



ST MICHAEL'S DECLARES A

CLIMATE EMERGENCY!



Laudato Si' week

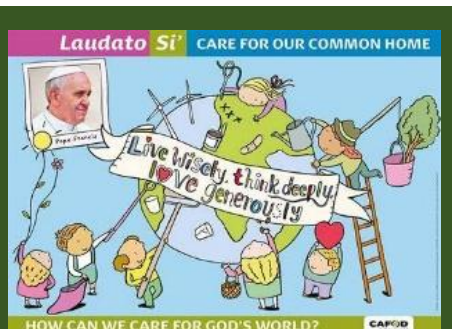
Welcome to our new EcoClub Newsletter. This first edition will explain why we are prioritising the environment, introduce our EcoClub, share some of the things we are doing in school and much more!

Laudato Si': A letter from Pope Francis

In 2015, Pope Francis wrote to us all to remind us that we have a duty to care for and protect our Common Home, the Earth.

At St Michael's, we are committed to protecting our planet, and have formed a fantastic EcoClub to make sure we are all doing our part.

You can read more about our environmental work in school on the school's website.



Watch CAFOD's animation for children about *Laudato Si'* [here](#).

Genesis 1:28

And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

Catholic Social Teaching:

Care for Creation

We are called by God to be good stewards of the world!

Meet St Michael's EcoClub!



Our EcoClub were chosen by their teachers and peers, and have shown an interest in protecting our environment and making the world a better place.

This year they have led their classes in completing our EcoSchools Baseline Audit, which then helped us to identify our priorities to make St Michael's a greener school. The children have worked with Mrs Hendy to turn this into an Action Plan, and we have begun ticking some of the tasks already!

The children will be contributing to this half-termly newsletter and will share their meetings and actions with their peers in school.

You can find out more about our Action Plan and what we are doing in school on our website here.

Which Awards are we working towards and why?

EcoSchools

Eco-Schools is the most famous and largest sustainable schools programme in the world, operated internationally by the Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE).

It gives us the information and structure we need to make our school as Eco-Friendly as possible and to teach our children how they can make a positive change in the world.



RHS Schools Gardening Award

This award will help us to plan our school gardens, deliver education on how to grow and care for plants, and develop our natural spaces so that they can be shared with our wider community and used in our curriculum effectively.



Modeshift Stars

Modeshift Stars will help us draw up our own sustainable school travel plan, and implement initiatives to encourage more of our families to walk, scoot, cycle or use public transport to school. This will help our children be fitter, stronger, improve the quality of air around the school and teach valuable safety skills.



FairTrade Schools

This is a movement where children learn that, whatever their age, they have the power to make a difference in the world. It offers a great opportunity to look at global issues such as where our food comes from and how we are connected to people around the world.



International Schools Award

This develops global citizenship, helping our children understand their place within our world. They will also gain an increased knowledge, awareness, appreciation and tolerance about other countries, cultures and languages.



CAFOD Livesimply Award

The Livesimply award is earned by schools who can show how they have been living simply, in solidarity with people in poverty and sustainably with creation.

The award celebrates what we have already done and inspires us to do more. It helps our community to live, not just more simply, but also more fully.





EcoKids Actions

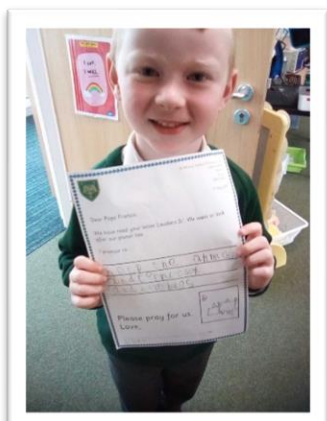
At St Michael's, it's not just our EcoClub who have been busy working to protect our common home. Look what we've been up to in school!

Reception: Letters to Pope Francis

In Reception, the children found out about the job of the Pope and why he is so important.

They watched the CAFOD animation of *Laudato Si*, and thought about how they could help to protect our planet.

They turned these ideas into promises, and wrote them in letters which we have posted to the Vatican. We are excited to see if we get a reply!



Spelthorne in Bloom: Our Winners!

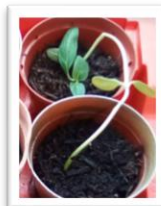
Well done to all the St Michaels' entrants to the Spelthorne in Bloom poster competition, and in particular a huge congratulations to our two winners, Ella (Y6) and Hannah (Y3)!

We are very proud of you both!



Year 1: Planting Sunflowers

Year 1 have been busy planting sunflowers in class. They have been watching them carefully and are excited now as their seedlings are beginning to emerge!



"We planted sunflower and bean seeds and it's been very exciting watching them grow!"
Class 1H



Mr Parson's Flowerbeds & Gardening Club

In school we are lucky to have several large raised flowerbeds. However, the wood had rotted away and they were very overgrown!

Mr Parsons has been replacing the wood with a breezeblock wall which will last for many years, and the Gardening Club have been busy at lunchtimes weeding, rehoming snails and preparing the soil for planting.

They have also been preparing our hanging baskets ready for a new host of flowers at the entrance of the school.

Thank you Mr Parsons and all the green-fingered children who have helped!

Butterflies in Reception

The children in Reception have been learning about the life cycle of a butterfly. We watched our caterpillars eating, building a cocoon and emerging as butterflies. We loved releasing them in our Peace Garden, and even had them land on us!



Nursery planting in the greenhouse

Our youngest children have been busy digging, planting, watering and caring for their own plants in the greenhouse.

They have found out about the life cycle of a plant.





Upcoming Events

We have more exciting events and actions planned!

10th- 16th June: GREAT BIG GREEN WEEK!

During Great Big Green Week we will be celebrating all the work we do for nature, encouraging biodiversity around the school and bring awareness to environmental issues by writing letters to our MP and our families to get their support for change.

We will try to walk/ scooter/ cycle to school as much as we can, finishing with Bling Your Bike day (see below).

You can see what we and other schools are up to online by following #schoolsfornature and #letterstotomorrow and #saveourwildisles

You can show your support at home by clicking the link here, downloading, colouring and displaying your poster in your window at home.

You can then take a picture and put it on social media using #GreatBigGreenWeek

THE GREAT BIG GREEN WEEK

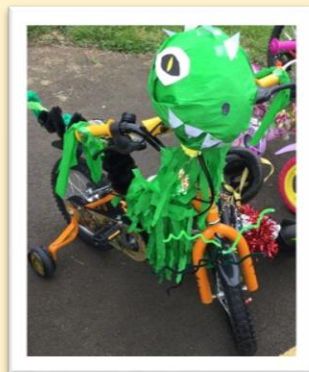


Friday 16th June: BLING YOUR BIKE DAY!

On Friday 16th June you are invited to Bling your Bike, scooter or trainers and ride them to school!

Our theme this year is Nature. You could decorate your bike or scooter with leaves, butterflies, birds, ladybirds, streamers, pompoms- go wild! Even better if you can use recycled or natural materials.

Here are some examples to give you ideas, with lots more online!



Competition!

Nature Photography: Summer

We are looking for brilliant nature photographers at St Michaels!
Our theme is Natural Summer.

This half term, when you are out and about, look out for the beauty of nature and see if you can capture it in a photograph.

When you take one you are happy with, email it, with your full name and class, to: eco@st-michaels.surrey.sch.uk

We will have four categories:
EYFS/ Y1&2/ Y3&4/ Y5&6

The winning photographs from each category will be printed onto canvas and displayed in the school entrance.

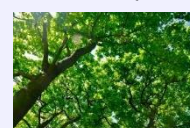
There are only three rules:

1. The photo MUST be taken by the child
2. One entry per child
3. No filters allowed!

DEADLINE: 6PM WEDS 7TH JUNE

The winners will be announced in the Great Big Green Week Assembly.

Happy snapping!



Our Coronation Meadow

This month we received packs of wildflower seeds in honour of the King's Coronation. EcoClub will be organising the planting of our meadow.

We can't wait!





LiveSimply At Home

Tips and ideas for sustainable living at home.

ENERGY SAVING



Did you know that turning appliances off from standby mode could save you £60 per year?

- ✓ Check sockets around your home
- ✓ Turn things off at the wall
- ✓ Check which appliances use the most energy [here](#)

TRANSPORT



Consider taking the train instead of driving with a [family and friends railcard](#)! It's greener, less stressful and could save you money.

- ✓ Adults save 1/3 and children up to 60% off fares
- ✓ Annual savings of up to £150
- ✓ £30 for 1 year

WATER



Did you know that shortening your shower could [save you £95 a year](#)?

- ✓ Reducing your shower time from 8 minutes to 4 minutes saves water and energy
- ✓ If your supply is metered, A typical household could save an additional £60!

RECYCLING



Did you know that you can [recycle your old alkaline batteries](#) at school?

- ✓ It protects you and the environment from hazardous substances
- ✓ Battery recycling preserves natural resources
- ✓ It saves energy
- ✓ Proper battery recycling reduces the risk of fires

How are you helping our Common Home?

Have you done something to help the environment at home?
Let us know and we can share your brilliant work in this newsletter.

Email us at eco@st-michaels.surrey.sch.uk with a photograph, your name and class!

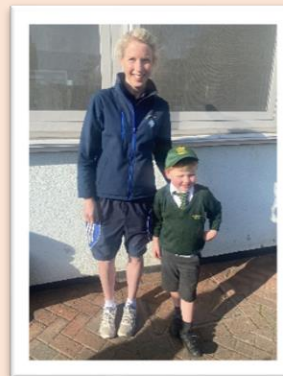


Recommended by the children!

Archie recommends a great app that he uses on his Mummy's phone to identify different birds by their song. The app is called Merlin Bird ID and is completely free!

Thank you, Archie, we can't wait to try it!

If you have a recommendation of an Eco app, website, book, trip or event, please email it to: ecoclub@st-michaels.surrey.sch.uk so that we can share it with our school community!





Helpful Information

Key Dates and Events

January

Big Energy Saving Week
Big Garden Birdwatch: *RSPB*

February

Fairtrade Fortnight
21st International Mother Language Day

March

3rd World Wildlife Day
18th Global Recycling Day
22nd World Water Day
25th Earth Hour
Great British Spring Clean
Sustrans Big Walk and Wheel Week

April

3rd Community Garden Week
4th International Carrot Day
22nd Earth Day
26th Stop Food Waste Day
Beep! Beep! Road Safety Day
City Nature Challenge (NHM)

May

13th World Fair Trade Day
20th World Bee Day
23rd World Turtle Day
Laudato Si' Week
Walk to School Week
National Children's Gardening Week

June

3rd Butterfly Education Day
5th World Environment Day
8th World Oceans Day
10th Great Big Green Week
15th Clean Air Day
20th World Refugee Day: *UNHCR*

July

13th Shark Awareness Day
29th Global Tiger Day
The Big Butterfly Count

August

4th International Owl Awareness Day

September

Great British Beach Clean week
Recycle Week
Bike to school week

October

3rd World Habitat Day
4th St Francis' Day: World Animal Day
Harvest Festival
16th World Food Day
17th UN Eradication of Poverty Day
Be Bright, Be Seen week

November

National Tree Week
UK Parliament Week

December

5th World Soil Day
18th International Migrants Day
10th Human Rights Day
20th International Human Solidarity Day

Great websites for children

- www.rspb.org.uk
- www.bbc.co.uk/cbbc/wild
- www.animalfactguide.com
- www.ukwildlifeparks.co.uk
- www.wildlifewatch.org.uk
- www.naturedetectives.org.uk
- www.wow4water.net
- [National Geographic Kids \(natgeokids.com\)](http://National Geographic Kids (natgeokids.com))
- [School resources and activities | WWF](#)
- [Webcams | The Wildlife Trusts](#)
- [Livestreams of wildlife around the world | BBC Wildlife Magazine | Discover Wildlife](#)
- [Try this at home | Natural History Museum \(nhm.ac.uk\)](#)
- [Teaching resources | London Zoo](#)
- [Nature Detectives - Activities and Resources - Woodland Trust](#)
- [RHS gardening for schools and children / RHS Gardening](#)
- [National Children's Gardening Week - Together, we help children grow. \(childrensgardeningweek.co.uk\)](#)

5-MINUTE WALKING BUBBLE

#StaySafeGetActive on your journey to school

St Michael Catholic Primary School

MODESHIFT STARS EDUCATION

For more hints, tips and information please visit www.modeshiftstars.org/staysafegetactive

This 5-minute walking zone represents a distance of 400m measured as a straight line, based upon an average walking speed of 3-miles per hour

Protect our children

If possible, walk, cycle or scoot to school

If you have to drive, park at least 5-minutes away

Supported by the Department for Transport

