



NEWSLETTER



St Michael's C of E Primary School

Creating a community where we learn together through:

RESPECT, KINDNESS, CURIOSITY AND FAITH

WOW – what a busy few weeks! We certainly have packed a lot into a 5-week term. Read on to hear about all of the exciting things the children at St Michael's have been getting up to in the second half of the Spring Term!

Young Voices at the O2

The school choir in Years 3 – 6 had a very exciting visit to the O2. They joined the **COMMUNITY** of about 8,000 pupils who performed a variety of songs they have been learning. So many of our children aspire to become performers of some kind, or have this as a hobby, so it is great to give them this opportunity. All children were fantastic role models for our school, demonstrating their enthusiasm, resilience and **RESPECT** to others. We were so proud of them all. Thank you to all the adults involved for their hard work!



Work viewing afternoon

As always, it is a pleasure to invite our **COMMUNITY** of parents and carers in to celebrate their children's learning. The children are always so proud to show off everything they have done so far this year, so thank you to all who supported this!

Year 6 visit Easter Cracked!

Year 6 visited White Waltham Church for their fantastic 'Easter Cracked' programme, following 'Christmas Unwrapped'. They learned about the importance of Easter to those of Christian **FAITH**. Year 6 were extremely **RESPECTFUL** to all of the volunteers who put on the event!



Year 5 residential tip

Year 5 enjoyed a fantastic residential trip to the beautiful Dorset. One of the highlights was building our own Viking long ships and launching them across the moat. The river exploration, on Tuesday, left us with plenty of soggy—but very happy—children, despite the chilly water. Feeding the sheep was an unexpected bonus that everyone loved. The **CURIOSITY** of our children throughout the amazing range of activities they took part in was fantastic!



Inside the wardrobe...



All children at St Michael's got to experience an immersive writing experience this term. They looked through the wardrobe where they discovered a new world, feeding their **CURIOSITY**, and then wrote stories based on this. These stories have all been entered into our St Michael's short story competition which will be judged by real authors on Amazing Books for Children Day after Easter!



CURIOSITY week

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, 'plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you a hope and a future.'" Jeremiah 29:11



This year, we combined British Science Week with careers week to form our very own '**CURIOSITY** Week' based on our vision and values, by encouraging children to think about their aspirations



for the future. From nest building to creating and testing paper aeroplanes and dressing up as what they want to be when they're older, the children had an action-packed week of excitement, where the children's **CURIOSITY** really shone.



It was great to hear about the return of Prime VR for KS2 which allowed children to immerse themselves in a variety of learning opportunities – the rainforest, polar regions, oceans and climate change!



We welcomed so many from our wider **COMMUNITY** in for Future Jobs Day. The

children really enjoyed hearing about the variety of different career options out there for when they're older. Thank you so much to everyone who gave up some of their time for this: it really was inspirational!





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Charity work

Trunks Across the Thames is an initiative that we have been involved in this year to raise money for the Thames Hospice – our chosen charity. We started by raising money through a variety of different ways including a very exciting bracelet sale run by some Year 6s. We then received our elephant which needed painting; a competition was held to design this, and our winning artist will be joined by a team of others to decorate the elephant which will be involved in the elephant trail.

As well as this, a group of KS2 children were tasked with some bargain hunting in charity shops, with the items then being sent to auction and the profits going to the Thames Hospice. Some fantastic charity work, all for a brilliant local cause, run by our children!

A huge well done to Emily in Year 5 as well for organising her own sponsored bike ride for this cause! More information will come soon about the elephant trail, our final total and our final elephant design! For now, though, fundraising continues...



Elmer Day

Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 had a very exciting Elmer themed day to celebrate our differences. Year 1 spent the morning celebrating individuality and being unique. The children drew self-portraits and wrote sentences about what made them unique. They visited the nest for a



special story time and carried out an investigation about the size of their feet.



Performances

A huge thank you to Year 3 and 4 for their fantastic Easter service at church. Well done to Year 2 for sharing their learning with the rest of the school and parents. They all spoke so well and it is always lovely to hear all of the fantastic things that the classes are doing. The iRock concert was also a highlight! This was the first one for our new coach, and Michelle did a great job. The confidence of our musicians is always astounding – well done to all who performed!

Year 6 'Young Writers' competition

Year 6 entered a poetry competition earlier this year where the theme was 'I Have a Dream...'. Seven pupils have received certificates for having a talent for writing, and their poems will be published in the Young Writers I Have a Dream poetry book – we can't wait to get our hands on a copy. Well done Ingrid, Harry, Kavi, Lucy, Bethany, Lois and Stanley!

YEAR GROUP SUMMARIES

Reception have enjoyed learning about life cycles, beginning with butterflies for science and **CURIOSITY** week. We will be moving onto chicks to coincide with Easter. Our writing project was very successful with the children using their imagination and phonological awareness effectively to delve into the fairy castle beyond the wardrobe. During our Elmer day, we celebrated different ways that makes us unique and different. A range of activities included making a large Elmer collage, writing, maths and story time. The children spent some time describing each other in paired talk.

This term **Year 1** have been learning about the United Kingdom, it's four countries and capital cities. The children particularly enjoyed learning how to use compasses and used them to explore the school grounds. During science week the class completed some investigations and learnt about the scientist Mae Jemison. The children have been very enthusiastic about computing lessons and have had fun logging on and creating their avatars. Our class DT project designing and making monster spoon puppets has been a favourite activity

"I loved doing the ice investigation in science best, I knew the salt would melt the ice the quickest."

"I liked it when we took compasses outside and found North, South, East and West."

In **Year 2** this term we have been learning about our Amazing World and History of Flight. We have been exploring lots of landmarks and writing some beautiful setting descriptions. We have learnt about different pilots and their importance in the development of aircraft. In Maths we have started to use multiplication and division for 2s, 3s, 5s and 10s.

"I've enjoyed Art and Design creating our clay pots and painting them."

"I liked practising our Assembly and learning our songs."

Year 3 have had a busy and exciting half term, exploring fascinating topics such as Antarctica, light and shadow, and building their confidence in swimming during their Easter enrichment. The children particularly enjoyed learning about Antarctica, with one pupil sharing, *"I have learnt about a place I never really knew before and enjoyed researching animals."* Others loved taking their learning outdoors, saying, *"I enjoyed going outside learning about how shadows move throughout the day,"* and using new vocabulary



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such as “opaque” and “translucent.” The church service also helped pupils reflect on important values, with one child noting it *“helped me to be more confident in front of the school, teaching me about **RESPECT** and **FAITH** too.”* Overall, it has been a wonderful half term full of **CURIOSITY**, **KINDNESS** and enthusiasm for learning.



This half term, **Year 4** have thoroughly enjoyed their Fishkeeper Fry programme. They have learnt all about how to set up and maintain a tropical, freshwa-



ter aquarium. Each week, they added new livestock to the aquarium and learnt how to keep each one happy and healthy. This has taught the children not only about aquatic habitats but the responsibility and commitment of caring for animals.

This term in **Year 5**, we have been exploring the world’s oceans in geography, and our under-the-sea VR experience was truly awe-inspiring. We have also enjoyed studying lifecycles, comparing mammals, birds and amphibians, and researching a wide range of fascinating species.

“Science was really fun- especially when we got to build nests!”

“I liked the lily dissection lesson.”

“We are doing an experiment about mint; we are learning how the roots grow through asexual reproduction.”

Year 6 have been working especially hard this term to prepare for SATs in May, with so many children attending the morning booster groups! It is brilliant to see so many children taking responsibility for their learning in this way. They have also been finishing off their learning about ‘evolution & inheritance’ in Science, ‘Where our energy comes from’ in Geography, area, perimeter & volume and statistics in Maths, writing biographies in English and much, much more!

*“I really enjoyed Science week because it let me explore my **CURIOSITY** and discover new things.”*

“I was so proud to find out my poem would be published in a book! I wasn’t expecting this!”

SPORT!

PE in EYFS

This term in PE, Reception have explored exciting themes such as space, jungles and pirates while developing core physical skills through fun activities. A key focus has been partner games, helping children learn to work together, share equipment and take turns. It

has been wonderful to see their confidence grow and their enjoyment of physical activity with friends.

PE in KS1

This term, KS1 children have developed basic attacking and defending skills through tag and small-sided games. They have learned to find space, avoid defenders and work as a team, as well as track opponents when defending. Games such as tail tag, jellyfish island and capture the treasure have helped build agility, coordination and decision-making. It has been great to see their confidence grow as they apply new skills.

PE in KS2

KS2 pupils have focused on applying attacking and defending skills in competitive games, developing simple tactics such as creating space, maintaining possession and marking opponents. There has been a strong emphasis on teamwork, inclusion and achieving personal best. Pupils have shown great progress in confidence, resilience and sportsmanship throughout the term.

Tournaments/Fixtures

We are proud to share that St Michael’s hosted two football tournaments at Ascot United FC, welcoming over 160 children. A total of 50 pupils from Year 5 and 6 represented the school brilliantly. All players showed excellent teamwork, determination and **RESPECT**. We are especially pleased that three of our teams finished as runners-up – an outstanding achievement. Well done to everyone involved!



Coming up next term...

Wednesday 15th April – Year 6 trip to BayLab

Monday 20th April - Amazing Books for Children Day including Book Breakfast and book sale after school

Monday 27th and Tuesday 28th April – parent meetings

Wednesday 29th April – group photos

11th May – 14th May – Year 6 SATs week

Tuesday 19th May – Y2 and Y3 visit to Iver Environment Centre

Wednesday 20th May – Y1 class assembly

Friday 22nd May – Mufti day in exchange for a bottle

Friday 22nd May – Y6 parent meeting for residential at 2.45