



# St. Michael's C of E Infant School Newsletter



Newsletter 7 Spring 2022



10<sup>th</sup> January 2022

**St. MICHAEL'S**  
CE (CONTROLLED) INFANT SCHOOL

## London's Burning

Happy New Year to you all. I hope that you had a relaxing and enjoyable break.

Last term, as part of their History learning, Year 2 learnt all about the Great Fire of London. The children enjoyed learning about how a historian knows about the past by looking at some of the different artefacts that tell us about what happened in 1666. The children were also very interested in finding out how the fire quickly spread from one building to another.

The children had been challenged to make their own buildings after studying what the buildings looked like in 1666 and then (after carrying a detailed risk assessment as a staff team and with the children) we watched the model buildings burn from a safe distance on the playground.



## Reading Update

Sadly we are unable to use some of our old reading books for our children in reception and year 1. This is because they are not compatible with our phonics scheme (Little Wandle) and the government recommendation is that children are only given reading books with the sounds in that they have been learning.

We will therefore put our old books out for you to take home if you want to use them with your child at home. All of the books are completely free and please take as many as you want.

## Collective Worship

Last week in Collective Worship, the children found out about epiphany and they thought about giving and receiving gifts. This week we will be thinking about starting a new year and our aims and resolutions. The children will have time to think about what they want to get even better at, at school and at home.

### Money Raised

Thank you so much for your generous donations at the Christmas performance. We raised a total of £544.45 for the Phyllis Tuckwell hospice.

Our Christmas jumper day also raised a total of £182.31

Thank you for your kindness and support

### Diary Dates Spring 2022

**Reading information evening YR and Y1** (this will be on Zoom): 7:00pm Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> January

**Spring half term:** Monday 21<sup>st</sup> February- Friday 25<sup>th</sup> February

**Inset Day:** Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> March

**End of term:** Friday 8<sup>th</sup> April



### School Prayer Meeting

As a way of supporting our school's Christian ethos and values, we'd like to provide an opportunity for parents and carers to come together and pray for the school; to give thanks to God for the school and to pray for the coming year. We will meet online on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> January at 8pm (but hopefully face to face in the future!). If you would like to join us or find out more, please get in touch via the school office and we'll send you a Zoom link.

-Richard and Lucy Honeysett

### Vacancies at St Michael's Infant School- Please ask at the office for more information

#### Lunch Time Supervisor

We currently have a vacancy for a lunchtime supervisor. We are looking for a caring, calm person who enjoys working with children and has a positive outlook and sense of humour. The role includes: ensuring that children wash their hands before they eat; supporting a class in the hall at lunchtime and supervising the children at playtime. When supervising the children at lunchtime you will need to help the children cut up their food, support them with healthy eating and assisting/ guiding the children with their tray of food. At playtime, you will need to be able to help all of the children have a happy and safe play; introduce them to some traditional playground games and use of toys to give a purpose to play.

#### Reading Assistant

We are currently looking for a reading assistant to work with small groups of children in the afternoons; hearing them read and updating the class teacher on the progress the children are making. This would be Monday- Friday from 1:00-3:00. You will receive full training in our Little Wandle phonics and reading scheme. Your role would be crucial in supporting our children to have a love of books and to develop as a reader.



## Monthly Mental Health and Well-Being Bulletin

### Welcome to our first monthly mental health and wellbeing post of 2022!

We hope that you have had a very happy Christmas with your lovely children, and, found time amongst the festivities to rest and recoup some energy ready for the year that lies ahead. The transition from Christmas to the new year can be a tricky one but hopefully, by the time you read this newsletter, you will have closed the door on 'Christmas-time' and have one foot in the door of 'real-time' when the pressures and expectations of 'real life' come sharply back into focus.

In school, we will be working hard to help the children make this transition into the new term, too. Alongside reminding the children of the boundaries and expectations that help keep them safe and happy in school so that they are ready to learn, we will re-establish clear routines so that the children know what to expect and are able to settle quickly and confidently back into the familiar pattern of the school day.

Both in and out of school, the benefit of routines on children's well-being cannot be overstated. Routine is 'consistently found to be important for children' (Spangola and Fies). Whilst routines and patterns can be tricky to embed and adhere to, a sense of predictability and repetition help children to feel safe and in control of the world around them. Given the nature of the last two years and the uncertainty that we continue to face, it is reassuring to note that familiar routines during times of crisis and unpredictability have also been found to help children develop resilience and maintain hopefulness and positivity.

The aim of this post is to give you some tips on how to set up simple routines at home to help you and your child get back into good habits and be ready for the New Year! Children **love** knowing what is coming next and they will very quickly become active participants in the setting of new routines in your home! Please do have a look at our 'Top Tips' on the next page.



Continuing the theme of new beginnings and fresh starts, in our Jigsaw PSHE sessions this term, the children will be looking ahead and thinking about their 'Dreams and Goals'. In doing so they will be thinking about their talents, the things that make them unique and how these skills can help them to make positive contributions to their class and their family. As we move through the half term, we will be focusing on the Christian Value of perseverance and how we can use simple strategies to help us overcome difficulties and approach challenges with confidence and positivity.

Hopefully we can all learn from the children and step into 2022 with confidence, positivity, and hope.

**-Mrs Boon (PSHE and Well-Being Lead)**

## Creating Routines at home...



**Only change one part of the day at a time.** If getting up and ready for school is stressful, think about a routine to make the small tasks that need to happen before walking out of the door habitual and automatic.

**Find some benefit in it for your children.** For example, if they do each step of the routine on time, they get a little extra time to play or read before it is time to leave! Use a timer on a phone so that this 'extra time' has an end that the children can see!



**Start with non-negotiables.** What **has** to happen each morning? Who has to be where at what time? What must we do before we leave? When you have worked these out, then give your children some 'choices' so that they feel part of the process – what would you like for breakfast, toast or cereal? Whose turn is it to have their hair brushed first? Ponytail or plaits? Trousers or shorts? The key to these 'choices' is to make sure that both of the options given are non-stressful for you! If you only have bread for breakfast, then offer squares or triangles – the choices themselves aren't important, the children feeling listened to is the key to this having a positive impact on your morning.



**Make a poster showing the steps in your routine.** This can be as fancy or as simple as you like! At school, some classes have pre-printed, laminated pictures on a Velcro strip to show the daily routine, other classes (like Ducks and Toucans!) use a dry-wipe board where the routine is drawn daily as the children are being registered. The pictures are often wonky but it is the talking through that has the power! Display this routine somewhere prominent so that the children can access it independently throughout the morning. This gives them the power to monitor themselves through the morning so that they can, over time, develop independence and confidence in their actions. It will also ease you away from having to do the endless reminders to put shoes on 57 times before walking out of the door...

**Follow the same routine every single day for two months.** After this, the routine should have become habit and your children will feel positive and proactive about your new routine!



**Teach children about 'whoops'!** A whoops happens when things go wrong, or when something out of the ordinary happens. If the morning starts badly and steps from the routine have to be skipped, acknowledge this and tell the children that 'this is a whoops! We will skip having showers and just have a wash with a flannel instead – whoops! But look, now we can brush our teeth and have breakfast just like we normally do'.

