



FAMILY LETTER

SUMMER TERM NEWSLETTER I

25TH MAY 2018

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From the Head

It's been another busy half term and I would particularly like to thank Year 6 for their commitment, dedication and perseverance last week during SATS. They were a credit to both themselves and the school and they could not have tried harder. We are very proud of them. The children have thoroughly enjoyed the various themed days, trips and activities organised. It has been lovely to see so many parents and grandparents joining us for Sports Day. Congratulations to our winning houses:- Mitchell for KS1 and Johnson for KS2.

As you will be aware from the media, and probably the vast number of emails from organisations and companies, the law regarding data protection is changing on May 25th. This week we will be sending you a copy of our new Privacy Notice, which will also be uploaded to our website. We would like to assure you that we handle data here in school very sensitively and have always had robust procedures for handling data. The advent of GDPR (General Data Protection Regulations) requires us to review all of these procedures and we have been working behind the scenes over the last few months to ensure that we use best practice. We have a Data Protection Officer, courtesy of The Arthur Terry Teaching School, and their contact details are included in our Privacy Notice. Mrs Manton, our School Bursar, is our Data Administrator. We are intending to continue with the consents that you have already provided us with until the end of the Summer Term (e.g. use of your child's photograph). In September we will be seeking new consents which will include more specific details about who we will share your children's data (including images) with. In the meantime, if you have any queries or concerns, please contact Mrs Manton in the school office.



DATE FOR YOUR DIARY:

PTA SUMMER FAYRE

FRIDAY 13TH JULY

5.30PM UNTIL 8.00PM

OPEN EVENING

School will be open for parents and new parents to view between 4pm and 6pm on Wednesday 7th June 2018.

St Michael's: 'excited about learning'



Jewellery

Children should not wear jewellery at school for safety reasons. Watches are permitted but must be removed for all PE activities. Please note that SMART watches may not be worn by pupils under GDPR (General Data Protection Regulations) and the Safeguarding regulations schools are required to adhere to regarding mobile phones in school. Children with pierced ears may wear small, plain studs (not hoops / sleepers) but these must be removed by the children themselves for all PE activities.

Lost Property = Lost ££££££££££

Pictured here is unclaimed property that has built up from the beginning of this term. It is all unnamed! We can't keep it because by next term there'll be twice as much and there just simply isn't the space to store it. We do our very best to reunite children with their lost belongings but it is impossible to do if things are unnamed. Even if you write in biro on the inside label of clothing, etc, it helps you and us to keep on top of this growing problem.

In an attempt to avoid the mountains of lost property that finds it's way into the Lost Property Box, PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE clearly name ALL your child's belongings.



Summer Footwear

Now that the summer is approaching, sandals may be worn to school. Please ensure that sandals are flat and have a strap over the top of the ankle and around the heel. Fashion sandals, flip flops or slip-on type sandals are not suitable. Sandals should also be worn with socks (no bare feet please).

Thank you.



Year 4 Eggheads

Year 4 have been investigating what makes a good crash helmet. We thought about the purpose of helmets and what materials would be the best for creating a helmet. We then designed and made our own crash helmets for boiled eggs and tested them by dropping a heavy metal punch on them from increasing heights. This year a record breaking number of eggs made it into the third and final round, with 13 eggs not suffering any damage at all! We have had an eggcellent time creating our egghead crash helmets.



Thy Kingdom Come Workshops

Throughout last week Years 1, 2, 3 and 4 attended a series of workshops at church to learn more about the different themes of prayer. Year 5 did a brilliant job leading each of the activities, such as creating a 'Thank you chain', allowing children to reflect and think about what they are grateful for and listening to a selection of Taize music, used during times of reflection and prayer. The completed 'Thank you chain' and 'Prayer & Reflection tree' looked spectacular!



Year 5—Whitemoor Lakes 2018

On Monday 16th April Year 5 went to Whitemoor Lakes in Alrewas for a residential stay. The trip was two days and one night and each



hour was packed full of excitement. We were split into groups of 12 and during the day we did various activities such as high ropes, canoeing, raft building, abseiling and zip wire. There were also some less daring activities which were team building, night walk, writing postcards, Mr Hayward's stories, and playing games. We also had some very delicious meals.

Throughout the trip we all had to represent St Michael's core values as for many of us this was our first night away from home. The activities took a lot of courage and perseverance but most of us managed to succeed in all of them. All the activities required trust and teamwork but especially raft building, canoeing and high ropes. In raft building you had to work as a team to build a strong and sturdy raft otherwise it would collapse and you wouldn't get anywhere if you didn't work as team to paddle your boat. Finally, in high ropes you have to fully trust your teammates in supporting you until you touch the ground safely.

Our trip to Whitemoor Lakes gave us a chance to show independence, core values, trust and teamwork. Thank you to all the teachers who took us there as it is a trip I will most definitely not forget.

By Ella in Class 5RH

Lots of pictures will be available to see on our Whitemoor Presentation—details to follow shortly.

Y5 Lichfield Fire Station

SAFE AND SOUND

On Thursday 10th May Year 5 visited Lichfield Fire station to learn how to be Safe. Staffordshire Police showed us all an interesting clip and slideshow all about Internet Safety and Cyberbullying. DHL taught us about road safety. Did you know you have to stand 8-9 metres in front of the lorry before the driver would be able to see you?

We also enjoyed the Canal Trust session where we had to spot the dangers on a gigantic riverside poster. One of the favourites was learning about fire safety. Apparently you have to check your fire alarm once a week.

We had so much fun and learnt lots of interesting facts about how to keep safe.

By Abigail—Year 5

Grow, Grow, Grow

It's been a very busy few weeks on the St Michael's School allotment. The sun has finally begun to shine and the vegetables are beginning to sprout.

Bill and Ben (our allotment men) have been extremely busy creating a fantastic planting schedule board, which shows the month each seed should be seeded and harvested. Many thanks to any parents who purchased some of our school-grown garlic and onions on Sports Day; over £30 was raised to help maintain and run the project. Keep your eyes peeled for our sellers in the coming months as more fresh vegetables are picked and available to buy.



Sunflower
Growing
Competition



The sunflower stems for the 'St. Michael's Sunflower Growing Competition' have been carefully planted outside and are being monitored closely by a team of very enthusiastic and strict eco-warriors. Staff and pupils alike are in fierce competition to ensure their sunflower comes out on top!

Reception go to the Farm



We have had such a busy time over the past few weeks! This term we have been learning all about 'growing'. We have been making observations and watching our tadpoles grow, we have seen our caterpillars doubling in size overnight and have enjoyed making grass seed heads and watching them grow lots of lovely green hair!



We have had two fabulous trips to Packington Farm. Mrs Mack's class enjoyed a day in the sun whilst Mrs Elcock's class got to experience the farm on a very rainy day! The children loved their trailer rides, nature walk and learning all about where our food comes from.

Finally we had a marvellous Worship and the children were all superstars! We were all very proud of each and every one of them.

Earth Day

On Friday 20th April, St. Michael's celebrated Earth Day. School was a little bit different as electricity was banned from all of the classrooms and corridors, making everyday tasks more challenging. We saved lots of energy and the process highlighted how much energy is wasted on an average day. Some year groups have even promised to do something similar on a more regular basis!



During the day, the children in each class were challenged to come up with a pledge that they would live by to change the environment for the better. These included switching off lights when not needed, being more mindful of the amount of paper used in classrooms and recycling more materials.

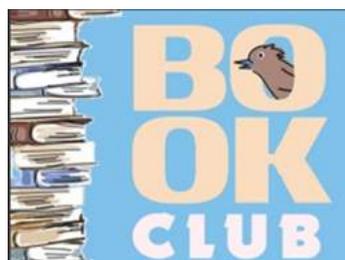
Children were also treated to a yoga session out in the sunshine on our new yoga mats. Mrs Steele talked us through the various poses along with some yoga terminology, breathing techniques and strategies to deal with any stressful feelings. Namaste.

Congratulations to 4L for bringing in the least amount of disposable waste in their packed lunches on the day. Super effort!

Overall, the day was a big success and lots of the children had some fantastic ideas of how to promote the idea of 'Reduce, Reuse, Recycle' both inside and outside school.

*During Earth Day
we saved energy
when we used no
electricity in the
classrooms.*

Year 5 and 6 Book Club



**Books
wanted.
Age 4 to
11.**

Please can you send into school any unwanted books (fiction or non-fiction) appropriate for children aged 4-11 years old. They must be in relatively good condition as they are being used as prizes at the Summer Fayre. The money raised from these will go towards new ones for the club. Please send them to Mr Freeth before Friday 6th July. Thank You!

Meet Lola!!

As part of our journey to earn our Bronze Eco award, St Michael's have adopted an orang-utan to help conserve and protect this endangered species. She lives in the Bukit Pitot Forest reserve in Indonesia.

Keep your eyes open for updates in future newsletters on Lola and her fellow orang-utan pals.

My name is Lola!!!



Digital Leaders at St Michael's

Our digital leaders have been meeting weekly over the past half term and exploring the many applications that can be found on our school ipads and on the j2Launch platform.

They have already looked at pic collage, J2E, Imovie and Garageband and are available to help and support their class mates and teachers with IT in school!

SPORTS ... SPORTS ... SPORTS ...

Football

During the heatwave in April, our brilliant boys' football team went to Coton Green football club to compete in the Harold Brereton football tournament. We kicked off the evening with a friendly game against Three Peaks school, which we won 2-0. Following our warm up, we had three games to play in our group. Having won our first match and drawn our second, we had to win our final match of the group stages by at least 2 goals to make it through to the semi-finals. Luckily, we managed to top our group by winning 4-0. After a tiresome but spectacular semi-final we had made it through to the finals where we met St. Gabriel's, who we had already played in our group games.

Kicking the final off, St. Gabriel's scored the initial goal. Not letting them keep the lead, we equalised and ended the game with a 1-1 draw, meaning it went to penalties to fight for the cup. With Henry in goal, we secured the cup with 3 penalties to St. Gabriel's 2. Well done boys! You won us a brilliant trophy which is so big it won't even fit in the trophy cabinet!



Rugby—Year 5 and 6

Year 5 and 6 have been busy training for our tag rugby tournament. We walked down to Beacon Park and competed against 12 other schools in a number of tag rugby matches. All of the teams showed great sportsmanship and skills throughout all their games. One of our teams won their game and made it into the final group, winning both their games in the finals to secure an overall win for St Michael's. Well done to all involved.



Sports Day 2018

On Tuesday, 22nd May 2018, St Michael's had a thrilling sports day. It was Year 6's last sports day and the afternoons rays of sunshine left everyone tired. If you looked over the field you would hear the cheers and see the sea of colours ranging from red to blue to yellow. The afternoon started with a carousel of activities including: throwing the bag into the hoop, water challenge, football, etc. Zack commented saying it was the toughest sports day ever. After the activities, everyone went down to the tracks for sprints on relay. In the Y6 Boys' Relay, Anson had a miscommunication about the baton! Overall, for KS1: The leader-board was: Anson last, Wedgwood 3rd, Johnson 2nd and Mitchell 1st. In KS2: Mitchell last, Wedgwood 3rd, Anson 2nd and Johnson 1st.

It was a fantastic Day!

By Dan in Year 6

ParentPay Reminder

Just a reminder to ask parents to keep an eye on ParentPay balances for dinners and snacks as we approach the end of the school year.

We will continue to text parents whose accounts have fallen into a negative balance on a Friday—this is really just a reminder and gives parents a chance to credit accounts over the weekend as snacks (30p) are NOT provided to children whose accounts are not in credit.

There is a facility on ParentPay to request a FREE low balance **e-mail** reminder which alerts you when the balance of your account falls below a certain level. You can choose what this level is. Click on the communications tab to set this up.

- ◆ Log in to ParentPay
- ◆ Click on the Communications tab
- ◆ Click on Change Alert Settings
- ◆ Select E-mail Alert (NOT TEXT as this is chargeable)
- ◆ Enter your own reminder threshold e.g., £5.00
- ◆ Click on Save

Head Lice—advice

Head lice are common; particularly in primary school aged children, who tend to frequently put their heads together with other children. The only way to be sure someone has head lice is by finding live lice or eggs, therefore early identification and treatment of head lice will minimise their spread. We would recommend that children of primary school aged should have their heads checked for head lice at least weekly, especially if their friends and classmates are known to be infected.

Parents and carers can do this by combing their hair with a special fine-toothed comb (detection comb). **Please be aware that GPs will not prescribe head lice combs.** The combs can be purchased online or at pharmacies, with the plastic combs costing approximately £1 - £2, metal versions of the combs can also be purchased.

Head lice should be treated if they are found and everyone in the house should be checked and treated on the same day if they are found to have head lice.

There's no need to keep children off school if they have head lice or to wash laundry on a hot wash. Parents can use medicated lotions and sprays that kill head lice in all types of hair which can be purchased from pharmacies, supermarkets or online (these products usually come with a comb). The specific directions on the product should be followed and head lice should die within a day.

Parents that do not wish to use lotions can use the fine-toothed comb (detection comb) to remove head lice using a conditioner will help the detection and removal. Hair should be combed in sections from roots to tip ensuring all areas are combed, and this should be repeated every few days for 2 week.

There's nothing you can do to prevent head lice. However by sharing the Department of Health advice with parents and carers we can try to limit the spread.

TENNIS CAMP—May Half Term

Zoe Edwards (LTA Accredited Level 4 Coach) will be offering a Half Term Camp at Barton Tennis Club; 29th May and 30th May. 9.30am—12.30pm. Sessions are very popular—lots of fun with team games and improving tennis skills for all ages.

To book and pay go on-line: <https://bit.ly/2KkBxB8>



DIARY DATES: Monday 28th May—Friday 20th July

DATE	EVENT	TIME
Monday, 28th May to Friday, 1st June	Summer Half Term	
Monday, 4th June	Back to school until Friday 20th July	
Monday, 4th June	Year 6—Tempest Autograph Book Photos to be taken	2.00—2.30
Wednesday, 7th June	OPEN DAY—Existing parents and new parents welcome	4.00—6.00
Tuesday, 12th June	Class 2P—Packington Farm Trip	All day
Wednesday, 13th June	Class 2T—Packington Farm Trip	All day
Wednesday, 13th June	Year 6—London Trip	All day
Thursday, 14th June	PTA Disco—details to follow	After school
Friday, 15th June	Class 2H— Family Worship	2.30—3.00
Monday, 18th June	Year 1—Trip to Cannock Chase Toy Museum	All day
Tuesday, 19th June	Year 6 High School Transition Day 1	All day
Wednesday, 20th June	Year 6 High School Transition Day 2	All day
Wednesday, 20th June	Year 5 Trip to Lichfield Cathedral and WW2 Talk	All day event
Wednesday, 27th June	Year 5 Trip to Staffordshire Military Museum	Morning
Friday, 29th June	Class 2P—Family Worship	2.30—3.00
Monday, 2nd July	INSET DAY—staff only in school	
Monday, 9th July	Year 1—Seaside Day	All day
Tuesday, 10th July	Year 4, 5 and 6 Communion Service at St Michael's Church	9.30—10.30
Wednesday, 11th July	Leavers' Evening—Performance only	9.30—11.00
Wednesday, 11th July	Leavers' Evening—Performance and Presentation	6.30pm—8.30pm
Friday, 13th July	Summer Fayre	5.30pm—8.00pm
Monday, 16th July	Transition Days for Reception through to Year 5	All day
Tuesday, 17th July	Transition Days for Reception through to Year 5	All day
Thursday, 19th July	Year 6 Leavers' Performance with Scotch Orchard at St Michael's Church	2.00—3.00
Friday, 20th July	Year 6 Strykers	All day
Friday, 20th July	Pupils break up for summer holidays	3.15pm