



# 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](mailto:head.3241@st-michaels-pri.oxon.sch.uk)

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

**Cultivating Respect, Persevering, and Learning with Courage**

Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December 2023

Dear Families,

Welcome to the last newsletter for 2023!

As the year draws to a close it is always a time to reflect. This year has had its ups and downs but as a school we are ending the year on a high. We have achieved so much over the last 12 months; none of which would have been possible without the incredible staff team we have in school, the perseverance and courage of the children and the fantastic support from the parents. Thank you to you all!

I must also thank the Governors for their support and challenge this year. A board of unpaid volunteers who give up their time to hold me to account and to ensure your children are receiving the very best we can provide. From Health and Safety and budgeting, through to the curriculum and safeguarding; their dedication to your children has been unwavering.

I would also like to send a personal thank you to everyone for their kind words, flexibility and understanding over the last year. This is real evidence of our vision in action and has been greatly appreciated.

A few reminders ahead of the new year:

## **Communication**

We have worked really hard in recent years to improve the communication. As we have said before, we will never be able to get it right for every family, but we hope now that we have a system in place that works for the majority.

*Class Dojo* – Class Dojo is where the main communication will be between home and school. We will use the diary feature to remind you of upcoming events, class stories for things specific to your child's class and the whole school story for newsletters, whole school reminders and other messages. Please make sure you have push notifications turned on so that you don't miss anything!

You also have the ability to contact your child's teacher directly. Please do be aware that these messages will not always be responded to during the school day and there are quiet hours during evenings and weekends. Staff will not be expected respond to messages during these times. If your message is urgent (e.g. about absence, changes to collection) please contact the school office.

*School Website* – we strive to keep the school website as up to date as possible. This is an 'in house' job and so at busy times things may slide. The calendar is also available on the website and is kept up to date. Please speak to the office if you require something specific and cannot find it.

Communication is a two-way street – we have an increasing number of families who are not letting school know of changes to contact details, collection arrangements, attendance at after school clubs and even absence. It is important that you let the office know any changes in order for us to safeguard your children.

## **Fidget toys**

Fidget toys became very fashionable a few years ago and as yet there is still very little research evidence to suggest that they are as effective as advertised. We so know that sensory experiences can support some children with focus and as such we will be sending all fidget toys home over Christmas. They are becoming widespread in certain classes and causing more distraction than support!

From January, we will have a process in place whereby only on completion of a sensory profile in conjunction with the child, parents, the class teacher, and Mrs. Sheehan will a child be permitted to have a fidget toy in school.



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There will be a suggestion of an appropriate fidget toy to meet the sensory need rather than the incredible selection we have in school currently!

## INSET Day

The staff and I will be spending the day on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January working on the wider curriculum. We look forward to sharing more information about our curriculum developments in the New Year.

## Safeguarding

Christmas can be a challenging time for some, and safeguarding children never stops. If you are worried about your own child or another child in the community, please do not hesitate to contact the appropriate people:

### Immediate danger

If you think a child is in immediate danger, call the police on **999**.

### Immediate concern

If you have a concern about a child, please call MASH on **0345 050 7666**.

### If you are a parent or carer

If you feel you are harming your child or are close to doing so please contact us on one of the following numbers:

- Office hours (8.30am – 5pm, Monday to Thursday, 8.30am – 4pm, Friday): Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub: **0345 050 7666**
- Outside office hours: Emergency Duty Team: **0800 833 408**

## Diary Dates

Date	Time	Event	Year Groups
18 <sup>th</sup> December 2023		Christmas Jumper Week	
	9:30	Wriggly Nativity	Acorn and Willow
	1pm	Pantomime at Village Hall	Willow to Oak
19 <sup>th</sup> December 2023		Christmas Dinner day	
	2:15pm	Wriggly Nativity	Acorn and Willow
20 <sup>th</sup> December 2023	9:30am	Christmas Service at the Church	All
	1pm	School finish	All
8 <sup>th</sup> January 2024		INSET	
9 <sup>th</sup> January 2024	8:45am	School re-opens for Term 3	All

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