

St. Michael's C of E Infant School Newsletter

Newsletter 3 Spring 2023



6th February 2023

St. MICHAEL'S
CE (CONTROLLED) INFANT SCHOOL

Creating a reading buzz in school and at home

As a school we aim to promote a love of reading. We do this in many ways and thought that we would share some of these, as well as ways that you can encourage reading for pleasure at home.

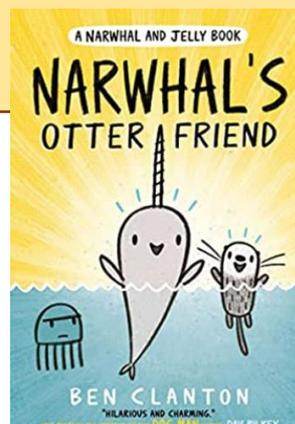
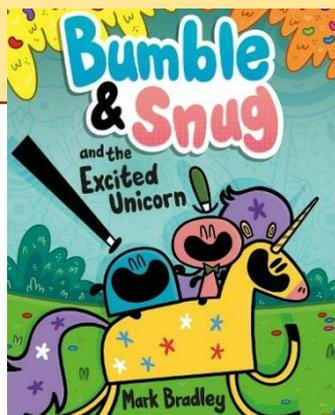
Every day the class teacher shares a book with the children (this may be fiction, non-fiction or poetry). Please see our website for some of the books we read in each year group: [Reading for Pleasure | St Michael's Infant School \(st-michaels-inf.hants.sch.uk\)](http://st-michaels-inf.hants.sch.uk) In each classroom the children are able to vote on the book that they would most like to hear each day (they have a choice of 2 books).

As school staff we try and share some of the children's books that we enjoy reading so that the children can see us as readers too. At the moment lots of our Year 1 and 2 children are very keen to try and borrow the Bumble and Snug books and the Narwhal series (see below).

We open the library up every Wednesday after school so that you can choose a library book with your child.

You can promote a love of reading at home by: reading and looking at your child's library book with them; showing that you are a reader (visibly read in front of your child); showing your child that words are everywhere - on the internet, on messages, in the post, on food and on the TV.

Dot Patton



After school clubs

From next term we would like to offer the Year R children the opportunity to take part in some after school clubs. Mrs Patton will be running a Dance Club on Tuesdays and Mrs Westmorland will be running a Craft Club on Wednesdays. These will be for Year R children only. We will be contacting parents this week and asking them to sign up should their children wish to take part. The clubs are free and the spaces will be limited.

Inclusion and Belonging Survey

There will be a small group of parents, staff and governors meeting on Thursday 9th February at 4pm to fill in a diversity, inclusion and belonging survey for our school. This is a baseline survey to find out what we can do to improve as a diverse and inclusive community. If you would like to be involved in this, please let me know via the school office. Thank you

Collective Worship

Over the last few weeks the children have been finding out about the changes that they can make in the world to make the world a better place. The children have been thinking about how we can be like a light in the world by doing kind things to support others. They thought about how Jesus is described as a light of the world in the Bible.

The children also learnt about Chinese New Year and how the Buddha was kind and generous sharing his birthday.



Diary Dates 2023

Friday 10th – Year 1 Cake Sale

Monday 13th – 17th February – Half term

Friday 3rd March – World Book Day. Come to school in your pyjamas with a book to share at bedtime.

Tuesday 7th– Miller’s Ark Farm visit for Year R

Tuesday 21st– Fire Service visit for Year 2

Parents’ Evening Dates - Tuesday 28th March and Thursday 30th March

Wednesday 29th– Easter Service at St. Michael’s Church

Friday 31st - Easter Bake Off Competition and afterschool cake sale

Monday 3rd – Friday 14th April – Easter Holiday

Monday 17th - Start of the Summer Term.

World Book Day

This year the school will be participating in World Book Day on Friday 3rd March. We will be asking the children to come in dressed in pyjamas and dressing gowns – ready to hear a bed time story. More information will follow in a joint letter from the two schools.

Safer Internet Day

Tuesday 7th February is Safer Internet Day. In our Assembly time, the children will be learning about staying safe online and will be revising the words of Smartie the Penguin (See picture- below left).

We have also planned a joint online safety day with the Junior school at the later date of **April 18th** and have invited a guest visitor to talk to all year groups about staying safe online. **This will be followed by a presentation to parents so please write this date in your diary.** Timings will be confirmed next half term.

For more information about supporting your child to stay safe online, please see:

[Parents and Carers - UK Safer Internet Centre](https://www.childnet.com/smartie)

There is lots of very useful information on this website including support for parents when helping children stay safe on different devices.

Our School Improvement Plan

At the Parents' and Carers' Forum meeting last Thursday, I shared our School Improvement Plan with the parents and carers who attended. Every year a school has a School Improvement Plan that they work on to improve different areas of school. These are the main objectives on our Plan:

Objective One:

To refine the foundation curriculum (all subjects other than English, Maths and Science) and ensure that key knowledge is identified and children are supported to retain this knowledge.

Objective Two:

To strengthen high quality inclusive teaching with a focus on the core subjects (English, Maths and Science).

Objective Three:

To improve inclusion across the school so that all children understand what it means to be ready to learn and all staff are equipped with consistent ways of supporting children to do this.

Objective Four:

To strengthen the leadership capacity so that leaders at all levels (this means subject leaders too) impact on improved outcomes for all children, particularly those who are the most disadvantaged.

Objective Five:

To improve the attendance and wellbeing of vulnerable children within our school community.

Please do ask if you would like any more information about these objectives. A huge thank you to all of the parents/carers who came to the Forum meeting.



Monthly Mental Health and Well-Being Bulletin

February

Children's Mental Health Week

Welcome to our monthly Mental Health and Well-Being bulletin! The theme of our bulletin this month ties in with Children's Mental Health week which runs from 6-12 February. The week is organised and run by the charity 'Place2Be' and focuses on the importance of promoting good mental health and wellbeing for children and young people. The theme of Children's Mental Health week this year is 'Let's Connect'.

What's it all about?

Let's Connect is about making meaningful connections. Human beings thrive in communities, and this connection is vital for our wellbeing. When we have healthy connections – to family, friends and others – this can support our mental health and our sense of wellbeing. When our need for rewarding social connections is not met, we can feel isolated and lonely – which can have a negative impact on our mental health. As parents and carers, you are an important role model to your child. How you connect with friends and family will influence your child, and how they develop their own friendships and relationships. For example, how you greet people and maintain friendships, but also how you forgive people or say sorry when you need to.

The theme, **Let's Connect**, ties in perfectly with our school values of **friendship, love** and **forgiveness**.

Friendship: When the children come together in collective worship and say the school prayer, they are given the opportunity to be thankful for their friends. This is also reinforced in our weekly PSHE lessons which all start with a game, giving children the opportunity to build and strengthen social connections with their peers. They are encouraged to work as a team and remember the importance of listening and respecting others.

Forgiveness: The school prayer also reminds the children how important it is to forgive people if they do something wrong. We talk to the children about the fact that it is ok to make mistakes but that this can sometimes cause hurt others. We teach the children how important it is that they tell the truth when they have done something wrong so that we can help them to fix the problem and make better choices next time.

Love: Our school value of love is evident in spades as you walk around the building – you can see it and you can feel it. When the children say the school prayer they give thanks to

God for the love that is shown to everyone, and ask that they be helped to do the same. This love is reinforced in all our interactions – the children are taught how to keep safe by using kind hands and kind words, they are encouraged to talk about how they feel using the language learned using The Colour Monster and they can be seen thinking of others and offering help and assistance without being asked.

These values are all key elements in helping children make safe and healthy connections. The remainder of this newsletter details ways that you can help you and your child 'connect' at home.

Mrs Boon (PSHE Lead)

What can you do?

Here are a few simple ways you can support your child in making meaningful connections:



Connect with your child in everyday ways: Moments of connection (and re-connection) are really important in child-caregiver relationships. For example, when you pick them up from school, or come in from work, try to give them your full attention and see if this helps you feel better connected as you hug, talk, smile and hear about their day. Watching your child play and joining in is really important to them – so put your phone away and have a bit of fun – being playful is good for adults, too!

Talk to your child about important connections: This could include talking about family members, friends, neighbours, childminders and people in the local community. Remember it's ok to talk about people they miss, for example, family members who live in a different country or people who have died. Children learn a lot from their parents about how to express their feelings, including the joy that comes with feeling connected to others and the sadness that comes with missing others

Talk to your child about their friends: As children become older, their friendship groups become increasingly important to them. Be open to hearing about their friendships and try to listen without judgement. Losing friends, feeling left out or being bullied is very painful and your child needs to know you will support them through these difficult times.

Connect by taking an interest in your child's world: As adults we can sometimes be dismissive of the things that our children are interested in. If you take an interest in

these things, however, you may feel better connected to your child and the important things in their world. This can lead to other conversations about other things in their lives that matter to them.

Find time to connect as a family: Family life can become busy and stressful, so it's important to find some time where you connect together. This could include simple things like cooking, watching a film, playing a game, going to the park or even doing the family shop together.

Let your child know that if they are worried about something, they should always talk to an adult they trust. It could be you, someone in your family, a teacher or someone else in their school. If you're worried about your child's mental health you can talk to your GP or someone at your child's school.

You can also find a list of organisations that provide support and advice on the place2be website: <https://www.place2be.org.uk/help>

Physical Activity Newsletter 5

PE Lessons

After the half term holiday the children will be resuming their outdoor PE lessons with both Mr Sanders and the class teacher.

Please ensure that your child has the following in their PE bag:

Trainers

Jumper or similar

Joggers or leggings

Shorts and short sleeved T-shirt- just in case we have to come indoors.

Please can long hair be tied up and earrings ideally removed,

however if this is not possible, please can they be completely taped.

Please note that staff are not permitted to remove earrings or help the children to cover them with tape. Occasionally we may have to swap PE days so it may be advisable for your child to have tape in their bag which they can put on by themselves.

PE Days-

Parrots & Penguins	Monday	Wednesday or Thursday- see message Monday each week
Ducks & Toucans	Monday	
Owls & Flamingoes	Friday	
Rabbits	Tuesday	
Hedgehogs	Tuesday	
Moles	Tuesday	
Squirrels	Thursday	Friday
Badgers	Wednesday	Friday
Foxes	Monday	Friday

Sports Awards

Congratulations to Louie who was star of the week at Ninja Knights.



If your children would like to be included in the next PE newsletter please email a photo to PE@st-michaels-inf.hants.sch.uk with your child's name, class and a brief explanation of the award that they have achieved.

To ensure these are included in the newsletter each month please send them before the last Friday of the month. Should you miss this deadline, don't worry they will be added to the following month.

When taking photos please follow any rules for the venue/ club that you are at. Please only try to include children that are part of our school community in the photos unless you have permission to take their photo.

Ms. Young.