NEWSLETTER

October 2026

St Michael's



Academy

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we come to the end of another busy and successful half term, I would like to thank our pupils, families, and staff for the fantastic start to the year. The school has been full of energy, enthusiasm, and achievement, with pupils working hard in their lessons, embracing new opportunities and demonstrating the positive attitudes that help make St Michael's such a special place to learn. It has also been a pleasure to welcome a number of new pupils and families to our school community. They have settled quickly into our routines and expectations and are already making valuable contributions to school life.

There have been many memorable moments this half term. Our pupils have shown great compassion and community spirit through their fundraising efforts for Mental Health awareness, while the School Disco was a wonderful opportunity for children to celebrate, socialise and have fun together. We have also enjoyed three incredible class assemblies, which have showcased the confidence, creativity, and ambition of our pupils. These events serve as a reminder of the many talents we have across the school and the pride our children take in sharing their learning with others.

I would also like to recognise and thank our dedicated staff team for their continued hard work and commitment. As many families know, I currently spend two days each week working away from the school in my wider leadership role. The seamless way in which the school continues to thrive during my absence is a significant strength and reflects the expertise, professionalism, and teamwork of our staff. Their unwavering commitment to providing the very best opportunities for our children is something of which we should all be immensely proud.

Next half term promises to be equally exciting. We are delighted to be welcoming 25 school leaders from across the country who will visit St Michael's to learn more about our school and to see first-hand why our pupils achieve so well. This is a tremendous opportunity to showcase the exceptional work taking place every day within our classrooms. We also look forward to more class assemblies, Year 4 beginning rehearsals for their school performance, and a wide range of enrichment opportunities designed to broaden experiences, spark new interests, and help every pupil thrive. Whether through sport, the arts, leadership opportunities, or curriculum experiences, we remain committed to ensuring our children receive an education rich in both opportunity and aspiration.

As we move into the second half of the term, we will continue to focus on one of our core values: Respect. At St Michael's, respect means treating others as we would wish to be treated and creating a school where everyone feels safe, valued, and supported. We teach our pupils that respect is about listening carefully, thinking before speaking, taking responsibility for their actions, and recognising that our differences make us stronger as a community. Every day, we see examples of pupils demonstrating respect through their kindness, good manners, positive attitudes and care for one another and the school environment. Our staff work hard to model these behaviours and foster a culture of inclusion, understanding, and high expectations, ensuring every child feels heard, valued and able to succeed. By working together, we can continue to strengthen our school community and ensure that every pupil leaves each day feeling respected, proud, and ready to make a positive contribution to the world around them.

Thank you for your continued support. I wish all of our families a restful and enjoyable half-term break, and I look forward to welcoming everyone back for another exciting chapter in the St Michael's journey.





YEAR 3

Fine Class

Fine Class had a busy but entertaining term. The children settled into school remarkably quickly and are now proud members of the St Michael's Academy community. Most of our learning was based on the question: "How did Britain change from the Stone Age to the Iron Age?"
We have been learning about the Stone Age, Bronze Age and Iron Age, comparing how tools, settlements and food changed during these ages. The children were really interested and asked lots of questions. It was great to start this topic off with our Stone Age day. Children and staff all dressed up and had a great day with lots of Stone Age related activities.

In Geography we have been looking at Yeovil and found out it is a town due to its variety of amenities.







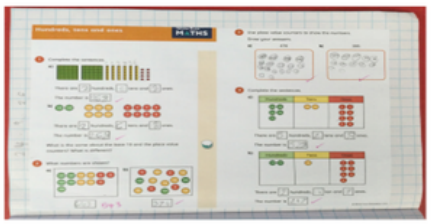
We have been enjoying several books this term. We started with "Into the bin and out again" by Anne Fine, followed by "The Koala who could" and our class text "The nothing to see here hotel" by Steven Butler.
In Maths we've been working on place value and addition and subtraction alongside refreshing our 2,5 and 10 times tables using TT Rockstars.

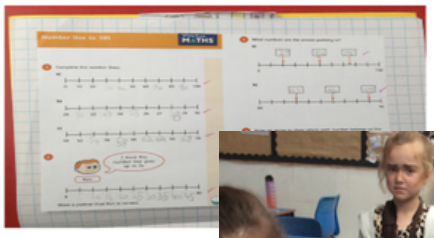
Science this term was all about Rocks, we found out the 3 main types of rocks and had a look at how fossils are formed.

YEAR 3

Cowell Class









We have had such an exciting start to Year 3! From exploring the Stone Age to discovering new books and getting creative, here is a look at what we have been learning.

SPAG & HANDWRITING

We recapped capital letters, conjunctions, commas, nouns, adjectives, noun phrases, verbs, adverbs, sentence types and apostrophes. We have practised our weekly spellings in creative ways, including word pyramids, and worked on our joined handwriting.

READING

We loved reading The Nothing to See Here Hotel! We answered questions, drew characters and wrote our own book reviews.

MATHS

We have been developing our place value skills and have now moved on to addition and subtraction.

SCIENCE

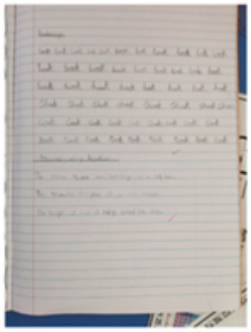
We investigated different types of rocks, using magnifying glasses to look closely at their features.

PRIDE

We started our PRIDE learning with positivity, exploring how we can recognise and express positive emotions.









HISTORY

We explored how life changed from the Stone Age to the Iron Age, comparing settlements, food and tools. Stone Age Day was a favourite, with lots of exciting hands-on activities!

GEOGRAPHY

We looked at our local area and learnt about the type of settlement we live in.

MUSIC

We created beats using Stone Age vocabulary and really enjoyed performing them for each other.



YEAR 4

Rauf Class

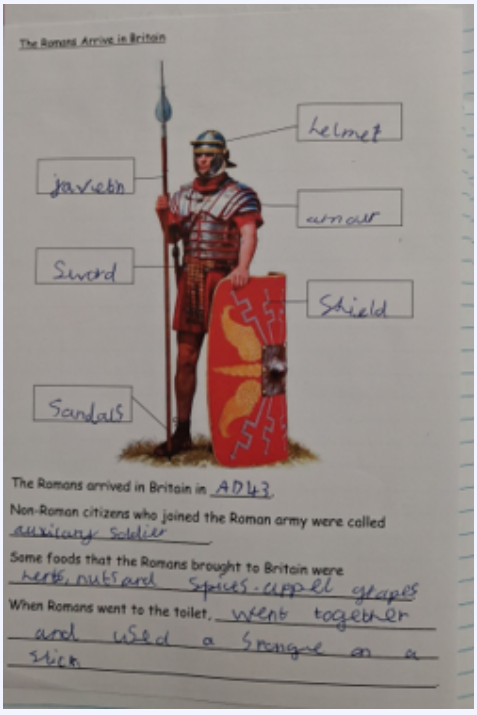
We have been learning all about Roman Britain in Year 4 this half term. We learnt the story of Romulus and Remus and have been answering the question 'What did the Romans do for us?' in our history lessons. We also made Roman shields and swords and practised Roman battle formations on the playground before having a battle against Blackman Class!









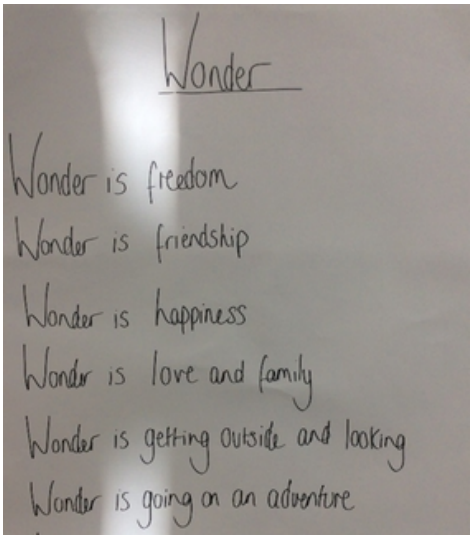




YEAR 4

Blackman Class





Exploring the Human Digestive System

In Science, we have been learning all about the human digestive system, exploring the important roles of our mouth, teeth and saliva in breaking down food, as well as how stomach acid helps with digestion. To bring our learning to life, we carried out a hands-on experiment using bread and cola in a sealed bag to model how food is broken down in the stomach. The results were certainly a little disgusting, but they gave us a fascinating insight into what happens inside our bodies!





National Poetry Day

🌍 Celebrating National Poetry Day! ✍️

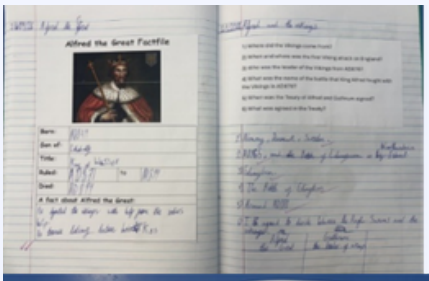
We were lucky enough to join a Zoom call with the wonderful Michael Rosen and the Hot Poets, listening to their inspiring poems exploring climate change and the wonder of our world. 🌱🌎 We shared our own ideas, thought about the beauty of our planet and had a go at writing our very own poems in class. What a fantastic way to celebrate the power of poetry and reflect on how we can care for our amazing world! 💚

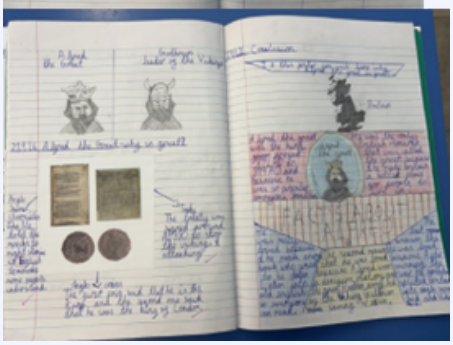




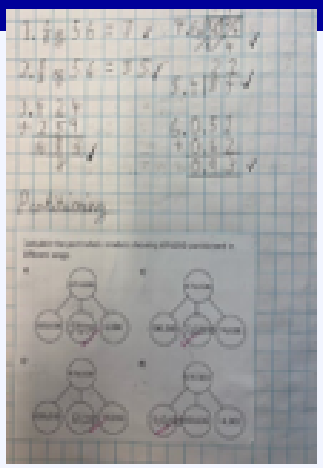
YEAR 5

Morpurgo Class

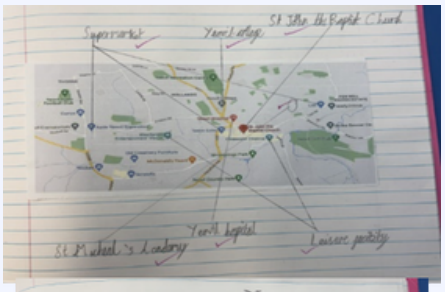




We have had a wonderful and positive start to the school year in Morpurgo Class! The children have settled back into school routines brilliantly and have shown great enthusiasm, curiosity and determination in their learning. We began Autumn 1 with Positivity Week, where we explored what it means to have a positive mindset, how we can turn negative emotions into positive ones, and the different ways we can spread positivity to those around us. We thought carefully about how our words and actions can make a difference and how we can all work towards becoming the best humans we can be.



In Grammar, we have been fine-tuning the fundamental skills that will help us become confident and effective writers. We have been revisiting key grammatical concepts, developing our understanding of how language works and ensuring we have a strong foundation to build upon. This important preparation will help us as we move into Autumn 2, when we will be exploring some exciting writing topics and putting our growing skills into practice.





Across the curriculum, we have been working incredibly hard and developing our knowledge and understanding in a range of exciting topics. In Geography, we explored the question "Where do we live?", learning more about our local area and developing our understanding of the world around us. In History, we investigated the question "Why is Alfred the Great so great?" We discovered more about this fascinating historical figure and explored the reasons why he is remembered as such an important king.

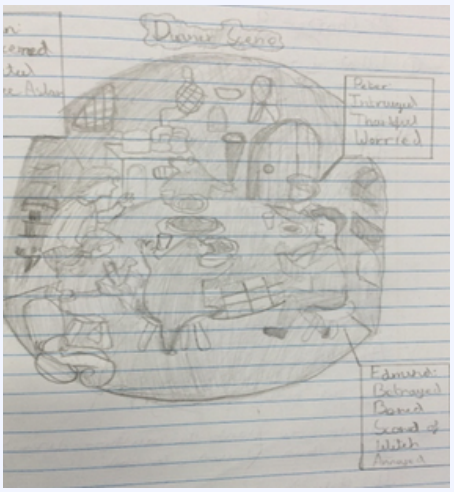


YEAR 5

Wilson Class



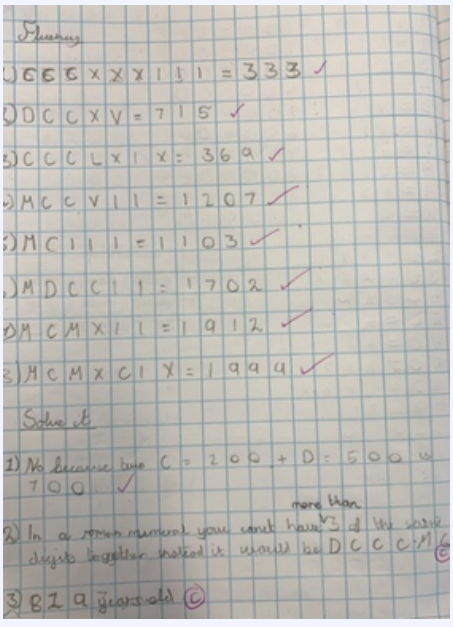
We are reading The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe. So far, we have created wonderful illustrations of the characters and settings, as well as summaries of each chapter.









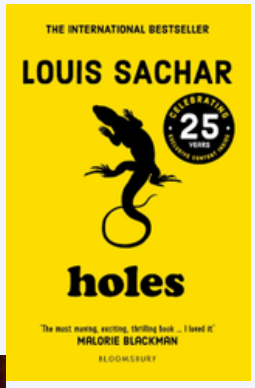


In Maths, we have learnt all things 'place value'. We had lots of fun remembering our Roman Numerals and making big numbers.
In Science, we have been looking at Forces. We made parachutes so we could see first-hand, how gravity and air resistance work against each other to slow down the parachute. We also investigated which surface holds the most friction.



YEAR 5

Hargrave Class

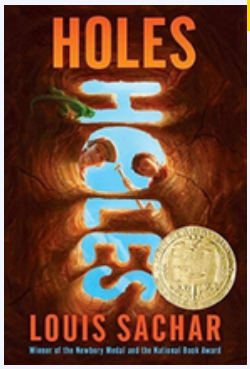


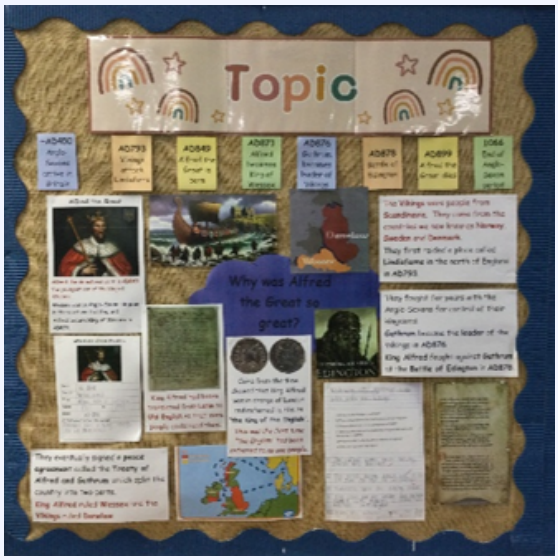
Welcome back:

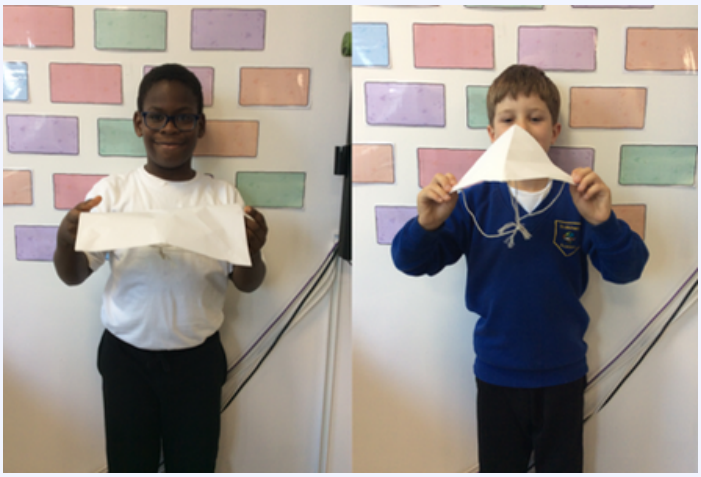
It's been great to see all the children settle in so well. We've hit the ground running, focusing on our core maths and grammar skills this term. I've been really impressed with their recall of previous years' knowledge and how they've adapted to the level and standard of work required for Year 5.

Class Text:

Our first Class Text of Year 5 is Holes by Louis Sachar. It's an incredible tale of poor Stanley Yelnats who was wrongly convicted of a crime and sent to Camp Greenlake. Unfortunately, the camp isn't very green and there's no lake. Stanley's journey will challenge his perception of fairness, friendship and family and hopefully, by the end, we will all find out what his "no-good-dirty-rotten-pig-stealing-great-great-grandfather" actually did to begin this unlucky curse.







History and Science:

This term we have been learning what made Alfred the Great so great. From battling vicious Vikings to uniting the Seven Kingdoms, Alfred, King of Wessex, was worthy of his title.

In science, we are learning all about the forces that surround us. We designed and made our own parachutes before testing whether the size would affect how air resistant, they were.



YEAR 6

Ho-Yen Class



🌊 A Splendid Visit from Wessex Water! 💧
Ho-Yen Become Water Champions with Wessex Water!
On Friday 25th September, Ho-Yen class welcomed Sam from Wessex Water for an eye-opening and engaging workshop about one of our most precious resources: water.

The children were fascinated to learn the challenges facing our water supply and the importance of using water wisely. Sam explained that, following the recent UK heatwave, our local water supply is currently being supported by water from Sherborne Castle Lake in Yeovil. This really helped the children understand that water is not an unlimited resource and that we all have a responsibility to protect it.
One of the highlights of the session was a series of exciting fair-testing investigations. Through practical demonstrations, the children discovered what happens when items that should not be flushed down toilets or washed down sinks end up in our drainage systems. They were amazed to see how so-called "flushable" products can cause serious blockages, damage equipment and lead to costly repairs.

The workshop encouraged lots of thoughtful discussion, and the children asked some fantastic questions about water conservation, pollution and how water reaches our homes. They were shocked by some of the facts they learned but left feeling empowered to make positive changes in their own lives.
By the end of the visit, Year 6 had gained a new appreciation for the clean water that we often take for granted each day. We would like to thank Sam and Wessex Water for delivering such an informative and memorable workshop. We are sure that our Year 6 pupils will be taking their water-saving messages home and helping to make a real difference within our community.
Can you be a Water Champion too? Remember: save water, only flush the 3 Ps (pee, poo and paper), and help protect our environment for the future! 💧🌍



YEAR 6

Boyce Class



Reading:
We have made a fantastic start to the year and have already explored a range of exciting topics across the curriculum. In English, we have been reading When the Sky Falls by Phil Earle, using the text to develop our reading skills and deepen our understanding of characters, themes and vocabulary.

History:
This half-term, our brilliant Year 6 historians have travelled back to the most famous year in British history: 1066.
Through dramatic reenactments and source analysis, the children explored the chaotic struggle for the English throne. Here is a snapshot of our learning:
·The Three Rivals: We investigated the three men who claimed the crown after King Edward the Confessor died: Harold Godwinson, Harald Hardrada, and William of Normandy.
·A Year of Battles: The classes tracked the fast-moving events of 1066, from Harold's victory against the Vikings at Stamford Bridge to his exhausting march south to face the Normans.
·The Battle of Hastings: We looked closely at the fateful turning point on 14 October 1066, exploring how William's clever tactics led to the Norman Conquest and his crowning as King William I on Christmas Day.

Positivity Week included
from Pete the Poet

What a prehistoric term it has been! This half-term, our brilliant Year 6 scientists have travelled millions of years into the past to explore fossils and adaptation.
Through hands-on investigations, the children have discovered how living things change over time to survive. Here is a snapshot of our learning:
·Fantastic Fossils: We explored how fossils form in sedimentary rock over millions of years, acting as a natural history book that gives us clues about prehistoric life.
·Amazing Adaptations: The classes investigated how animals and plants adapt to suit their surroundings—like a polar bear's thick blubber or a desert cactus storing water.
·Evolution: We introduced how these helpful traits are passed down through generations, looking at the famous work of Charles Darwin.



Art



The children have worked incredibly hard in Art and have produced some excellent pieces of work that they are very proud of. Throughout the half term, they have explored the work of a range of artists, learning about different styles, techniques and creative approaches. The children have developed their artistic skills through drawing, showing increasing confidence and creativity in their work. They have demonstrated great enthusiasm, resilience and attention to detail, always striving to do their best.

It has been wonderful to see the children express their ideas so creatively while learning about new artists and experimenting with different techniques. We are very proud of their achievements and look forward to seeing their artistic skills continue to grow next half term.

Book Club

This half-term, many children have joined book clubs, which is fantastic to see! Book clubs are a wonderful way for children to share their love of reading with their peers and discuss the plot, characters and events as they read. I hope that every child in Year 4 joins a book club this year. Reading for pleasure is so important, bringing a wealth of benefits, including developing a wider vocabulary, strengthening comprehension skills and building empathy by helping children understand different perspectives and experiences.



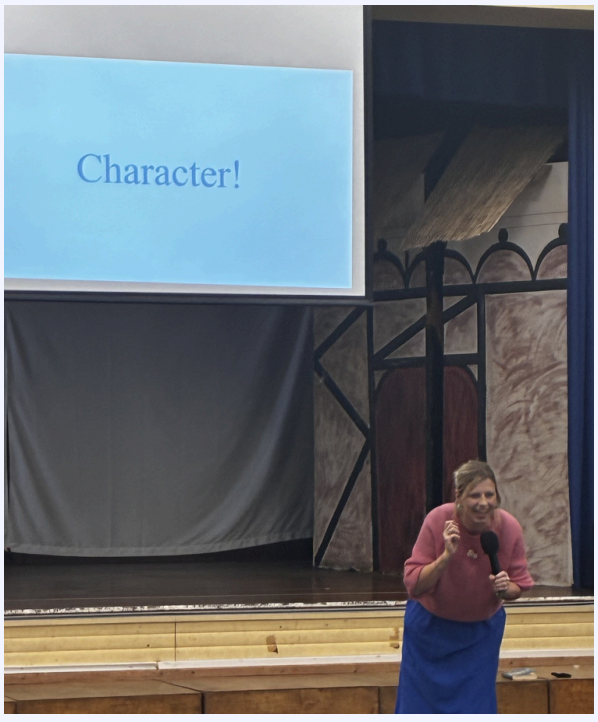


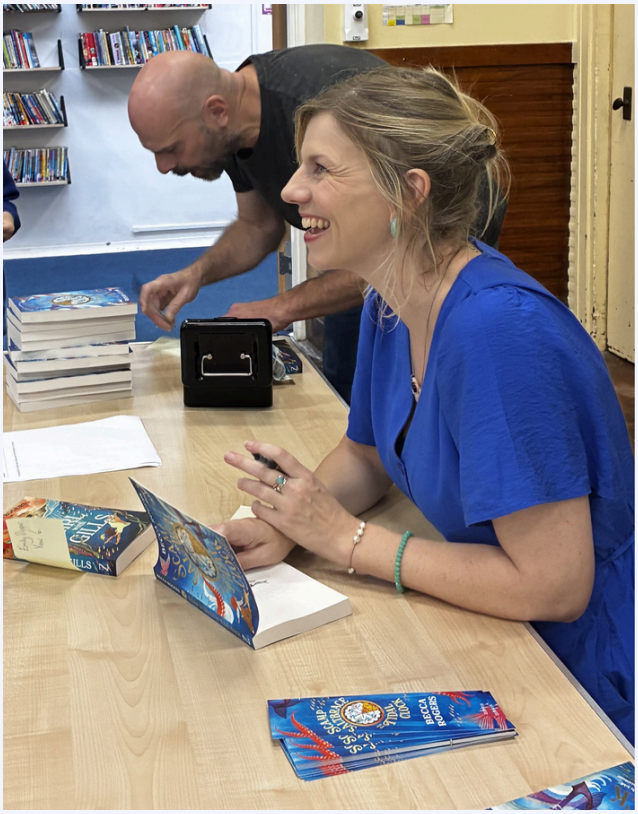




Author Visit

It was wonderful to welcome Becca Rodgers back to school this half term, where she led an exciting assembly and writing workshop with our Year 4, 5 and 6 children.
We learned all about Becca's new book, Scamp Saltbrace and the Tidal Clock, as she talked us through how to create fascinating characters and imaginative settings. We were particularly intrigued by the evil mermaids featured in her book!
The children enjoyed having a go at creating their own good and naughty characters and developing settings for their stories. We also loved listening to Becca read extracts from her book, and many children who had purchased copies had the exciting opportunity to get them signed and enjoy a little chat with her.
A huge thank you to Becca for inspiring our young writers and sharing her love of storytelling with us. What a brilliant way to start a Monday morning!





Avon and Somerset Police
ROADS POLICING

E-SCOOTERS AND THE LAW

It is against the law to ride a privately-owned electric scooter (e-scooter) on a public road or pavement. We understand that buying an e-scooter can be tempting, especially as you can buy them from many popular retailers.

Current law

You can buy an e-scooter, but you can't ride it on a UK public road, cycle lane or pavement. The only place those e-scooters can be used is on private land with the landowner's permission.

As e-scooters do not have number plates, signalling ability and do not always have visible rear lights, they can't be used legally on the roads.

Why is this?

E-scooters are classified as Personal Light Electric Vehicles (PLEV's), so they are treated as motor vehicles and subject to the same legal requirements, such as:

- MOT
- licensing
- tax
- insurance



Dear Parents and Carers,

We are writing to raise awareness of the law and safety risks surrounding the use of privately owned e-scooters, which are becoming increasingly common within our communities.

Many young people use e-scooters to travel to and from school or college. However, what is often not understood is that it is currently illegal to ride a privately owned e-scooter on public roads, pavements, cycle lanes, or in other public places.

Under the Road Traffic Act 1988, e-scooters are classed as motor vehicles. This means the same legal requirements that apply to cars and motorcycles, such as insurance and a valid driving licence, also apply to e-scooters. As these requirements cannot currently be met by privately owned e-scooters, their use in public places is illegal.

If a privately owned e-scooter is ridden on the public highway, police can seize the vehicle and destroy it, and the rider may face prosecution. Parents and guardians may also be liable if they permit a child to use an uninsured e-scooter. This can result in penalty points and a fine. Any points issued to a young person can be carried forward to their future driving licence, potentially affecting insurance costs and their driving record.

Beyond the legal implications, there are significant safety concerns associated with e-scooter use. Riders are particularly vulnerable in the event of a collision, and the risk of serious injury increases when e-scooters are used in busy traffic environments or by inexperienced riders.

The only e-scooters that can be legally used on public roads are those operating as part of approved government rental schemes, where users must meet specific age and licence requirements.

Avon and Somerset Police remain committed to improving road safety and protecting all road users. By understanding the law and discussing these issues with your children, you can help prevent them from becoming involved in a collision, suffering serious injury, or unintentionally committing road traffic offences that could affect them for years to come.

Thank you for your support.

Yours sincerely,

The Road Safety Team
Avon and Somerset Police

freedomleisure
where you matter

HAPPIER STRONGER TOGETHER

HALF TERM FUN
AT GOLDENSTONES
18th – 30th October
FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY!

PLAY
EXPLORE
BE ACTIVE
BELONG

GREAT MEMORIES THIS HALF TERM!

AUTUMN & HALLOWEEN SCAVENGER HUNT
£1 PER SHEET
Available throughout half term
Explore the centre and see what you can find!
Fun for all ages!
SPOOKY FUN AWAITS!

FAMILY GAMES SESSIONS
28th October
2:00pm – 3:30pm
30th October
9:30am – 11:00am
£1 PER PERSON
Fun games for all the family in the studio!

SWIMMING STROKE CLINICS
Butterfly & Breaststroke
26th, 27th & 28th October
Members £20
Non-members £25
Develop your skills and confidence in the pool!

FAMILY PRIVATE HIRE SESSIONS
18th October
Senshine Private Hire (SEN Families)
3:00pm – 4:00pm
26th October
Yeovil for Families Private Hire
1:30pm – 2:30pm
A relaxed and inclusive session for families to enjoy.

TRAMPOLINING AT WESTLANDS
BOUNCE INTO HALF TERM!
29th October
10:00am – 12:00pm
£8 per session
Maximum 10 places
ALL ABILITIES WELCOME!
Have fun, build confidence and enjoy an energetic trampolining session this half term!
CALL TO BOOK
01935 314652
SPACES ARE LIMITED SO BOOK EARLY!

FAMILY BADMINTON OR TABLE TENNIS AT WESTLANDS
Drop-in sessions (subject to sports hall availability)
£10
A great way to stay active together!
CALL TO BOOK
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BOOK NOW!
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Westlands activities (Trampolining & Family Badminton/Table Tennis)
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Please ensure that you provide a healthy and nutritious snack for your child during morning break.



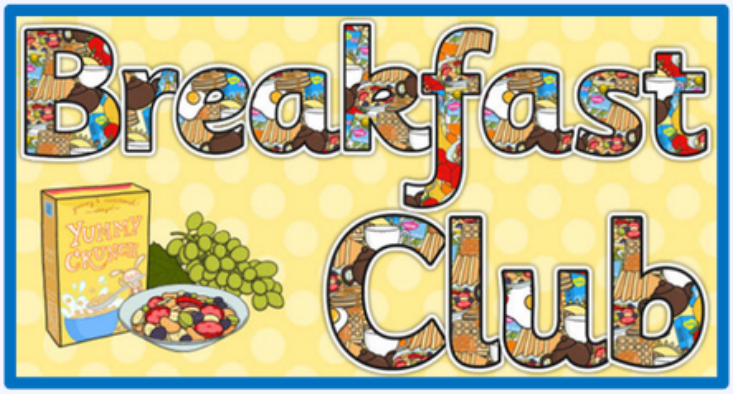
Here at St Michael's Academy we always aim to use fresh ingredients from our local suppliers. We bake our own cakes every week along with our own pasta sauces, bolognaise, chilli and curry.

The current cost is £2.75 per day. Bookable on ParentPay

We also cater for dairy free, gluten free and vegetarian.

Please ensure the school office has all your child's dietary dietary needs.





It is important for pupils to start the day with a nutritious breakfast. Evidence shows that providing a healthy school breakfast at the start of the school day can contribute to improved readiness to learn, increased concentration, and improved wellbeing and behaviour.

All breakfast products meet the school food standards.

The National School Breakfast Programme (NSBP) is funded by the Department for Education and delivered by Family Action to support schools in England to provide children with a healthy breakfast at the start of the school day.

Here at St Michael's Academy, we provide breakfast from 8 – 8.30 am serving a range of cereals and hot bagels at a cost of £2.30 per day or free if your child is in receipt of free school meals.

Contact the School office for more information.

IMPORTANT DATES & REMINDERS NOVEMBER

Children return to school
Monday 2nd November

After School Clubs Start
Monday 2nd November

St Michael's Open Afternoons
10th 2-4pm
11th 2-4pm
12th 2-6pm

Non-Uniform
Friday 13th November
Bingo Donations

Friday 13th November
Wilson Class assembly

Wednesday 18th November
All year groups Cinema trip
Christmas Bingo 5.30pm

Friday 26th November
Hargrave assembly

IMPORTANT DATES & REMINDERS DECEMBER

Friday 4th December
Non-Uniform
Tombola Donations

Friday 11th December
Christmas Fayre
3.30-5.30
No afternoon bus

Monday 14th December
No PE this week

Wednesday 16th December
Christmas Lunch
Christmas Jumper Day

Thursday 17th December
Christmas Parties
Non Uniform

Friday 18th December Full Uniform
Church Service @ St Michael's
Church 11.30
Early Finish 12.30
No afternoon bus