

St Michael's

Church of England Infant School



11th February 2022 Newsletter

Our value this term has been

Patience

Next term our value will be

Compassion

Dear Parents and Carers

What a busy half term we have had! Despite the Covid outbreak, all children and staff have continued to show resilience and flexibility and we have moved forward with a positive attitude and quickly adapted to the changes that came our way.

We have enjoyed having Rev Sandra, St Michael's Church priest, into school fortnightly. Rev Sandra has been sharing Bible stories with the children in worship and has engaged them in discussion around the messages in the stories. The children look forward to her visits and having a regular visitor into school is something they enjoy. The children have missed the experience of Church over the last two years and we are hopeful that we will be able to attend Church for the Easter Service this year. These visits really do enhance the children's understanding of the important events in the Christian calendar.

Butterfly and Dragonfly classes have very much enjoyed the 'Ice' topic this half term and have particularly enjoyed taking part in the 'Ice experiment' looked at different methods of melting their block of ice to release their Lego figure.

Now that Ladybird class has been in school for three half terms, we can see that they are developing their collaborative skills while using the enabling environment. The children are learning how to develop a 'team' mentality and we can see that they are developing strong, respectful and productive friendship groups. They have embedded our school's Bee Rules and are definitely showing that they have future leadership qualities. Well done Ladybird class!

The children have also welcomed back Miss Fox, who has returned from her maternity leave. They have adapted to this change with ease and have very much enjoyed getting to know her.

Safer Internet Week

This week the children have been learning about how to stay safe online. The theme this year is 'All fun and games?'

We have focused on how important it is to understand that no one owns the internet and that we might not always be able to trust what we see and hear. We have also thought about how important it is to always check any information or visuals that they are unsure about, with a grown up. The children know that it is important never to give out any personal information unless a grown up is with them and to always be kind online.

As a parent, if you would like any more information on this, please refer to the link below

<https://saferinternet.org.uk/guide-and-resource/parents-and-carers>

Great Fire of London

We start the second half of our spring topic after the half term break. This part is called 'Fire' and is a History based topic. Dragonfly and Butterfly classes will be learning all about the Great Fire of London and in DT, we will be making houses and burning them to recreate what happened!

Ladybird Class's topic will be 'Springtime' and the key text the children will focus on is 'Fletcher and the Springtime Blossom' by Julia Rawlinson and Tiphane Beeke. The children will also be welcoming in some ducklings next term! Very exciting!

Open Book, Parent Consultations and Phonics talk

Open Book dates are now planned for next half term and we will also be holding parent consultations in March. Please look out for more information on these dates and times, after the half term break. We intend to deliver a Phonics talk for Year 1 parents next half term. This is to share more information on how phonics is taught in Year 1 and why it is vital that all children secure their phonic knowledge. The children take part in a statutory phonics check in the month of June and we will give you information on how this is delivered, what to expect and how to help at home. Please look out this date, after the half term break.

World Book Day

Next term we have World Book day. The theme is 'traditional tales'. We are lucky enough to have managed to book a drama/dance company to come into school to work with each year group. The theme is also traditional tales so fits in beautifully. We look forward to seeing all the different costumes on the day!

Chairperson for FRIENDS



The FRIENDS of St Michael's are an incredibly supportive and valuable part of the school community. With their help, we are able to run several events throughout the year which brings the school community together and raises much needed funds for school. In recent years, the FRIENDS have raised a considerable amount of money which has supported the school in buying Sound Clouds for the hall, a new reading scheme and guided reading books across the whole school, paid for workshops and event days and so much more. In order for the FRIENDS to continue to support the school, a new Chair is needed every two years. The current chair has reached the end of her term of office and sadly, the FRIENDS have not been able, despite their best efforts, to recruit a new Chair. Without a Chair the FRIENDS will have to be disbanded and this would be incredibly detrimental to the school community and to ongoing funding support for the school. If anyone is interested in becoming Chair, or sharing the role, please do contact the FRIENDS on friendsofstmichaels2017@gmail.com. It is a very rewarding role.

Parking

Very recently, we sent out a message to parents in relation to parking near 51 Degrees North. Unfortunately, despite expressing both our and the School Lane residents' concerns, there continues to be an issue with dangerous and inconsiderate parking. We once again strongly urge you to consider the impact that your parking has on both residents and the safety of drivers and children. We would hate to see an accident due to careless parking so please do park with consideration. Parking is available in the Mickleham Village Hall Car Park at drop off and pick up.

Absence

Can we please politely remind parents that any requests for leave of absence must be made in writing, a month before the date requested. Although we understand that families have individual circumstances that need considering, we can only authorise absence in term time, under exceptional circumstances.

We must remain mindful of the interruptions to education in recent years and it is important that you consider carefully whether any absence in term time is exceptional.

Please enjoy some pictures from the Ice experiment! We thought you might also like to take a look at a few activities that we provide in the children's continuous provision. These are tuff trays that are changed regularly and relate to an area of learning that week or half term. Below are a range from across the year groups.

We wish all our families a restful and happy half term break.

God Bless

Nicola Cleather
Head of School

