



ST MICHAEL'S  
*C of E* PRIMARY  
HIGHGATE

# May Newsletter

Geraldine Gallagher  
Headteacher

## Message from the Headteacher

I hope you are all keeping well and enjoying the opportunity to meet with more loved ones in warmer environments. Whilst cases of COVID-19 are very low in Haringey, the presence of the B.1.617 variant in parts of London is a concern and a reminder that we need to continue to take the necessary steps in keeping children and staff safe.



To keep infection rates low, we have to continue to follow the control measures as stated in Government guidance to schools. The guidance remains the same that mixing of pupils and staff should be minimised and primary classes should be kept in bubbles. Up to now, the children have remained in bubbles as a year group throughout the day including at break and lunch times. We are fortunate to have large grounds so that each year group has a good space in which to play and are rotated regularly to ensure equal provision. However, this does take away the opportunity for the children to socially mix with other year groups at playtime and reduces the space in which they have to play. We have reviewed our risk assessment and look forward to relaxing the playtime provision by joining two year groups together after half term.

DfE guidance is that parents cannot enter the school site except by appointment. The measures for dropping off and collecting children remain the same and we appreciate your cooperation. We have reviewed our procedures for pupils attending medical appointments and understand that it is not always possible to get an appointment outside of school hours. From 24 May, we are going to trial a new system whereby pupils required to attend a medical appointment during the school day can attend class for half a day.

Children can be dropped off or picked up at a single designated time of 12.30pm each day. For example, if a child has an appointment at 9.30am parents can bring them to school at 12.30pm for the afternoon session but no earlier. Equally, a child with an appointment in the afternoon can come to school for the morning session and then be picked up by parents at 12.30pm to go to their appointment. We cannot facilitate drop offs/pick ups at other times during the day.

We recently had our BAME review which affirmed our self - evaluation and will inform our actions going forward. We have started to address the needs of a more inclusive curriculum and the Governors Fund has invested £2000 on BAME literature for the Library. I will be contacting parents who took part in the process for their support in developing our action plan. Many thanks also for all contributions towards new books for the library - the new books have been ordered and we look forward to sharing photos of them with you.

We are hopeful that we will be able to resume more of our regular practices of pre COVID when the country reaches stage 4 of the roadmap. To that end, we have made plans for later this term including two residential trips, class trips, SMSA events and children playing music on entry to assembly.

In the meantime, we will continue to be cautious making changes based on guidance and our monitoring whilst providing the best opportunities for the children. I hope you enjoy reading about some of the children's experiences in this newsletter and look forward to the upcoming events within the calendar when we can welcome parents back to school.

Best Wishes,



Geraldine Gallagher  
**Headteacher**



## Dates for the Diary

Date	Event
Monday 7th to Friday 11th June	Anti-Racism Week
Tuesday 8th June	Flatford Parents' Meeting
Tuesday 8th June	Year 4 Angling sessions begin
Wednesday 9th June	Year 1 Seaside Workshop
Monday 14th to Friday 18th June	National Sports Week & Wellbeing Week
Monday 14th June	Reception Hobgoblin Theatre Visit
Thursday 17th June	Year 5 Planetarium Workshop
Thursday 17th June	KS2 Sports Day (parent arrangements TBC)
Thursday 24th June	SMSA Quiz Night
Monday 21st to Friday 25th June	Year 6 Trip to Kingswood Activity Centre
Wed 30th June to Friday 2nd July	Year 5 Trip to Flatford Mill
Friday 2nd July	Year 3 Zoo Workshop
Sunday 4th July	Footie Fun Day
Monday 5th to Friday 9th July	STEAM Week
Monday 5th to Friday 9th July	Sponsored cycle, scoot and walk event
Thursday 8th July	KS1 Sports Day (parent arrangements TBC)
Friday 23rd July	Last day of term

### Drop Offs

Soft Start for Years 2 to 6 is open from 8:40am **until 9am**. If you have a Nursery child as well as children from other years, bring them all at 8:55am for a 9am start, so parents do not have to wait.



### Hometimes

- 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, collect at the later time.**

## Who to contact

### 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:

[admin@stmichaelsn6.com](mailto:admin@stmichaelsn6.com)



### Absence and Sickness

Please inform the office every day that your child is absent. You can call and leave a message on 02083407441 or email the office:

[admin@stmichaelsn6.com](mailto:admin@stmichaelsn6.com)

### Safeguarding

If you have any safeguarding concerns please email our Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSLs): Mrs Gallagher, Mrs Sorapure, Ms Kennedy and Mrs Parker.

[dsl@stmichaelsn6.com](mailto:dsl@stmichaelsn6.com).



All other queries should be directed to the office.

Include your child's name and class in all messages to the school. Not doing so will increase the amount of time it takes us to respond.

If a child or anyone in the household tests positive for Covid, please fill out the Covid-19 Report form on the website:

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

# Notes from the Office

## Lost Property

Named items are returned to children in class. All unnamed items are displayed in the top playground every other Thursday, weather depending.

Please label all items to avoid losing important items.



## Moving House?

If your address or contact details are going to change, please notify the school office as soon as possible.

[admin@stmichaelsn6.com](mailto:admin@stmichaelsn6.com)

## Medication and Care Plans

If your child has medication in school this will be sent home with them on Friday 28th May.

They should bring the correct medication back in on Monday 7th June.

If you need to discuss any changes to your child's medication, needs or care plan, please complete a care plan, found on the school website, and contact the school office.



## Forgotten items

If you forget your child's lunch, instrument or PE kit alternative arrangements for your child will be made.

Please note you will not be able to bring these items in after you have dropped your child off.

## Notes from the Office, continued

### Class Photos

The deadline for ordering a class photo and getting free delivery is Wednesday 26th May. After this date you can still order but you will incur postage costs. Please order online or return your form to your class teacher as soon as possible.



### Lunch Preferences

If you would like to change your lunch preferences for the second half of the summer term please let the school know. School lunches always have variety, and are nutritious and filling.

### Angling for Year 4

The Angling Sessions for Year 4 will run from the 8th June to 13th July inclusive and the office will be in touch with Year 4 parents shortly to let you know what session your child is taking part in, and what to bring along.

The sessions link to our PE and Science lessons, and give our children a unique opportunity.



### STEAM Week

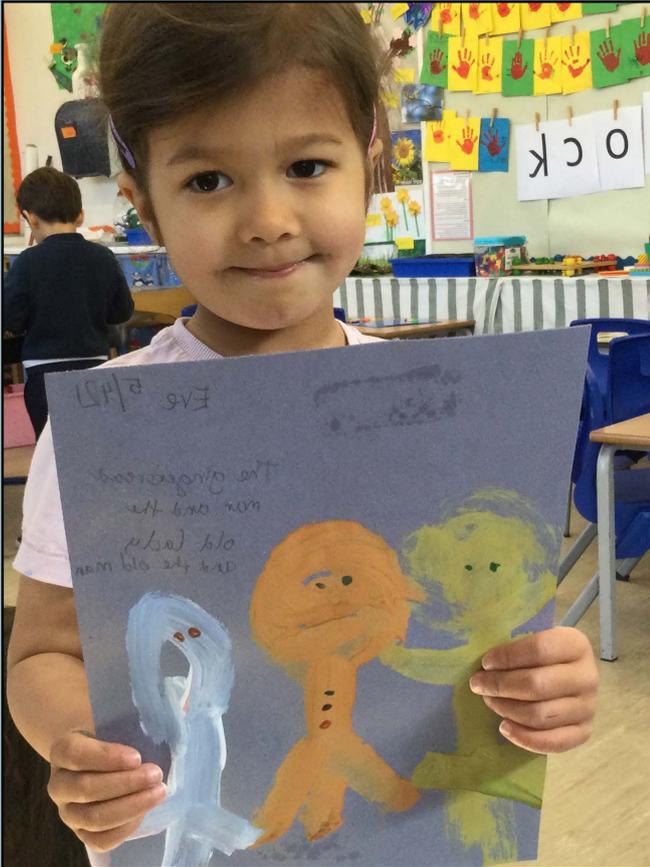
STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Maths) Week is approaching on the 5th July. If you work in one of the above mentioned fields and could talk about your work to a class, please contact the school office. Many thanks in advance to all parent volunteers.

# Nursery

## Nursery

In Nursery our theme this half term has been traditional tales.

We have been enjoying reading The Gingerbread Man and acting out the story. Some of the children constructed bridges to help the gingerbread man cross the river, and save him from being eaten by the fox!



## Sport

We are thrilled that the current Coronavirus restrictions now allow for sport to be played outside of school.

On the 11th of May 2021, 2 teams from St Michael's School attended the Haringey Powerleague football tournament at Colney Hatch Lane.

It was our first inter competitive sporting event since lockdown.

Both the boys and girls played some great football against competitive opposition from schools from all over Haringey. Both teams experienced the highs of victory, a few stalemate draws, and a defeat or two. However, the real winner on the day was football and all the children for making it a memorable event and hopefully it was the beginning of the end for restrictions in competitive sport.

We are very proud of our teams. Well done to Georgina, Giselle, Claudia, Lucy, Frankie, Nora, Azaria and Lara from the girls' team. And well done to Jayden, Will H, Matthew, Aaron, Joseph, Will D, Josh and Albie on the boys' team.

Written by Claudia and Yeva (Year 6 Sports Media Team)



There will hopefully be a lot more sport to come in the weeks and months ahead. Until then, make sure you are as active as possible on your way to and from school.

# Charity update - supporting our local foodbank

*The winter months prompted generosity towards local foodbanks but by late Spring there is less awareness and foodbanks begin to struggle.*

Please continue to give donations of food as generously as you can. Drop your donations off at **76 North Road before school on Fridays**, where one of our families has kindly agreed to make their front garden available for this - thank you.

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

All our donations are delivered to the Ringcross Community Centre Food Bank.

Ringcross Community Centre, Islington has faced a dramatic increase in the need for it's services. In their own words -

"Before lockdown, 6-15 families a day used the Ringcross Community Centre Foodbank in Islington. The number of people in crisis continues to climb and now we are supporting over 500 households, helping to feed 900 adults and almost 500 children. People who have never joined a food bank queue before are now finding they are unable to support their families and arriving on the doorstep of the centre."

Food, toiletries and household cleaning products are gratefully accepted. Here is a list of what is most and regularly needed:

Currently most needed

- tinned fish
- tinned meat
- breakfast cereals
- long-life milk
- instant coffee
- tinned tomatoes

Regularly needed

- tinned meat
- tinned fish
- tinned fruit
- tinned tomatoes
- tinned vegetables
- tinned rice pudding
- pasta sauce
- cooking oil

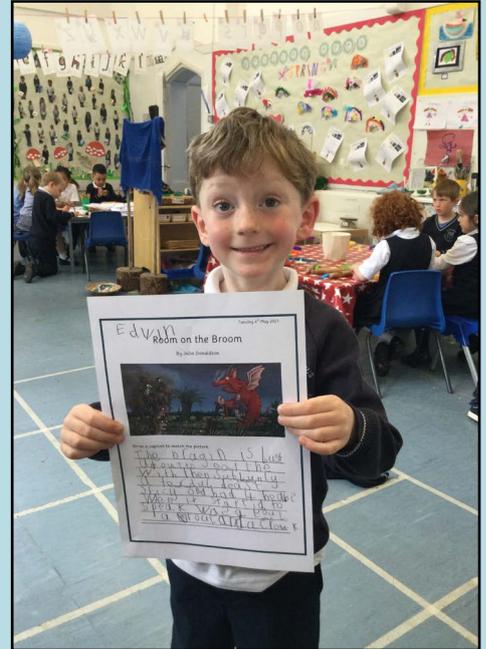


Our Friday Food Bank Collection is in a unique position to be able to collect donations and deliver on the same day, therefore, dairy, fresh meat, eggs, fruit and vegetables are always gratefully received.

# Reception Pele

## Reception Pele

This term Pele class have been following the topic 'Journeys'. They read the stories 'Whatever Next', 'On the Way Home' and 'Room on the Broom'. They have been busy creating story maps, books and puppets for each of these stories.



There has been a big focus on writing this term to prepare the children for Year 1 and the children have been working hard to write beautiful sentences using capital letters and full stops. In maths the children have been learning odd and even numbers, counting in 2s and 5s, doubling, halving and sharing.



# Reception Bronze

## Reception Bronze

Our topic this half term has been Journeys.

We looked at different ways of travelling around the world. To support our learning, we decorated our own hot air balloons and discussed places around the world where they could possibly take us!

In maths we learnt how to count in 2s, using rockets ready to zoom off to distant places. We looked at the forces around us and experimented with balloon rockets. We discovered that the shape of the balloon plays a critical role for the experiment to be successful.



## We are a cycling school

*For two weeks in April the whole school was encouraged to scoot or cycle to school as part of The Big Pedal - a national cycling challenge.*

Overall, 68% of our pupils were active on their way to and from school during the Big Pedal, and our school came 248th out of the 2254 registered schools from around the UK. The bike racks were certainly full to capacity every day which is very encouraging and our school community completed 2694 journeys in total.

Years 4 to 6 have also taken part in Bikeability lessons recently. Bikeability is a national cycling scheme for primary school children and we are proud to say that St Michael's has caught up with the backlog of lessons caused by school closures.

The Big Pedal and the BikeAbility lessons that were enjoyed will hopefully lead to some lasting results, with more people cycling to and from school throughout the remainder of the summer term.



Stay tuned for another walking, cycling and scooting challenge!



## Balance Ability

Back in December we announced that in 2021 we will be introducing the Balance Ability scheme to EYFS. Balance Bikes are not just a tool for teaching children how to ride a bike. 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.

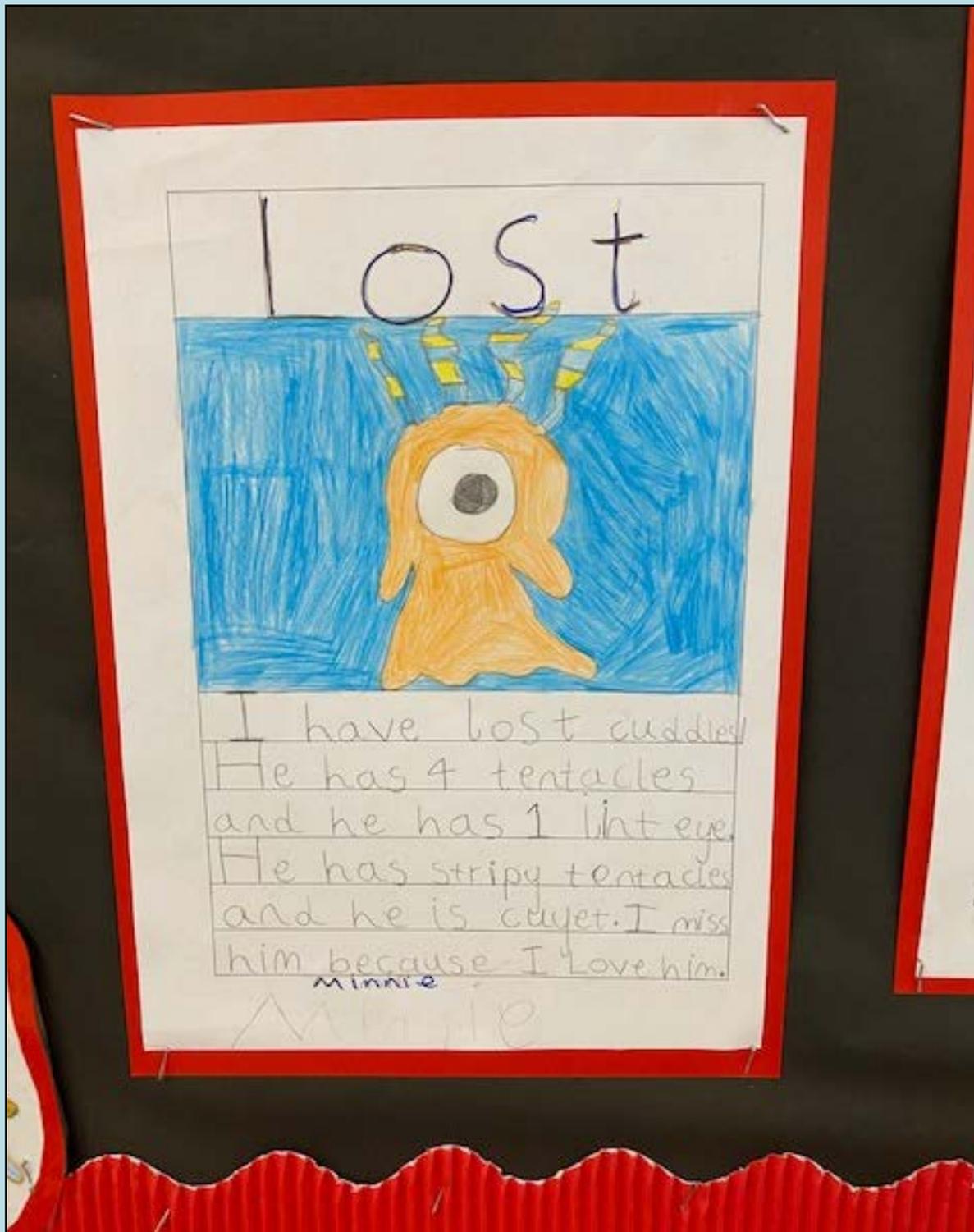
We will be introducing these exciting new pieces of equipment to Reception in the second half of the summer term.

## Year 1

Year 1 have been studying the book 'Toys in Space' by Mini Grey in our English lessons.

It is about some toys who get beamed to space and meet an alien who has lost his favourite toy - Cuddles. As well as being an important part of our English curriculum this term, the story has links to our PSHE lessons and the school values of Endurance and Koinonia.

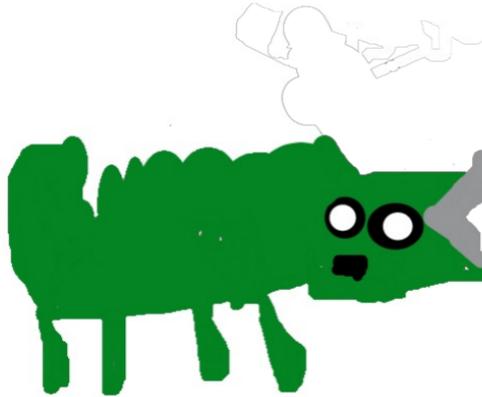
In art we have designed some posters to see if we can get his beloved toy back to him. We'll keep you posted on the results!



## Year 2 Lombardi

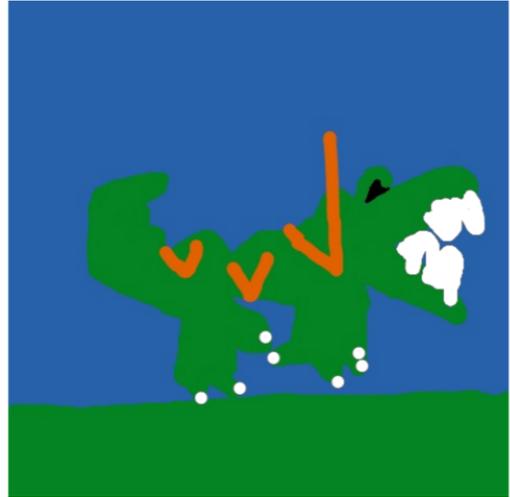
Year 2 have been working hard to improve both their writing and computing skills this week.

**WARNING!  
THE ENORMOUS CROCODILE**



BEWARE! The enormous crocodile is planning to eat up ONLY little, friendly children. He has made many secret plans and clever tricks so if you see a crocodile on a roundabout do not sit on it! He has teeth as sharp as a one hundred knives and claws like daggers. Run away if you see him and call the police IMMEDIATELY! His lovely and helpful enemies will protect you.

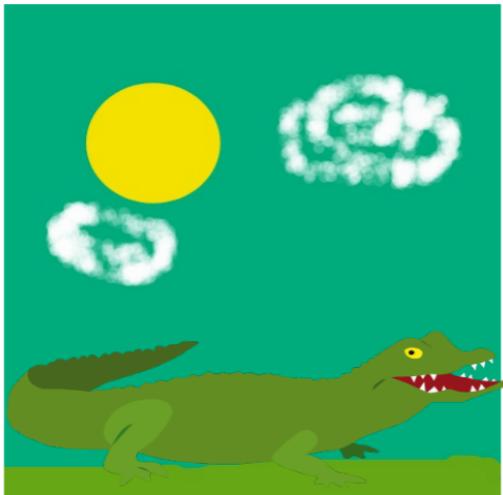
**DANGER! THE ENORMOUS  
CROCODILE IS ON THE  
LOOSE!**



Watch out because a humongous, red eyed croc is on the loose! Don't dare to go outside because you won't be seen again if you go outside don't say I didn't warn you. He is as green as slime and as smelly as a dead fish.

Inspired by The Enormous Crocodile, the children created posters to warn the public of the crocodile's secret plans and clever tricks. They designed, opened, saved and edited all of their writing independently using Purple Mash. Well done Year 2!

**WARNING! THE ENORMOUS CROCODILE IS  
ON THE LOOSE!**



Look out! The enormous crocodile is on the prowl! He is looking for little children to gobble up! He has a scaly back, a long tail, black, beady eyes, sharp, jagged teeth and big stubby arms and legs.

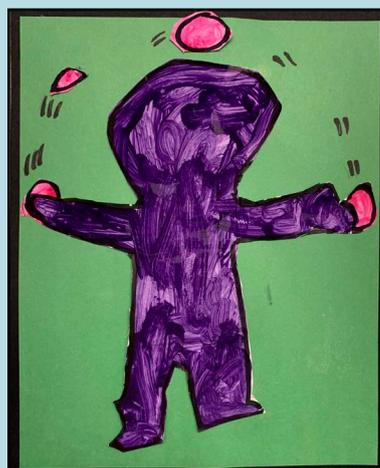
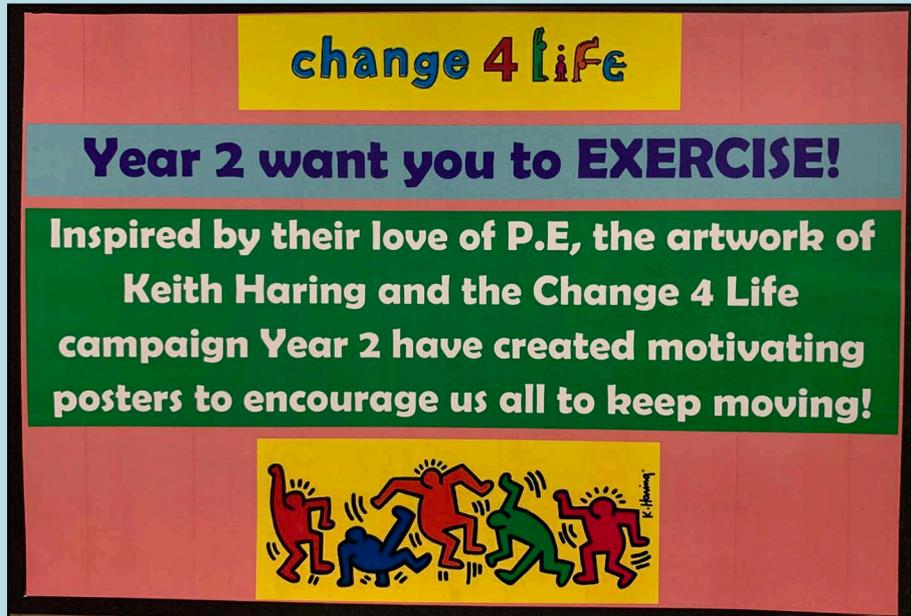
**WARNING!!! THE ENORMOUS  
CROCODILE!!!!**



Warning! The enormous, horrible crocodile is on the loose! He has clever tricks and clever plans. However gets in his way will be eaten! So be aware! He has jagged claws, razor sharp teeth, beady eyes and hard, lumpy scales.

## Year 2 MacArthur

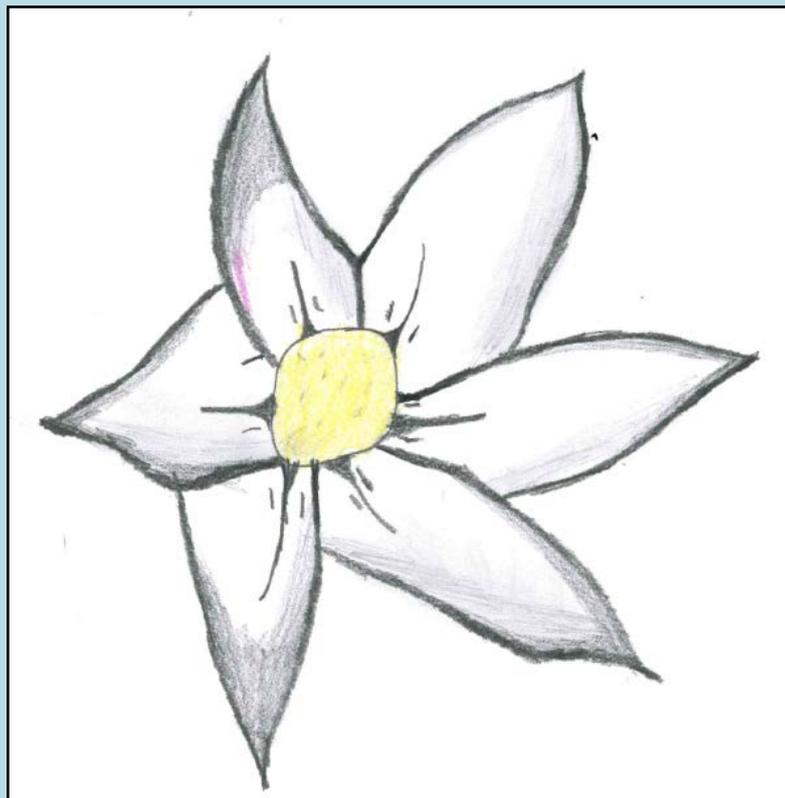
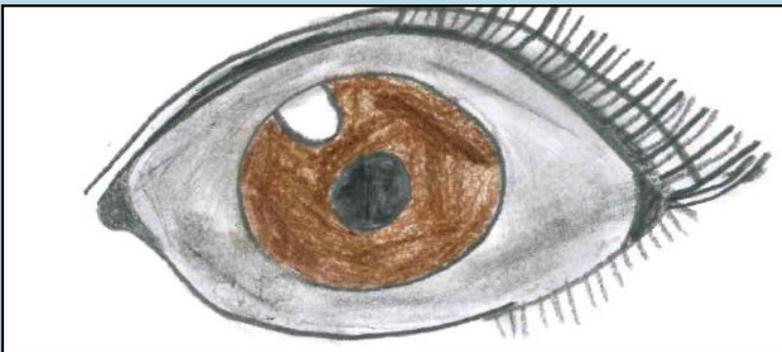
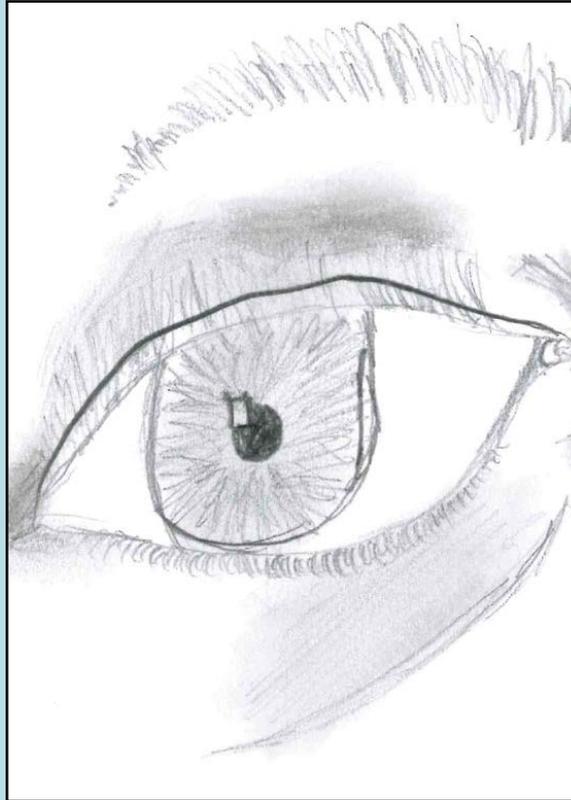
In year 2 we have been exploring the effects of activity on our mind and bodies. We have all enjoyed taking part in the 5-day walking challenge and have learnt that exercise gives us super powers: we are super strong, super smart, super smiley, super safe and super sustainable! We have been inspired also by the art of Keith Haring, which has been used in the NHS Change 4 Life campaign. We made our own display celebrating keeping active.



### Year 3

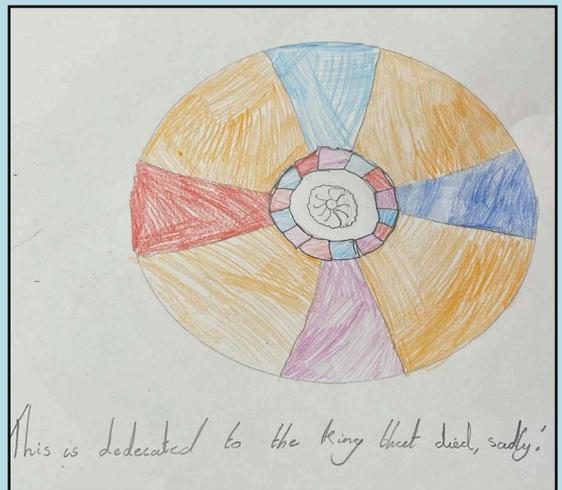
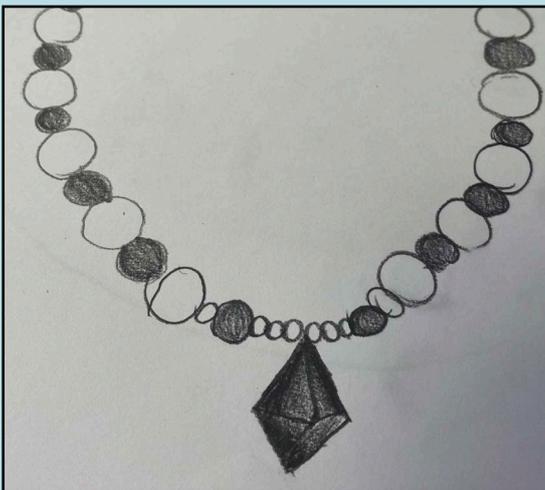
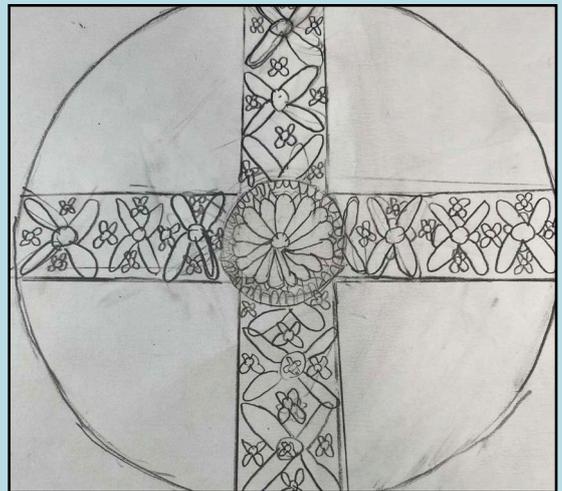
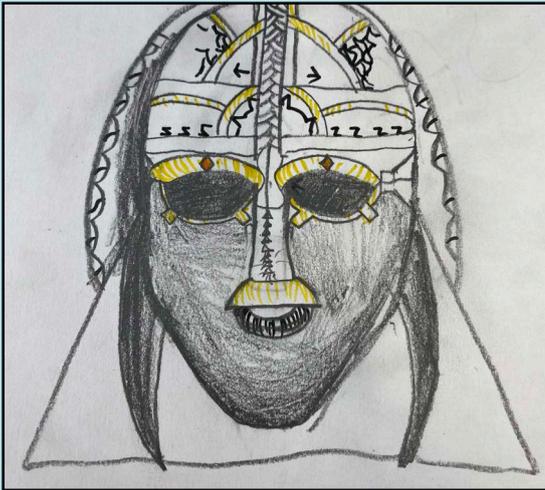
In Art, Year 3 have been concentrating on observational drawing - teaching the children to look closely and carefully at what they are drawing, be it nature around the school or their own eyes using mirrors.

The emphasis has been on using different pencil techniques to obtain various effects from the same grade of pencil - light and dark shading, cross-hatching for texture, smudging to create 3D images etc. Year 3 have also looked at botanical artists for their nature drawings and Frieda Khalo and Salvador Dali for their drawings of eyes.



**Year 4**

In Year 4 we have been investigating the impact and influence that the Anglo-Saxons made to our country. One focus for this term was the questions "How do we understand what happened in the past?" and "What does it mean to be a historian?". We researched an important location for archaeology: Sutton Hoo, Suffolk, which featured in the recent Netflix film "The Dig". We looked at the story of Edith Pretty, the extraordinary findings made under her ordinary mound and discussed what we are able to learn from the artifacts that were excavated. Here are some examples of the work we produced.



# Walk to School Week

**Walk to School Week was a great success despite the rain!**

Here are the results from Walk to School Week. Well done for walking to school every day even though we have not had the best weather.

WELL DONE to Year 1 Grey-Thompson Class, our star walkers, followed closely by Year 2 Lombardi Class, and Year 2 MacArthur.



	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Total
Rec. Pele	26	24	28	26	22	<b>126</b>
Rec. Bronze	24	26	26	28	24	<b>128</b>
Y1 Bolt	22	19	24	25	19	<b>109</b>
Y1 Grey-Thompson	30	27	29	28	27	<b>141</b>
Y2 Lombardi	29	22	29	27	29	<b>136</b>
Y2 MacArthur	24	28	26	26	28	<b>132</b>
Y3 Lomu	18	22	20	22	25	<b>107</b>
Y3 Simmonds	23	25	27	26	26	<b>129</b>
Y4 Tendulkar	18	22	22	22	23	<b>107</b>
Y4 Comaneci	21	22	23	25	24	<b>115</b>
Y5 Adams	19	23	18	18	22	<b>100</b>
Y5 Pilkington-Mills	24	24	24	25	27	<b>124</b>
Y6 Kim	18	21	17	17	19	<b>92</b>
Y6 Owens	19	20	18	16	18	<b>91</b>

Our next whole-school walking, scooting and cycling event will be on the 5th to 9th July. Keep an eye out for more details.



# BAME-Focussed Literature

"Every child and young person in Haringey matters. Every child and young person deserves the best life chances, especially when they face additional barriers due to ethnicity and disadvantage. It is everyone's responsibility to make this a reality and create the equality of opportunity we want to see." - The Haringey Pledge

## How are ethnic minorities represented in children's literature?

The Centre for Literacy in Primary Education published their third "Reflecting Realities" report on 11th November 2020. That was aimed at identifying and evaluating representation within picture books, fiction and non-fiction for ages 3-11 and provides a benchmark to track and understand progress to enable consumers of children's literature to be more critically reflective in the move towards a more inclusive future. The report's key points were:

1. 7% of the children's books published in the UK over the last 3 years feature characters of colour.
2. The number of children's books published in the UK over the last three years (2017-19) featuring characters from a Black, Asian or minority ethnic background has increased to 10% in 2019, rising from 4% in 2017, 7% in 2018 to 10% in 2019, according to CLPE.

## Why is it important?

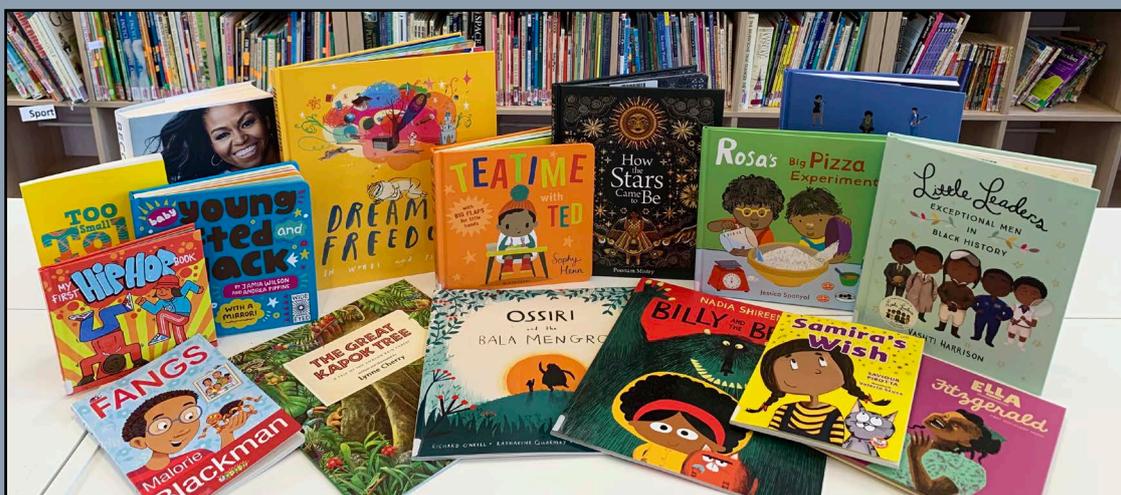
Books should serve as both mirrors, reflecting children's own lives and experiences, and as windows into identities and experiences unfamiliar to them. For every child, a crucial part of their education is learning about differences and how to value other cultures, histories, and experiences. All our children need 'window books' so they can make sense of the multicultural world in which they live and see everyone as equals, as main characters.

Diversity is even more important in non-fiction. We need titles that accurately portray the huge contribution that people of BAME heritage have made to history, art, literature, science, music and politics.

Children's literature provides an avenue for children to learn about their own cultural heritage and the cultures of other people. It is crucial for children to learn these values because, developing positive attitudes toward our own culture and the cultures of others is necessary for both social and personal development.

Now more than ever, it is crucial for children at St Michael's to find books that represent the diverse and varied experiences and cultures of all pupils.

With this investment in BAME literature, St Michael's will have an exciting and diverse range of books to help build understanding and empathy of our different backgrounds; that can also entertain and celebrate our rich, shared cultural heritage.



A very small selection of the books we have added to our library



## Year 5 Adams

The best thing we have had, this half term is the  
**CHICKS!**

We got them on the 26<sup>th</sup> of April, we were so excited.  
We got 10 eggs and they looked similar to normal  
super-market eggs. All of them hatched, 8 girls and  
2 boys. We learnt that they were in their eggs  
for 21 days and some were in their eggs for less.  
But sadly, left 2 weeks later.

by Attila and Isla.



## Year 6 Owens

In Year 6 Owens, the children have been writing flashbacks from the perspective of a character in our class book - A Story Like the Wind by Gill Lewis. They have reflected carefully about the stories of those who have fled war torn countries, writing pieces that demonstrate empathy, creativity, care and hope. We are overwhelmed with their efforts.

These lessons linked English, PSHE and History.

I can't forget. I can't forget the ~~long~~ long, tedious hours I spent scanning the world up and down in the middle of the ocean. The glowing moon shone light on our way to a better place. There was no difference in colour between the dark sea and sky, only the harsh waves separating them. Our small, inflatable dinghy floated unsteadily, guided by the ocean, coughing under the weight of the other people on it. Slowly, gloomy clouds gathered creating shade and causing darkness. The pearlescent moon disappeared - and the storm had arrived.

Raindrops blasted themselves at us, attacking everyone like tiny knives. I shielded myself by crossing my legs, and curling into a ball as tight as I could. A flash of light. A pause of dark. Lightning cracked a whip, like the horse whips from home. Home. I clutched my key tightly, feeling sick with worry that I would lose it. I closed my eyes as the isolated, bitter world of the sea disappeared.

Light flooded my eyes. Not moonlight, or the starlight. It was beloved sunlight from my country, where I sold my most precious carpets, and lived with everyone I love. For a minute, I was overjoyed to be back home with my family. That feeling faded away as I remembered it was just a memory. An echo. A mere recreation. I looked up to see the old, ashen roof of my old house contrast with the colourful walls.

Gloomy clouds took over the sky, the bitter, cold wind pushed us out of our seats, every wave spat specks of water in our face - we sat there lifeless. The boat's engine coughed out its last breath of power - we were stranded. A shadow of gear crept inside my body. Wild waves tossed us across the inky ocean. Small twinkles of stars shone through like they were trying to escape. Thunder crashed! I was isolated in an empty ocean, hopeless, my only belonging being a key, a key to a house that was not there.

I held the key in my hand and closed my eyes. Memories of the market place where I lived, where I met my wife appeared in my mind. I remembered the silk shop where I first met the love of my life. I remembered the house we bought, and how every morning we would get greasy homemade baklava. I remembered when we would dance around the living rooms. I remembered all the happy memories.

A wave crashed against the boat, my back was drenched. Ichy salt water dried on my neck. Thunder roared even louder than before. It felt like the midnight black sea had swallowed me whole; I felt like I could not be free. I held the key and closed my eyes to try to go back to my memories, but the hissing sound of the wind didn't let me. I looked up into the sky longing for safety, hoping it would bring me to a better life. A flicker of lightning shone...



# Letter from the Chair of Governors

Dear Parents, Carers and Children,

I hope you are all very well and have been able to enjoy meeting up with friends and family outdoors in recent weeks.

## **Update on your Governing Board**

The governors met on 13th May by Zoom. We were delighted to welcome our newly appointed Local Authority Governor, Angela Stathi. Angela brings experience in the financial sector. She joins a deeply committed board of governors who work together to support our school's vision, mission and values.

## **What have your Governors been doing?**

At our meeting we scrutinised and approved the school budget in order to ensure that we can continue to provide the highest quality education and experiences for our children, in the context of sustained cuts to schools funding nationally. Some of us have had the opportunity to have a socially distanced visit to our fantastic new school library, which is now being enjoyed by all the children. Thank you to all those families whose donations to the Governors' Fund have made this possible, and to everyone who donated to our recent books appeal.

## **Safeguarding**

The safety and wellbeing of our children and families is our highest priority. Please see the updated Safeguarding page on our website- click straight through from the banner on the homepage, or visit: <https://stmichaelsn6.com/safeguardingleads/>

Here you will also find our Child Friendly Safeguarding Policy, which our School Council helped to develop. We will be meeting with the children again in the autumn term to hear their ideas on how we can continue to make sure everyone feels safe and happy at school.

## **SEND**

I meet regularly with our Inclusion Leader Linda Kennedy to review our provision for children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND). More information can be found here: <https://stmichaelsn6.com/send-school-offer/>

In September we will be carrying out a survey with parents of children who have identified additional needs. I look forward to meeting with some of you then, if you wish to participate. In the meantime, do contact me by emailing the school office on [admin@stmichaelsn6.com](mailto:admin@stmichaelsn6.com) if you have any comments or questions about our SEND school offer.

Best Wishes,



Cordelia Brown  
**Chair of Governors**