

St. Michael's C. of E. Primary School

Friday 16th July

www.stmichaelscofe.co.uk

“For this I toil, struggling with all his energy that he powerfully works within me”

Colossians 1:29

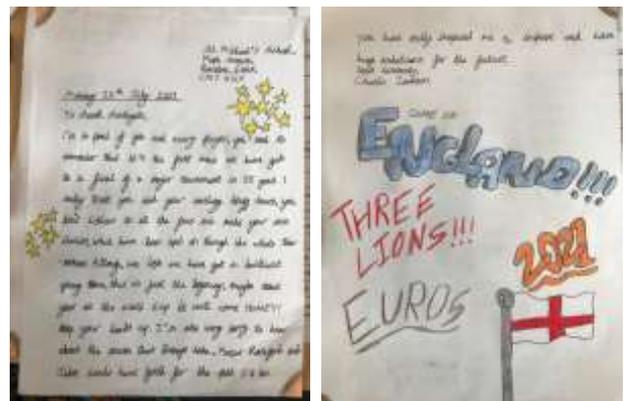


“The energy of the mind is the essence of life” – Aristotle

After the disappointment of Sunday night, I decided to try to lift the mood with some music but my first attempt failed as my phone would not connect with the speaker. However, with a little perseverance, I managed to resolve the issue just before 3:00pm and to see children and parents on P2 gave me the inspiration to carry this on through until the end, each day altering the playlist a little. One lovely sight on Wednesday afternoon was when two boys were mesmerized by the light.

Equally, teachers responded to the proud display of England's football team in a variety of ways. I nearly bumped into some Year 2 children coming out of the study on Monday; each was beaming and holding a whiteboard on which they'd used their phonics to spell out all of the players names and could tell me about the 'split diagraph'. Year 5 had been set the task of writing to Gareth Southgate and on Tuesday, I rushed down to class having been sent these images (completed overnight by a child who had been inspired).

Not to be outdone, Year 1 have also been showing amazing progress; two books were shared with me proudly on Tuesday by Mrs Farran – at the beginning of the year, both children struggled to write more than a few lines but now, even with 3 months out of school, both were able to write nearly a whole page of clear and coherent work. I just had to head into their class, not just for those two but for all the others that have gained so much stamina for writing as well as confidence.



Early on Wednesday, the much-anticipated Year 5 Kingswood trip finally got underway and early reports to me are that they are having a fantastic time. For the few who didn't go, they have had a range of great activities put on for them including a walk to Rayne café (where I suspect a cake may have been had), pond dipping and gardening – look at the bank to the side of P2 as you come onto site next and you'll see they have prepared the area ready for a summer holiday job.



By Wednesday afternoon, smiles abound in Year 3. They had spent the end of the day conducting a Holi festival used to celebrate in the Hindu calendar. I could still see the smiles hidden behind the swathes of colour that covered so many faces but felt for the parents who faced, in some cases, getting the powder paint out of car seats. I'm sure they didn't mind.

Last week, I closed by mentioning how Year 6 had produced some stunning work which I was given the access to this week. Without the pressures of SATs this year, they have been able to go deeper into other areas including drama to present to me a number of fabulous re-enactments of MacBeth. I must also commend the children for their attitude and behaviour; even though one class hasn't had their teacher, they have just knuckled down and completed all tasks to a high standard, worked quietly and played with great energy when the chances have arisen. They truly have been remarkable role models; just a shame that they have had limited opportunities to share this with other children this year – they deserve the party that starts in a few hours!



Andrew Cumpstey

Missed locations

Thanks to one parent who questioned me midweek about where the children's classes are next week, I realised that I had sent out the names of classes and teachers but not the base for them.

This is shown on the attached plan of the school; you might also notice the class named '**Bridge**' – this is an exciting new project which will be housed in what was the Small Hall but is being re-developed right now to become the "**Henfrey Room**", named after our Governor David Henfrey who died in 2017 leaving us some money.

Care and caution



I have heard unofficially that Edith Borthwick school is closed and they are advising anyone with symptoms to get a PCR test because it is believed that the Delta variant may not be picked up by the LFT.

Therefore, as we approach the last three days please continue to watch for symptoms which could be concerning – the three main ones remain the cough, temperature and change in taste or smell. Those here on this image are much more generalised and in our personal non-medical experience could easily be something completely innocent but as it says, if in doubt book a test and maybe this time around make this a PCR.

Time to read

We are being promised lots of sun and warmth this weekend and hopefully into next week and beyond, so one thing I am looking forward to is having a good time to read. Personally, I need to sort a few new books that might see me through the summer but you might find these digital magazines are worth a look – why not click to see if there is something there for you.



Obviously, if the weather is good to us, being outside is wonderful in so many ways but we all know that this can't be guaranteed. Maybe the production companies know this too, as this week, I have also received fliers about new TV shows that are looking for participants – details are either within the image below or on the attached flier.

