NEWSLETTER

St Michael's C of E Primary School

Creating a community where we learn together through:

RESPECT, KINDNESS, CURIOSITY AND FAITH

Autumn term has got off to a fantastic start at St Michael's! *We welcomed the children back from the summer holidays with enthusiasm, and it has been wonderful to see our school* COMMUNITY *learning and growing together. Across the term, we have continued to live out our vision of* ***"Creating a community where we learn together through*** RESPECT, KINDNESS, CURIOSITY ***and*** FAITH.*" From learning beyond the classroom to opportunities for reflection, service and worship, our children have been encouraged to flourish as confident, caring and curious individuals.*

Harvest



Year 5 led our Harvest Festival service in church, giving us an opportunity to come together as a COMMUNITY to **praise God for the wonderful world we share and give thanks for the food and resources we have**. Harvest also reminds us of our responsibility to care for others and to share what we have. We were incredibly grateful for the generous donations from our families, which will support those in our wider community who may not have enough. It was lovely to see our children developing a sense of **gratitude, compassion and service**, putting our values of KINDNESS and RESPECT into action.

Reception and Year 1 visit to Bekonscot



Our Reception and Year 1 children had a wonderful time visiting Bekonscot. The children were excited to explore, discover and learn together, developing their CURIOSITY and building on their experiences in the classroom. The children had a wonderful time exploring the village, taking part in a workshop about toys from the past and enjoyed a train ride around the miniature boating lake.



Reception participated in a Bekonscot Time machine workshop and learnt about the past to understand how long ago the model village was built. A walk around the village was enjoyed by them all to spot landmarks and features they would recognise and they found a St Michael's School!

Thank you!

We would like to say a huge thank you to the parents who have donated to the school fund through ScoPay. Every donation, whatever the amount, is gratefully received and helps us to provide important resources and opportunities for our children.

We would also like to say a huge **well done and thank you to Mrs Ashdown** for completing her incredible 10km hula hoop challenge! Mrs Ashdown has raised over **£1,000**, which will go towards refurbishing our school library. This is an amazing achievement and a wonderful example of our school COMMUNITY coming together to support our children and invest in their learning. Thank you to all who donated!



Windsor Castle



Our Year 5 Gardening Club had a very exciting opportunity to visit the grounds of Windsor Castle. The children explored the beautiful surroundings with RESPECT and CURIOSITY, developing their understanding and appreciation of the natural world and the importance of caring for the environment. The visit was a wonderful opportunity for children to learn beyond the classroom and to appreciate the beauty and history on their doorstep.



Papplewick Maths



Four Year 6 pupils had the very exciting opportunity to attend a Maths competition at Papplewick. We are incredibly proud that they achieved 4th place, which was a fantastic accomplishment! The children demonstrated excellent mathematical thinking, teamwork and perseverance. They showed that learning is not simply

about getting the right answer, but also about being willing to think deeply, try different approaches and learn from challenges.

Football tournaments



Our Year 5 and 6 girls and boys took part in football tournaments at Charters. We were incredibly proud of the way our children represented St Michael's. The children demonstrated excellent **sportsmanship, teamwork and RESPECT for others**, showing that our values are just as important beyond the classroom as they are within it. They encouraged one another, celebrated each other's successes and represented our school COMMUNITY beautifully.

Pilgrim Club

This term, Tansley has started **Pilgrim Club** on Tuesday lunchtimes for children in KS2 in The Nest. Pilgrim Club provides a special opportunity for children to **pause, reflect, wonder and ask questions about God, FAITH and the world around them**. It is a space where children can share their ideas and listen to the thoughts and experiences of others in a welcoming and RESPECTFUL environment. We are very grateful to Tansley for creating this opportunity for our children to develop their spirituality and explore their FAITH through **wonder, questioning and reflection**.





Autumn Walk



Year 1 and Year 4 enjoyed a beautiful Autumn walk through the woods. The children had the opportunity to slow down, notice the changing season and appreciate the beauty of the natural world around them. The experience provided inspiration for their writing back in the classroom, demonstrating how opportunities to explore, wonder and experience the world around us can enrich children's learning. It was wonderful to see the children using their observations and experiences to develop their CURIOSITY **and creativity**.



Year 4 Assembly



Year 4 gave us an amazing summary of their learning so far this year. They sang and spoke beautifully, and it was lovely to hear about everything they have been doing! Well done and thank you Year 4!

Brain Builders



We have been so impressed by the KS2 Nehemiah brain builders that have been coming into school! The children have really embraced this challenge and the quality of work has been fantastic. This has really helped deepen their understanding of the story and how it links to our school COMMUNITY.

Year group summaries

Reception children have settled in well to St Michael's and have been busy in their learning. They have heard and explored traditional stories in Literacy, building houses for The Three Little pigs. In Maths they have been matching, sorting and comparing quantities, colours and grouping objects. They have begun to explore numbers 1,2,3 with early addition and subtraction. To be thankful to God, the children have planted daffodil bulbs at school and taken one home to look after and watch grow in the spring. A great start to Reception!

Year 1 are rising to new challenges very well. In science the children have been learning about seasonal changes and particularly enjoyed an autumn walk with Y4 where they had great fun exploring the woodland area at the local park. In geography the class have been looking at aerial view maps of the local area and found the route they took on the class walk. In art the children have been learning how to sketch and paint from observation and have created some lovely autumnal artwork. The class have learnt about harvest time and why we have harvest festival in church.

Bekonscot was the best day ever! I loved looking in the tiny shop windows and watching the trains.
I liked going on the train at Bekonscot, we went round the little lake two times.
I liked looking in the church at Bekonscot, we saw a Christening and the bells were ringing.

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Year 2 have had a busy but exciting start to the year! In English, we have been exploring the story *Meerkat Mail*, which has inspired us to write our own meerkat fact files and learn how to write informal letters. The children have shown great CURIOSITY as they have developed their writing skills and discovered fascinating facts about meerkats. In Science, we have been learning about different habitats and how they provide the things animals need to survive. We have enjoyed sharing our ideas, showing RESPECT for one another's contributions and demonstrating KINDNESS as we work together. We are looking forward to our upcoming trip, which will give us the opportunity to build on our learning and explore habitats in more detail.

'I have really enjoyed English lessons writing a fact file on meerkats because they are really cute.'

'My favourite lessons have been science, learning about habitats and food chains in different habitats.'

Year 3 have had a busy start to Year 3. Their topic of Prehistoric Britain has sparked their curiosity. They have enjoyed reading the book Stone Age Boy by Satoshi Kitamura and writing diaries based on this story. In Science, they have been learning about the human body and nutrition. They have had a go at making moving, scientific models of the skeleton. They worked on these in small groups, demonstrating their fantastic teamwork skills. They enjoyed taking on the role of a nutritionist and designing a balanced meal for someone else and giving advice on how to keep their bodies healthy.

'We have been learning to add and subtract in Maths. In French we have been learning how to name emotions. In PSHE we have been learning about emotions and how to recognise them in our bodies and our movement.'

'In English we have been learning about a very interesting book called the Stone Age Boy.'

Year 4 have had an excellent start to the year. They have loved learning about the rainforest and researching the about the animals, people and plants who have lived there. They have written a detailed report all about the rainforest and used excellent adjectives to describe the habitat. In Maths, they have been practicing their addition and have worked hard adding numbers up to thousands, they have also loved practicing their times tables. Each week one group have been going swimming, and they all have made great progress over the last couple of weeks. They should be very proud of themselves. A great start to Year 4!

'I loved learning about the rainforest and the indigenous people who live there and use the rainforest for food, water and their home.'

'I enjoy my timetables because I like trying to beat my last score.'

Year 5 joined a live link to Henley Literary Festival to watch the amazing MG Leonard. She was such a fantastic speaker and has inspired the class to read and write! In English, we have been writing poetry based on the beautiful book, The Lost Words. With the glorious weather, we had several English lessons outside so that the children were able to work in small groups to generate ideas for their writing.

'I really loved listening to MG Leonard. I'm very excited to read the book!'

'MG Leonard has inspired me to write a time travel story.'

' I enjoyed sharing ideas in groups when we were writing poetry.'

Year 6 have been working so hard this term. In English, they demonstrated brilliant CURIOSITY reading about the weirdest and wonderful creatures and using this as inspiration to invent their own, producing some fantastic writing. In Maths, they have been introduced to long division which required lots of resilience and patience! In Science, they have been learning about our classification system and many children shared their incredible knowledge of animals. Some fantastic learning in all areas of the curriculum – well done Year 6!

'I have enjoyed the art lessons because we got to look at photography which I haven't really done before and we go to edit the photos.'

'I liked reading the book Wild Boy because it was written really well and I loved the story.'