

St Michael's Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have been blown away by how brilliantly the children have returned to school. This has been the most unusual of terms; starting with remote learning and then developing the learning back in the classroom.

The children have shown real commitment to their learning and we have seen some incredible pieces of work produced. We took the opportunity with 3.5 weeks to review the learning the children did remotely but also to work on things such as more art, PE, music and collaborative tasks that they will have missed out on. Red Nose day was a wonderful highlight – raising a staggering £325.15! This includes the whopping £55 raised by Isla in Year 4 and her cake sale. Thank you!

Let us take this opportunity to thank all of the incredible support staff who were so adaptable and kept our provision for Key Worker and Vulnerable children open from January to March. We must also thank our wonderful nursery team. As a maintained nursery, they were open to **all** children in their setting all the way through lockdown. I think you will agree they certainly showed our values of courage and perseverance!

As we head into the Easter holiday we must ask you all to remain vigilant and continue to follow the changes in guidance. If we all work together we can ensure that our current record of no bubble closures continues into the summer term! We have lots planned for the summer including festivals, sports days and leavers events but the success of these is reliant on us all keeping the infections rates down by following the guidance.

Dates for your diary

Wednesday 31st March – End of Term

Monday 19th April – Start of Term 5

Friday 28th May – End of Term 5 (normal finish)

Monday 7th June – Term 6 begins

Have a lovely holiday,

Hayley Leyshon-Brady and Grant Mottram

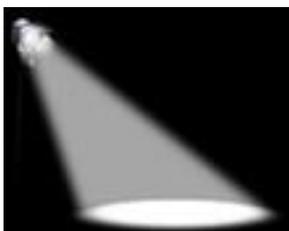
Co-Headteachers



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Spotlight On...Nursery!



2021 has seen St Michael's welcome two new members of the nursery team. Mrs Emily Green joined us in January and Miss Ruth Gardiner joined the team in March. Both have lots of nursery teaching experience and we look forward to seeing them grow and develop the nursery even more.



Mrs Green: I have been working with children for many years. I started as a Teaching Assistant in Key Stage 2 however I soon got the bug for Early Years; therefore I trained to be a nursery nurse and then a Teacher. I have a broad experience of working with children with additional needs as I worked for many years as a Special Needs Nursery Teacher in an integrated nursery. My passion for Early Years and learning through play is echoed in St Michael's school and I am proud to now be part of the team. I currently work in nursery on a Thursday and Friday, the rest of my week is spent at home with my own children. I love playing outside; my favourite time of year is Spring. Thank you for making me feel so welcome at St Michael's School, I am really enjoying getting to know the children and their families.

Miss Gardiner: I started in Acorn class in March and am very excited to be here! I love nature and outdoor learning, whatever the weather. I moved to Oxford just over 3 years ago from Nottingham which you can just about tell from my accent. I have my own allotment where I grow fruit and vegetables, and I love to cook; I once made lasagne for 700 people!

I enjoy silly songs, rhymes and stories and I have been known to perform the odd rap! I'm really enjoying getting stuck in teacher at St Michael's and look forward to getting involved in wider school life.



Curriculum Around School!

Our curriculum has really been put to the test since Christmas! The teaching staff have managed to maintain the same high expectations of the curriculum during lockdown and create some fantastic blended learning opportunities. We have even had virtual visits from a Volcanologist, scientists and a jazz music assembly! Here are some pictures of the learning that has gone on around school this term...

Acorn

Acorn class have been having lots of fun exploring the outdoor area. They have tidied up the allotment space, made homes of the bugs they found (it was very important to include a roof and a window!) and practiced their motor skills riding the trikes and making wonderful creations at the wood working bench. Inside they have made Easter biscuits, made beautiful cards and been working together in the role play area.



Willow



Willow class have been enjoying being back together again. They have played lots of group games, shared stories and worked together in the creative area to make some incredible creations! They have worked as a team to plant some spring flowers in the outdoor area and take it in turns to make sure they are watered. They have enjoyed finding out about the Easter story, the Hindu festival of Holi as well as teaching the dolls how to write!

Maple

The children in Maple class have been building on the fantastic work about castles and Fairy Tales by learning the story of Snow White. They have read lots of different versions – including one about Snow White in 1920's New York! They have had a go at rewriting the story using what they know about the story, their fabulous phonic skills and beautiful handwriting. They have also been working together to build dens in the outside area and creating all sorts of delicacies in the mud kitchen!



Rowan



Rowan class started their learning about Ted Hugh's The Iron Man during their remote learning. On their return to school, an army of Iron Men arrived alongside the children! The fantastic creations, showing a huge amount of Design Technology skills are now on display around the school. Back in the classroom, the children have written their own versions, thought about where Hogarth may have lived and drawn a map using the geographical vocabulary they could find in the text. In art they used different materials to create portraits of the Iron Man using Chris Mould's illustrations as an example.

Elm

As part of their topic on The Blue Planet, Elm class have continued to learn about the magical underwater world that makes up about 70% of our planet! They have learnt about different types of plastics, the impact that plastic has on the oceans, created incredible sea creatures out of Mod Roc and then used their animal to inspire their very own simile poems!



Ash



During our remote learning, Ash class began their topic on Invaders and Settlers. They have been reading the book Viking Boy and since returning to the classroom they have produced some truly outstanding writing about Gunnar, the son of a Viking chieftain. They have also learnt about long houses, boats, the symbolic meaning on shields as well as learning how to write messages in runes!



Thomas made a flag to fly on his longboat with the message "We are peaceful – Fear us" written in runes.

Lily made this brilliant longhouse, complete with firepit and living moss roof during our remote learning.



Oak

Oak class have had an amazing start back at school. They have adapted brilliantly to their new way of working. They have tackled their blended learning with Mrs Ross, Miss Mainstone and Mrs Moss in school and Miss Clarke on Google Classroom. They have loved the daily PE Sessions and challenges they have been set and are working well as a team.

They have produced some incredible pieces of work around their topic of extreme earth and have learnt about volcanoes, earthquakes, tsunamis and the impact these have on our planet. They have also explored different ways to construct buildings so that they are earthquake proof!



Values



This term we began taking another look at our school values of Respect, Courage and Perseverance.

The children have talked about what they mean, other values that can be incorporated such as tolerance, kindness, honesty and resilience as well as spotting themselves and others displaying them in and outside of the classroom.

Each class nominated two children who show at least one of these values consistently for Star of The Term this week.

Our stars this term were:

Acorn: Alice and Harlen

Willow: Greyson and Evie

Maple: Bella and Joseph

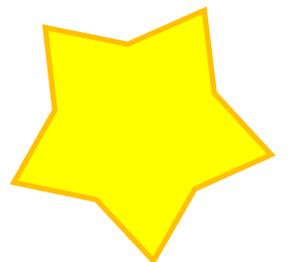
Rowan: Ellie Mae and Orla

Elm: Zac and Isabelle

Ash: Reggie and Jessica

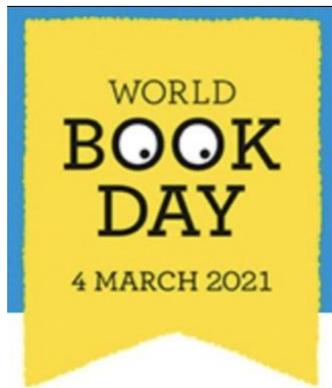
Oak: Everyone!

Well Done Everyone!



The Book Nook!

This term has seen World Book Day with a difference! We had story trails, decorated houses, guess the teacher and a Readathon!



Readathon! With the proceeds raised from the Readathon and Mrs Mulvey's book party we have spent a whopping £427.39 on new books that have been distributed amongst the classrooms and the school library! Well done all – a tremendous effort!

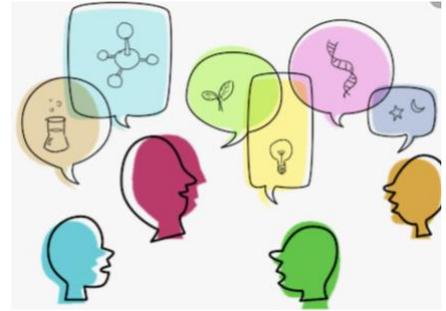


Alex, Phoenix, Betsy, Ethan, Caitlin, Daniel, Kiki, Libby, Joshua, Thomas and Molly all raised over £10 in their Readathon! Their prize was...a new book!

We hope you enjoy reading them and a huge well done!



Communication



To report your child's absence then please call the office on 01235 831298 or email office@st-michaels-pri.oxon.sch.uk

If you receive a positive COVID test result at any point, please email Mrs. Leyshon-Brady and Mr. Mottram on head.3241@st-michaels-pri.oxon.sch.uk directly.

Please remember that for any queries about your child's learning then your first port of call is your child's class teacher. You can contact them on the Gmail email address.

Communicating With You

Communication is the key to our success. Here is how you can expect us to communicate with you.

- Class teachers will send a termly class newsletter to let you know what your child will be learning over the term. This will also be available on the class pages of the website and GoogleClassroom.
- Mrs. Leyshon-Brady and Mr. Mottram will also send a whole school update newsletter once a term.
- Additional information throughout the term will come via the office.
- GoogleClassroom will be used to share these class specific letters, photos of things the children have been learning and any class notices.
- Early Years teachers (Acorn and Willow) will share children's learning using Tapestry.
- The new school website is up and running and we have launched on Twitter too! Find us @StSteventon
- If a teacher needs to contact you directly, this will usually be done via phone or email.

Please ensure that you inform the office of any changes to the contact details of anyone registered to collect your child. This includes mobile numbers, home addresses and email addresses.

Pupil Premium Funding

What is the Pupil Premium?

Introduced in 2011, the pupil premium is a sum of money given to schools each year by the Government to improve the attainment of disadvantaged children. This is based on research showing that children from low income families perform less well at school than their peers.

Often, children who are entitled to pupil premium face challenges such as poor language and communication skills, lack of confidence and issues with attendance and punctuality. The pupil premium is intended to directly benefit the children who are eligible, helping to narrow the gap between them and their classmates.

Is my child eligible?

All children who currently qualify for free school meals based on their family circumstances are entitled to pupil premium. This applies if you receive any of the following benefits:

- Universal credit (provided you have a net income of £7400 or less)
- Income support
- Income-based jobseekers' allowance
- Income-related employment and support allowance
- Support under Part IV of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guaranteed element of state pension credit
- Child tax credit, provided that you are not also entitled to working tax credit and have an annual gross income of £16,190 or less

Children who are or have been in care, and children who have a parent who is or was in the armed forces, are also entitled to pupil premium.

In addition, pupils who have qualified for free school meals on the above grounds in the past, but are no longer eligible, continue to receive pupil premium for the next six years.

If your child qualifies for free school meals or has at any point in the past six years, it's important that you let us know – even if they're in Reception or KS1 and receive universal school meals for infant pupils, or are in KS2 and take a packed lunch – as this enables us to claim pupil premium to support your child in school.

I think my child is eligible, what do I need to do now?

Please speak to a member of the office team if you think your child may be eligible for Pupil Premium funding. They will be able to provide you with additional information and let you know of any documents required.

Safeguarding – What you can do



Parents and carers play a vital role in safeguarding children in their community. If you have any worries or concerns about a family or child, no matter how small, you can raise it with the school safeguarding team, contact the office or get advice from the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH). This safeguarding hub seeks to enable the sharing of information so that risks to children can be identified at an early stage. It is a link between universal services, such as schools and GPs, and statutory services, such as police and social care. If you have a concern about a child, please call MASH on 0345 050 7666.

This website is a useful place to find out about lots of support and information about a range of issues that may be worrying you:

https://fisd.oxfordshire.gov.uk/kb5/oxfordshire/directory/practitioner_toolkit.page

Safeguarding - Gaming

Over the various lockdowns, we have seen a rise in the number of children who are spending time gaming. As a parent this can be a minefield but the site below has some excellent advice on what games are appropriate for what age group, how to make gaming safer for your child and what to do if you have concerns.

Please remember games have age ratings in line with films, based on their content. Children should not play games beyond their age range as they are likely to encounter inappropriate content such as high levels of graphic violence and bad language.

General advice - <https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/articles/gaming/>

PEGI Rating - <https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/articles/gaming-whats-appropriate-for-your-child/>

