



NEWSLETTER

26th November, 2021

Love – Honesty – Forgiveness – Respect

Collective Worship:

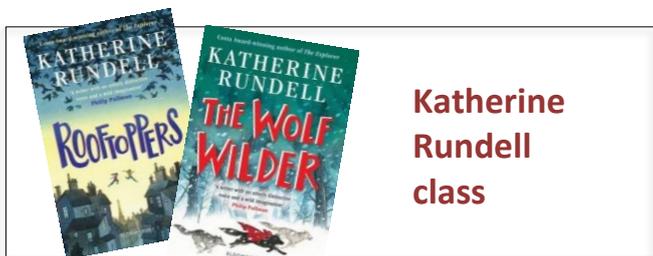
This past fortnight we have celebrated difference as we reflected on how we are all completely unique and how special that is. We reflected on different representations of the Nativity scene in art, and how different cultures would represent Jesus and his family in a way that was relatable to that culture. We also considered liberty and freedom as we explored the question 'Should we be allowed to swim with dolphins?' and reflected on reasons for and against this particular loss of freedom.

Important Dates

Wed 1 st Dec	Reverse Advent Calendar starts
Thurs 2 nd Dec	Extended after-school provision
Mon 6 th Dec	PSA Movie night for Key Stage 2
Fri 10 th Dec	PSA Movie night for R & Key Stage 1
Wed 15 th Dec	PSA Mince pies & hot drink sale
Wed 15 th Dec	Save the Children Christmas Jumper Day
Wed 15 th Dec	Christmas Dinner & Parties
Thurs 16 th Dec	1 st Nativity Service at Iden Church (R & KS1)
Fri 17 th Dec	2 nd Nativity Service at Iden Church (R & KS1)
Tues 4 th Jan	1 st day of Term 3

testament to the ethos of our whole-school community and we are incredibly grateful that we have been able once again to facilitate our 'Buddy System' post-lockdowns.

In English the children are engaging really well with 'Far From Home', a historical fiction novel by Berlie Doherty. Lizzie and Emily now find themselves at Bleakdale Mill with the other children from the workhouse and are discovering that their new lives (at the Apprentice House and tied to a 7-year indenture) are not quite what they were promised. They have experienced their first shifts at the water-powered mill and the children in Katherine Rundell have looked closely at the devices we can use for description. We have then written our own pieces describing an image of a child in a factory during the 19th century, using devices such as the power of three, simile and expanded noun phrases to include the sounds, sight and feelings of such work.



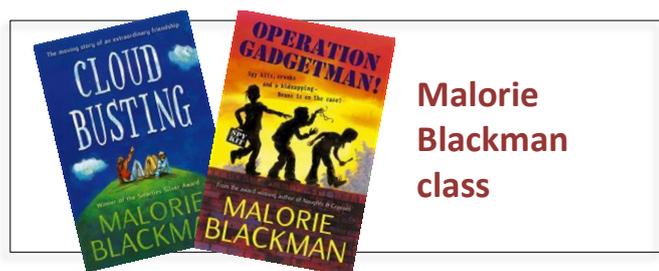
Katherine Rundell class

Firstly, I want to acknowledge the superb way in which the Year 6s supported their Reception class buddies during our whole school walk last Friday. The vigilance, diligence, kindness and care they showed for the younger children really is a

In maths, we have been working on division, and most of the children spent a series of sessions focused solely on long division. For long division we use the mnemonic 'Does Macdonalds Serve Cheese Burgers?' to help us remember the steps of Divide, Multiply, Subtract, Check, Bring down.

We have also had a focus on different methods for mental calculation, with the support of jottings, in place of formal written methods and discussed how we can use these to calculate efficiently.

We have also been experimenting with the chromebooks. The children all have their own log in for google workspace and all have been invited to our Katherine Rundell google classroom. The children have been using resources shared with them on the workspace to structure their research about Richard Arkwright, as well as finding out about the various jobs that Victorian children did in factories, mines, chimney sweeps and in-service. We've discovered that Miss James can give live feedback, editing onto our documents as we create them and we are considering how to use the whole class discussion forum responsibly.



We have had an exciting couple of weeks in Malorie Blackman Class.

We have begun our Outdoor Learning on Thursday mornings. We have been learning to use the space safely and make the most of this opportunity. Each week we are lighting a fire, so that we can finish our sessions around a cosy glow and share stories and ideas. Children are learning how to check that the wood used is suitable and how to stack a fire to ensure that we get a good outcome. In addition, we have been looking at the area through the eyes of a settling Anglo-Saxon tribe, to this end we have begun to prepare the land (raised beds!) for crops; we have also been preparing willow strips to use in creating hurdles as wind breaks and hurdles for creating livestock pens. We did begin our first hurdle last week, looking good so far:



We also held our 100 Challenge in support of Diabetes Research (JDRF); the whole class, including the adults, undertook the class designed obstacle course – completing four rounds each. We had great fun, supporting one another and a little competition between the two courses! Thank you for the donations received so far, if you haven't already done so and wish to make a contribution please do so by the end of November.



In maths we have moved from addition to subtraction, using the column method. We have been using counters and Base 10 materials to fully understand what is happening using this method and then using the formal written method to show what we have done. We are also using our understanding of number to identify which calculations are going to be more straightforward and which will require exchanging. This is helping us to understand how we will be tackling each calculation and the steps we will need to take.

In English we are continuing with our book about the life of an Anglo-Saxon boy – looking carefully at the characters in the opening chapters to understand how they all fit together and what role they might play in the story to come.

In History and Geography we have been looking at where the Anglo-Saxons came from and arrived into, looking at the place names then and now. We have also been identifying the features of an Anglo-Saxon settlement – thinking back to our understanding of Neolithic peoples and how they lived and also the intervening Romans.



**Simon
Bartram
class**

In English, Simon Bartram Class has started reading 'Bob the Man on the Moon'. The children are really enjoying looking at the main character and imagining what it would be like to be Bob. We have started to story-map the first part of the story so that eventually we can write a diary, where the children will be writing in role and writing about their typical day as Bob. This is on hold whilst we currently finish our 'Thank you' letters to Herstonceux Science Centre after their amazing visit. Year twos have been practising writing independent questions to add to their letters and year ones have worked really hard making sure they have written about their favourite part of the visit.

In maths we have been investigating subtraction. We have been working hard to choose our own resources to help us solve these problems. Year ones have preferred to use the more practical resources like numicon and multilink, whereas year twos have enjoyed using the one hundred squares and number lines. Choosing resources to help us become more accurate in our problem solving is something that we are working on as a whole class.

In our topic lessons we have started looking at recipes and instructions for making 'Moon Bread' we are currently in the process of writing our chosen recipe and instructions for making it. Then next week we are aiming to follow our written instructions so that we can prepare and bake our own 'Moon Bread'. We can't wait to taste it!



**Eric
Carle
class**

We have been working hard on our big question, 'What if all the animals had to move home?' Last week, we read, 'The Lion Inside'. It's a lovely story about how a mouse and a lion become friends. It has a delightful message and tells us we all have a mouse and a lion inside. We did some writing about the story and also did some research on lions to write some information about them.

In our phonics lessons, we have been focusing on the letters a, i, m, s and t. We have been using the sounds to build and read words. We have also been making words and focusing on the sounds we need to change it into a different word. We are so impressed with the children's learning and how well they are doing.

In maths, we have learned how to make the number four. We have played games, which the children really enjoyed and have represented four with our fingers, beads or counters. This week we are focusing on making number five. There are more possibilities to build five and we are busy learning them and explaining what we are doing.

We so enjoyed our ramble for Children in Need last Friday. The children walked so well and were beautifully behaved. We hope you enjoyed the photo booth photographs, the children looked great and had lots of fun.

Thank You to our Community!

We are so very proud of our St. Michael's family and the kindness and generosity shown by our community. This was no less evident during recent fundraising activities for a variety of charities. Huge thanks to all who donated and contributed to give support to these worthwhile causes:

CHILDREN IN NEED



We are pleased to announce that a grand total of **£305** was raised for Children in Need last Friday. This was the highest sum ever raised by St. Michael's.

POPPY APPEAL

Additional thanks for your generosity in supporting the Royal British Legion's Poppy Appeal this year. Without your help, they would be unable to continue their vital welfare and benevolent work. St. Michael's raised **£146!**

JUVENILE DIABETES RESEARCH FOUNDATION

Malorie Blackman class raised funds for this charity to support further research into Diabetes. They are still receiving their sponsorship money for their 100 Challenge for World Diabetes Day, but so far their total is **£54.21!**

REMINDER: Upcoming PSA Events

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.

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!

Christmas at St. Michael's

We remind parents to pay particular attention to the Christmas at St. Michael's letter which was sent out separately today. This outlines all the upcoming events and important dates for your calendar as we countdown to Christmas.

Of particular note in the next fortnight:

Our **Reverse Advent Calendar** begins in earnest on Wednesday 1st December – let's make this a great one as we support our local food bank and wider community (see letter dated 22nd November).

Christmas shopping opportunity (or just extra time for yourselves) – our **extended after-school club** will be available 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 (30th Nov) will not take place.

Permission required for coach travel to the Nativity rehearsal and services at Iden Church. This should be completed on the electronic form which parents will have received by text (deadline 13th December).

Tickets to attend the Nativity Services will be available for Reception and Key Stage 1 families (2 per family), from Monday 29th November. Please contact the school office.



Headteacher Award

Awards for outstanding achievement go to:

This week:

Eric Carle Class: Lexie

Simon Bartram Class: William E

Malorie Blackman Class: Bonnie

Katherine Rundell Class: Stanley

Good Citizen Award

Awards for helping others to feel welcome go to:

This week:

Eric Carle Class: Elyse

Simon Bartram Class: Scarlett

Malorie Blackman Class: Noah

Katherine Rundell Class: Harrison



Closing Reflection

This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

(Psalm 118:24)