



ST MICHAEL'S
C of E PRIMARY
HIGHGATE

Summer Newsletter

End of 2020-21 Academic Year
BUMPER EDITION

Geraldine Gallagher
Headteacher

Opening Message from the Headteacher

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you and all of your families are keeping well. At the end of this term we say goodbye to some families who are moving out of the area and leaving St. Michael's School and families for whom this is their last child at St. Michael's. Thank you for your support. I wish you all the very best.

Year 6, who are now ready to leave St. Michael's have shown a true commitment to being the best they can be in all that they do. Thank you, Year 6 for all that you have contributed to St. Michael's School you have made it an even better place. We will miss you, good bye and good luck.

We also say good bye to two members of staff. Miss Porfyridou and her family are relocating to Athens and Mr Assad is leaving to pursue his career in sport. Thank you for enriching St Michael's and we wish you the very best in your future endeavours. We welcome two new teachers Miss Massouras and Miss Kyriacou who have trained with us this year and so are very familiar with St Michael's and our pupils.

Throughout this extraordinary year our priorities have been to keep everyone safe and to keep the children's education on track. We strove to ensure the children received high quality education, targeted academic support and that they experienced the fullness of the St Michael's experience for their year group.



A recent newspaper article asked two questions:

What will you be doing differently after the 19th...

At St. Michael's as the 19th July is our last week we will not be making any changes to our current procedures and measures of keeping everyone safe. We want all of our community to remain well and to enjoy the holidays. Going forward to next year we are very excited about the prospect of lifting restrictions in Autumn and will write to you nearer the end of the holidays to let you know how that will look at St. Michael's. There are certain procedures which we will be keeping and we will also send out a questionnaire to hear your views about what aspects you feel we should keep.

...and what will you be thankful for?

I am thankful for our pupils. They are so amazing, positive and resilient, literally bouncing back into school with smiles on their faces and an eagerness to learn. I am thankful for you, our parents and carers, for your sterling support and understanding. I am very grateful for the excellent team of staff working at St. Michael's for their commitment and 'can do' attitude. And, to the Governing Body, the team of volunteers who dedicate their time and expertise to challenge, guide and support me and my leadership team.

I think the article said to sum it up in 80 words so, I am thankful for St. Michael's community. Although we have been fragmented and it has not been possible to physically function as a team the children feel safe, happy and secure. They have made progress in their personal and academic development and have, as this newsletter highlights, had varied and rich experiences. This is testimony to the strength of St. Michael's community. I look forward to us working together in person next year (hopefully face to face) when we will continue to strengthen our community.

Best Wishes,



Geraldine Gallagher
Headteacher

This week has been STEAM week. Keep a look out for the STEAM stars in the Newsletter, to read all about our Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Maths events.



**STEAM
SPECIAL**

Trek for the Track has started!

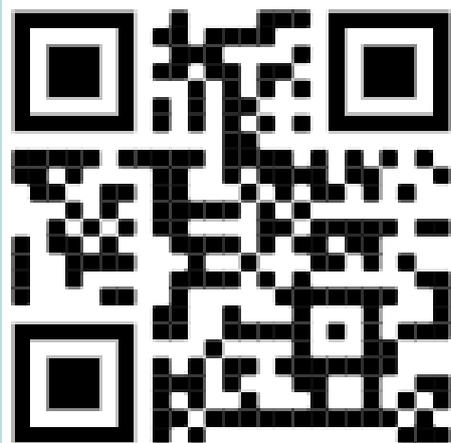
Friends and families can either give cash directly to pupils or donate online at

[gofundme.com/trekforthetrack](https://www.gofundme.com/trekforthetrack)

Over this week and next our pupils will be as active as possible on their way to and from school, having fun, getting fit and raising money for a new running track on the school field.

Due to bubble closures Years 4 and 6 will be doing their Trek for the Track next week, over the 19-23rd July. Everyone else is doing their's this week.

All cash raised should be brought in and given to your class teacher.



Check out these artist's impressions



Dates for the Diary

Date	Event
Monday 12th to Friday 19th	Trek for the Track Fundraiser (Year R, 1, 2, 3 & 5)
Monday 19th to Friday 23rd	Trek for the Track Fundraiser (Year 4 and 6)
Monday 19th and Tuesday 20th July	Class Picnics - classes will be notified individually
Tuesday 20th July	Nursery & Reception Picnic (Sep 2021 Starters)
Thursday 22nd July	Year 6 Leavers' Service
Friday 23rd July	Last day of term. Children will be dismissed at staggered times
Monday 6th September	Autumn Term begins

Collection and Drop off times

Collection times on Friday 23rd July (Last day of term):

1:30pm	Year 3 & Year 2
1:35pm	Year 4 & Year 1
1:40pm	Year 5 & Reception Pele
1:45pm	Year 6 & Reception Bronze
2:00pm	Nursery

Drop Offs

Soft Start for Years 2 to 6 is open from 8:40am **until 9am**. If you have a Nursery child as well, bring them all at 8:55am for a 9am start.

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.

Please remember that parents are still required to wear a face covering in the top playground. Many thanks.



End of year notes from the office

Please help us to help you have a smooth end of year

We have very much enjoyed being your behind-the-scenes team this year. It has been a challenge at times and we are sad that we have not managed to spend as much time with the children as we would normally be able to. Here are a few notes to help you get ready for the end of term and September.

- Nicola, Hannah, Shivs, Eve and Marlon

For all office queries: admin@stmichaelsn6.com

For any safeguarding concern: dsl@stmichaelsn6.com

Please include your child's full name and class in all communications.

1. We have received some complaints about parents speeding and parking dangerously. Please ensure that you drive and park safely, and walk, cycle, scoot or "park & stride" where possible.

2. Please remember to take all personal belongings home at the end of term.

3. Lost Property is going to be put out on Thursday 22nd and Friday 23rd July. Please collect all of your items as anything that is remaining will be donated to charity.

4. If you are moving house over the summer please let the school office know ASAP.

5. Collect all of your medication on Friday 23rd July, and remember to arrange fresh medication for Monday 6th September.

6. If you want to change your lunch preferences, please send in the form ASAP.

7. Autumn Term Clubs including Breakfast Club are now available to book!

8. Please pay any outstanding end of year balances on SCOPay.



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/>

The following Autumn Clubs still have spaces

We have more fantastic extra-curricular opportunities opening up in the Autumn Term. Check the clubs timetable on the school website for booking information and the full list of available clubs. Places are still available for a number of our clubs but are booking up fast. Please book soon via SCOPAY to avoid disappointment. Send club enquiries to hprior@stmichaelsn6.com. Remember to book carefully as all club bookings are non-refundable.

Rugby



Sewing



Debutots (book direct, details on timetable)



Gymnastics



Air Quality Monitoring

Year 3 have started a project to record the air quality at the front of the school.

Sometimes, with our spacious grounds and fields, it is hard to remember that St Michael's is firmly in Inner London, and with our school entrance on a main road, our pupils are exposed to the harmful effects of air pollution.

As part of our continuing commitment to improve road safety and air quality around St Michael's we have purchased some handheld air quality monitors which the children can use.

Overall we have seen huge improvements at the front of the school in recent years. We began keeping records of how children travelled to school in 2017 and since then parents' parking habits are much improved, fewer cars are seen idling their engines and we have recorded a 4% shift away from private car usage.

Over the course of an average year, that is approximately 3500 private car journeys fewer than in 2017. That is a huge achievement, but we want to go further.

The most effective way to reduce air pollution even more is to walk, scoot or cycle to school, and to leave the car at home. Recently we have installed cycle and scooter parking in the top playground, engaged all children in a map making exercise so they can learn how to stay safe and enjoy their route to and from school, and we have provided BikeAbility Cycle training to all of Years 4, 5 and 6.

We look forward to bringing you more good news about the air quality at the front of the school as the project develops.



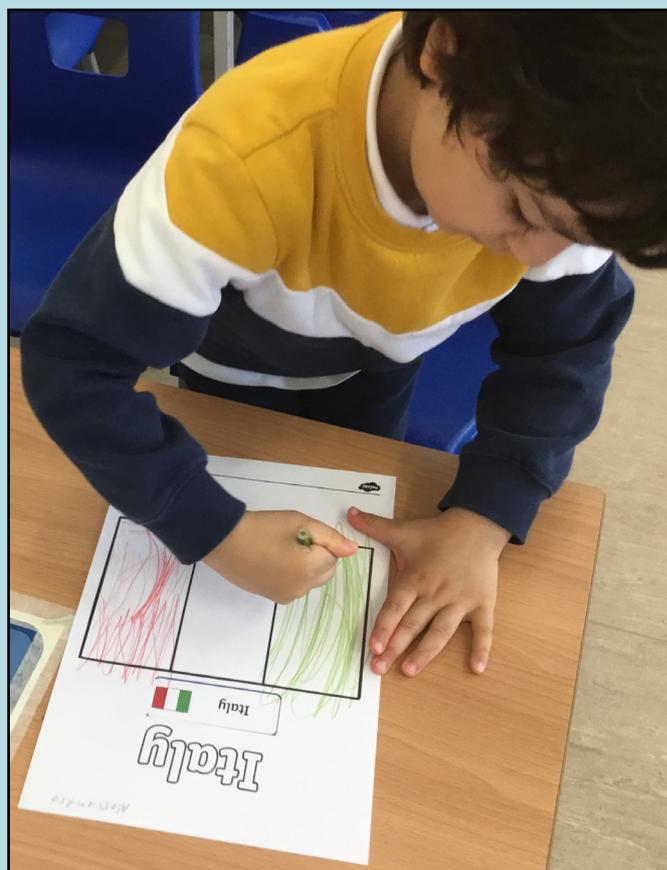
Air Quality Monitoring cont.



Nursery

Nursery

In Nursery we have been celebrating Euro 2020 by decorating the classroom with colourful flags. Some of the children chose to make a flag representing a country where they have family. We also located the countries on the map and designed some of our own flags.



We have not been able to do as much competitive sport this year as we would have liked, but we did manage to squeeze in a cricket tournament and even hosted a Netball match with Weston Park. We are sure that there will be lots more sport in the Autumn Term.

On the 16th of June 2021 the St. Michael's cricket team attended the Kwik Cricket tournament at North Middlesex Cricket Club. Everyone was in high spirits when they arrived on the boiling hot day.

The whole team captained by the excellent Frankie played extremely well with a particular shout out to Josh and William D's bowling, as well as William H's amazing batting which kept St. Michael's hopes alive in the tournament. Finally a special mention to Joseph for his excellent participation as wicket keeper.

The cricket team came in third out of twelve schools and received bronze medals as a reward. Norfolk House came in first and Rokesly followed closely in second place. A big thanks to the whole team (as well as a massive one to Katie Hedges and Mr Lawrence for taking the teams) Joseph, Frankie, Josh, William D, Henry, Cassius, William H, Albie, and Arthur.

Written by Henry and Joseph Year 6 Sports Ambassadors.



Competitive Netball

We were thrilled to be able to host Weston Park for an afternoon of Netball.

Last week Weston Park's Netball club travelled up from Crouch End to challenge our players. Unfortunately, with our Year 5s off isolating our Year 6s were kept very busy, playing back to back matches. Check out these photos below.

Many thanks to Helen Franks for organising this fantastic opportunity.



Charity update - supporting our local foodbank

Despite the pandemic, lockdown and restricted access to the playground, the St Michael's food bank collection has contributed to Ringcross Community Centre every Friday throughout this year. Support is needed over the summer too.

Whilst we were all navigating online learning, many parents offered their doorsteps for the collections. Sarah and Nick have also kindly donated their front garden every week this year to ensure that we are still able to support the food bank at Ringcross Community Centre. We have many volunteers that offer an hour each half term on a Friday to drive the collections to Ringcross Community Centre and there are many volunteers at the Centre that gratefully sort these.

One of the volunteers who drove a bootful down today took some photos of the many volunteers at the Community Centre who are there three times a week, if not more! They were happy for us to share them with you.

The food bank demand is still high and with Summer Holidays looming we were wondering how we could continue with the great work that we have been doing.

We have set up a Paypal link that will enable anyone to contribute financially and this money will be transferred straight to the Ringcross Community Centre account.

Since the pandemic started we have raised £2,645 using Paypal and this has helped the food bank to buy specific food items when they were in short supply.

Please find the link below.

<https://www.paypal.com/pools/c/8nDnySd03r>



Reception

Reception enjoyed a STEAM Storytelling session with Brooke, one of the class parents, who told the group about the adventures of The Rainbow Fish.



Many thanks to Brooke and her business partner for donating their time, and for all the exciting resources they brought to school to bring the story alive. The children really enjoyed the hearing about The Rainbow Fish.

Using cross-curricular links and story telling to teach the children about science makes the subject more accessible and is a fantastic way to engage all of the children - as you can see from these wonderful photos.

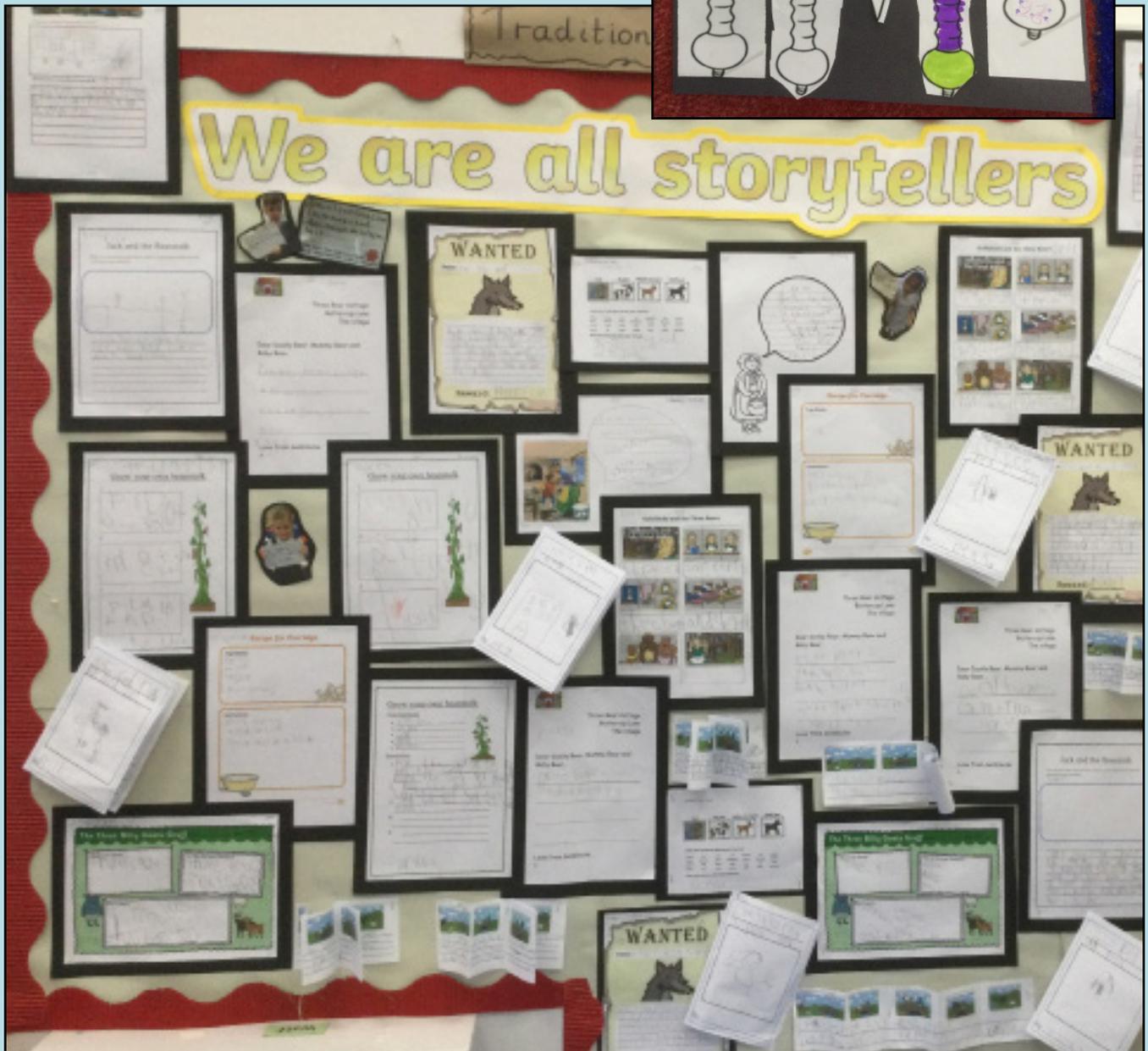
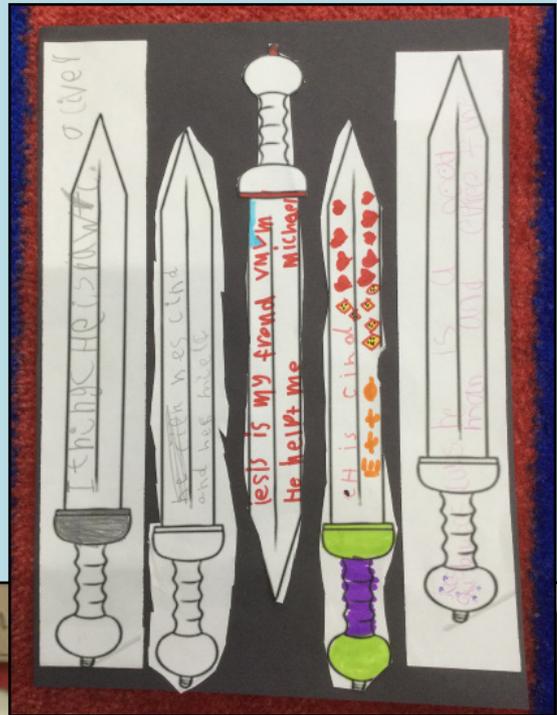


Reception cont.

As well as learning about The Rainbow Fish, this half term we explored different traditional tales. We've been very busy writing and drawing around these stories and even creating our own story books.

The children enjoyed practising their addition and subtraction skills playing dice games with each other and completing challenges.

In RE we explored different stories from the Bible where Jesus rescues people and wrote our thoughts and messages on the shield and sword of the Centurion whose servant was healed.



Cycling Visit by Councillor Mike Hakata Wed 14th July

This summer we have seen an increase in the number of children cycling to school. One parent has written in, and has arranged a visit from a local councillor to demonstrate the school's progress. Read on to hear about their experience and the visit on Wednesday which you are welcome to come along to.

"My daily cycle experience when cycling with children on the road have led me to set up a campaign for a low traffic neighbourhood in Crouch End West.

I linked up with the Haringey Cyclist Campaign and through this was introduced to councillor Mike Hakata, who is the new Cabinet Member for Environment, Transport and the Climate Emergency and Deputy Leader of the Council. He is meeting parents at the school gates on **Wednesday 14th July at 3:30pm** and will be cycling with families and children as they depart school, heading towards Avenue Road.

There will be a group of parents and pupils cycling together from the school. They will look at road conditions, traffic patterns and think what could be done further to encourage active travel for kids. In anticipation we were wondering if parents could complete this survey, whether or not you cycle to school.

Please complete the survey to help us further promote active travel:"

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/YM7RNLTL>

We look forward to seeing you all at 3:30pm on Wednesday 14th July with your bikes outside the school entrance



'We are a keen cycling family and are happy to see the usage of the new bike parking facility'

'The new mushrooms for the scooters are great'

'I think the school is doing everything to encourage families to travel in an active way.'

STEAM EVENT

Year 1 Bolt

Year 1 Bolt have been combining Art and Science this week.

We painted pots inspired by Clarice Cliff and then planted sunflower seeds.

Over the next few weeks we will be observing what happens and writing about it in our English lessons.

As well as being excellent for learning about both Art and Science, spending time gardening is fantastic for children's physical and mental health.



Year 1 Bolt

Our new library

For many years the school has managed with just a small library, incorporated into the computing suite. Over the past year we have phased out the fixed PCs in the computing suite and replaced them with iPads and Chromebooks that can be used in the classrooms and this has allowed us to refurbish our library.

This project would not have been possible without the support of the Governors and was paid for by the Governor's Fund and contributions from parents to buy new books.



Year 2 had a marvelous day exploring the wildlife at London Zoo. In Science we have been learning about animals and their habitats. We had a learning session with one of London Zoo's experts to develop our understanding of how animals have adapted to survive in their environment. We then had the opportunity to put this learning into action by looking really closely for animals hiding in their enclosures.

Caitlin - *'I like touching the skins of the animals and finding out about how they are camouflaged.'*

Matilda - *'I liked the penguins because they were small and cute. They were so fast in the water.'*

Georgie - *'I liked to see the giraffes because they are my favourite animal. It was taller than I thought it was going to be. It was definitely taller than it was last time I saw it.'*



**STEAM
EVENT**

The Peace Garden

We are blessed with spacious grounds and a variety of interesting spaces at St Michael's. One of these, the Peace Garden, which is a courtyard garden in the middle of the school, needs some TLC. Could you help us improve it?

Dear Parents/Carers,

Can you help us improve the St.Michael's Peace Garden?

The Peace Garden is the courtyard outside the junior hall. Our aim is for the Peace Garden to be a restful and inviting place for prayer and reflection. We hope to improve the space by:

- Constructing shelter/shade to make it usable in rain and sun
- Additional planting and removal of weeds/overgrown shrubs
- Additional outdoor seating/storage
- Improvements to the pond
- Repairs to paving and concrete planters

Please let us know if you are able to offer any time or expertise in the above areas to help with our plans, via admin@stmichaelsn6.com

Many thanks,

The Peace Garden Team



Year 3

Year 3 have had several STEAM visitors this term. They have learned about snakes, snails, cockroaches from Zoo Labs, and learned about the economy from a parent visitor. Many thanks to Zoo Labs and Ms Tavasci for visiting.

'The pie chart was really interesting. The challenge she set was really difficult, but I enjoyed trying to work it out.' - Aarez

'I learnt the meanings of some new words: economics, wages and salary.' - Diana



'I enjoyed Daffodil the snake because she was beautiful and silky-soft' - Nell

'Daffodil was smooth, shiny and had a pretty pattern' - Lara

'The stick insect was my favourite because she was so gentle and calm' - Kara

'The scorpion was cool and kept pinching his pincers' - Sam G



'I like how tough the cockroach is yet how soft it is to hold' - Elias

'The workshop was really fun. It had so many different animals. There was a Giant Snail, a stick insect, a cockroach and a corn snake (not harmful).' Thomas

'It was so calming. When you hold the snake it's so soft.' - Orla

'The workshop was incredible! My personal favourite was the corn snake because it was so smooth. It was an albino.' - Aarez

'I can't believe I got to handle a REAL snake! That was amazing.' -Chanel

Year 3 Zoo Labs cont.



**STEAM
EVENT**

Professor Bubbleworks visited Years 1 & 3



Professor Bubbleworks

During STEAM week we had a visit from Professor Bubbleworks who demonstrated a wide variety of science experiments to Years 1 and 3.

"It was amazing when he made Sofia's hair stand on end with static electricity." - Jack

"It was amazing to see those different powders burning different colours. They're used to make firework colours." - Emma

"The steam in the cola can made it spin so fast with loads of steam flying out. Very cool." - Marsha



**STEAM
EVENT**

An explosive chemistry lesson for Years 3 & 4

Lower Key Stage two was treated to a very exciting science lesson when Dr Szydlo, a real life professor of chemistry from Highgate school, visited to demonstrate some real science experiments.

Under the nervous eye of the class teachers Dr Szydlo mixed chemicals to make them burst into flame, shattered rubber tubes with liquid nitrogen, showed us how an internal combustion engine works by blowing up a paint can, and then exploded a balloon full of hydrogen, right here in our Junior Hall.



**STEAM
EVENT**

Year 4

Year 4

On Friday 25th June, Year 4 went on an exciting adventure into the treetops of Alexandra Park. They enjoyed a range of teamwork and communication activities and then spent the afternoon navigating bridges, platforms and zip-wires in the Treetop Adventure.

'It was fun, challenging and exciting and I loved crossing the bridges.' - Mina

'I really enjoyed Go Ape because we were working together and the zip line was really fun!' - Amyas

'Go Ape is epic! It was so exciting and I loved every minute of it.' - Mabli



Anti-racist week

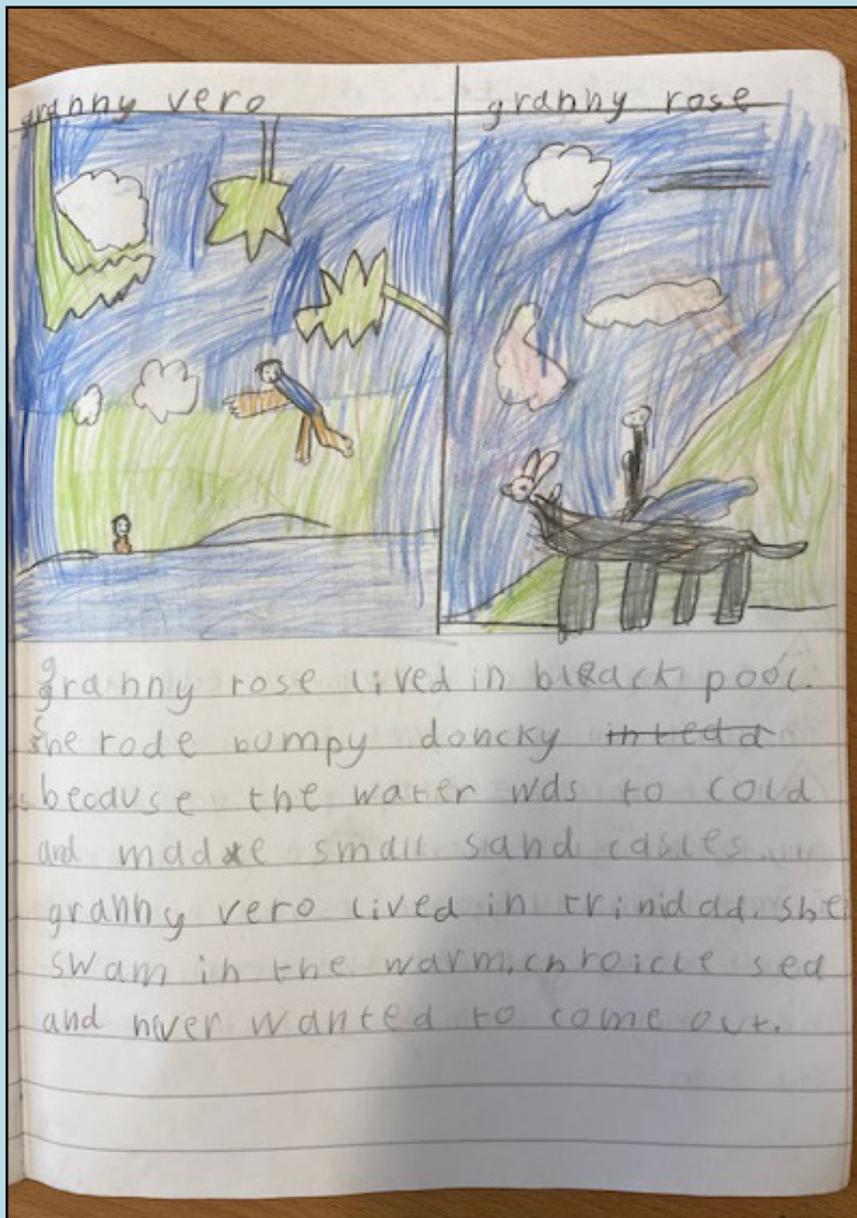
This term we held our first Anti-racism week at St Michael's and learnt how to become an actively anti-racist school.

The children in EYFS celebrated difference by creating positive images of themselves using skin-toned art materials.

Y1, 2 & 3 wrote about their diverse families and created poems about what made them unique as individuals.

Y4, 5 & 6 produced work on anti-racist heroes and the Windrush generation.

Here is some work from Year 2 and 3. Work from the other years is on the following pages. Year 3 combined this topic with computing to create pieces of work on their Chromebooks.



*Brother bothering,
Eczema scratching,
Russian speaking,
Roblox gaming,
Sushi loving,
Puppy adoring
Diana*

ROY HACKETT



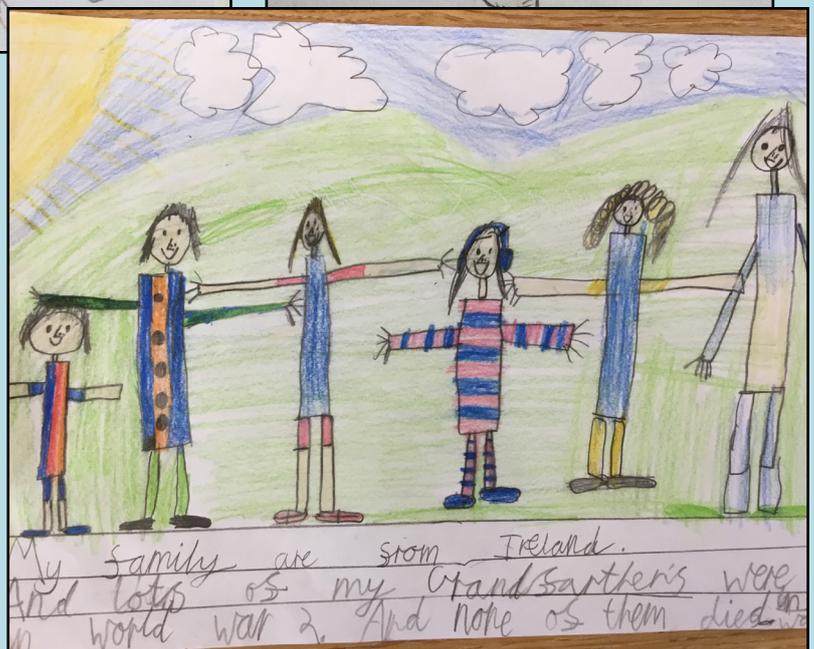
BLACK AND WHITE ON THE BUSES



In 1963 Roy Hackett was walking in Broadmead Bristol, he saw a man crying outside the Bristol Omnibus Company. He told Roy he was upset because he couldn't get an interview for a job because he was black. Roy walked into the bus company and demanded that black people should be treated equally. He gathered a 3-thousand strong Caribbean community to stage a boycott. His idea was partly inspired by Rosa Parks, who refused to give up her seat to a white person in the U.S. He organised blockades which ensured no buses made it to the town center, the group received threats of violence but that didn't stop them and they caused months of disruption. The bus company caved into the boycott and lifted the colour ban. The Success of the anti-racism legislation.



During Anti-Racism week the children read the story 'My two grannies'. They looked at the similarities and differences between life growing up in the Caribbean and the U.K. We listened to a range of music including brass and calypso to enjoy the different sounds they create and having a dance too! The children drew family portraits and spoke about things our families celebrated or cooked.



Year 5's Residential Trip to Flatford Mill

Last week, Year 5 embarked on their long-overdue trip to Flatford Mill in Suffolk.

Nestled in a rural idyll on the banks of the River Stour, the historic Field Studies Council centre, set in the heart of Constable country, is always a welcome change from London. It's also an excellent chance for the children build their resilience and independence, staying far away from home for what is often the first time.

The children had a chance to stay in buildings painted or built by John Constable and his father, and engaged in a variety of activities. These included walking through rivers to investigate biodiversity, reliving the Constable family's story, orienteering round the countryside with map and compass, and a visit to the nearby village of East Bergholt.

While the trip had to end early, the children were still buzzing in the days following about their experiences - once they'd caught up on some sleep!



Year 5 Flatford cont.



In June 2021, Year 6 enjoyed a week at the Kingswood Activity Centre at Grosvenor Hall in Ashford, Kent. It was an excellent week of fun and adventure. Indeed, Year 6 faced personal challenges and developed skills of independence as they near the end of their time at St. Michael's. The weather was mostly favourable and it was a delight to see such happy and excited faces during what has been difficult times.

Highlights included facing their fears with the Leap of Faith, 3G Swing, and Jacob's Ladder. Working together in teams to do raft-building, buggy-building, problem solving and Bushcraft was a good challenge. Finally, they tested their endurance and accuracy in archery and Aeroball. In addition to these fun-filled days the children enjoyed fun evening entertainment which included campfires, mini-olympics, bottle rockets, and a scrapheap challenge. The children were certainly kept very busy throughout the week.

It was lovely to experience all our school values in action at Kingswood. The pupils were able to make new friends and overcome personal challenges through endurance and by being creative when working as a team. Kingswood will definitely be a long lasting happy memory for all. Thanks to all those that made the experience a happy and above all safe experience for everyone involved.



Yeva: 'Kingswood was brilliant. I really enjoyed making new friends and I was so proud when I overcame my fears when doing the Leap of Faith!'

Lucy: 'Kingswood was fun! I loved the 3G Swing!'

William: 'I really enjoyed Kingswood. One thing I enjoyed was making a shelter out of branches and sticks which we called 'Redla'. We even made a toilet and furniture for it!'

Arthur: 'What I really enjoyed about Kingswood was hanging out with my friends and all the activities where I faced my fears!'

Year 6 Kinswood Photos cont.



Letter from the Chair of Governors

Dear Parents, Carers and Children,

On behalf of the Governing Body, thank you for all you have done for your children and the support that you have shown to Mrs Gallagher and all the staff during what has been another challenging school year. Your support has been magnificent and our whole school community is stronger as a result.

And thank you children - you have all been amazing! Once again, you rose to the challenge of remote learning in the spring term. Some of you have had to do this again right at the end of this year. You missed your friends and being together in the classroom, but you all did so well and you have gained valuable life skills of adaptability, resilience, and of course your excellent technical and computing skills. We are all so proud of you.

The work of your Governing Board

Even though Governors have not been able to hold our meetings at school, we have been able to visit individually and we have continued to carry out our regular duties virtually. The full governing board met on 12th July by Zoom. We received updates on the children's progress and discussed plans for the new term, when Mrs Sorapure will be our Head of School. In September we will hold our annual strategy day, when we review our Strategic Improvement Plan and prioritise areas for action to ensure the best possible education and learning environment for all the children.

Our staff

I know you would all agree that we are very fortunate to have such skilled staff at St Michael's. On behalf of the Governing Body, I would like to thank every member of staff for their incredible work this year. We know that our staff will continue to do everything possible to help our children and our school thrive when we return in September, and we will continue to support them in all that they do.

Our leavers

I would like to send all the Year 6 children and those children moving on from St Michael's special good wishes. You have all flourished during your time here and you have fulfilled our school's vision by making every moment count. We will remember the positive impact you have had on our school. I am sorry that your leaving events have had to be different this year, but I hope that you will take with you very happy memories of all of your years at St Michael's.

I wish you a very happy summer holiday,

Best Wishes,



Cordelia Brown
Chair of Governors