remote learning to being back in school. Well done and thank you to all of the children and staff. We are so impressed and proud of the children, they have really demonstrated our school values in the work they have produced at home and at school and have shown real endurance during these challenging times. Thank you to all of our parents and carers for supporting us through this difficult time.



St. Michael's is a wonderful school because the children make each other happy and because everyone gives their best every day. It is important that we reflect on the last twelve months and be grateful for what we have got. It is a time for us to reflect on the good times and not so good times and consider what we can do to deal with the latter. I hope you enjoy seeing some of the lovely work from the children, reading about what they have been involved in and the upcoming opportunities for the children and our school community. We look forward to a successful Summer Term.

We will end this term with a joyous celebration of Easter led by pupils and staff from year 3. A special thank you to all of the year 3 pupils, Mr Holt, Mr Braune, Miss Kyriacou and Miss Hawkins for all of their work in producing this celebration. Thank you to Fr Kunle and Fr Tim for all of their support.

I wish everyone a happy Easter and a joyous, safe and peaceful holiday. I hope everyone can spend time with loved ones and come back refreshed for the final term of this academic year.

Best Wishes,

Geraldine Gallagher
Headteacher

DATES

FOR YOUR DIARY

Summer Term

Summer Term 1:

- 19th to the 30th April - Sustrans Big Pedal (children should cycle, scoot or walk to school as many days as possible over this two week period)
- Tuesday 27th April - Parents' Evening 1 (organised via Zoom)
- Thursday 29th April - Parents' Evening 2 (organised via Zoom)
- 27th to 30th April - Year 4 Bikeability Course (children should bring their bikes to school, if owned. Please refer to the letter or contact the school office for more information.)
- Wednesday 28th April - Whole Class Photos (please ensure children are correctly dressed in the school uniform)
- Monday 3rd May - May Day Bank Holiday
- 17th to 21st May - Walk to School Week (children should cycle, scoot or walk to school as many days as possible over this two week period)
- 17th to 21st May - Year 6 Bikeability Course (children should bring their bikes to school, if owned. Please wait for the letter containing the instructions which will be sent after the Easter holiday)
- 31st May to 4th June - Half Term

Summer Term 2:

- 21st to 25th June - Year 6 Residential Trip to Kingswood Activity Centre
- 30th June to the 2nd July - Year 5 Residential Trip to Flatford Mill
- Friday 23rd July - Last day of term: enjoy the summer holidays!

A reminder of hometimes (including this Wednesday):

- 3:10pm - Year 3 & Year 2
- 3:15pm - Year 4 & Year 1
- 3:20pm - Year 5 & Reception Pele
- 3:25pm - Year 6 & Reception Bronze
- 3:30pm - Nursery

If you are collecting children from more than one year group, collect at the later time. Thank you

The graphic features the words "Home Time" in a large, bubbly, 3D-style font. The letters are a gradient of red and orange, with a dark shadow underneath, set against a solid blue background.

Year 5 Flatford Save-the-Date

The Year 4 residential trip to Flatford is always a highly-anticipated and valued part of the St Michael's experience, and we are aware of how disappointing it was for the current Year 5s not to have been able to go when they were in Year 4.

However, we have secured a booking for the current Year 5s to go from 30th June to 2nd July in the summer term, and we are finalising a date for the current Year 4s to go in the Autumn term (when they are in Year 5).

Further details will be released after Easter.

Mr Coffield

Year 5 Flatford



30th June to the 2nd July

SMSA Easter Raffle

Tickets cost £1 and there are some great prizes on offer. Pay via paypal:

PayPal link <https://paypal.me/pools/c/8y3hO4qobB>

1 ticket = £1, and you can buy as many as you want!

Prizes include vouchers from:

- 1st: £100 voucher for the Red Lion & Sun pub
- 2nd: Vouchers for Sacred spirits
- 3rd: Breakfast Pastries box from Big Jo Bakery
- 4th: Gift vouchers from The Toy Project
- 5th: Bouquet from After Achille

And of course, lots of Easter Eggs!

Nursery

In Nursery our theme has been Living Things and we have been looking out for signs of spring. Since St. David's Day, we have been waiting excitedly for our daffodils to open.

We also made some lovely paper ones to brighten up the classroom.

We are very lucky at St Michael's to have so much outdoor space, including these flowerbeds in the EYFS playground.



Reception

News from our reception classes

Our topic this half term is living things. The children have been learning all about mini beasts and plants, what they need to grow and the life-cycle of seeds. We have been taking part in a variety of activities related to this.

1) Role play area. The children have been enjoying learning about fruits and vegetables. They wrote recipes, read relevant stories, made fruit salads and cooked vegetable soups.

2) Plastic bag greenhouses. We looked at what a plant needs to grow and planted our own seeds to take care of and observe the different stages in the life cycle of a seed.

3) Coloured flowers. To understand further how plants absorb water, we put celery stalks and chrysanthemums in coloured water and watched their stalks and petals change colour!

4) Butterfly art. We chalked 3D fluttering butterflies.

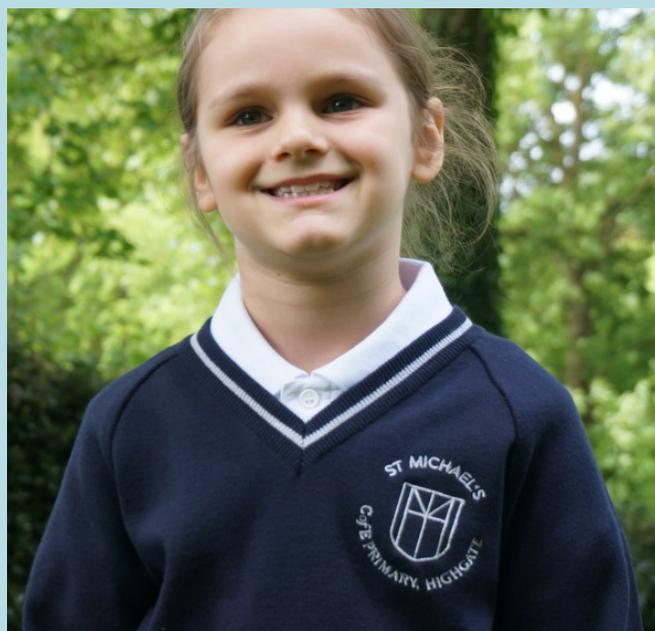


Uniform update

We have found that a number of children are coming into school in items which are not the school uniform or PE kit. Please see <https://stmichaelsn6.com/uniform/> for the uniform policy.

Here are some reminders about the uniform policy:

Please do not allow your children to wear a variation of the Uniform or PE kit, such as a football top or tracksuit as this is not part of our policy and it is unfair on other children.



When it is a child's birthday they can come to school in their own clothing.

What about clubs?

Children should still wear uniform to school even if they have a club after school. If Reception children, or children in Years 4 to 6 have a sporty club they should bring "club clothes" or their PE kit in and get changed into them at the end of the school day. Children in Years 1 to 3 will be able to get changed into their PE kit as it is already in school.

On PE days, should my child wear their PE kit to school, or will they be changing at school?

Reception and Years 4, 5 and 6: Wear your PE kit to school on days that you are doing PE.

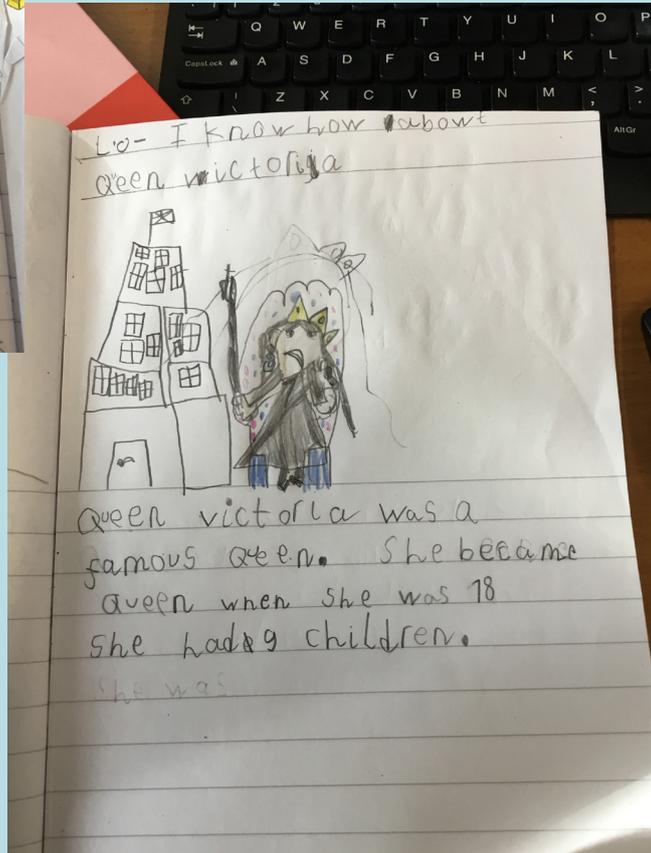
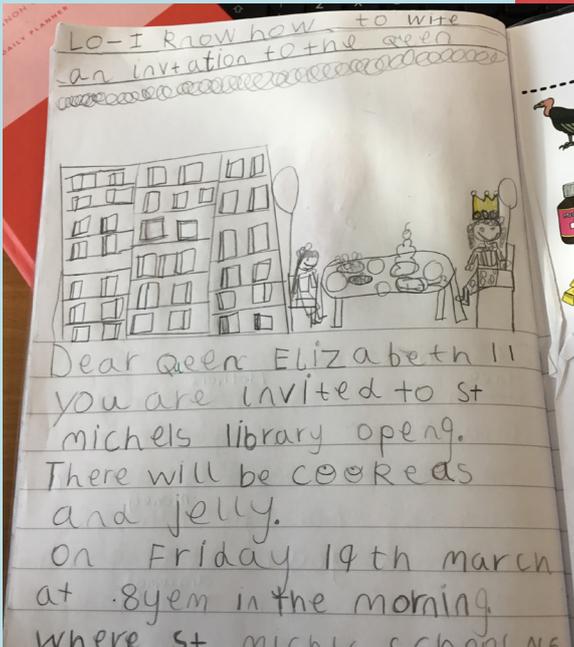
Years 1, 2 and 3: Bring your PE kit to school on Mondays and take it home for washing on Fridays, and you will change at school on the days you do PE.

We appreciate this might seem confusing, but it is a necessity given the school's unique layout and availability of changing and storage spaces.

Red Nose Day



Year 1 have been learning all about Queen Elizabeth II and Queen Victoria. In English, we have been writing about the different roles and responsibilities of the monarch. We have also written an invitation to the Queen, inviting her to visit our new library. Additionally, in History we have learnt about past queens including Queen Victoria. In art this week the children have created portraits.



Year 1

We are a cycling school!

When you all return after the Easter holiday there will be an exciting new addition in the top playground, which will be very useful for everyone who cycles and scoots to school.

Keep an eye out in the top playground for something new...

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As the weather improves hopefully everyone will make use of their bikes and scooters and get fit and healthy on the way to and from school. Get out on your bikes over Easter and get some practise in.

To help the children develop confidence we have BikeAbility lessons happening for Years 4 and 6, and this year, for the first time ever, St Michaels is taking part in something called The Big Pedal!



For the first two weeks of the summer term every class will be competing to rack up as many bike journeys as possible on their classroom chart.

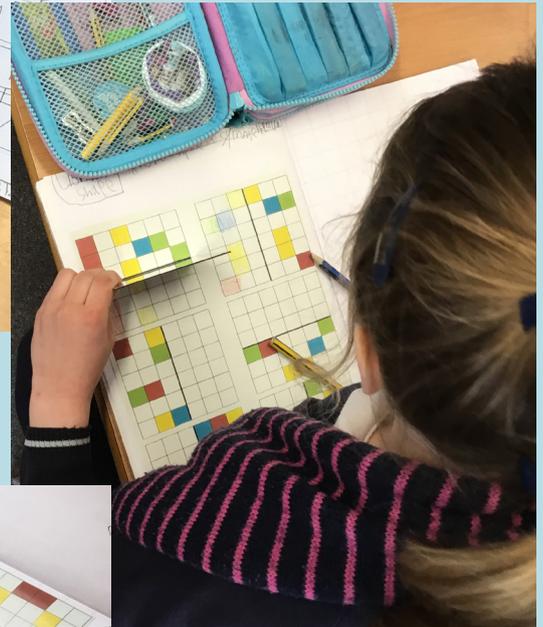
The competition is running from the 19th to the 30th April, and this year scooting and walking also count towards your class daily total.

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Year 4 Bikeability will be happening on the 27th to 30th April - please return your forms to your class teacher now.

Year 6 Bikeability will be happening on the 17th to 21st April - a letter and form will be sent after the Easter Holiday

Year 2 have enjoyed drawing and completing symmetrical shapes in maths this week. The children have been using mirrors and reflection to ensure they are finding lines of symmetry accurately.



Year 2

Book Breakfast Club in advance to save money

You can book breakfast club ahead of time to save money. Contact the office for a copy of the booking form.

Advance sessions cost £6. The drop in service costs £7.

Daily 7:45am until school starts.

0208 340 7441

admin@stmichaelsn6.com

Food Bank Update

Dear all,

Huge thanks for all your kind donations for our Friday Food Bank collections over the past few weeks. It is always a happy sight to see a car with a boot full of food on it's way to Ringcross Community Centre on a Friday morning.

This week, our collection will be in the same place but on WEDNESDAY. As the holidays start, the need in our food banks increases greatly so it would be great if we can have a real push for a large bootful of donations on Wednesday.

Please can you give as generously as you can.

Many thanks

The Foodbank Team



On Tuesday 16th March, Year 3 took our Maths learning outside into the playground. We wanted to review our place value knowledge in an active and fun way. We played lots of different games, creating 4 digit numbers, ordering them from greatest to smallest.

We mixed the classes up into different groups and used all the balls from our new playground chests to play the games.

Here are some pictures on the students in action.



Year 3

In-year places available in Year 4

Due to world events, we have experienced more families than usual moving away from London. As a result we have a few places available in Year 4.

If you know of anyone moving to the area, or just looking to move schools, please ask them to contact the school office to enquire:

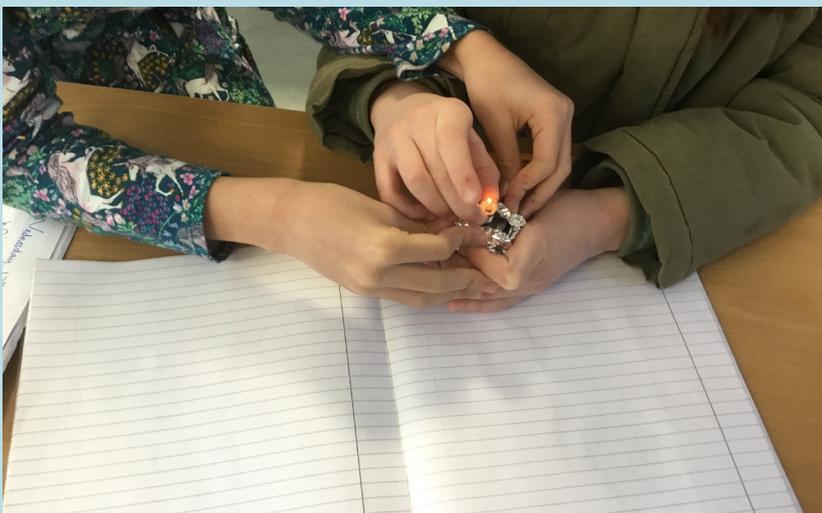
0208 340 7441

admin@stmichaelsn6.com

"Varjak Paw found himself stuck in a gloomy, daunting and narrow alleyway. He needed to get to the other side but the lights were turned off.

He couldn't go any further without some help"

Using the tools below the students in year 4 were able to light up the alleyway and help Varjak on his way!



Year 4

Covid 19 - Communicating over Easter

For the first 6 days of the Easter holidays we require you to let us know about any positive cases in your household. This is so that we can track any potential contacts that occurred before we broke up for the holidays.

If anyone in your household tests positive for Covid-19 between the 1st and 6th April please report this using the form on the school website.

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To enable a smooth return to school for the summer term, please email us on admin@stmichaelsn6.com with any information or updates if your child or a member of your child's household tests positive towards the end of the Easter holidays, or needs to self isolate for any reason, for example if you have travelled abroad.

Whenever a positive test result has been received, please complete the report form on the school website.

Covid-19 Reminders:

Face coverings for drop off and collection

Adults collecting or dropping off children need to wear a face covering in the top playground and while queueing outside.

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, following a PCR test, 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 a PCR test.

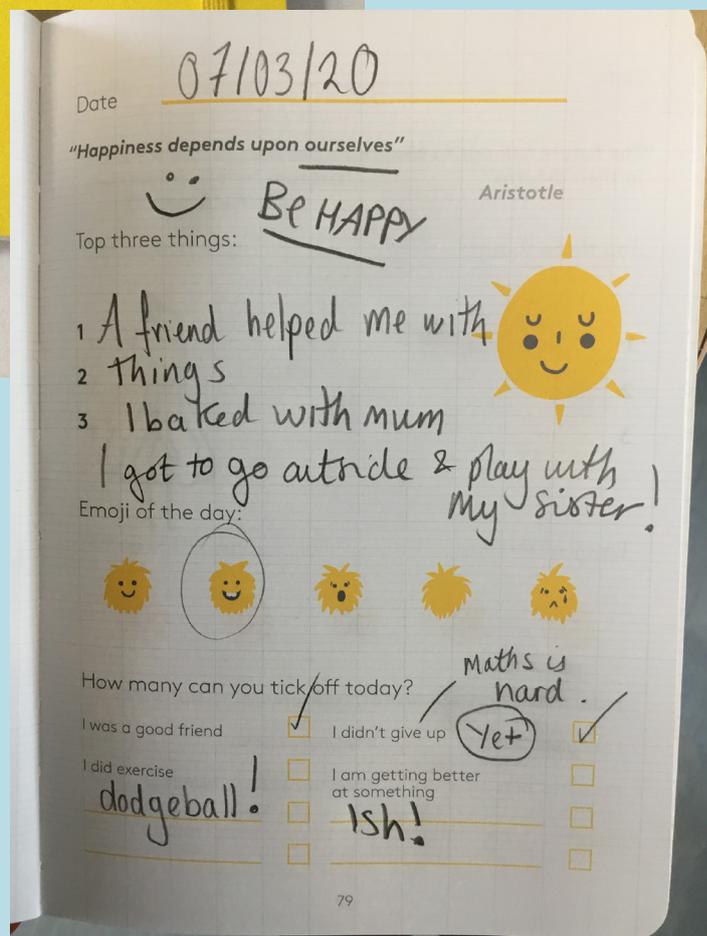
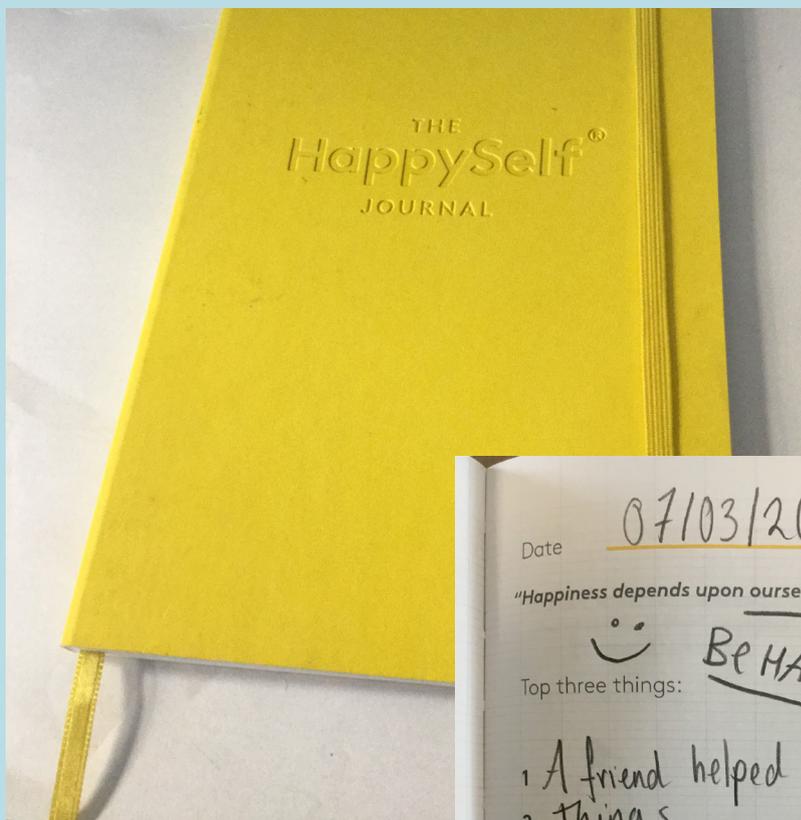
When a negative PCR test result is received the child (and their siblings) can return to school, as long as they are well enough to do so.

In Year 5 we have had a strong focus on mental wellbeing.

We use a feeling box system to check in each day and this term we took part in a journaling project. Each child has been given their own yellow journal to help them process their feelings.

Journaling is proven to be beneficial in numerous ways, even the action of taking five minutes a day to check in with ourselves – I asked some of the children what they thought:

"In our class Year5 Adams we write in journals called HappySelf. In the HappySelf we get to write down your feelings and thoughts that day, you also get to choose your emoji for the day and the top 3 things that happened or that you are grateful for."



World Book Day - guess who?

Every Spring we celebrate World Book Day, where the children (and most of the staff) come to school dressed as their favourite book character. Can you work out who these children have come dressed as?



Summer Term Clubs are now open for booking

Book now! See the school website for the summer term clubs timetable and register early to avoid disappointment. Please note our clubs coordinator does not work Fridays.

clubs@stmichaelsn6.com

0208 340 7441

This half term Year 6 have been studying World War 2 and spent an afternoon building Anderson shelters. These were life-saving buildings that may have been in your back garden, and were used to protect people during the many air raids that took place during the war.

Year 6 found this fun and fascinating, especially finding out that there were often vegetable patches on top! It was lovely to work together on a creative project after such a long time away from school.



Letter from the Chair of Governors and Headteacher

Message from Cordelia Brown, Chair of Governors

Dear Parents and Carers,

We wrote to you a short time ago with some information about the work of the Governors' Fund and providing details of how parents and carers could help us with that.

At St Michael's School we are keen to invest in the development of our buildings and resources to achieve an educational setting which can nurture, inspire and educate our children.

We have an ambitious project to redevelop St Michael's over a ten-year period. Our library lies at the heart of our school and we decided it was a perfect place to start and that we could do so safely during the partial closure of the school.

Pupils, staff and Governors are delighted with the redevelopment and we are very proud to share the results with you today. When setting out to do this work we had a clear set of aims, including:

- All children to be able to access learning in an enabling, aesthetically pleasing, fit for purpose library.
- The library should uphold the core values of the school and support the development of reading for pleasure and research skills.
- The library should be of a kind that inspires awe and wonder, motivates and supports learning. The area should be one that is seen by children as a fun place to be, as it reflects the individuality and uniqueness of the setting.

We also had a clear set of key considerations including identity, ambience, functionality and capacity. We are pleased all of this has been achieved within the agreed budget of £32,550.

Next steps

You will notice that some of the shelves are empty. Staff have generated a list of specific books for the children's reading development and study across all areas of the curriculum. The total cost of the books required is in excess of £10,000. We have put together a bid to secure a grant of £6,000 but need to raise an additional £4,000.

Governors have agreed to a £2,000 donation and we have set a target of £2,000 to raise through parent donations.

Letter from the Chair of Governors and Headteacher

How can you make a donation towards books in our new library?

Please make a donation on Scopay under Library Donation 20/21. If every family donated £10 we could easily achieve our target but please feel free to donate as much or as little as you can.

We will continue to send you photos and videos so that you can see the library in action and we very much look forward to when you can come and visit in 'real life'.



"There are nice places to sit and read."
- Sofia

"It's really so warm, cosy and modern."
- Thomas



*"It's more spaced out
and feels more like a
library." - Eleanor*

What is the Governors' Fund?

The Governors' Fund is the charitable fund into which regular parental giving is made to improve the school infrastructure and its facilities to provide a better learning experience for all St Michael's children.

How can you help?

We know that the pandemic has had a polarising impact on our community – with many people facing very challenging financial times but with others faring well. As we explained in our last update, we are committed to providing the very best education and enrichment to all of our children, but to achieve this in the context of cuts to school funding, we need the help of those of you who are able to contribute. All donations will be put to the best possible use - providing opportunity to all children in our school. Our ambition on return is that every child will have their own IT device for use at school so that we can build on the skills that the children have developed during this period.

Letter from the Chair of Governors and Headteacher

If you are able to make a donation to the Governor's Fund you can:

1. Set up a standing order with your bank or make a one-off bank transfer to:

St Michaels CofE School – HICA
Sort code 30-93-80
Account number 18691660

2. Make a donation through SCOPAY - you can choose how much that you would like to donate, the amount on Scopay is only a suggested amount

We would also encourage you to complete a Gift Aid form if you are a UK tax payer so that we can claim additional funds from HMRC.



"I really like sitting on the stage, reading my favourite books." - Kiera

"The stage will be good for acting out parts of books." - Lorenzo

"It was dazzling how much it has changed." - Alex

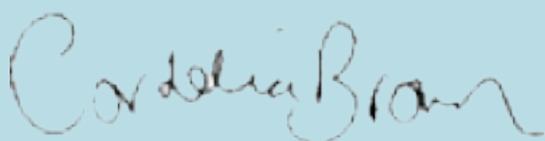
"I really liked the stage because you can see the whole library from the top step." - Year 4 pupil



And finally...

Thank you for taking the time to read this update and consider whether you are able to help us. We will endeavour to write to you again to provide a further update on the work of the Governors' Fund in due course.

Yours sincerely,



Cordelia Brown
Chair of Governors



Geraldine Gallagher
Headteacher