

St. Michael's CE (VA) Junior School Newsletter



By Mrs Rumsey

Thursday, 19th July 2018

Dear Parents/Carers,



Wishing you all a Very Happy Summer Holiday



School closes today for the summer break. We hope you all have some rest and recuperation and feel refreshed to return to school on **Thursday, 6th September 2018**. Teachers and staff will be on the front playground to greet the children and welcome them back.

Review of the Year

Once again, there has been much to celebrate this year at St. Michael's School. This was the beginning of our 50th Anniversary celebrations to commemorate the building of St. Michael's on the current site in September 1967. We had a wonderful aerial photo taken on a beautiful, autumnal morning of the whole school, with Mrs England high up on the cherry picker! We all returned to school in September to find new windows and doors in 4 of our classrooms and smart new blue panelling, replacing our dated mustard coloured panels. We are having the rest of the windows and doors replaced this summer, completing the project. Towards the end of September, Year 6 left for their residential trip to Norfolk. We all had a wonderful week living together and enjoying the beautiful Norfolk countryside and coastline. In early October we had our first visit of the year to St. Michael's Church to celebrate Harvest Festival. All the children participated and the service was led by our Worship Leaders. We welcomed some excellent student teachers to our school who were brilliantly supported by our teaching staff. Parents came into school for Learning Reviews, where the children presented a powerpoint about their strengths and areas for development. It is always amazing what the children come up with and their ideas about how they can be supported by their teachers and their parents.

Once again we were offering a huge number of school clubs before and after school and also at lunchtime. Nearly all our children joined at least one club, and it continues to be a very important and unique part of life at St. Michael's. My thanks to all staff who ran clubs this year, giving our children experiences that, in the main, are free of charge and invaluable for their personal development. We also said goodbye to Andy Griffiths, the vicar at St. Michael's Church in October, as he left to take up a new post; we are still awaiting the news of our new vicar. In October, we purchased our new minibus! It was bright blue and was perfect. This was the culmination of months of hard work from SMASH and the generosity of our parents. The bus has been used constantly and is loved by us all; thank you.

As always, Christmas was a special time at school, with the hanging of our hoops in the hall and a wonderful production of Children of the World by Year 3 and 4. We were also visited by real life reindeer – a rare treat! The Christmas season culminated in our Carol Service at St. Michael's Church, which gave us a chance to reflect in a quiet atmosphere. The children also tasted some Spanish food which proved interesting! In early December we held our 50th Anniversary Service in school in the presence of the Lord and Lady Mayor of Chelmsford. This was a beautiful service full of pageantry and with our children leading the worship. As always our children were beautifully behaved and the Mayor was very impressed by our school. We all celebrated with a beautiful cake, squash and an extra- long playtime!

At the very end of term, we said our fond farewells to Mr. Foster, after many years of loyal and dedicated service to St. Michael's.

In January, the staff said farewell to Mr Harrison, who had been poorly and Mrs Gowers who had worked in the school kitchen for many years. We welcomed Mrs Stagg in the kitchen and Mrs Guy and Mrs Nottage to

replace Mr. Foster. We had visits from Shakespeare 4 Kidz and the Bug Man. We held a great World Book Day and we only closed for one day during The Beast from the East! In March, the school choir entered a District Choir Competition and after qualifying in the heats, went on to win the final! It was a wonderful moment. We were recorded on BBC Essex and parents and children were interviewed – great excitement! Year 6 took part in a Wild West Day to round off their project and they learnt to line dance, cook Wild West style, play the ukulele and complete art work. In March, we held our first School Sleepover where 50 children supervised by Miss. Kneller, Mrs. Veasey, Mrs. Scott and Miss Wilson bedded down in the school hall watching films and enjoying a continental breakfast together. This helped raise money for our new IT equipment. At the end of the Easter term, we celebrated Easter with our service, held in the school hall due to adverse weather conditions, which as always proved a moving and spiritual occasion.

After the Easter break, we welcomed Skippy the storyteller who entranced the children with tales of magic and intrigue. Our new Year 6 children will meet Skippy in Norfolk as he leads our groups when we go in September. Also after Easter, we started our new Wrap Around Care Club, where we care for children until 6:00 pm. This has been very successful with parents saying their children love the care they receive. The children in Year 3 visited Fairplay House for an action packed adventure day and Year 4 spent 2 nights away at their residential trip to Mersea Island.

In May the Year 6 children sat their SATs examinations and approached the whole experience brilliantly, with little fuss and a very positive attitude. To celebrate the end of exams, we held a special Royal Wedding Day, with a special lunch, the children dressed in red, white and blue and parents joining us on the field for an afternoon of fun and entertainment. Many of the children had made brilliant wedding cakes, which we all enjoyed with a glass of lemonade. The children sang God Save the Queen, I Vow to Thee My Country and Jerusalem to the parents and song sheets were given out so that parents could join in, which they did with gusto! The end of May saw the beginning of our transition programme for Year 2 children joining us in September.

After half-term, the children in Year 3 dressed up as Egyptians for their special day in school and this was followed by St. Michael's Got Talent, where 14 acts were chosen for the final. The standard was amazing and in the end the judges chose 3 acts – a singer, a duet of ukulele and singing and a magician – who could not be separated. Each act received a trophy; well done to all those who entered.

Parents were told about their new classes in June and a New Intake Evening was held to welcome new parents and to meet new teachers. Towards the end of June, the choir were performing at the District Music Festival with lots of other schools and two further concerts were performed by the choir, one at the Salvation Army and one at Christ Church URC. As always, our children were brilliant. As part of our links to secondary schools, Great Baddow High School brought their Chamber Choir to perform for the children; they sang songs from the Greatest Showman. Year 6 took part in a self-defence class and reports were sent out. We held a brilliant Sports Day and a superb Music Concert.

To continue our 50th celebrations we had an apple tree planted and a circular bench put round the tree; the tree is a golden delicious variety to celebrate 50 golden years! We have just had installed our bespoke, beautiful tree sculpture with all the children's names on. It is stunning. We also are about to present our other piece of art work for our 50th year, which was completed by our governor, Mrs. Colledge. That should be installed by September.

At the beginning of July, the school choir took part in a service of choral evensong at St. Michael's Church. They learnt an anthem and joined with the adult choir to sing hymns, it was a beautiful service.

Year 6 visited Bhaktivedanta Manor and presented a brilliant production of Bugsy Malone. Seeing children perform with such confidence and ability was truly wonderful to see. Our SATs results were published showing yet again that our results are hugely above the national average. Our footballers became champions after a brilliant match against our rivals, Bishops. To complete our year, Year 6 led a moving, inspiring and amusing Leavers' Service. It was the perfect end to a brilliant year.

Many thanks to all the amazing staff at St. Michael's who constantly go above and beyond for the benefit of their children. Thanks to SMASH for another brilliant year of hard work and raising so much money for our school, we are indebted to you.

This is just a reflection of some of the wonderful activities that go on at St. Michael's. We also work hard with Galleywood Library and Heritage Centre to become an integral part of our community and train student teachers and curates in their professions. We host the charity Make Lunch, who use our kitchens to provide a hot meal once a week in school holidays and have supported charities too numerous to mention throughout the year.

Once again, thank you to you the parents, who have been so supportive throughout the year and to our hard working Governing Body, who so willingly give up hours of their time for the school. Do have a happy holiday.

Choral Evensong

The school choir were asked to participate in a choral evensong at St. Michael's Church. It was a beautiful service which was completely sung, even the Bible reading. The children were brilliant, learning a difficult anthem and singing with the adult choir. Well done children.



Leavers' Service

A superb service for our Year 6 children was presented at St. Michael's Church. It was a mixture of spiritual reflections, memories, advice to younger children and some stunning singing. The service was led by the Year 6 Worship Leaders and was a real celebration of the children's achievements. Many thanks to all the friends and parents who came along to proudly support their children.

Football Champions!

I am delighted to report that following the league final match on Monday, St. Michael's have become League Champions in football after beating Bishops School 3-1 at Bishops. It was a great match and after a few initial nerves the boys settled into some brilliant football. Well done boys, a stunning achievement!



Gotta Dance

On Tuesday and Wednesday evenings, some children from Miss Taverner's dance club performed at the Civic Theatre in Chelmsford along with other schools. They danced along to the Greatest Showman. It was a lot of hard work but worth it as the performance was brilliant. Well done to Miss. Taverner and Mr. Sturton and all the children in her dance club.

On Tuesday and Wednesday night, Dance Club went to the Civic Theatre to perform our Greatest Showman dance routine. We had lots of fun! We all cheered at the other dancers and also the other dancers were really good.

When we perform, our song was the greatest show. We had lots of snacks up stairs on the balcony and we had lots of encouragement to do our best. We were really nervous on the first night, but on the second night we weren't.

Thanks to Miss Taverner, Mr. Leeding, Lauren, Mr. Sturton and all the parents who drove us there.

Report by Megan – Year 4



Cricket Trip to Lords



On Saturday we travelled via school mini bus to Lords Cricket Ground for a 1 day match between England and India. We arrived slightly late due to traffic but when we did England were batting and we watched Root score a 100 and Willey get a quick 50 at the end. England reached 322-7 at the end of their innings. We went to the museum during the break where we saw Cricket memorabilia and had a talk about the Ashes from the England v Australia series. We then had pizzas from Pizza Hut and an ice cream in the ground as we watched England bowl out India for 236 to win by 82 runs. A great trip and opportunity for the children to see the best teams in the world play at the most iconic ground in the country, a great atmosphere in the ground with a mix of England and India supporters in our section. Thanks to Mr Boddu for his help with the trip.

David Cook Memorial Award

David Cook was Chair of Governors for 16 years and was instrumental in building the new schools in Galleywood. When he died last year, his family donated some money to set up this new award for most progress made in English over the year. Each teacher chose a child from their class and the award eventually went to Olivia Ma. in 4K. The runners up were : Dylan – 5M, Mia Rose– 4O, Isabella – 5NG, Leo – 6S, Kiara – 3V, Alfie E. – 6D, Joe P.– 3L Congratulations to all our finalists and thanks to the Cook family for providing the funds for this award.

Lost Property and Lunch Boxes

Any lost property or old lunch boxes left at school at the end of term will be disposed of. Thank you.

Dinner Menu

We will return on 6th September on dinner menu week 1. Please note that, due to increasing food costs, we have taken the decision to increase the cost of a school dinner to £2.20 from September.

Dates for your Diary

Thursday 19th July – Last day of term – School closes for the summer holidays

Thursday, 6th September – School opens for pupils at 8:40 am

Tuesday, 11th September – Final meeting for parents about Aylmerton, Norfolk

Monday, 17th September – Friday, 21st September inclusive – Year 6 Residential trip to Aylmerton in Norfolk

Yours sincerely,
Maria Rumsey

M. Rumsey
Headteacher

Goodbye Year 6 and Good Luck!





