

St Michael's Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a brilliant start to term the children have made; everyone is still looking really smart in their school uniform too. The children have risen to the challenge of the rise in expectations and are really starting to show courage and perseverance in their learning.

It has been so lovely to be all back together for assembly in the hall and hearing children sing again has been magical. It is also really great to welcome the Open The Book team and Rev Phil Sutton back to school to deliver assemblies on a Thursday. They will be starting with the theme of TRIUMPH = TRYING with added UMPH! Our assemblies on a Monday have been centred around our three values and mission. Many of you will know that last year, following a review with staff we introduced the mission statement from Matthew 7:12 – **“So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you”**. This statement transcends all we do and everything we want the children at St Michael's to be; it applies to all members of our school community from the children, staff and parents through to the governors and visitors. It also underpins our three core values of Courage, Respect and Perseverance brilliantly. Attached to this newsletter you will find the Parent Code of Conduct that reflect this mission statement. We ask that you read it and return a signed copy to school at your earliest convenience.

It was great to see so many of you at the Curriculum Evening; we hope you found it useful. It was really good to be able to share with you our school development focus areas for this year and we will update you on these through the newsletter as the year goes on. You should all have had the slides and a short overview of the presentation from myself and Mr Mottram. We will be holding another evening session for parents on Restorative Approaches in the near future so please so look out for this as spaces will be limited.

As always, this newsletter will contain lots of information about the learning going on in school, areas we are working on as well as some community notices. Please do read it carefully.

Dates for your diary

w/c 11th October – Travelling Book Fair

Thursday 14th October – Harvest Festival at St Michael and All Angels Church

Saturday 16th October – Love Your School Day

Friday 22nd October – Finish for Half Term 3:15pm

Monday 1st November – Term 2 Starts

Saturday 6th November – Love Your School Day

w/c 8th November – Parents Evenings

1st December – Christmas Art Day

With best wishes,

Hayley Leyshon-Brady and Grant Mottram

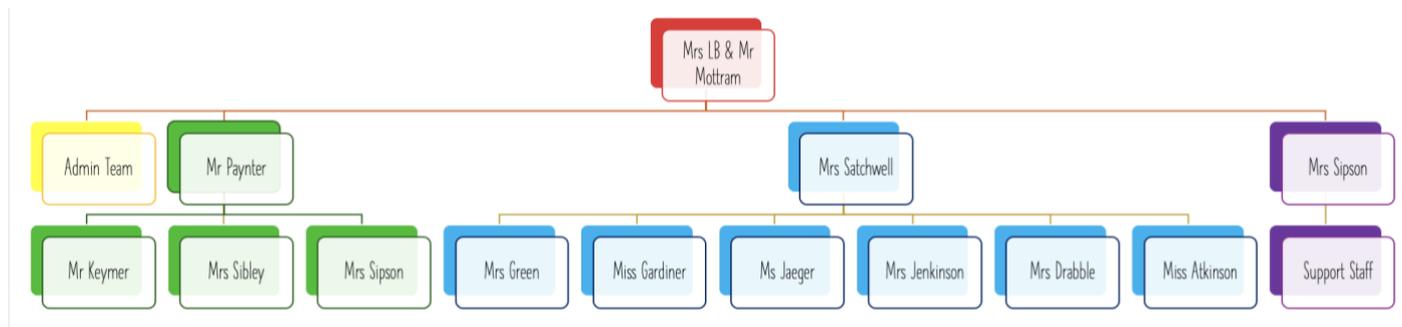
Co-Headteachers



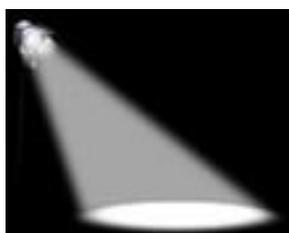
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Who's Who?



Spotlight On...Learning Through Play!



Rationale

"Play is the highest form of research", Albert Einstein

Play provides opportunities for all children to experience learning in a meaningful and purposeful way. They can develop, rehearse, and embed skills and capabilities to be effective learners. Play provides a developmentally appropriate context for the children to access the curriculum.

Transition from EYFS to Year 1

Transitions in any year can be unsettling for children. However, the move from EYFS to Year 1 has been identified over time as one of the most significant. In order to ensure this move from one curriculum to another (EYFS to National Curriculum) is smooth and supportive and that we continue to develop secure and confident learners, the continuity of practice and provision - and planning for continuity and progression in learning - is the real key. Research has shown that continuous provision in Year 1, including ongoing and exciting role play, outdoor provision, and first-hand and 'real' experiences supported by skillful intervention, are crucial for these young children. This is the training ground for the creative thinkers, collaborators, and problem-solvers of the future, as we prepare children for a world of which we have no concept

Play at Key Stage 1

Play in the Key Stage 1 classroom will build on the active, hands-on learning that has taken place in Early Years. Whilst the classrooms may look similar, the expectation, tasks and learning will be at a deeper level and will cover the Year 1 National Curriculum expectations. Through carefully planned and resourced activities children will continue to develop the following skills

- Manage Information
- Think, solve problems and make decisions
- Be creative
- Work with others
- Self-manage

"...[The] world's greatest discoveries have been made because people were playing around with an idea. The freedom of thought allowed for by play may unlock the learning potential which more confined approaches to the curriculum leave behind." - Taylor and Baulter, 1993

Learning will be linked to the overarching curriculum topic. It will allow children to engage in a variety of focussed small group activities alongside independent play-based games such as construction, role play and art.

For example

When learning to solve problems involving addition and subtraction children could:

- Plan a picnic in the home corner
- Organise animals into fields on a farm in the small world area
- Arrange a set number of seats around different sized tables for a party
- Set up paint stations for different numbers of children in the art area

The children would then be expected to draw their findings, record their understanding and explain their learning to the adults in the classroom.

Transition to more formal learning

In some of the most academically successful countries, children do not start formal education until they are 7. This is seen as the age at which children are able to sit, concentrate and have the motor skills to learn for longer periods of time. As the Year progresses the balance of independent learning through play to more conventional formal learning will shift. This is to prepare the children for a smooth transition into Year 2. The timetable for this depends on each cohort of children, where they are developmentally and in response to the children's needs. This transition to formal learning does not mean that experiential learning no longer occurs. Children in all stages of education continue to learn through doing; it just means that it is not the primary vehicle.

"We don't stop playing because we grow old; we grow old because we stop playing."

Bernard Shaw

School Development Priorities

As in every year, we spend a proportion of the summer looking ahead to the upcoming academic year. We use our knowledge of the school, the feedback from parents, attainment, and progress data as well as any National agendas such as the new EYFS.

This year our three main priorities will be:

- Embedding the Vision and Values
- Raising expectations of all children across the curriculum
- Implementing Restorative approaches ethos and approaches



As the year goes on, we will be sharing with you our progress towards these priorities via these newsletters and additional curriculum evenings, open sessions, and other events. We look forward to sharing this with you.

Harvest

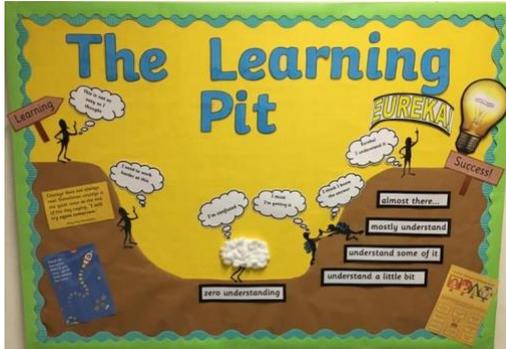
On Thursday 14th October we will be celebrating Harvest Festival at the Church. We invite you to join us at the Church for this celebration. Please look out for logistical arrangements regarding timings and COVID precautions towards the end of the week. Our theme this year is Food for All and we will be asking for donations of in date items listed below to donate to the local Foodbank:

- Cereal
- Soup
- Pasta or rice
- Biscuits
- Tinned foods or pasta sauce
- Lentils, beans and pulses



Curriculum Around School!

This term there has been lots of fantastic learning going on to kick start our school year. From New Zealand to World War Two our thematic learning approach to the curriculum allows us the opportunity to make meaningful links across the subjects and help children to understand why they are learning this, and why they are learning it now.



In raising our expectations of children comes the need to revisit our work on Growth Mindset. The concept of the Learning Pit is something that we will be reintroducing first to the children. Learning is not and should not be a passive process and how we approach the challenges is where the real, deep learning happens.

Ask your child what part of their learning sent them “into the pit” and what helped them to climb out!

Mental Health Programme for Schools

We are already incredibly fortunate to have the wonderful Mrs Hickman in school as our Emotional Literacy Support Assistant (ELSA) with children when they need someone most. This year, she will be leading on the fantastic Blurt Schools Programme

The programme aims to:

- Increase the number of young people between the ages of 4 and 11 who feel empowered to talk about their mental health.
- Increase self-care and resilience in young people, equipping them to handle the challenges they may face during childhood, adolescence, and adulthood.
- Improve the confidence, behaviour, leadership, communication, attainment, attendance, and achievements of young people.
- To help students and staff have the courage to be kind to themselves (and to understand the value of kindness to ourselves and others).
- Support school staff to feel comfortable discussing mental health with their students and one another.



Please do look out for more information about this incredible initiative as we progress through the programme.

EYFS Resources Request

We are constantly trying to replenish our play-based learning resources. If you are having any pre-Christmas clear outs and have any of the following that you would be willing to donate our children in Acorn, Willow and Maple would be most grateful!

- | | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------|
| - small farm/zoo/jungle animals | - hanging baskets | - Non-fiction books |
| - Dressing up clothes | - doll's clothes | - Doctors kit |
| - till | - tea set | - shells/pebbles |
| - corks | - pine cones | - bug collecting items |
| - farm buildings and vehicles | - doll's house | - castle |
| - golf tees | - off cuts of artificial grass | - bulbs (flowering sort!) |

Prayer Tree



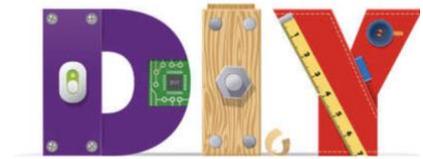
Lots of people use prayer trees in their churches or in worship. Wanting to have a physical expression of our prayers is nothing new. Lighting candles is probably the most common and popular way of doing this but as this is not possible throughout the day we have chosen to transform the beautiful tree made by art club into our prayer tree. This will be a place that children, families, staff and governors can write down a prayer or reflection on a tag and tie it to the tree. We can share these in collective worship, on a 1:1 or small group basis or even send them up to the church to be included in community services. We would also like to invite members of our community to add their prayers to the tree too so please do spread the word.

Love Your School Day

On Saturday 16th October and Saturday 6th November, we are holding a Love Your School Day. We're asking people to join us from 10:00 – 12:30 and/or 1:30 – 4pm on each of these Saturdays to help us with various jobs around the school.

Some of the things we would like to achieve include:

- Clear and turn over raised planters
- Fix up PE sheds
- Willow Class outdoor area
- Sweep and clear leaves from around the site

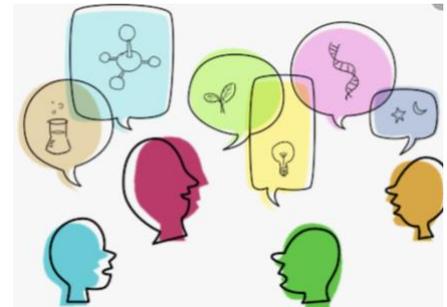


If you are available, please let us know on the following GoogleForm:
<https://forms.gle/WDSF3d3m8HiVoUVS6>

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. If your child's class teacher is unable to resolve your issue, please contact the relevant Phase leader Mrs Satchwell for Acorn, Willow, Maple and Sycamore and Dr Paynter for Elm, Ash and Oak.

Google Classroom

We will be using Google Classroom again this year to share class specific messages, photographs and as a space for you to upload homework. As in all small schools, we all wear lots of hats and the logistics around setting up the new classes etc has taken a little longer than we first envisaged

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

Community Notices

Full Circle Sports Holiday Sports & Activity Camp

We are delighted to be running a holiday camp at St Michael's CofE Primary School this October half term!

Children in school years FS to Year 6 are invited to participate in an exciting programme of indoor and outdoor activities, led by qualified and experienced coaches.

Activities include: MultiSports, Hockey, Football, Basketball, Cricket, Rounders, Tennis, Badminton, Tag Rugby, Archery, Dance, Arts & Crafts and much more!

Dates: Tuesday 26 October to Thursday 28 October (3 days)

Time: 9.00am to 4.00pm

Cost: £34 per day (£96 for all 3 days)

Sibling discount - £29 per day (£86 for all 3 days)

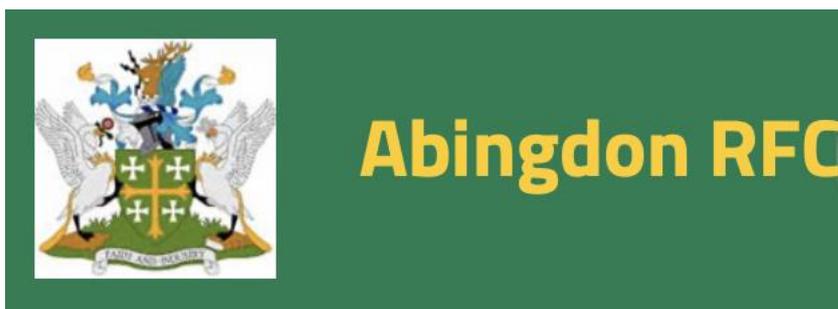
Come and join us to make friends, learn new skills and have fun!

We are OFSTED registered and accept Childcare Vouchers.

For more details or to reserve your places -

Email - sam@fullcirclesports.co.uk

Call – 07976 658810



Following on from the success of the Open Training Session that Abingdon Rugby Club held for us at the end of September, the club would like to invite all children aged 4-11 to join their training sessions. The Mini's (U6-U12) train and play from the 1st Sunday in September through to May from 10:00 - 12:00.

If you'd like to speak to us or get more information then please contact our Age Grade lead through the website contacts page <https://abingdonrfc.rfu.club/contacts>

A History of Steventon in **77 OBJECTS**

...more or less!



**An exhibition of the village's history
in photographs stories & artefacts**

**FREE
ENTRY**

Sunday 10 October 2021 10am-4pm
Steventon Village Hall OX13 6RR

