



NEWSLETTER

12th November, 2021

Love – Honesty – Forgiveness – Respect

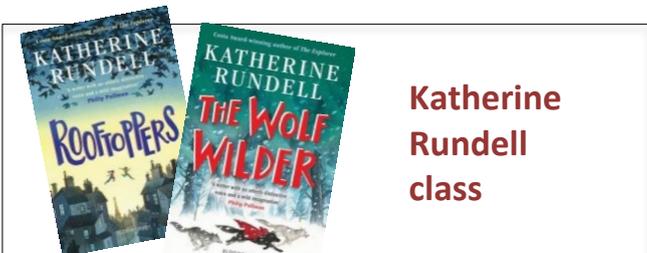
Collective Worship:

This term we are focusing on our Christian Value of LOVE, alongside British Values. The very first worship session, will introduce our RSHE focus for the term, 'Celebrating Difference' as we reflect on how we are all completely unique and special, whilst others will focus on the celebration of Christmas.

Important Dates

w/b 15 th Nov	Autumn Parent Consultations
Fri 19 th Nov	Children in Need day
Thurs 25 th Nov	PSA Uniform sale
Thurs 2 nd Dec	Extended after-school provision
Mon 6 th Dec	PSA Movie night for Key Stage 2
Thurs 10 th Dec	PSA Movie night for R & Key Stage 1
Wed 15 th Dec	PSA Mince pies & hot drink sale

factory for over 50 years! She has seen some changes in her time: from when they used to make rope by hand, to the introduction of the first machines and automation to produce larger amounts of rope more quickly. She also told us about the dangers of being a child working in a factory and how many factory foremen and owners disregarded the 1878 Factory's Act - a perfect foundation for some of our learning in History as we progress through this term.



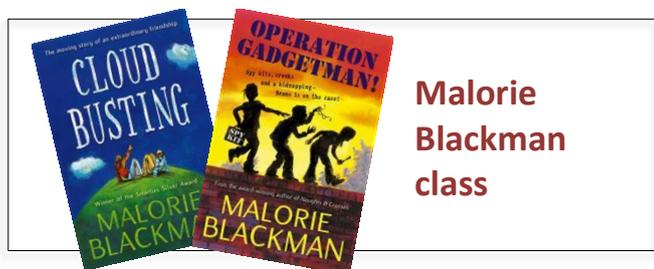
We have had a super return to school this term, kicking off with our trip to Chatham Dockyard to develop our understanding around our Big Question this term, 'What if we hadn't harnessed the power of water?' We had an awesome time clambering through the hatches and learning all about HMS Ocelot, the resident submarine, whose bulbous nose (where her sonar is kept) enables her to navigate the waters and any obstacles using echo location. We also met Miss Polly, who told us that she had been working in the Rope Walk

We went aboard HMS Gannet, a 18th century sloop which was built at the time of crossover between sail and steam so is equipped with three masts, as well as a funnel for her (now removed) coal-powered engines. We were surprised to learn that she was actually faster under sail power than steam power, and were intrigued by the hole in the deck in the floor of the captain's cabin, where the propellor would be folded up and stored to prevent drag when she was under sail power. Finally, we took a tour of the Hearts of Oak gallery, an immersive gallery that took us on a tour of the Dockyards as was. We met a master shipbuilder who was trying to convince his grandson to follow in his footsteps rather than choose the perilous life as a Royal Navy sailor. We learned how wood was put in the steam tank to

make it easier to bend; how moulds were created from cheaper wood to ensure that the pieces of the ship fit together perfectly; and that the gun deck of a war ship was painted red at production to camouflage the blood.

This week in topic, we have met Richard Arkwright, an 18th century wigmaker from Preston, Lancashire, who in 1771 opened the world's first water-powered mill to spin raw cotton into thread. In maths we have been practising our tables facts as we have been looking at long multiplication. We have also developed our methods of short division, ensuring we express any remainders as a fraction, and using factors to divide. Next week, we will begin to tackle long division. Although this is a Year 6 objective for maths, experience has shown that it is beneficial to expose Year 5 pupils to this method too to enable them to secure a reliable method in the long-term.

In computing, we have logged on using our google classroom log-ons and started our initial Slides presentations which we will add to as our topic progresses this term. The children spent a session researching about 18th and 19th century workhouses, linking with our main class text 'Far From Home', where one child was extremely surprised to discover that their old house is located in the former Rye workhouse building near Hill Top Drive.



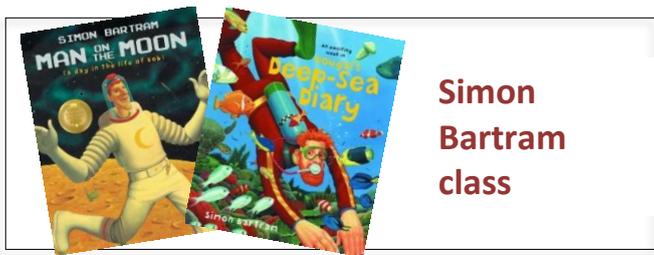
Malorie Blackman class have been busy discovering a new period of history - The Anglo Saxons. We have written our name in Runes, taken a first look at some of the jewellery discovered in archaeological digs and begun to design our own versions of these.

In English we have begun reading our class book, a story of an Anglo-Saxon boy. As yet we have only read the cover and prologue - the class are waiting for the surprises that the book has in store (it is good to see them hungry for the next instalment and to be able to surprise them as the term goes on). In response to the prologue, which details the Battle of Hastings, the children have written their own version of the events seen through the eyes of a young warrior. They have really risen to the challenge and produced some very evocative and thought provoking texts.

In maths we are continuing to work on our understanding of column addition, ensuring that we use the written method with accuracy and can show our understanding of the maths that is happening through using both concrete materials (particularly counters) and models (bar models and number lines). We have spent time refreshing our memories with our bonds to ten (learning a rhyme to recall them for ease) and discussing number in a way that really consolidates our understanding.

We have ventured into the Outdoor Learning Area for our first week, we are approaching the term as an Anglo Saxon tribe and looking at how we can utilise the outdoor space in the way a tribe would have. We have identified that we need to create walls for the shelter, clear land and grow food to sustain us, and use fire to keep us warm and cook - something we shall be doing later in the term.

Finally, the class are planning the obstacle course for Monday's sponsored challenge in aid of diabetes research. We will be completing the course a total of 100 times between us! Parents of children in Malorie Blackman Class are asked to sponsor their child with a £1 donation, more if you wish to, and any other donations from other families in school would also be welcomed. The class are undertaking this challenge to support a pupil who lives with the condition in school.



Simon Bartram class

In English, Simon Bartram Class have finally finished their writing on all of the planets. We have moved onto choosing our favourite planet and explaining why they are our favourite using specific information that we have learnt. It has been quite tricky to explain our own opinions as we all liked and disliked different planets. Year 2 had to follow Miss O'Rourke's 'toolkit' to help them make sure they included all the aspects they needed to in their paragraph of writing. Year 1 had a more scaffolded approach, with adults to make sure that they were able to include what they liked about their planet and why. We wish you could see them all finished and hanging up in our classroom as they look absolutely amazing and the children have worked really hard on them. For the Year 1s it has been their first experience of planning, writing in their books and then producing a neat final product accompanied with their painted planet.

In maths we have been continuing addition in very practical ways to really help embed our knowledge of this. We have also been practising different strategies for example, tens frames. These have helped us work out easily how different numbers are made of tens and ones. We have also been looking at equations with parts missing which has really made us think about what mathematical symbols mean. The year 1's have been working really hard to work more independently whilst working with word problems, whilst the year 2's have been working with problems that might have more than one possible answer. Focusing on them being able to reason why an answer may be correct or not.

In RSHE we have been looking at how we are all similar and different at the same time, whilst

celebrating these differences. It has been so lovely to see the children complimenting each other and very sensibly understanding that it is ok to be YOU.



Eric Carle class

We have made a fantastic start to the new term. Before we started work on our big question, '**What if all the animals had to move home?**' we looked at two contrasting traditional stories. We learned about the Hindu celebration of Diwali; we looked at how families celebrate it and what their traditions are. It is known as the festival of lights and Hindu families decorate their homes with small lamps. We have made and decorated our own lamps which look beautiful.

We then learned about the true story of Bonfire Night. We thought it was very exciting. We did some writing about Guy Fawkes' terrible plot and learned that we have fireworks to celebrate the fact that his plan did not work. We painted some fabulous firework pictures, which are proudly displayed outside our classroom.

This week, we are beginning to look at our big question, '**What if all the animals had to move home?**' We started by reading about a tiger called Augustus who lost his smile. He actually found it by looking at his reflection! As well as thinking about the story, we are also learning some interesting tiger facts and writing about them.

We are now beginning our new phonics programme, Sounds Write. We will be looking at how to spell, read and write simple words with the same collection of letters. It is very exciting and the children are rising to the challenge every day.

In RSHE, we have been looking at things we are good at and reflecting on the fact that we are all

good at different things. We should all be proud of ourselves and our achievements and compliment each other too.

Upcoming PSA Events!

Uniform Sale:

The PSA will be holding a pre-loved uniform sale on **Thursday 25th November** in the school playground (weather permitting), from 2:00 pm to 3:30 pm. Cash only.

Christmas Movie Nights:

There will be an age-appropriate Christmas film showing after school in the hall, 3:30 pm to 5:00 pm, at a cost of £3.00 per pupil to include popcorn and a drink. Permission slips and cash in advance please – leaflet with permission slip to follow next week!

Monday 6th December: Years 3 to 6

Friday 10th December: Reception, Years 1 & 2

Mince Pies & Hot Drinks:

On **Wednesday 15th December**, there will be mince pies and hot drinks for sale towards the end of the school day at 2:00 pm to 3:30 pm – do come along for a festive treat as we approach the end of term!

A full itinerary of Christmas events and activities at St. Michael's will be sent separately – watch this space!

Children in Need: Friday 19th November

A reminder that on Friday 19th November, St. Michael's will be fundraising for BBC Children in Need! We will be doing our bit for this worthwhile charity which has a huge impact on changing young lives across the UK.



Pupils are invited to accessorise and use our very own Pudsey-inspired selfie frame in our **photo booth**, for a donation of **£2.00**.

The whole school will be taking part in a **countryside ramble** after lunch for a donation of **£1.00**.

All proceeds go to Children in Need - please see Mrs. Marshall's letter of 8th November with full details. Let's make this fundraising effort the best yet!

Autumn Parent Consultations

Parent consultations will take place via Microsoft Teams, **week beginning 15th November**. Bookings are to be made online via Eduspot (invitations previously sent out). Please do ensure that you book a slot to meet with your child's teacher to discuss their progress and attainment.

You will receive the invitation to the Microsoft Teams meeting from your child's teacher prior to the appointment date. We ask that you are respectful of the **10-minute** allotted time to enable this to run smoothly and ensure that others are not delayed.

Christmas shopping opportunity - extended after-school provision!



To support parents who might like to have a little extra time after school to get some Christmas shopping done (or just a little extra time for themselves!), we are pleased to offer a one-off extended after-school provision on **Thursday 2nd December**. This provision will run until 5:30 pm at the normal cost of £4.00 per pupil (2 hours for the price of one!). We ask that, should you wish to take this opportunity, you provide your child with extra snacks for the afternoon. Booking as normal via School Money.

To enable this extended opportunity, our regular wraparound care on Tuesday afternoon will not take place.

After School Clubs: External providers

Unfortunately there was not sufficient uptake for the externally provided Dodgeball club on Thursdays, so this club was cancelled by the provider as it was unviable.

Mrs. Ruu does have a plan in the pipework for another externally provided club offer in Term 3. We do hope that there will be more interest and uptake to enable this to run – further details will be shared as this is confirmed.

We are doing our very best to increase our offer of after school provision as requested in our last parent survey, but unless the uptake is high enough, it will not warrant the club running as expenses must be covered. Fingers crossed for better engagement next time round!

Open for Parents

A reminder of the parenting courses that are being run by 'Open for Parents' throughout November and December; details sent by email on 22nd October. These seminars, webinars and discussion groups cover a wide variety of parenting issues and are free to access. Do have a look and see if there's one that would work for you. The most recent support includes:

- Turning problem behaviour into positive behaviour
- Hassle free outings
- Good bedtime routines
- E-safety workshop
- Promoting good behaviour: Group Triple P
- Promoting independence: Stepping Stones group

Attendance: 100% in Term 1!

The following pupils achieved 100% attendance in Term 1 and we celebrate this excellent achievement (*self-isolation as a COVID close contact, has not been included as absence. Positive*

cases are now coded as 'illness' and therefore impacts on attendance):

Eric Carle class

Caelan, Arthur, Harry, Ava, Phoebe, Daisy, Tomos and Hattie.

Simon Bartram class

Leo, Arthur, Gary, Freddie, Phoebe, Thomas, Isobel, Ferdy, Talia, Scarlett, Grey, Arlo, Tristan, Joseph and Charlie.

Malorie Blackman class

Edward, Aria, Leyland, Isaac, Esmé, Betsy, Harry, Vinnie, Poppi, Henry, George, Lucia, Noah and Lilly-Angel.

Katherine Rundell class

Henry, Harry, Ashton, Natty, Ethan, Sophia, Finian, and Talena.

Headteacher Award

Awards for outstanding achievement go to:

This week:

Eric Carle Class: Frankie-Ray
Simon Bartram Class: Lorcan
Malorie Blackman Class: Chase
Katherine Rundell Class: William

Good Citizen Award

Awards for helping others to feel welcome go to:

This week:

Eric Carle Class: Eila
Simon Bartram Class: Freddie L
Malorie Blackman Class: Mya
Katherine Rundell Class: Ami



Closing Reflection

Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul and with all your strength.

(Deuteronomy 6:5)