

St Michael & All Angels CE Infant School

FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER 2021

In this Issue:

- ◇ Mr Bowen's Message
- ◇ Governors Message
- ◇ Lyndhurst Food Bank
- ◇ Message from Revd Potterton
- ◇ Year R Robins
- ◇ Year 1 Woodpeckers
- ◇ Year2 Owls
- ◇ Diary Dates



Dear Parents/Carers,

As we approach the end of this half term, Christmas seems a distant memory (however, I am looking forward to flipping some pancakes over half term!)

As we look forward to the next half term, it is hard to plan the best next steps forward and, behind the scenes, we have been planning for a host of scenarios as we await to see the governments road map on moving the country forward. However, we do know that for at least the first few weeks that the current state of play will continue and our teachers have been planning our next instalment of learning and exciting themes (spoiler alert – book week is approaching!)

Tomorrow, all the schools, within the Federation, will be involved in training, where we will be looking at strategies to support readers to catch up and developing our curriculum offer. As part of this day I will be asking all the team to ensure that they take the half term break to switch off, take a break from the incredible hard work they have undertaken this half term and enjoy time with their families. This means that our teachers and TA's will not be responding to tapestry over the next week, to ensure they all get a chance to recharge for the next term.

I hope that you too have a chance to enjoy the half term break, albeit a very different one to the norm.

Take care of yourself and each other

Yours Sincerely

M. Bowen.

Mr Bowen

Dear God

As we enjoy our pancakes and prepare for Lent,

Help us to remember that even when things seem hard

To be bold and be strong and remember you are with us.

Amen.



Message From Reverend Potterton

Hi Everyone!

I don't know about you but having spent so much time looking back over the past year regretting those things that we have not been able to do, I've started looking forward to all the things we hope to be able to do in the future! It's true, that we have not been able to worship together at St Michaels, Christ Church and All Saints, but we plan to begin Services of Worship again on 7th March. This means that Mickey's House will be running on Sunday 14th March at 9.30 at St Michael's.

Looking forward to the summer we are hoping to start a monthly Saturday Morning Family Cinema at St Michael's. I don't know about you, but I really miss being able to sing and so from September (providing we can sing by then) we are going to begin what we have called 'Singing for Life' - A community choir for everyone - children and adults. We want to encourage whole families to join and will make no judgement about whether you can hold a note or miss a few on the way!! It's all about 'enjoying life again'. Details to follow.

We are so looking forward to welcoming the school to St Michael's once again for Collective Worship on the first Wednesday of each month. With Lent nearly upon us, we will be discussing how we can support the school in celebrating Easter. I am continuing sending recordings for Collective Worship to the school each week. We are currently learning the actions for our School song (You've got to have Love, Respect and Compassion).

We are facing a particular challenge in preparing the church to become a more useful community space but with an outbreak of dry rot and the need to repair the floor, it is possible that we may have to postpone or cancel events going forward, but we will try to coordinate works with our timetable of events. If anyone knows of any grand making bodies that may be able to help, I'd welcome an email.

So much is being said about the 'mental health' of our children, and whilst we understand that children are especially and remarkably resilient, I am so impressed with the approach the school is taking to keeping an eye out for any indication that children are struggling, as many are. That said, we should be mindful of those members of staff at the school who as well as caring for their own emotional health, and that of their immediate and extended families, are also caring for your children in a most remarkable way. Can I encourage you to talk to staff if you know your children are struggling. I know that they will be supportive.

Finally, during lockdown, we have all become even closer to our pets, whether they have legs, wings or fins(!). This will mean that the loss of our much-loved pets will be even more upsetting than perhaps before lockdown. I know that Clarrie, our Tibetan Terrier has been hugged to within an inch of her life during these past 10 months! Knowing the pets are a wonderful gift from God, I would be willing to visit and conduct a simple service of thanksgiving for any pet that has died if you think this will help. Get in touch if you would welcome this support. AND in recognition of the comfort our pets have been to us during the past year, we hope to hold a Pet Celebration in the Church grounds at St Michael's later in the summer. A similar service will be held at Emery Down later in the year too.

I am always delighted to hear children shout 'Hello Revd David' across the High Street or even from the playground. It is a very special privilege to befriend and support your children, and the staff at the school. So, let's continue to celebrate and support our school community and pray for the health of children and staff together.

I'm looking forward to and listening out for more 'Hellos'! Happy to stop and chat anytime. Get in touch if you think I can help in any way.

Here's a picture of Clarrie having destroyed another Croc!

God bless,

David

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MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNORS

The Governors would like to express their appreciation to all teaching and non teaching staff across the Federation for their hard work and extra effort in providing educational opportunities for their pupils to access at this difficult time.

In addition they wish to acknowledge the equally important role played by parents, carers and families who are ensuring their children can access these opportunities to continue their learning journey at home. Furthermore they are managing this daily learning, which we know is not an easy task, alongside, in many cases, working from home themselves. This, together with the very real pressures of life during Lockdown, does not go unrecognised.

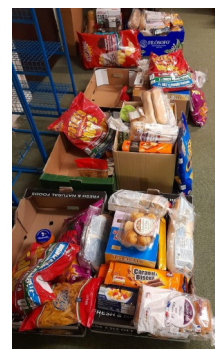
With school and home working together our pupils are in a good position to continue their learning while the present situation lasts.

Lyndhurst Food Bank

The food bank volunteers are currently working hard making up the half term children's food boxes. Fresh food items will be added first thing on Monday morning and then they will be delivered around the village.

Would your child/children like one?

If so please call or text on: 07485 489 275.





Year R Robins

This half term has been a very busy one for Robins class. We have all worked really hard on learning our sounds and looked at some new ideas in maths such as time and money.

In school and at home we have enjoyed setting up shops and counting out coins.

At school we particularly enjoyed our Chinese New Year week with lots of making and dancing.

We have thoroughly enjoyed seeing what our friends at home have been up to as well, especially during our zoom story time sessions. We miss you all and can't wait to all be together again.



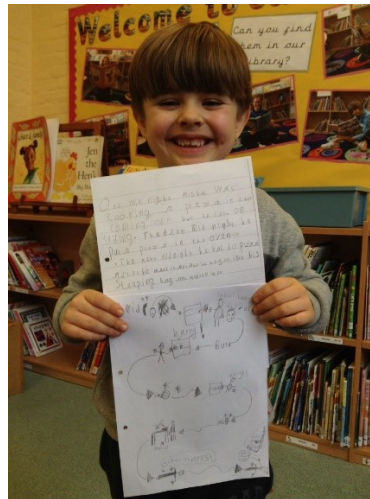
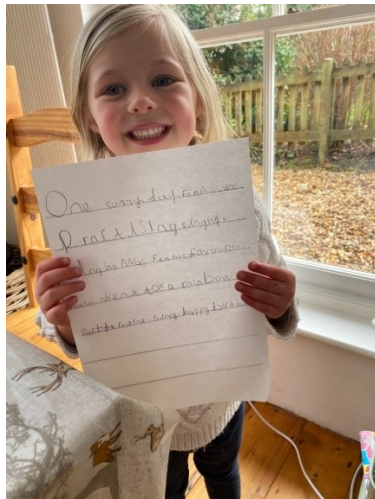


Year 1 Woodpeckers

Hello Woodpeckers!



So, the first Spring term wasn't quite as we planned BUT we have all overcome difficult challenges and achieved a lot in the past six weeks! Whether it was working through the story mapping journey with Mr Noble and myself, making your own jigsaw puzzles or showing off your unique talents, you have all shown a great attitude to your learning and we have loved seeing all of your posts on Tapestry.



We thank you all for your ongoing support and hope you have a well-deserved rest over half term!

The Year 1 team

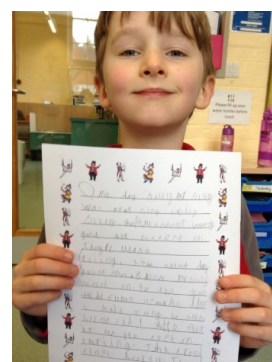
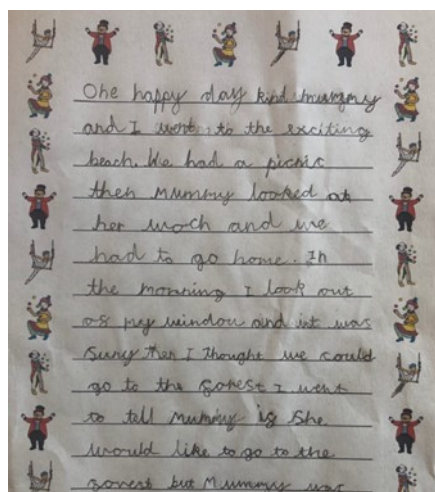
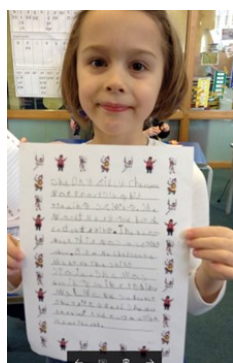
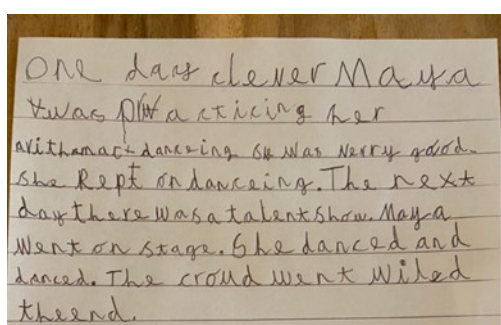


Year 2 Owls

This half term many of us have been home learning. As part of our learning we recognised our own talents. Have a look at us performing our talents...



We also wrote our own stories about our talents, check some below!



Diary Dates



Thursday 11th February	Last day of term
Friday 12th February	Inset Day, school closed
Monday 22nd February	First day of term
Thursday 4th March	World Book Day - more information to follow
Thursday 1st April	Last day of term before Easter Holidays

Half Term

School Closed Monday 15th February — Friday 19th February

