

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



Newsletter 4 Spring Term 2023

27<sup>th</sup> February 2023

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

## Learning through Stories in Year R

In Year R, the children's learning and play is always inspired by stories. Most recently the children were immersed in the story of the Gingerbread Man, joining in with the repetitive elements of the story and using the language in their play. At the end of the week, the children used their knowledge of story language and structure to innovate their own story. Some children chose to put themselves into the story and others added characters such as princesses, kings and even Mrs Sheppard!

If you would like more information about the YR curriculum, please see our school website: [EYFS\\_2022\\_Curriculum\\_overview\\_with\\_texts\\_for\\_website-revised\\_August\\_2022\\_\(1\).pdf](https://www.schudio.com/EYFS_2022_Curriculum_overview_with_texts_for_website-revised_August_2022_(1).pdf) ([schudio.com](https://www.schudio.com))

*Dot Patton*



## Inclusion and Belonging Survey

We have decided to do the Inclusion and Belonging Survey with parents by meeting on Zoom. This means that more parents will be able to be involved. The meeting will now be at 7pm on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> March. We will send out a Zoom invite nearer to the time. In this meeting there will be a chance to feed back from a parental point of view on the strengths and areas for development for the school on inclusion and diversity.

## Money Raised for the Red Cross

Thank you so much for your kind donations to raise money for the people affected by the earthquakes in Turkey and Syria. You have raised a staggering total of £600.30. A huge thank you for your generosity.

## Safeguarding Update

Keeping our children safe is the responsibility of everyone in our school community. We aim to support you in your role by providing you with information and contacts for any areas of concern that you might have. If you have a worry or concern please speak to your child's class teacher or one of our safeguarding team: Mrs Patton (DSL), Mrs Thorley (Deputy DSL), Mrs Barnett (Deputy DSL) or Mrs Carey (Deputy DSL and ELSA).

Our school website has a safeguarding page and this contains information about the Early Help Services in Hampshire:

[Safeguarding | St Michael's Infant School \(st-michaels-inf.hants.sch.uk\)](https://www.st-michaels-inf.hants.sch.uk/safeguarding)

Further information can be found on:

[Homepage - Hampshire SCP](#)



## Diary Dates Spring 2023

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

**Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> March** – Miller's Ark Farm visit for Year R

**Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> March – 7:00pm** Inclusion and Belonging Survey via Zoom

**Friday 17<sup>th</sup> March** - Mufti Day for Red Nose Day

**Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> March** – Fire Service visit Year 2

**Parents' Evening Dates** - Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> March and Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> March

**Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> March** – Easter Service at St. Michael's Church

**Friday 31<sup>st</sup> March** - Easter Bake Off Competition and afterschool cake sale

**Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> – Friday 14<sup>th</sup> April** – Easter Holiday

**Monday 17<sup>th</sup>** - Start of the Summer Term.

**Monday 17<sup>th</sup> April – Friday 5<sup>th</sup> May** - Year R Balance Bikes sessions

**Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup>** – Chick Eggs arrive

**Friday 28<sup>th</sup>** - Year 2 trip to RHS Wisley and chicks are collected

**Monday 1<sup>st</sup> May** - BANK HOLIDAY

**Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup>** – Class photos

**Friday 5<sup>th</sup>** – Mufti Day and street party to mark the King's Coronation

**Monday 8<sup>th</sup>** – BANK HOLIDAY

**Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup>** – Year R trip to Wellington Country Park

**Monday 29<sup>th</sup> - Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> June** – Half Term

**Monday 19<sup>th</sup> June** – Duckling eggs arrive

**Friday 30<sup>th</sup>** – INSET DAY

**Friday 21<sup>st</sup> July** – Last day of Summer Term

## Collective Worship

In Collective Worship this week, the children have been learning about Shrove Tuesday and Lent and what this means for Christians. The children reflected on how difficult it is to give something up that we enjoy and talked about how we need to use our school value of perseverance in order to do this.



# Monthly Mental Health and Well-Being Bulletin



## World Book Day!

March

Welcome to our latest Monthly Mental Health and Well-Being bulletin! This month, to tie in with World Book Day, our bulletin details some fabulous texts that can help with children's emotional and mental well-being.

## Reading and Wellbeing

It has long been established that academic success is improved for children who enjoy and are regularly engaged in sharing books. In 2018 the Literacy Trust also determined that children who regularly read at home/are read to, are three times more likely to have higher levels of mental wellbeing than those children who are the least engaged in reading. Some of the benefits of stories on children's well-being are...

- **Stories broaden vocabulary** - over time, through repeated reading and talking about new words and what they mean, children's vocabulary will grow, enabling them to effectively express their thoughts and feelings.
- **Stories contribute to personal growth and development** – Sharing stories about difficult times are powerful ways of children seeing that it is ok not to be ok! Stories give children the opportunity to 'rehearse' their own responses to the challenges that they may face.
- **Stories aid mindful stillness** – Sharing a story is a great way of helping children to still their thoughts and bodies. A story at bedtime, curled up with someone they love, is a great way to help children to quiet their minds and unwind before sleep.
- **Stories build empathy** – Experiencing the trials and tribulations of others through the 'safe' context of a story is great for the development of empathy. Talking about how familiar characters are feeling and why enables children to see that actions have consequences which can impact upon others and how they are feeling.
- **Reading helps develop critical and analytical thinking** – Stories put children in situations that they would not normally experience. Asking 'I wonder...' questions as you share a story is a great way of encouraging children to think from a different point of view. 'I wonder what Red Riding Hood could have done instead of running away from the Bears?' or 'I wonder what would happen if the Cinderella forgot to leave the ball at midnight?'

**Reading Well** [Children](#) | [Reading Well booklists](#) | [Books](#) | [Reading Well \(reading-well.org.uk\)](#)

## Hampshire Libraries

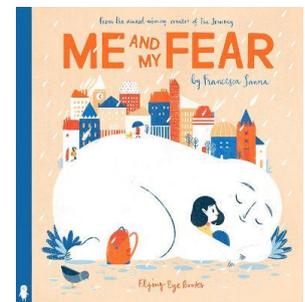
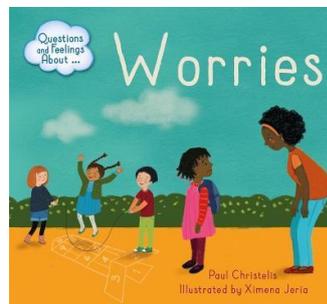
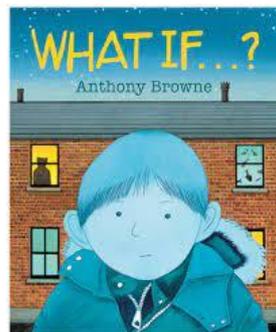
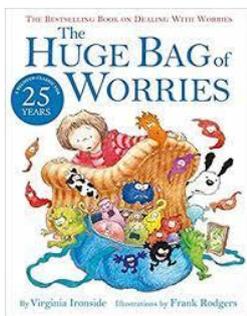


We are very lucky to have close links with Hampshire Schools Library Service and regularly visit their hub in Farnborough to update the books that we have in our library at school. Created for schools, parents and families by The Reading Agency and supported by Hampshire Libraries, **'Reading well for children'** is a collection of stories that might help a child when faced with a difficult situation. All of the books on the list are available to borrow from Aldershot Library (subject to availability!) It is free to join your child up to the library and with the 'Borrow Box' app, you can also access a huge range of audio books free of charge. We would encourage all our families to join the library – it is a great resource that we are very lucky to still have in our community.

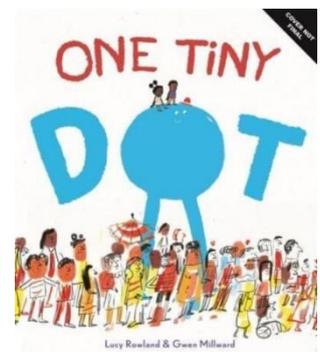
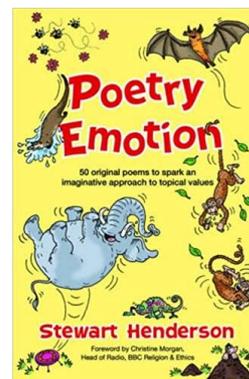
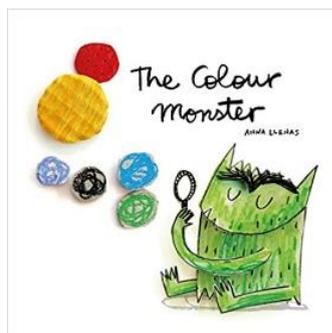
Happy reading!  
Mrs Boon



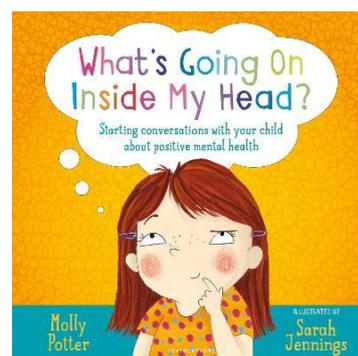
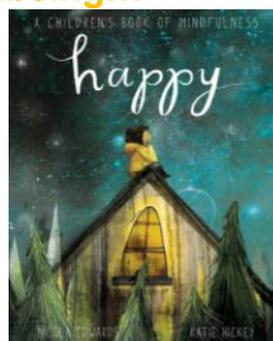
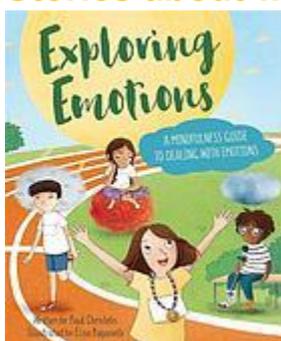
### Stories about having worries...



### Stories about feelings...



### Stories about wellbeing...



## Stories about loss and separation...

