



Dear Parents and Carers,

It's been a very busy half term. The teaching staff have been focussing on ensuring consistency in phonics teaching, with the help of the English Hub, and developing English with our new scheme 'The Literacy Tree'. The staff have also been working on their subject leadership roles.



The children have been working equally hard (see their class sections) as well as having enormous fun preparing for the nativity; having breakfast with the elves; visiting the theatre to watch Aladdin, Open the Book assembly, and other Christmas related activities. Huge thanks to our wonderful staff for making it all possible!



After Christmas, we will be welcoming Mrs Gregg back from maternity leave. As many of you already know she will be returning to Explorers (nursery and reception) two days a week. This means we say a fond farewell to Mrs Eliff, who started a new job last month at another school, but kindly wanted to stay to ensure consistency. We wish her well in the next stage of her career and thank her for her dedication and service at Mickley.



Finally, thank you to all of you for your continued support. Have a magical Christmas and Happy New Year! Mrs Thornhill and Mrs Whitby.



ATTENDANCE

From September 2023

Explorers	~	93.28%
Adventurers	~	90.56%
Pioneers	~	92.06%

Total Attendance: 91.84%

Attendance target is 96%.

Key Dates



Friday 22nd December	Break up
Monday 8th January	INSET Day
Tuesday 9th January	Children return to school
Tuesday 16th January	Artist in to speak to Pioneers
Tuesday 23rd January	Visual Art and Poetry Workshop
Wednesday 7th February	Welcome Wednesday—Reception parents to join their children for lunch (letter to follow) Safer Internet Day
Friday 16th February	Break up for half term
Monday 26th February	Back to school
Friday 8th March	World Book Day
Friday 15th March	Archery and Fencing
Wednesday 20th March	Welcome Wednesday —Y1/2 parents to join their children for lunch (letter to follow)
Wednesday 27th March	INSET—First Aid training for staff
Thursday 28th March	INSET—First Aid training for staff Break Up for Easter

PTA News:



The PTA have been really busy raising funds for the school and organising events for the children to enjoy.

On Sunday the 10th December they ran a Christmas Fayre and raised a whopping £600 for school. Last week they held a Christmas Disco.

Some of the funds raised went towards subsidising the trip to the pantomime.



We are really grateful for all their hard work, and I'm sure you'd like to join me in saying a massive thank you to them for all their support!

Explorers

We have had another wonderful half term in Explorers' class. The children have worked hard and had lots of fun.

Explorers have been busy learning phonemes and digraphs through Dough Disco, Squiggle While You Wiggle and Little Wandle.

We have learnt about lots of different celebrations this half term including Bonfire Night, Diwali and Christmas.

Explorers have had a birthday tea party, made Diwali sweets and a Diva lamp amongst other things.



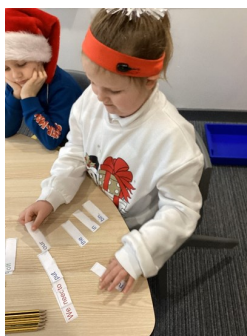
Adventurers

The Adventurers have been learning about hot and cold places in the world in Geography this half term. They have explored the North and South Poles and discovered similarities and differences between the UK and Kenya. The children especially loved learning the (very catchy!) 'Seven Continents' song!

In English, the children have worked hard to create a fact file about space, based on our class book 'Astro Girl'. They then wrote water poems based on the book, The Water Protectors, and created protest signs to help protect the environment.

The children have also spent some time rehearsing for their Christmas Nativity, preparing to spread Christmas cheer!

Mrs McGuire and Miss Greveson are delighted to have joined the school and the Adventurers have been so welcoming to their new teachers.



Pioneers



Pioneers have been learning about the rainforests and why they are important to us. Buddy said that he is worried about all the trees being chopped down because we need them for a healthy atmosphere, and also people are destroying the beautiful land and nature.

In design and technology we have made fruit salads using pears, carrots, bananas, oranges, plums and lime. We improved our cutting and slicing skills and the fruit salad was nice, but the plums were a bit sour!



In English, we have looked at *The Heart in the Bottle*, *BFG* and *The Tear Thief*. Rogan's favourite was *The Tear Thief* because it made him think of spirits and ghosts. Buddy liked *The BFG* best because he loved Sophie being saved and them planning their revenge on the bigger giants.

In maths we have been learning to subtract using the formal written method—we are much more confident now.

In science, we have been learning about animals including humans. Rogan enjoyed matching the skeleton to the correct animal and Buddy liked looking at the human skeleton and learning the correct names for different bones. Buddy stated: "The rib cage protects your heart and lungs."

We have been so busy learning, but our favourite thing this half term was the pantomime!

By Buddy and Rogan

Every School Day Counts: There is clear evidence to show that days off school impact on your child's attainment.

365 days in each year	175 non school days a year \longrightarrow To spend on family time, visits, holidays, shopping, household jobs and other appointments				
	190 school days in each year	12 days absence 178 days of education	19 days absence 171 days of education	29 days absence Half term missed	38 days absence 152 days of education
		100% to 95%	94%	90%	85%
	GOOD Best chance of success.	WORRYING Less chance of success		SERIOUS CONCERN Not fair on your child Possible legal action	