

School News

Summer Term 2 - 2017

Welcome to our new-style School News. I hope that you have appreciated receiving the St Michael's Missive, which we have started sending out every Thursday. Our aim is for the Missive to keep you up to date with upcoming school, class, PTA and community events on a weekly basis. We will use School News to tell you all about what we have been doing each half term. In this edition we are including lots of reports by the children about the things that they have enjoyed and experienced in June and July.

As always, we have had a busy half term with lots of trips, including our whole school outing to the National Space Centre, the Year 3 & 4 production, Sports Day and much more. The reports below give some flavour of what we have been doing.

Thank you also, yet again to the PTA for all their hard work both at the Summer Fair and Film Club events as well providing refreshments whenever they are asked. We are using some of the money raised this year to buy a full class set of laptops. Thank you.

I'd like to take this opportunity on behalf of all the staff at St Michael's to wish you a very happy and relaxing summer break. We look forward to welcoming many of you back on September 5th.

Rosalind Owen

Goodbye

Today we say goodbye to some of our staff and children. Mrs Young, Ms Perkin and Miss Mlecenko are off to pastures new as is Mrs Sims who left at the end of last week. Thank you, all of you, for everything you have done in support of the children and our school community. We wish you every success for the future.

We are also saying goodbye to Pauline and Mathieu and their family, as well as Miguel, Anthony and Joshua, whose mum will continue to support the school as a Governor. We will miss you all and hope that you flourish in your new schools.

On Tuesday we started to say farewell to our wonderful Year 6 children, who reminded us of their memories of life at St Michael's at the Leaver's Service at church. They have been an amazing year group and we know they will be great ambassadors for our school as they move to their new schools. Thank you to all the Year 6 families for the support you have given to St Michael's over the years; we are very sorry to see you go; you are always welcome here.

St Michael's Got Talent

On Wednesday morning we were all superbly entertained by some of our talented children. There were singers, dancers, gymnasts, comedians, magicians and musicians. Each class showcased three acts and we were lucky enough to secure some celebrity judges. Thank you to David 'Helkin' Walliams, Amanda 'Young' Holden, Alesha 'Hastings' Dixon and a very grumpy Simon 'Smith' Cowell! The judges were fulsome in their praise and the winning acts were announced in Friday's sharing assembly. Congratulations to:

Gillian and Seojin in Year 2 for delightful singing and dancing
Hayden, Joe, Iden and Elisha – our Year 1 comedians – great Knock-Knock jokes
Jack, Rhys, Joseph and Sabeen – the Year 4 guitar ensemble - sublime
Lydia in Year 6 for an amazing dance and gymnastic display

Final Sharing Assembly

Our final sharing assembly of the year was an opportunity to celebrate our children's achievements. Head Teacher's Certificates were awarded to: Kiaa, Alicia, Sofia, Atli, Mathieu, Jamal, Fiza, Arthur P, Rhys, Ava, Jasmyn, Finn, Bella and Harry.

This year, the following children had 100% attendance: Alicia, Elisha, Sebastian, David, Benji, Omar, Alec, Jonny C and Sam F.

The Sue Grundy Sports Award was given to Yumna and Jakob.

Hartley Awards were given to: Margot, Arjun, Izzie, Tom C, Rebecca, Keir, Louis, Mya, Jack M, Joia, Solly, Emily G, Michael and Laura.

Library round-up

On Monday, we held a special assembly to announce the results of the Pottertastic competition. We had an incredible 75 entries showcasing how wonderfully creative the children in our school are. Examples include: a new horcrux (Voldemort's spirit), new fantastic beasts (Camtilcher, anyone?!), a new plant called 'Oblivian', Valdi (Voldemort's son who wants to be good but his dad won't let him) and Dobby's parents (they love socks). Judging was extremely difficult but was eventually narrowed down to 17 prize-winners.



Everyone who took part received a certificate and bookmark, and winners received books as prizes. Lovely local author Angela Kecojevic helped out and she delighted us all with a demonstration of how she creates characters (Mrs Owen and I had to hold some completely revolting slime) for her books which inspired the theme park Hobbledown, in Surrey. If you fancy visiting this fantastical place, you can find out more at: <http://www.hobbledown.com/>. Huge thanks to everyone who took part in this competition for all your effort and imagination. I will have a display up soon, together with St Michael's own Fantastic Beasts book, but keep watching our Library blog for more pics of the entries: <https://stmichaelschoollibrary.wordpress.com/>

I would like to thank you all for another wonderful year in the Library. As usual, the children have been eager readers and borrowers and have made my job the joy it is. Thanks also go to our parents and other members of the school community for your continuing support and for your generosity at book fairs; thanks to you, we've been able to buy more books for the Library and keep our stock up to date.

Finally, we have received some anonymous donations towards this Library this year from within the school community – massive thanks to those of you who have supported the Library in this way. I have plans in the pipeline for how we will spend this much-appreciated money for the benefit of everyone in school and there will be an update at the start of the new term. Have a lovely summer and keep reading!

Mrs Pope

Marston Health Walk

On Friday the whole school went on a walk around Marston. First we went to Milham Ford Park and we looked at all the things that were there. After that we started to walk down to Croft Road Park.

Once we had got there we had our snack, everyone got to play in the park. Once we had played we all went back to school. It was a very nice morning and everyone enjoyed the walk.

Alfie, Year 5

Thank you very much to Sarah Dandy and Miss Smith for organising the day. Sarah then spent the afternoon in school guiding the children as they made nests for swifts, which they loved doing.

Our travels around Marston were also covered by the Oxford Mail, you can find their report by following the link:

http://www.oxfordmail.co.uk/news/15412502.Marston_children_embrace_the_outdoors_at_green_trail_event/

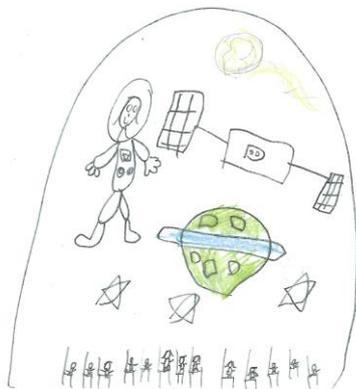


Whole School Trip to the National Space Centre

Year 1 share their experiences:

My favourite part was when I crashed the rocket. I liked the rover. Space is amazing. It was fun. It is interesting.

Gabriel



My favourite thing at the Space Centre was the planetarium because before the ceiling had lights on it then it had space people on the ceiling and it changed. We went to the Space Centre by coach it took a very long time to get there. I also liked going up in the lift because when you looked down you could see all the houses below it felt like I was flying. After the planetarium we had lunch. After lunch we looked at the planets

orbiting around the sun. Then we went to the rocket tower and an enormous rocket. Then we went down the stairs and into the coach.

Sophia C



From year 3:

Once we got there, we went to the planetarium and watched a film. In the film there was a vomit comet and at the start we were in the human body and then in space. We looked at earth and other planets. After the planetarium we ate lunch. Then we went to the rocket levels. We looked at the moon stones and games like the space race. I did the weather pod and told the weather for the 23rd October 2001! We went to see the solar system. I looked through the telescope and I saw Pluto.

Year 1 visit to the Jacqueline Du Pre Centre

First, we walked to the music centre. Next, we went to the concert hall and sat down to wait. Then, we sang a bit. After that, we met all the instruments: the grand piano, the French horn, the violin and the clarinet. And then we heard them play some music. Some music was calm, some was funny and some was just too tricky to decide on. Lastly, we left the concert hall and walked back to school.

Freya

Eco-Committee

The Eco stall at the summer fair was run by Jack McManners and his father Joe McManners. The stall was made for the school Eco-Committee so all the money that went to the stall would be sent to the WWF. The stall was guess the weight of the sack of animals. There was also a lucky dip in a bird box. Inside the box were lots of questions. If you got your question correct, you would win sweets. The prizes for the guess the weight of the sack of animals were: first prize: a trip to the Cotswold Wildlife Park. The second prize was a year's subscription to the National Geographic Magazine. The first prize winner was Sandra and the second prize winner was Alec. The stall raised over £20.

Jack, Year 4

Eco-Committee will be spearheading a huge **recycling** initiative in school next year. You might have already seen our new recycling bins around school. Please do all you can to help support us in recycling everything we possibly can.

The Festival of Voices

The Festival of Voices is an amazing chance to perform and sing. Every year there is a brilliant club called Choir for years 3 to 6. You learn songs and perform them for families and friends. This year, we've had Arthur P, Kathryn, Mia, Ruby, Joshua and Anabel in Year 3, Ava, Amelie, Ruth and Abby in Year 4, Sarah, Imogen and Hiba in Year 5 and Ana, Renaye and Lily in Year 6. There are at least 10 songs to learn, including the brilliant World in Union and Believe. You learn sign language for Believe's chorus too. Remember there will be other primary schools there as well as your own! You are normally allowed two guests to see you perform. Usually we perform at Dorchester Abbey.

Ava, Year 4

This year the Festival of Voices was as wonderful as ever. St Michael's Choir performed along with choirs from many other schools from Oxfordshire and the Abbey was full of the sound of their voices. It was a lovely way to spend a summer evening. Thank you very much to Mrs Buchanan for all her hard work in preparing the Choir, there are lots of songs to learn in only a short space of time.

School Games Mark - Silver

The School Games Mark is a government led awards scheme launched in 2012 to reward schools for their commitment to the development of competition across their school and into the community. For the last few years we have achieved Bronze, the first level of the award. This year we have tried to raise the profile of sport across the school, introducing skipping, attending many more inter-school sporting events and inviting professional coaches into school to work with the children. We are delighted to have achieved Silver this year. Thank you to Mrs Hastings for all the enthusiasm she has shown in driving sport forward at St Michael's this year.



This term.. “ten Year 5 children represented St Michael’s in an athletics event at Horspath running track. The day was bright and sunny and all the children were very excited. In total, we did five events: 600m, javelin, 75m sprint and the long jump. It was exhausting but fun. We all hope to do it again.”

Abby and Lydia, Year 5

On 11th July a team of girls from Years 3 and 4 attended a football festival. They played four matches; they won three and drew one. Abby was the highest goal scorer, scoring 11 goals. The girls also took part in football skills training and had their faces painted. Thank you to Holly Bridge for accompanying the players and all the support she has given the school this year.

The Big Science Event



On the 6th July, me, Bertie, Saad, Tyler and Anis went to Science Oxford and took part in the Big Science Event. First, we had to show our science investigation to the three judges. Next, we had a tour and we got to wear an ear piece and VIP jacket. After the tour we did an experiment with sugar. I was very surprised that bananas have more sugar and glucose than ketchup. Afterwards, we had lunch. Next, we did some science experiments. I managed to get a skewer through a blown up balloon! Then we had a science show. The man made really cool potions. Then they announced the winners. We got a

whole backpack of prizes. Now I want to be a scientist.

Ethan, Year 3

Mystery at Magpie Manor

This year’s production by Year 3 and 4 was a who-dunnit from the roaring 20s starring Hollywood stars, including Charlie Chaplin, members of the minor aristocracy, flapper girls, country house servants, dubious detectives and of course, the magpies. As usual we were royally entertained (the Prince of Wales was also in the cast!) by splendid singing, dancing and acting. As the mystery unfolded we laughed at the comedy, gasped at the robbery and applauded as Agatha Christie solved the crime. Thank you to all the children, their teachers and all the staff and parents who contributed to making this a truly memorable performance.

Hill End Sleepover

Two weeks ago Year 6 went to Hill End. We had lots of fun telling ghost stories; toasting marshmallows; running around and looking for bats. We had a competitive running race where we discovered that Sophia and Tom are the fastest in our class. We had an enjoyable scavenger hunt where we had to find things in the field that had names that started from A to Z. Lots of us stayed up for most of the night! We played games like wink murder and 40-40 in. We had a nature walk where we saw many bats, walked around trees and saw lovely nature. If we had the chance to go again I’m sure all of us would go. Every tent got some points. We are still wondering who won. We were all surprised when it was time to leave.

Year 6

Year 4 Trip to the Ashmolean

On the 8th June our whole class went to the Ashmolean Museum. When we got there we learnt about the Stone Age. We found the answers to questions like what pets did they train? What did they eat? How did they live? We also learnt about the Neolithic period and the guide who showed us round also showed us a real deer antler and a piece of deer’s leg from 4000 years ago. The deer’s leg is called a sinew and the Neolithic use was to tie spear heads to sticks. Finally, we got back to school and everyone was complaining about their legs being tired. **Arfah**

We were put into groups and we had to find things like jewellery, instruments and flint. We had a guide to show us around the museum, who was really kind and a good teacher. Most people liked lifting a heavy stone (I enjoyed that as well).

Rhys

Allotment News

Our allotment helpers have been busy this year, planting and tending the crops under Sandra's careful watch. We have already harvested some marrows and there are tomatoes, beans and brussel sprouts growing well. Year 2 has made a scarecrow to keep the birds away.



Spy School Training

Early in the morning, some people from St Michael's year 5 went to Rye St Anthony and we had loads of fun there doing different activities. First, we got into a room and wore our disguises and that's where our challenge started. We all made a code wheel that is known as a cypher wheel. Then we went out to play a treasure hunt game with other schools. In the afternoon we all gathered together and did some spy training and then we played hide and seek. Then at the end of the day we were exhausted but it was fun.

Kaushambi, Year 5

Latin

It was very educational and amusing. It was on Friday afternoons from October to June. Ursula came in from Oxford University. It was a very exciting way of learning. She even taught us quite a lot about the Romans. She did different things with us each week. Latin was very hard to learn but she made it less trouble to learn. Each week she made exceptional powerpoints. She was very helpful and nice. I think it was fun to be taught Latin, it was super informative and entertaining.

Finn and Luke, Year 5

Violins

At St Michaels there are lots of instruments to play and in Year 4 you can play the violin for free. The violin teacher teaches her students the notes and beats and helps the children if they are stuck. Sometimes the class sings songs and at the end of term the children have an instrument quiz and are put into groups as well. Your child can play this wonderful instrument too because if you get a leaflet you can contact the violin teacher and have a lesson, although you need to pay and the lessons are in school time. So why wouldn't you take this opportunity and learn to play the violin? Your child can take a violin home to practice. There are also concerts for parents to watch.

Amelie, Year 4

As well as violin tuition, we have children learning brass instruments, the guitar, the piano and drums. If you would like your child to start taking lessons, contact the office for more information. Next year, Year 2 will all be learning the recorder.

Last Friday, Sharing Assembly was taken over by our many guitar players. We were entertained by all the children learning the guitar in school, from beginners to those with a few year's lessons experience. It was really inspiring to listen to the music they can make.



Pictures from Sports Day

