



St Michael's CE Primary School

The Causeway, Steventon, Oxfordshire OX13 6SQ

Telephone and Fax: 01235 831298

Headteacher: Hayley Leyshon

Email: head.3241@st-michaels-pri.oxon.sch.uk

<http://www.stmichaelssteventon.co.uk>

Cultivating Respect, Persevering, and Learning with Courage

Friday 10th November 2023

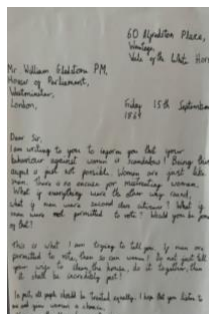
Dear Families,

Wow – what a first couple of weeks back! The children are working incredibly hard and the learning that is going on in classrooms is palpable.

Year 1 are learning all about different celebrations. The children will learn about the historical and cultural practices behind observed days of remembrance and celebration, especially tapping into the anticipation of Christmas as they learn the story of the very first Christmas. They will also be rehearsing for the Nativity with Year 2.



Year 2 are learning all about Changing Seasons. In this art and drama focussed topic the children will be learning all about The Snowman story in English, Bonfire night as well as the Nativity with Year 1.



The children in Year 3 are learning about Extreme Earth and have found out about a variety of different natural disasters.

Year 4 are learning all about the Rainforest and the impact of deforestation. They are reading the book Journey to the River Sea to explore diary writing and character descriptions.

Year 5 are learning about Antarctica, Global warming and reading about Shackleton's adventures whilst Year 6 are building on their learning from last term and finding out about World War Two and the Blitz.

Anti-Bullying Week

Monday 13th November is the start of Anti-Bullying Week. Mrs Sheehan and Mrs Hickman have put together a fantastic set of resources for teachers and have planned a fantastic launch assembly

SIP Visit

This week we had a visit from our school improvement partner, Alison Robb-Webb. Alison is a very experienced Executive Leadership coach, School Improvement Partner and OFSTED Inspector. She spent the day observing learning in classrooms, looking at books and talking to History, Maths, RE and Music subject leads. She was very complimentary about the calmness, routines and relationships between staff and children as well as the children themselves. Alison also said "it is a happy place to be".

Collective Worship

This term in our Monday Collective Worship we are focusing on the values of respect. We are exploring this with particular emphasis on ourselves. Respect for ourselves, our individuality and our learning. We have read lots of books with this as a theme including: The Kindest Red: A Story of Hijab and Friendship by Ibtihaj Muhammad, The Invisible by Tom Percival and Kindness is my Superpower by Alicia Ortego.

We have also been learning the words to This Is Me from The Greatest Showman. There are strong parallels with our vision and to respecting ourselves.

The lyrics can be found here:

<https://youtu.be/CjxugyZCfuw?si=jHglf4kxjr0js-Q&t=17>

Our vision is not just for the children of St Michael's. The staff, parents and wider community and also expected to help by modelling it too. I would like to take this opportunity to remind parents that everyone is walking their own path and that judgement, gossip and unkindness will not be tolerated from anyone within our community.



St Michael's CE Primary School

The Causeway, Steventon, Oxfordshire OX13 6SQ

Telephone and Fax: 01235 831298

Headteacher: Hayley Leyshon

Email: head.3241@st-michaels-pri.oxon.sch.uk

<http://www.stmichaelssteventon.co.uk>

Cultivating Respect, Persevering, and Learning with Courage

We are stronger together and living our vision, to treat others as we expected to be treated, is how we will make a real lasting difference to the children in our collective care.

Healthy Eating

As part of our work on respecting ourselves, we would like to remind families that snacks for playtime in Key Stage 2 should be:

- A piece of fruit
- Dried fruit
- Crackers
- Cheese
- Vegetables



Snacks should not be:

- Crisps
- Cakes
- Biscuits
- Chocolate

Snacks for children in Key Stage 1 and Early Years are provided. Please also remember that water bottles should only contain water not squash or fruit juices. We are also a nut free school as there are people in our school community who have allergies.

Parliament Week – Year 5 and Year 6

Monday 6th November saw the start of Parliament week. This is an annual event which is a great opportunity to help our children understand the who, what and where of UK Parliament. It enables them to gain an understanding of democracy and to explore how they can have their say, whatever their age.

Local MP David Johnston visited today to answer questions from the children. These were well researched using their knowledge of current affairs, Mr Johnston's voting history and their curiosity about the parliamentary system.

OxTrail

In the Summer of 2024, we will be taking part in the Sobell House Ox-Trail event. OxTrail is Oxfordshire's first ever sculpture trail, raising funds for Sobell House Hospice. A team of over 30 life-sized ox sculptures will be herded into positions throughout Oxford, creating an engaging, exciting event for the city - its residents, businesses, and visitors. Each of the oxen will be uniquely decorated by local and international artists to form a vibrant and family-friendly trail. Across eight weeks, OxTrail will encourage locals and visitors of all ages to explore Oxford's iconic attractions, find some hidden gems, and engage with the community.



We will be holding a number of fundraising events across the year to help us reach our target of £400. Ideally, we would like to raise a lot more if possible. The school council will be working on fundraising ideas and a GoFundMe page will be set up in due course. If you work for a company who would like to do Match Funding, please email me for a copy of the letter.

This is a really exciting opportunity for St Michael's and is part of number of wider community events that we are being involved with this year. If you would be interested in helping with this project, please let me know.



St Michael's CE Primary School

The Causeway, Steventon, Oxfordshire OX13 6SQ

Telephone and Fax: 01235 831298

Headteacher: Hayley Leyshon

Email: head.3241@st-michaels-pri.oxon.sch.uk

<http://www.stmichaelssteventon.co.uk>

Cultivating Respect, Persevering, and Learning with Courage

Upcoming Events

Reminder - Parents Evenings

Parents Evenings will remain online and will be held w/c 13.11.2023. You will receive an interim report with the link to the meeting. This will look a lot like the end of year report from July and will inform you of your child's attainment in the subjects covered so far this year.

At primary school we do not necessarily cover every subject, every term. We have designed the curriculum so that all required elements are covered across the whole year but this may mean that your child's interim report does not have the full list of subjects.

Hot Chocolate with the Head

A few years ago we introduced Hot Chocolate with The Head. This was an opportunity for a small group of pupils to come and join me one break time for hot chocolate and to talk about their experiences of school. This term I will be meeting with children who have recently joined St Michael's. I look forward to sharing with you the pupil voice around this.

Parent Coffee Morning

Mrs Sheehan will be hosting a coffee morning for all parents on **Wednesday 22nd November at 9am** in the school hall. All parents are welcome to come along whether it is to meet other parents, find out more about SEN or just to ask any questions you may have. Please do come along!

Courageous Advocacy

We talk about Courageous Advocacy a lot at St Michael's. Courageous Advocacy is when someone who supports, champions, and speaks up for a cause that is important and meaningful to them. Courage is needed to persevere and stand up for something or someone you believe in, to make a difference.

Jaxon in Year 3 has brought in a box to start a collection for the children and Ukraine and Palestine. We will be holding a



Diary Dates

Week Commencing	Event
13.11	Parent's Evenings Hot Chocolate with the Head
20.11	Parent Coffee Morning
27.11	Hot Chocolate the with the Head
4.12	Christmas Fayre Open Classroom
11.12	Key Stage 1 Nativity
18.12	Christmas Jumper Week Christmas lunch Early Years Concert Church Service End of term 1pm

Safeguarding

Safeguarding is never a subject that is easy to tackle and as we know, Safeguarding does not stop over the holidays or at weekends.

If an immediate response from Children's Social Care is necessary, **call 0345 050 7666**. If you have an urgent concern for a child call 999 or 101



St Michael's CE Primary School

The Causeway, Steventon, Oxfordshire OX13 6SQ

Telephone and Fax: 01235 831298

Headteacher: Hayley Leyshon

Email: head.3241@st-michaels-pri.oxon.sch.uk

<http://www.stmichaelssteventon.co.uk>

Cultivating Respect, Persevering, and Learning with Courage

More information can be found here: <https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/residents/children-education-and-families/keeping-children-and-young-people-safe/report-child-abuse>

If you have any concerns or require any support please do speak to us. We have access to lots of different types of support ranging from the Community Larder and parenting support right through to Social Care.

Please do not hesitate to get in touch if we can support with anything.

Kind Regards

Hayley Leyshon
Headteacher