



St Michael's CE Primary School

The Causeway, Steventon, Oxfordshire OX13 6SQ

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Cultivating Respect, Persevering, and Learning with Courage

Friday 6th October 2023

Dear Families,

It has been wonderful to have everyone back at school and a delight to welcome our new children both in Willow class and across the school. The children have settled in so well and I am blown away by the learning that has already taken place. They have certainly hit the ground running.

I have received some of the most completely incredible statements from Year 6 applying for the roles of Head Boy, Head Girl, Prefects and Sports Leaders. Their passion for the various roles and the skills they could bring to each of them are compelling and it will be a very difficult task to choose.

Our Junior Leadership Team will comprise of:

- Head Girl – Phoebe
- Head Boy – Eddie
- Deputy Head Girl – Dottie
- Deputy Head Boy – Obi

Our Junior Leadership will be working with the school council and the Senior Leadership team to bring about change in school and to advocate on behalf of the children. This is a really exciting opportunity.

Sickness

We have been hit by quite a bit of sickness this term in both staff and children alike. Please can I remind parents of the 48hour rule for sickness and diarrhea. A list of other exclusions can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/health-protection-in-schools-and-other-childcare-facilities/children-and-young-people-settings-tools-and-resources#exclusion-table>

Please be mindful of our vulnerable community when considering whether your child is well enough for school. We may not know if any members of our school are immunosuppressed, early pregnant or in other way compromised.

Vision and Values

We will be focusing on our value of Courage this term. With a new school year and lots of change, this is the value we need the most! Our Monday worship will, as always, be centered around a book. We will share stories such as Tom Percival's The River to explore our emotions and how to make courageous choices even when we might not feel it, The Invisible Boy by Trudy Ludwig to explore our vision in action. We are also talking about courageous advocacy – when someone 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.

School Development Priorities

Each year the Leadership Team and Governors review the progress of the school alongside the feedback from parents to identify the key priorities for the year ahead.

This year we have two key priorities:

1 – To raise the attainment of all children in Maths

- Mr Protherough, our Maths lead, will be working with staff on reviewing our maths curriculum to ensure it is rich and ambitious.
- We will be working with a Maths consultant from OCC to ensure that staff subject knowledge of the most recent research based best practice is current.
- We will be working with the Abingdon Partnership Schools to continue to moderate our maths teaching to ensure we are setting ourselves the highest standards.

2 – To ensure the leadership of all subjects is effective and the children make good progress

- Wider curriculum subject leaders to be supported by the Leadership Team



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- Working with the Abingdon Partnership to develop links with secondary schools to facilitate access to the best resources, subject experts as well as opportunities to work with children from across the partnership.

Homework

You may have noticed that there has been no homework set for children in Year 1 – 5. This is because we have been reviewing our homework expectations and trying to find the best way to do it for the children and our families.

Research shows that at primary level, the homework itself does not have any impact on the attainment or progress of children. However, homework is shown to increase parental engagement with school which does make a difference. The challenge comes when we consider the stress and anxiety home creates in the home.

We also appreciate that many of our families have two or more children in school and balancing homework with jobs, clubs and other life admin can create stress and tension for children and parents alike negating any positive outcomes that homework may have.

As such homework will take the following shape:

- All children should read regularly (5 times a week)
- All children in Year 2 up should be practicing their times tables set by the class teacher on Class Dojo
- Children in Year 2 up will be given a child led, term long personal interest project in place of specific weekly tasks. This means they can choose an aspect of their topic learning to pursue independently at home. The projects should be brought into school in the last week of term to be shared with the class and other children across school. This is voluntary. Teachers will provide ideas and guidance at the start of each term via Class Dojo.

	Willow	Maple	Sycamore	Rowan	Elm	Ash	Oak
Reading	Daily						
Maths		Games shared on Dojo		TT Rockstars	TT Rockstars	TT Rockstars	Maths Revision Guides
SPAG							SPAG Revision Guides
Topic		Termly Child Led Projects					

As in previous years, any bespoke spellings or other bits and bobs that teachers feel may help your individual child at home, will be sent home with your child.

Dates for your diary

w/c 9th October – Travelling Book Fair 3:15pm daily

10.10.2023 – School Photos

18.10.2023 – Open Classrooms 3:15pm

19.10.2023 – Spooky Disco

20.10.2023 – INSET Day School Closed

30.10.2023 – school reopens 8:45am

Kind Regards

Hayley Leyshon
Headteacher