



NEWSLETTER

17th September, 2021

Love – Honesty – Forgiveness – Respect

As we begin a new school year, we remind our community of our school vision for all our pupils:

Our vision at St. Michael's is that every child receives an excellent education and feels valued for who they are. We want to lay a foundation of curiosity, tapping into children's natural inquisitiveness about the world around them, and to foster their ambition by recognising and responding to their talents and individuality. We seek to treat everyone in our community with love, honesty, forgiveness and respect, rooted in the principle of 'do to others as you would have them do to you' (Luke 6:31).

Important Dates

Fri 23 Oct	Last day of term
Mon 2 Nov	Inset day
Tues 3 Nov	First day of term



Welcome to St. Michael's

We welcome 15 new pupils to our school community this year. We are pleased to have the following pupils join us and hope that they have a happy future here. A warm St. Michael's welcome to:

Reception

Francesca, Hattie, Daisy, Tomos, Phoebe, Elyse, Caleb, Ava, Harry, Frankie-Ray, Eila, Arthur, Caelan, Rhys and Liam.

New Class Names

As has become tradition, this year our class names have changed and we are known by the names of successful authors. Children enter the worlds of The Eric Carle class (Reception); Simon Bartram class (Years 1 & 2); Malorie Blackman class (Years 3 & 4) and Katherine Rundell class (Years 5 & 6).

We have had a super start to the new year and the children are settling well as a class. In our RSHE lessons we have been focusing on our goals for the new year and setting expectations for behaviour for learning.

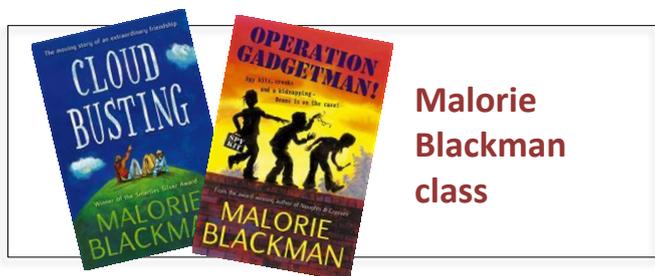
We kicked off the term in English with a focus on 'The Wolf Wilder' by Katherine Rundell. It's set in early 20th century Russia and focuses on a young girl named Feo who is wanted by the Tsar's Imperial Army for rewilding wolves that had previously lived in the palaces of St. Petersburg. It's a fantastic novel by Katherine Rundell - a great introduction to her writing. It inspired us to find out all about wolves and write some super non-chronological reports full of fascinating facts. The Wolf Wilder will continue as our end of day class reader and we have now started reading our main text for the term,

'Orphans of the Tide' by Struan Murphy. The children were wowed by the first two chapters and are full of questions about what will happen in the last city on Earth in this dystopian adventure novel.

In maths, we have started the year with a focus on number and place value up to 1,000,000 for year 5 and 10,000,000 for year 6s. We have been looking in detail at rounding; considering the multiples of the accuracy we wish to round to either side of our number; drawing our own number lines to consider which it is closer to, and therefore round to.

For our Big Question this term we are considering: 'What if there was no erosion?' This unit has a geography/geology focus where we consider our local area (particularly the cliffs at Pett Level and Fairlight) and investigate the impact of erosion on the world around us. This week we have looked at different types of marine erosion, including hydraulic action, abrasion, attrition and solution. We have also begun to look at coastal features and how they are formed.

Finally, we have completed our initial assessments of the children for the new academic year, and individuals and groups are beginning to be targeted for intervention. Spellings will be sent home from Monday and there will be activities on Spelling Shed and Maths Shed to complete.



I'm really pleased to report that Malorie Blackman Class members have returned to school following the summer break with a really positive attitude to their learning. We have been working really hard to establish routines in the classroom that help us with our learning, including daily Early Morning Work that gives all pupils a chance to read to me

one day a week and to practise key skills on the other days. It is particularly important that they arrive at 8.45am on their day for reading, as this means they don't miss any of this session - please ask them which day they need to be in on time for.

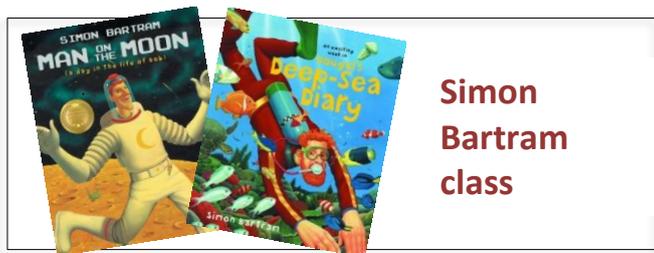
We have begun our topic learning, looking at the period of history from Stone Age to the Iron Age. We are trying to get our heads round just how long ago and how long a period of time this actually is! We have looked at the role of archaeologists in informing us about the lives of people in this period, including having a rummage through the contents of my bin to find out about how I live from the evidence it gives - apparently we eat too many jaffa cakes!

In maths we are focusing initially on number and place value, making sure we are really confident with the number system before we begin to utilise operations to calculate. This means working with numbers into the thousands and really knowing the value of each digit in three and four digit numbers. We have been using Base 10 resources to support our understanding and drawing a variety of representations of number to really understand what a number "looks like". I have also been insisting that pupils really explain verbally what they know about the numbers we are looking at and how they know this, by articulating their ideas they deepen their understanding.

In English we have begun reading Stig of the Dump and have undertaken a range of writing tasks related to this. A big focus in writing is on rereading and editing work to ensure that spelling and punctuation are correct and pupils have made the best vocabulary choices they can conjure!

Finally, I'm really pleased to see so many children reading regularly at home. I have already begun to notice children's fluency and confidence increasing because of this. Regular reading ensures children grow in confidence with speed and recognition of words, freeing up their brain to

think about the text. I'm waiting for the last batch of my book prizes to arrive at home and the children will be able to see the texts they can choose from if they read enough times between now and half term once these have arrived. I really do appreciate your support with this, by hearing your child read daily you are unlocking the curriculum, and the world, for them.



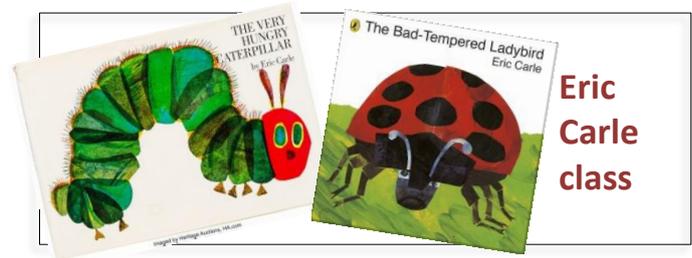
In Simon Bartram class we have introduced our topic 'What if we lived in space?' The children are very excited and have already started to find out interesting facts about the planets and space.

In English we have been designing our own aliens; we have made sure that they had lots of detail so that we can describe them more easily. We have now moved onto writing a description about our aliens. Year 1 have had a more structured approach, with word banks and guided writing support. Year 2 have had the challenge to add adjectives into their writing independently, as well as remembering how to structure sentences that make sense. Some children have even added similes independently! A few of the year 1 children have also tried to rise to this challenge too.

In maths, we have been looking at numbers and the number system. Year 1 have been introduced to number lines and one hundred squares to help them find numbers more than and less than. Year 2 have been revisiting 10 more and less than any given number, even crossing the 100 boundary. We have also been working outside a lot to consolidate our knowledge of the number system by answering problems and linking them to letters to reveal secret messages left by Miss O'Rourke.

In art we have been working hard to create our own solar system art. We have used a variety of

different techniques and the final pieces are looking very affective. The children have looked very closely at colours and blending to create unique colours for each individual planet. We cannot wait to show them to you!



A very warm welcome to Eric Carle Class! We have made a fantastic start to the year. We have been truly impressed by the children settling so well. We have attended collective worship with the rest of the school who have really welcomed the new children.

Our big question this term is, 'What's going on in the garden?' We are going to be focusing on the books written by Eric Carle which are based on minibeasts or planting and growing. We have started with, 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar'. We have talked about the caterpillar's lifecycle and made some great caterpillar models. We have drawn our favourite part of the story too.

We have begun to learn our letter sounds and have started with 's', 'a' and 't' this week. Next week, the children will be learning, 'p', 'i' and 'n'. We learn both the letter name and the sound by making a collection of all the things we can find that begin with that sound.

In RSHE we have been discussing our favourite things and how we might all like something different. We related this to ourselves and thought about how we are all different and unique. Next week, we will talk about managing our feelings and what we can do to help ourselves and each other when we are not feeling quite right.

The children have also begun to have PE lessons with Mrs Ruu. They have coped extremely well with getting changed and have enjoyed taking part.

Open Morning: 11th November

St. Michael's will be hosting an open morning for prospective parents on Thursday 11th November from 9:15 am. We invite all parents of children who will be Reception-age in September 2022 to come along and see our school in action. **We also ask all parents and carers to please share this with friends, family and the community. We are proud of our school and would like to share this with as many people as possible.**

up by head-to-head contact and therefore can be very prevalent in primary schools.

It is important to treat head lice as soon as you spot them. We recommend that you check your child's hair and take immediate steps to treat should you see any evidence of lice or nits.

For treatment advice, see:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/head-lice-and-nits/>

House Captains

We are pleased to announce our House Captains and their Deputies for this academic year. Congratulations to them all and we look forward to having them lead their houses to success!



Hawks: Jamie (Captain) & Ashton



Kites: Connie (Captain) & Talena



Falcons: Holly (Captain) & Oscar



Eagles: Harrison (Captain) & Leon*

**Leon was unfortunately absent when photographs were taken.*

After-School Club

We remind parents that we are now offering an after-school club every Tuesday and Thursday to 4:30 pm. The cost of this club is £4.00 per pupil and booking is via our online SchoolMoney payment system.

Thank you Mr. Keen!

A huge thank you to Mr. Keen for volunteering his time and expertise to run an after-school football club for Years 5 & 6 this term! We are so grateful to him and are privileged to have an experienced local coach commit so freely to the pupils of St. Michael's and make this club possible.

St. Michael's CE Primary School

Open Morning:
Thursday 11th November, 2021

- Enquiry-led curriculum
- Strong pastoral care
- Outdoor learning & on-site Forest School
- Breakfast & After-school Clubs
- Inclusive Church of England vision & ethos
- Extra-curricular clubs for all key stages

Tours from 9.15 am
Talks from 9.45 am

We invite prospective parents to see our school in action where you will have guided tours of the school, with talks by children and staff.

Houghton Green Lane, Playden, Nr. Rye TN31 7PJ
01797 280277
office@playdenschool.com
Website: www.st-michaels-playden.e-sussex.sch.uk

We request that adults wear face coverings on site unless invited to remove them.

Head lice alert

We have had reported cases of head lice at school. Head lice and nits are very common in young children and their families. They do not have anything to do with dirty hair, but are picked

Thank you for your interest and dedication to our pupils – we are very grateful.

Volunteer Readers

We would welcome reading volunteers across the school. If any parents, grandparents, aunts or uncles would be interested in this role, please let the school office know so that we can initiate the appropriate safeguarding checks. Just an hour of your time would make a huge difference!

Harvest Service

Our annual Harvest Service will take place in the school hall on **Monday 4th October at 9:15 am**. Mr. Christopher Breeds will be leading worship and each class will be contributing to the service in a small way. Unfortunately, due to the limited capacity of our school hall, we are unable to invite parents to attend as the continued safety of our pupils and staff is paramount. Rest assured though, we will certainly share photographs of the occasion with you. A letter with full details as regards food contributions will be distributed to all families in the coming week.

Celebration Worship

We are so pleased to reinstate our weekly Celebration Worship wherein pupils are awarded the Headteacher and Good Citizen certificates, and are nominated for the Christian Value award. Parents of those children who will be receiving certificates will be notified and invited to attend this weekly celebration, which will take place every Friday at 2:30 pm.

We ask that parents wear face masks on entry to the school until invited to remove them once seated.

This week the awards go to:

Headteacher Award

Awards for outstanding achievement go to:

This week:

Eric Carle Class: Liam

Simon Bartram Class: Joseph

Malorie Blackman Class: Leyland

Katherine Rundell Class: Harry

Last week:

Eric Carle Class: Phoebe

Simon Bartram Class: Florence

Malorie Blackman Class: George

Katherine Rundell Class: Ashton

Good Citizen Award

Awards for helping others to feel welcome go to:

This week:

Eric Carle Class: Frankie

Simon Bartram Class: Arlo

Malorie Blackman Class: Vinnie

Katherine Rundell Class: Alfie

Last week:

Eric Carle Class: Ava

Simon Bartram Class: Matylda

Malorie Blackman Class: Saxon

Katherine Rundell Class: Oscar



Closing Reflection

You are the light of the world.

(Matthew 5:14)