



St. Michael's CE (VA) Junior School



Friday 6th November 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

A message from Mrs Prigg

Another busy week and half term seems a distant memory! The children have enjoyed a Collective Worship Quiz, sharing their year 6 survival tips with me, enjoying more of their Titanic topic, continuing to enjoy the daily mile and starting to discuss clubs. I have also had my first meeting with the School Council in year group bubbles. I am really impressed with the level of work that has been shared with me this week and I am creating a WOW wall outside of my office to celebrate this.

With all the changes this week, the children have remained happy and continue to smile.

I hope you all enjoy your weekend and if, at any time, you have any concerns or questions please do not hesitate to contact me. I am happy to chat on the phone or arrange a meeting for you to come in and see me.

Mrs Prigg

Important dates for your diary Autumn Term:

11 th November	Remembrance service in the classroom
17 th November	Flu Immunisations (only if form has been completed)
16 th December	Christmas dinner and Christmas jumper day and Christmas music concert
17 th December	Christmas Carol service provisional date
18 th December	Last day of autumn term

Year 5 and 6 entrance onto the front playground

The temporary matting for the year 5/6 gateway is due to be delivered and will be fitted as soon as possible. Thank you for your patience with this.

Our Website

Remember that you can access lots of important information on our website: key dates, school dinner menus, not to mention our class pages showcasing recent work. Please take a look on <http://st-michaels-jun.essex.sch.uk/>.

Benches

As you may have noticed, the seating arrangements on the front playground have had to be removed. The bench legs were rotten and therefore unsafe as they could no longer be secured. We are hoping to be able to fundraise in the near future to replace them and provide more seating for the parents.

P.E. Kits:



N.B Please name all your child's clothing

Could we please remind everyone to be wearing the school PE kit to school on their PE days.

Rubik's Cube appeal

Do you have any spare Rubik's cubes lurking in a drawer or would you like to add one to your Christmas shopping list and donate it to the school? If so, then I would love to build up a Year group set as the Maths possibilities are endless! Please could you send them in to the office for the attention of Miss Morris. We have put the cube on our Amazon Wish List so any purchased can also come directly to the School <http://amzn.eu/iLEmThI> . Thank you.

Worship Leaders and Harvest Food Donations:

Our Worship Leaders spent time in school in their year group bubbles, sorting out and boxing up the donations made to Chelmsford Food Bank. Thank you so much for all of your kind donations. Elected by their peers, these pupils have a very important role in school and this was the first of many responsibilities that they will be given – and they look delighted to be getting involved in school life! Our Worship Leaders this year are: Milly (6S,) Trinity (6D), Lily (5O), Marley (5L), Tienne Mai (4M), Lucy (4MC), Chloe (3J) and Alex (3W).



Online Tutors

Many parents and carers are choosing to employ online tutors to help support their children's learning. If this is something you have done or are interested in doing, then the following information will be of use to you.

ONLINE TUTORS KEEPING CHILDREN SAFE



GUIDANCE FOR PARENTS & CARERS

YOU MIGHT GET A TUTOR FROM SCHOOL, THE NATIONAL TUTORING PROGRAMME, A GOOGLE SEARCH OR A RECOMMENDATION. BUT ANYONE CAN CALL THEMSELVES A TUTOR, SO HOW CAN YOU KEEP YOUR CHILDREN SAFE WHILE THEY CATCH UP?

1) Select the right tutor

- o Get to know them first - ask about qualifications, experience (freelance? umbrella body?) & approach
- o Take up references and speak to them if you can
- o Ask to see a DBS (criminal record) check. NB - private tutors can only get the basic check; (don't let a DBS give you a false sense of security though)
- o Find out which platform they will use and its safety features



2) Establish clear rules

- o Sessions must always be arranged via you; the tutor should not contact your child directly between sessions, send private messages or change communication platform
- o A tutor is not a friend - they should behave in a professional way, like a teacher
- o Sessions must not be recorded without your approval
- o Try to be in the room for all sessions, especially for younger children, and certainly the first time
- o Your child should not join a session from a bedroom. If this is unavoidable, pop in frequently, ensure they are fully dressed at all times, point the camera away from beds & personal information, and blur or change the background



3) Make sure your child knows

- o The rules apply to them and the tutor
- o A tutor is a teacher not a friend
- o Neither tutor nor child should share personal information, private messages or photos & videos
- o They must never meet without your approval or communicate on a different platform
- o Who their trusted adults are at home and school
- o They can tell you if they are asked to keep a secret or anything happens or is said that is strange or makes them feel uncomfortable, scared or upset



FIND MORE SAFEGUARDING RESOURCES TO SUPPORT PARENTS AT [PARENTSAFE.LGFL.NET](https://parentsafe.lgfl.net)

LGfL

DigiSafe

Yoga visitor:

During October, we welcomed Yoga at School to St Michael's. Michael came to join us for the day to lead yoga sessions for each year group. The children learned a number of yoga positions, played a few games using those yoga positions and hugely enjoyed 'Ladybird Relaxation' - a time to concentrate on mindfulness and calming thoughts. Our teachers and children learned a huge amount from the visit and we are excited to put what we have learned into action in the next few months.



Our link with Manor Lodge:

On the Thursday before half term, 5O were able to be part of a video call with a small bubble of residents at Manor Lodge. Pupils and residents alike had a wonderful time, sharing lockdown stories and listening respectfully to each other. We learnt what life has been like for staff and residents in recent times as they try to keep busy and keep spirits up despite Covid restrictions. The children were fascinated to hear wartime tales and had so many questions. It was a truly heartwarming way to end a busy half term in school. We have already made plans for another video call soon!



Showcasing Our Learning:

Class 3W:

Woolly Mammoth Making



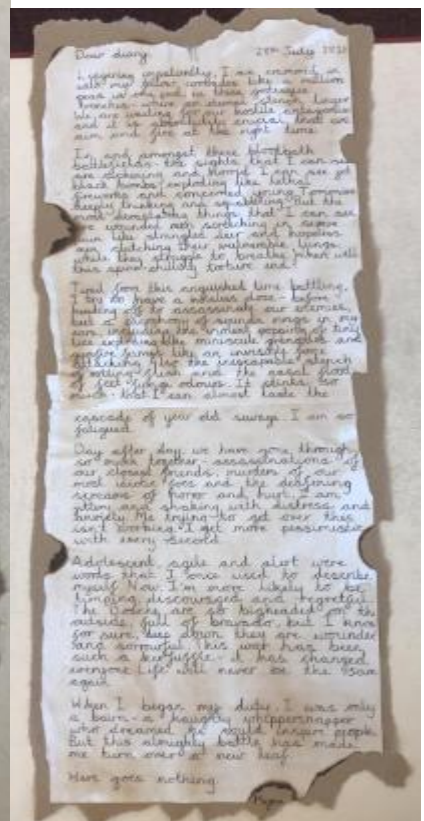
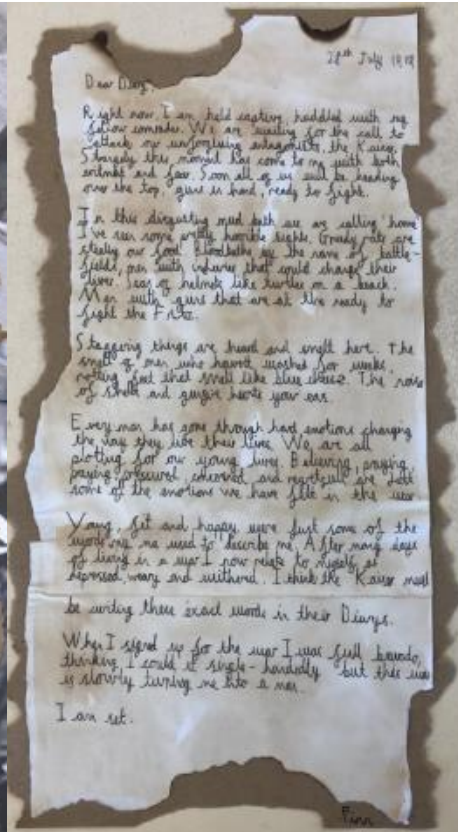
We followed instructions to make Woolly Mammoths. We think they look really cute!



We have enjoyed taking our learning outside this half-term. We have followed our own enquiries and interests. Some of us made Stone age people out of stones. We were very proud when we made our own ant home.

Class 50:

Examples of diary entries from the perspective of WW1 soldiers by Amelie, Finn and Megan. Look at our beautiful cursive handwriting!



TTRS Results Tables for this fortnight:

Times Tables Rock Stars Leaderboard – week ending Friday 16th October 2020

	First	Second	Third
Year 3 most improved	Harrison L	Lilly B	Anika S
Year 3 most correct answers	Radinu W	Charlotte S	Tommy G
Year 4 most improved	Tommy R	Leon M	Sophia S
Year 4 most correct answers	Joseph N	Charlie F	Lucy W
Year 5 most improved	Nora R	Kayce-Lee C	Riley G
Year 5 most correct answers	Tommy W	Isaac M	Max H
Year 6 most improved	Kassadi T	Jessica Sh	Oscar C
Year 6 most correct answers	Jack H	Trinity N	Lydia R

Times Tables Rock Stars Leader Board – Week ending 23rd October 2020

	First	Second	Third
Year 3 most improved	Ben W	Alfie-Lee S	Gryff L
Year 3 most correct answers	Giselle B	Radinu W	Isaac H
Year 4 most improved	Dion S	Dylan T-W	Billy H
Year 4 most correct answers	Joseph N (who answered over 14,00 questions!)	Ira S	Finn W-N
Year 5 most improved	Nathan E	Marley C	Abigail C
Year 5 most correct answers	Tommy W	Isaac M	Alessandro E
Year 6 most improved	Millie C	Finn R	Oscar C
Year 6 most correct answers	Jack H	Finn R	Harry L

I hope your children have enjoyed their first week back in school after half term.

Yours sincerely,
Mrs Orton