



NEWSLETTER

17th December, 2021

Love – Honesty – Forgiveness – Respect

Collective Worship:

Towards the end of Term 2, our focus in collective worship has been around Advent as a time of preparation. We reflected on what we do in our own families to prepare for Christmas, and what that very first Advent looked like as Mary and Joseph prepared for the arrival of Jesus. We reminded ourselves of the Nativity story and the importance of this to Christians.

Important Dates

Tues 4th Jan

1st day of Term 3



**Katherine
Rundell
class**

What an end to the term! We have missed our friends who have had to stay home for an extended period of time, but we are grateful as we know this has been done to keep us all safe. We've also had a high absence for illness: there are some nasty bugs going around at the moment. Amongst all the other Christmas activities, we have been very in our classroom and at home, with home learning being sent out too. Our Christmas Quiz was great fun it was super to have families currently isolating able to join in via the Kahoot website.

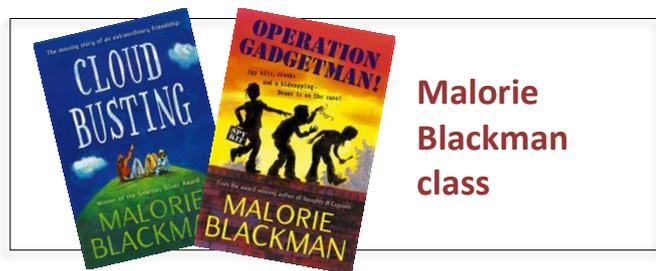
In English, after learning about the different jobs children in the Victorian period used to do, we wrote our own stories set in the Victorian times about a child who works. We planned our stories

using Jamboard on the Chromebooks, which meant we could edit the order of our ideas easily. We then wrote our stories by hand into our English books, trying to remember to use all the devices that we have been working on this term to enhance our sentences. We haven't yet finished either of our class texts this term (the main text 'Far From Home' or our story time reader 'Kick'), and so we will carry them over to the beginning of next term.

In maths, we have been working on fractions, looking at equivalent fractions; how to simplify them; and how to compare and order them using a range of different methods. This final week of term, we have been looking at position and direction, plotting coordinates across the four quadrants to create Christmas-themed images.

In topic, we completed our posters about the different jobs that children did during the Victorian times. We briefly learned about William and May Morris who were both part of the Arts and Crafts Movement during the period of industrialisation. They are both famous for the patterns inspired by nature that they created which were block printed to adorn wallpapers, fabrics and fireplace tiles at this time. We then

designed our own nature-inspired Christmas-themed tiles. After that, we worked with the lino tools to cut our designs onto our lino tiles and then used these to print and produce a set of Christmas cards. As we have limited resources for lino cutting, we've also been completing some sewing this week using binka and wool. The children have designed and produced their own cross-stitch patterns featuring a festive scene: it's been rather challenging with lots of tangled threads, but we've persevered and supported each other to do our very best.



Well, it's been quite a fortnight in Malorie Blackman Class!

In class we were just launching into an ambitious project that encompassed our historical learning about the Anglo-Saxon period, our DT skills and the electronics we have learned in science. However, best laid plans were somewhat overtaken by events and this project awaits us in class for the new year.

In the meantime, we have all found ourselves isolating at home protecting one another and our families. I must congratulate all members of the class who were in school last Monday morning on how sensible and thoughtful they were as they were informed about the reason for closing the class - they demonstrated a very mature approach to the situation.

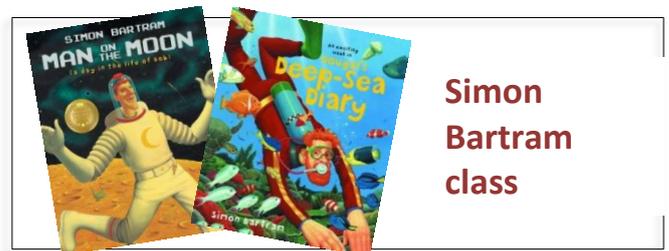
I have been really pleased with the resilience of the class over these past six school days - everyone I have spoken to has been getting on with the work - trying their very best to produce quality responses to the lessons. I have seen some

excellent shield designs and innovative found materials examples.

I have also heard some excellent use of vocabulary in English and I'm very much looking forward to seeing your versions of the robin's story and the artwork to go with it. I'm hoping we can create a magnificent display and celebrate your hard work during this time.

Finally, I want to thank all parents for showing such excellent support during this time. I know it is tricky to support your child under these circumstances and I hope that the learning opportunities sent home have been manageable and enjoyable for you.

I wish you all a settled and happy Christmas and look forward to welcoming back an enthusiastic class in the New Year.

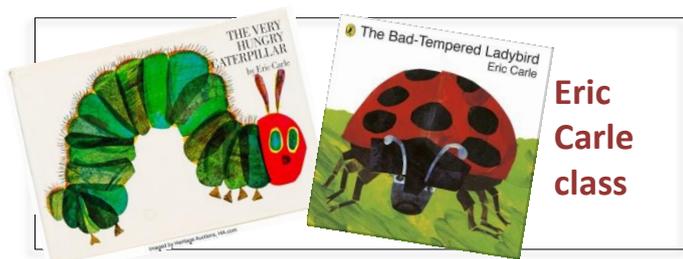


In English, Simon Bartram Class have been busy planning and writing the instructions to make 'moon bread'. We drew each step by step instruction into a text map, so that we could follow these pictures to help write each individual instruction. Year 1 has been using the templates available in class to help them write the instructions easily. Year 2 has had to follow Miss O'Rourke's toolkit to make sure they incorporated time conjunctions and imperative verbs in to each step of their instructions.

In maths, we have been looking at money problems. Year 1 has been busy identifying coins and challenging themselves with notes. Year 2 has now moved onto solving problems involving

money, where they have had to use greater than and less than as well as finding different combinations of finding different amounts.

In our topic lessons, we have been looking at different materials in science. We even received a letter from Father Christmas himself, asking if we could design, test and develop our own sleigh designs to help him during his busiest time of year! We have also been busy making our loved ones a special edible present and some very unique Christmas cards.



Over the past few weeks, we have been finishing our work on our big question, 'What if all the animals had to move home?' We read a great book called, 'Call me Gorgeous'. This is about a creature who is made up from various different animal parts. It gives itself a really long name then decides that it would rather be just called 'Gorgeous'. We then read, 'Poo in the Zoo'. This is about an animal doing the strangest poo, which is then bought by a poo collector. The children loved this story.

In maths, we moved on to looking at number five. We have learned how we can recognise the amount without counting it. We have also looked at many different ways to represent it with counters, cubes in different shapes, dots on a dice and using a five frame. We have begun to work on all the different ways to make 5 and how we can record this.

In phonics, as well as consolidating our knowledge of the letters a, i, m, s, and t we have now begun working with p, n and o too. The children are

doing incredibly well and they are all writing words using the sounds they have learned.

In RSHE we have been looking at how we are all special and that we are good at different things. We have also spent time thinking about how we are different and all unique. We looked at some different houses from around the world and thought about how they are different and still special, just like us.

We have been ending the term by learning the Christmas Story. We have nativity scenes in class which help us remember the key characters. We have been learning our song for the Christmas service, which we are very excited about.

Our end of term treat was a trip to see, 'Stick Man'. The children were so well behaved and an absolute credit to our school. They were very involved in the story and loved watching the performance.



With the end of term fast approaching, the Governing Board would like to wish parents, carers and everyone associated with St Michael's a very happy and restful Christmas.

The break arrives at an opportune time, with a rapid rise in Covid-19 cases placing increased pressure on everyone. In these challenging circumstances, Mrs Marshall and her team have acted quickly and assertively to manage the impact on the school, and to provide high-quality remote learning and class-teacher-contact support. Governors have been kept fully informed throughout.

At our Governing Board meetings (both physical and virtual), we have had good cause to reflect on how resilient the children, parents, carers and staff at St Michael's have been throughout 2021. We were reminded of this again last month when some of us joined the whole school ramble for Children In Need. The sense of community within the school was strongly evident, with older children paired with younger ones to help them navigate the muddiest paths and the tallest stiles.

This has been another difficult year for so many, and as everyone takes a well-deserved break, we pass on our thanks to Mrs Marshall and the whole team for all they do to make St Michael's such a special and happy school. Thank you to you too for your tremendous support this year – we look forward to seeing more of you face-to-face in the New Year, Covid-19 permitting. Merry Christmas!

Thank You

As we come to the end of Term 2, Mrs. Marshall would like to extend her heartfelt thanks to...

All parents: for your patience, understanding and support, particularly at times of the COVID crisis towards the end of term. Also for your generosity in filling our Reverse Advent boxes – they were very gratefully received by the Rye Food Bank and will go a long way to making someone's Christmas a little bit better. Thank you to those too, who gave me gifts and cards with wishes for a happy Christmas – your kind words and thoughtfulness is very much appreciated!

Glenn Keen & Lucy Bowyer: for offering outstanding after school clubs for our pupils and generously giving of your time and expertise.

PSA: for your amazing efforts at getting lots in place for the children to enjoy and to raise funds for the school, only to be thwarted by COVID at the last minute.

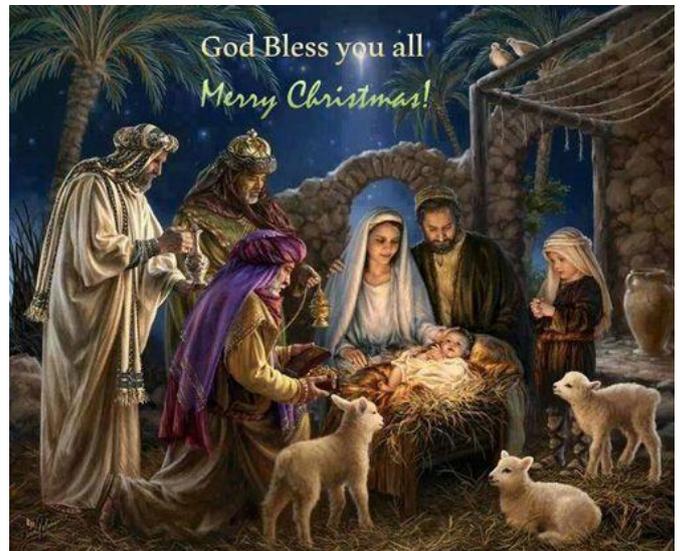
Other parents & grandparents (who wish to remain anonymous): for your generous donations of Christmas crackers for all the children; gorgeous hand-knitted Christmas stockings filled with treats; wooden decorations for the children and Christmas presents for every child – your generosity and kindness is much appreciated and has made this Christmas at St. Michael's very special for the children.

Staff: for your resilience and proactive responses as you continue to work in challenging circumstances.

Governors: for your support when things go awry (and when they don't)!

Cleaners: for keeping our school as clean and hygienic as possible to keep COVID at bay.

We appreciate you all and all that you continue to offer to our St. Michael's community. Thank you so very much.



Wishing you all an enjoyable Christmas break and a very happy and prosperous New Year, from all the staff at St. Michael's.



Closing Reflection

She will bear a Son; and you shall call his name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.

(Matthew 1:21)