



NEWSLETTER



St Michael's C of E Primary School

Creating a community where we learn together through:

RESPECT, KINDNESS, CURIOSITY AND FAITH

We enjoyed a lovely, sunny start to the summer term, providing us with lots of opportunities for visits to the field and outdoor learning.

Year 6 trip to Bayer Lab



Year 6 enjoyed a fantastic trip to the Bayer Lab in Reading. They showed excellent **CURIOSITY** and learnt all about the circulatory system and how the heart works, including making their own model of the components of blood.



Amazing Books for Children Day



We had a great celebration of books and reading on Amazing Books for Children Day. We started the day off by sharing in a 'book



breakfast' with our family **COMMUNITIES** - thank you to all who attended. We also wanted to say huge thank you to the local people who volunteered to put this event on, the Sunninghill Library and the authors who visited us!

David Barker, Fiona Barker, Ally Sherrick, Nicholas Allen and Tilia Rand-Bell. We



also asked the visiting authors to judge our short story competition which was based upon our wardrobe writing experience. The winners of this competition were Kavi, Rose, Sophie, Naomi, Harriet, George and Noah P. A huge congratulations to all our children for entering!

Year 2 and 3 trip to Iver Environmental Centre

Year 2 and 3 enjoyed their trip to Iver Environment Centre despite the weather! They enjoyed learning about plants and habitats through a variety of activities.



Year 2 did pond dipping, bug hunting and making bug hotels. Year 3 did some work on pollination, planting seeds and dissecting plants. They also



looked at how plants can be useful. Some fantastic **CURIOSITY** in their Science learning all round!

Walk to School Week

This week, we have taken part in 'Walk to School Week', encouraging our children and families to walk, scoot or cycle to school where possible to promote sustainable, healthy travel over the week, and recognise the benefits to pupils and the **COMMUNITY**. Thank you to everyone who supported this; we are looking forward to giving out certificates to the class who had the most walkers and wheelers!

Looking in, looking out, looking up

We have introduced a new way for us to encourage spirituality and reflection at St Michael's.

LOOKING IN means:

- Awareness of our own feelings and being able to reflect.
- Awareness of how unique we are and a happiness of who we are.
- Being thankful for the things we have and the people we are.
- Exploration of personal **FAITH**

LOOKING OUT means:

- Showing empathy and understanding in relation to injustice and inequality
- Showing **KINDNESS** to others
- To love and be loved
- To make a difference

LOOKING UP means:

- Encountering and experiencing God
- Opportunities for prayer and reflection
- Making sense of the world
- Being open to more
- Thinking about the big questions

Trunks Across the Thames

Our elephant, Michael, was decorated



by Mrs Ashdown and the child in each class who won the competition. He has been sent off and is ready to be placed when the trail begins in July. We will

keep you updated! We know some children are planning their own fundraisers for this fantastic cause



and we look forward to more children taking this challenge on!



Well done this term to Blu and George in Y5 who completed a sponsored cycle around Ascot Racecourse.



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Fishkeeper Fry

Year 4 really enjoyed their Fishkeeper Fry program and we were so proud that they were named 'School of the Year 2026' out of the 52 schools that took part. They were chosen for their enthusiastic in the programme, the quality of work they produced and going 'above and beyond' in all that they did. Thank you again to Maidenhead Aquatics for giving us this opportunity!



The story of Nehemiah

We have introduced a new whole school Bible story to the children, which we feel represents our vision and values so well. In Collective Worship we asked all for feedback on how this represents our school. We have included a summary of the story and what we can learn from it below.

Nehemiah was a man who cared deeply about his people. When he heard that the city of Jerusalem was broken and its walls were in ruins, he felt very sad. He prayed to God and asked for help.

*Nehemiah was brave and showed great **FAITH**. He travelled a long way to Jerusalem and encouraged the people to work together to rebuild the city walls. Everyone had a part to play - families worked side by side, each helping in their own way.*

*The work was not easy. Some people tried to stop them and make them afraid. But Nehemiah trusted God, stayed strong, and kept everyone focused. He reminded the people that they were stronger when they worked together. Because of their teamwork, determination, and **FAITH**, the walls were rebuilt in just 52 days!*

What we can learn from Nehemiah:

FAITH – Trusting God, even when things feel difficult, but also having **FAITH** in ourselves

CURIOSITY – Finding out what needs to be done and planning carefully

RESPECT and **KINDNESS** – Working together and supporting one another

COMMUNITY – Everyone plays an important part

Resilience – keep going when things are hard or people are trying to stop you

Nehemiah's story shows us that when we work together with **RESPECT, KINDNESS, CURIOSITY** and **FAITH**, we can achieve great things and help everyone to flourish.

Year 1 Class Assembly

Year 1 delivered a fantastic class assembly, sharing their learning from the term. We enjoyed hearing about the seasons and time, and hearing a snapshot of what they have been up to across the year. Their singing was fantastic and they all spoke so well!

YEAR GROUP SUMMARIES

Reception enjoyed the visit to Sunninghill Library to see the Alice in Wonderland exhibition. We began to read first chapter inside the library and looking at the wonderful exhibits that we recognised into the pictures of the book. The Mad Hatter was fun to wear! The author Fiona Barker on Amazing Authors Day visited our class and read her book DO NOT EAT THE EGG! which captivated the children especially when the egg got eaten before it should have because the egg looked so tasty. The children discussed the dilemma of not eating the egg. We have enjoyed having caterpillars and watching them turn into butterflies to release. The children had good observations skills to notice how the caterpillars grew bigger before building a cocoon around themselves and emerge as a butterfly. There was a lot of enthusiasm to handle the butterflies carefully.



This term, **Year 1** have been learning about The Great Fire of London. The children have enjoyed finding out about how the fire started and the impact it had on the city of London. The children had fun taking on the role of Samuel Pepys by answering lots of interesting questions and writing some excellent diary entries. In Maths lessons the children have been using resources to count in twos, fives and tens. The class have enthusiastically been learning some new songs linked to their learning and are looking forward to performing these in their class assembly. A highlight of the term has been the ABC Day and visits from the author Fiona Barker and illustrator Tilly King. The children had a great time drawing and writing about their own story characters.

"I liked it when Fiona read her story to us and showed us the big cocoa bean. She had so many books and the stories were funny".

"Tilly was really good at drawing!" we told her what to draw and she drew an amazing story character. Then she helped us to draw characters for our own stories."

In **Year 2** this term we have been learning about our amazing oceans and coastlines. In geography, we have been writing discussing and researching the Jurassic



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Coast and the different physical and human features that can be found. Children have also brought in fossils they have found to share with the class.

In our writing we have continued to focus on the oceans and our class book 'Clean Up' by Nathan Byron, and were inspired to write letters to David Attenborough and King Charles about how to look after oceans and why they are important. In maths, we have been practicing fractions, finding $\frac{1}{4}$, $\frac{1}{2}$ and $\frac{1}{3}$ of numbers and shapes.

"I enjoyed using chalk to make the oceans and label the parts of the coast on the playground."

"My favourite thing has been writing to David Attenborough for his 100th birthday."

Year 3 have thoroughly enjoyed their history topic on Ancient Egyptians this term. A particular highlight was mummifying tomatoes, with one child sharing, *"My favourite thing this term was when we mummified the tomatoes. It helped me understand how the Ancient Egyptians mummified people so they could travel to the afterlife."* To build on the children's curiosity and enthusiasm, they also explored explanation texts, culminating in a piece of unaided writing describing the mummification process. Another highlight this term has been learning about the Islamic faith in RE, with one child commenting, *"I have really enjoyed RE this term as we have done fun activities like drawing comic strips of the Angel visiting Prophet Muhammad in the cave to tell him the first message from Allah."* It has been a busy and exciting term, and we are already looking forward to all the learning next term will bring.

Our favourite topic in **Year 4** this half term has been our DT topic all about biscuits. The children began by taste testing biscuits to describe their flavour and texture and explore the different ingredients that can be added to biscuit recipes. They have looked at biscuit packaging and talked about target audiences and the types of materials used. The children were given an ingredients price list and a budget and they have designed their recipe according to this. They have also made packaging for their biscuits. Friday is the big day when the children get to try out their recipes and make their biscuits. The children are very excited to taste test their creations!

"I am excited to make the dough."

"I feel like this has been a really fun experience and it would be nice to do something like this again."

"I quite liked the first lesson where we taste tested some of the biscuits. My favourite biscuit was the hello pandas."

"I've liked getting to choose things instead of someone else telling us what to do."

In **year 5** this term, we have been learning about forces in science. We have loved doing experiments to explore friction, air and water resistance and gravity. In English, we have been reading a book about people who have survived in extreme situations and have been inspired to write a survival guide.

'I find science very interesting, particularly learning about the pushes and pulls of forces.'

'I love doing fun scientific experiments.'

'I've found the Survivors book very interesting; it's hard to believe that people have survived these situations.'

The survival stories are very surprising.'

Year 6 deserve a huge well done for all of their hard work in the lead up to, and during, SATs week. They approached the tests with a great attitude and should all be really proud of themselves. As a well-deserved treat, the whole class enjoyed bowling and laser quest to celebrate. We have also been making playground models in D&T, learning about the heart and circulation in Science and much much more. We are very much looking forward to an exciting last term of primary school! *"We have really enjoyed reading the book 'The Haunting of Aveline Jones' which was a really exciting thriller!"*



"In all subjects I think that the curriculum is laid out really well which helps us to learn it."

Coming up next term...

Tuesday 9th June – Year 1 trip to Blackwater Park

Tuesday 16th June 9am – Reception Class Assembly

Wednesday 24th June – Friday 26th June – Year 6 residential to PGL Liddington

Monday 29th June 9.30am – KS1 sports day (back up Monday 6th July)

Tuesday 30th June 9.30am – KS2 sports day (back up Tuesday 7th July)

Wednesday 1st July – Y6 transition day at Charters & in school transition day

Thursday 16th July 2pm - Year 6 play to parents

Monday 20th July 9.30 – end of year service at church

Wednesday 22nd July 1.30pm – end of term