

St Michael's Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,

I can't believe that we are at the end of term 5 already! The weather has certainly made it feel much more like term 2 than the summer term; let's hope it improves soon!

This term as always has been very busy but it is also the time of year when we pause and reflect on where we are, what we have achieved and what we need to do next. During our INSET day in September Mr Mottram and myself shared our long-term vision for St Michael's with the staff and children – to be a beacon school in the area. That means a school providing children of Steventon and the surrounding villages with the best experiences possible both in terms of curriculum and extra curriculum activities. This is very much a journey and we would really appreciate your feedback. Please find here a link to our parent survey: <https://forms.gle/xMn5zzvBtG6tpWms8> The survey will remain open until Friday 11th June and we ask that you fill the questionnaire in based on your experiences over the current academic year.

With the Government introduction of the traffic light system for foreign travel, we would like to remind parents that if you are planning to travel abroad over half term and will be required to quarantine on your return to please email the office. Class teachers will be required to upload work to Google Classroom and we need to let attendance know if we have any children isolating or quarantining.

Dates for your diary

Friday 28th May – End of Term (normal times)

Monday 7th June – Start of Term 6

Monday 21st June – INSET Day

Friday 16th July – Reports home to Parents

Wednesday 21st July – End of Term 6 (1:30pm finish)

Have a lovely break,

Hayley Leyshon-Brady and Grant Mottram

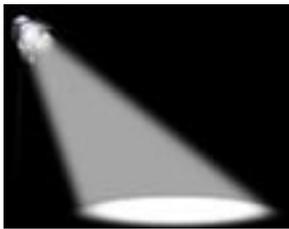
Co-Headteachers



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Spotlight On...Governors!



Every school is required to have a Governing Board... but what do governors do and why is governance so important to the success of the school?

Together with the Headteachers, governors have a collective responsibility for making sure that all children in our school receive the best education possible in a safe, caring, (and as a Church of England primary school), Christian environment.

The Headteachers are responsible for the day-to-day management of the school (Operational) and The Governing Board is responsible (in partnership with the Headteachers) for the strategic direction and oversight of the school. This means governors:

Set the school's:

- Vision, ethos, and values
- Strategic direction including the longer-term targets.
- School budget.
- Leadership structure.

Act as:

- Champions for all pupils in the school
- Ambassadors to the school – sharing our good notes and promoting our school in the wider community.

Lead on:

- Overseeing the performance of the Headteachers.
- Challenging the Headteachers to ensure we are doing all we can for the pupils.
- Supporting and work with the Headteachers to ensure every pupil achieves the best they can and leave the school as well-rounded individuals ready to face life's challenges.
- Monitoring what is happening in school through Full Governing Board Meetings, meetings with Headteachers and Staff, Governor Learning walks and getting feedback/speaking to parents, staff, and children.
- Evaluating the overall impact of the school and using this to adjust the strategic /plans to ensure we achieve our plans and aspirations for the pupils.

If you would like to learn more about governance at your school, you can view the [governor website page](#) or you can access the [bitesize summary of the governor role](#).

We currently have a Co-opted and Foundation Governor vacancy at our school. If you are interested in knowing more or applying, then please email our chair of Governors: kmoyes3241@st-michaels-pri.oxon.sch.uk

Curriculum Around School!

This term there has been lots of fantastic learning going on once again. Topics from Jack and the Beanstalk, Stone Age, Cracking Contraptions and India have created a wonderful buzz around school.



Willow have been learning all about growing plants. They have created their very own greenhouses using damp paper towels and plastic bags to germinate their beans. They have also read and retold the story of Jack and the Beanstalk and created beautiful dioramas to display their writing.

Maple Class have been looking very carefully at different fruit and vegetables in their art this term. They have used a magnifying glass to look at the different shaped, colours and textures and then practised their colour mixing skills to create these wonderful still life paintings.



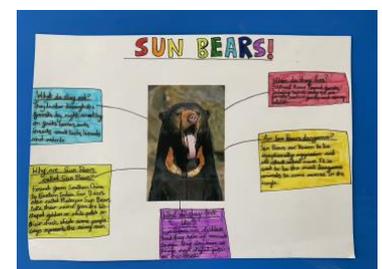
Rowan Class have been learning all about the Stone Age. They have tried their hand at cave painting, using clay to make stone age style jewellery and have learnt about the life of a Stone Age person using the book Stone Age Boy, The First Drawing and Stig of the Dump. They have also produced some excellent work on Hill Forts!

Elm class have been finding out all about Cracking Contraptions! They have created a timeline of significant inventions and then designed some of their own. They have written explanation texts in their English work to say how their invention will work and applied their science learning about electricity to design light up houses.



Ash Class have been learning all about India. They have been finding out about the stories linked to different Hindu Gods and then retold the story of how Ganesh got his elephant head. They have used their art skills to create a wonderful close up of Indian tiger eyes. This week the children have followed and written instructions to make their own Indian Banana Lassi – I can confirm it was delicious.

Oak class have been Zoologists this term. They have been researching a variety of different animals from around the world and creating non-fiction texts with their research. They have also created some very amusing Haiku and Limerick poems about their animals too. Alongside this, they have also been exploring different art styles including geometric art to create some really striking artwork.



Values



This term we have had a weekly assembly on each of our values and talked about people throughout history who have shown them in order to do all sorts of wonderful things – from Malala Yousafzai and the Wright Brothers through to James Brown! We have also talked about how our school values link to the British Values of The Rule of Law, Democracy, Individual Liberty and Mutual Respect and Tolerance.

It has also been a great opportunity to share the children in our school community who are also showing our values either in their learning, around school or even outside of school! Adults in school have found it really difficult to choose children which is a lovely dilemma to have and in some cases, whole classes have been nominated.

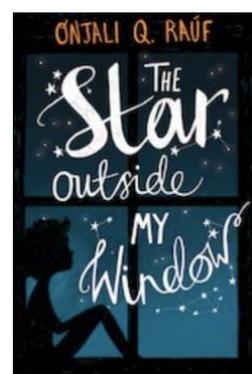
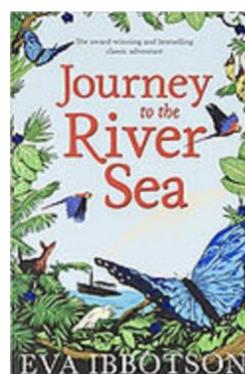
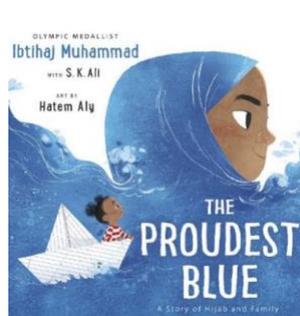
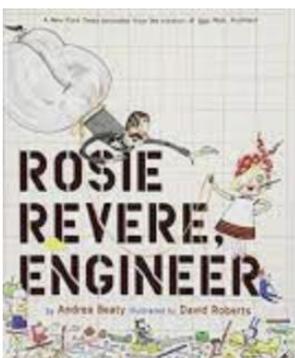
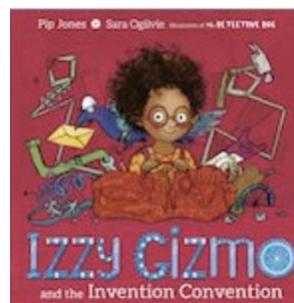
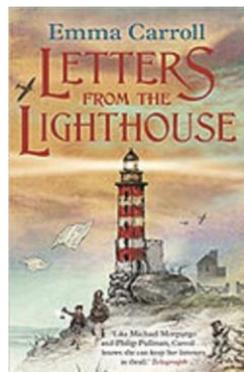
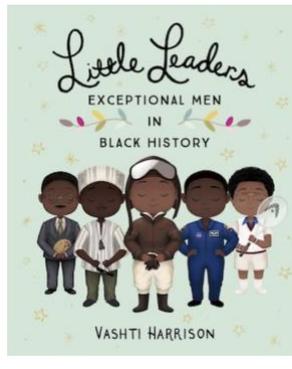
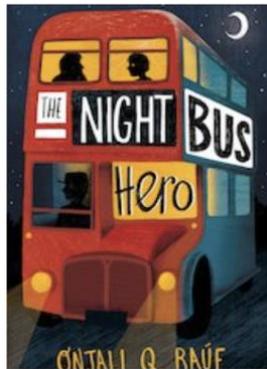
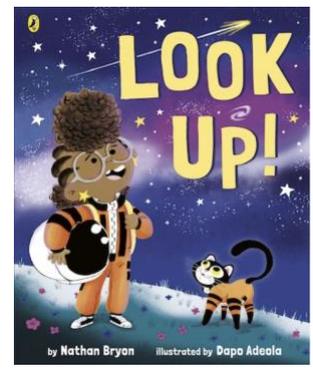
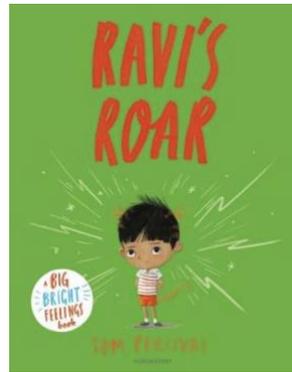
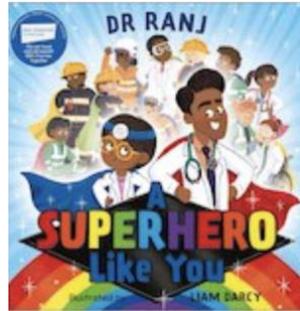
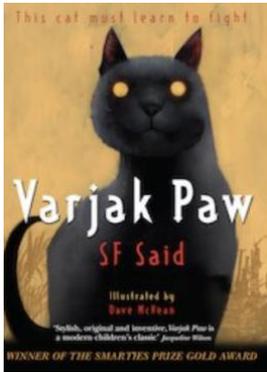
As a Church of England School, we also have a Bible verse to underpin all that we do. We have reviewed this with staff and felt that the verse from Corinthians was very long for children to remember. As we wish this to be the thread running through all that we do, we felt it ought to be something that was accessible to all children.

We propose the following as a change and would welcome your feedback:

“So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you”
Matthew 7-12.

The Book Nook!

This terms book recommendations are all books around diversity and celebrating difference. Be it people of colour, female main characters or a story set in a different part of the world, below you will find titles for all age groups.

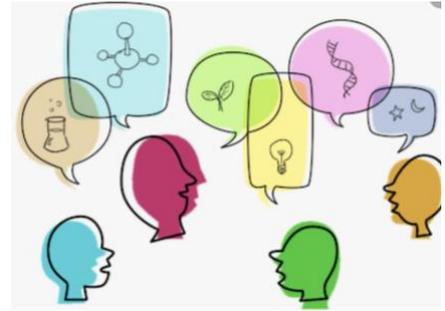


Communication

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 their school Gmail email address. Please do not message any staff on personal emails or phone numbers, social media or catch them in public (eg the park) as their personal time and boundaries must be respected.



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

Breakfast Club Opportunity

We are really fortunate to have a thriving Breakfast Club at St Michael's. To this end we are looking for a new member of the team to work on a Wednesday morning 7:30-8:45 with the possibility of more should our numbers grow further.

If you are interested in this opportunity, please email the office office.3241@st-michaels-pri.oxon.sch.uk



We also have a growing after school club. If you would like to book a space for your child then please contact the office on the email above for a booking form.

Breakfast Club (7.45 – 8:50)

- Breakfast
- Games and puzzles
- Colouring and crafts
- Outdoor Play

After School Club (3:15 – 5:30pm)

- Snack and a drink
- Homework
- Reading with a Buddy
- Games and puzzles
- Outdoor activities
- Crafts and free time

Community Notices

Please see below for any community events that are coming up

On Sat 26 June
stopping at
Steventon Bakery
at 11.00am
for coffee -
please join us!

DONKATHON 2021

Polly is driving her two donkeys Wizard and Muffin on a 200 mile journey from South Oxfordshire to North Wales pulling a donkey carriage and averaging 8 miles a day.

in aid of
Multiple Sclerosis Research

The adventure starts on 25 June and finishes on 25 July

You would be most welcome to join Polly en route, or follow her on Facebook or on her website.

For more information:
www.donkathon.org
or
pvacher@aol.com

ALL WELCOME!

From www.donkathon.org

"Donkathon" is the latest idea from one of the world's top female pilots, and serial fundraiser, Polly Vacher.

Polly has previously flown solo, twice around the world in a single engine aircraft including over the North Pole and the antractic. She raised over £500,000 for the charity "Flying Scholarships for Disabled People"

Following unsuccessful eye surgery, Polly is no longer able to fly. Keen to find another fundraising project, Polly has come up with 'Donkathon'.

Polly, Wizard and Muffin will by stopping at Steventon Bakery at 11am on Saturday 26th June if you would like to join her for a coffee!