



# St Michael's CE Primary School

The Causeway, Steventon, Oxfordshire OX13 6SQ

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

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

Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2024

Dear Families,

I can't believe that we are 50% of the way through this academic year! I have delayed the newsletter from last week so that I could include everything in one place.

This week has been Children's Mental Health Week which has also tied in neatly with Safer Internet Day. The children in all classes have looked at ways they can keep their mind and body healthy – including how their online use can affect their mental health.

The theme of Children's Mental Health Week has been "My Voice Matters" – this is about empowering children and young people by providing them with the tools they need to express themselves. There is a really useful resource sections for families: <https://www.childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk/families/> There is a lovely video with a creative activity you might want to do this half term – <https://youtu.be/FfQ5yFexOb8>

We would love to see any that children do when we come back to school after the holidays.

## Welcome!

We have had the pleasure of welcoming Miss Crowther into Year 1 this term. Miss Crowther is a teaching student from Oxford Brookes and is working with Year 1.

## DEI

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion has been a focus of our curriculum for a couple of years now. We have spent a significant amount of time ensuring that the children who attend our school can see themselves in the learning that we do, the texts that we read and the environment that we share.

It is now time to deepen this commitment to DEI as we start reviewing how equitable and inclusive our school is to those staff, children and families who identify as a minoritized identify. Our vision is to be a safe harbour for all and anyone In our community; we look forward to sharing this work with you further.

## Upcoming Community Projects

This year we will be taking part in two community art projects.

### *Ox-Trail*

The Ox-Trail is an art project that is raising funds for Sobell House. We have a target of £400 but would love to raise more than that. In order to raise funds, we will have a non uniform day on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> February. We will also be running a competition to design our Ox! Entries are £1 and are available from the school office.

We are also looking for a Match Funder...if you or your company would be interested in this please let me know.



After Easter we will then be able to collect our mini Ox and would love to hold an event one afternoon to paint it! If you would be interested in helping with this, please so let me know.



### *Forest Project*

The Forest project is inspired by a piece from sculptor Antony Gormley called "Field for the British Isles" in 1993. The aim was to include as many people as possible in the creation of an artwork. Each person created a clay figure which was then displayed together like a modern day "terracotta army".

We will be taking part in a collaborative exhibition of paper trees to raise an awareness of the environment and sustainability. The forest of trees will be displayed at Peachcroft Farm in Abingdon in Spring.



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## MUGA

As you will have seen on Class Dojo, our MUGA was condemned following a Health and Safety inspection. Thank you to those of you who have contacted me offering help and support. Our dream is to replace the current MUGA with a larger more useable space and even look to rent this out to clubs and other groups in the community.

To do this we are currently looking at a cost of around £60,000 which as you can imagine is unmanageable in the currently climate but through a combination of fund raising, applying for community grants, publicity and the wonderful help of our parent community we are hoping we can make this a reality.

Watch this space!

## Homework

Homework is the sort of subject that polarises the world of education and families. Earlier this year we took the decision to drastically reduce our expectations around homework. The rationale for this was based on many factors including research-based evidence. Whilst research is predominantly based on Secondary schools, the pieces about primary do indicate that homework at primary school has very little impact on academic attainment or readiness for the next stage in the child's education however, high parental engagement, good social skills and a love of learning are factors that will ensure children thrive at any stage of their education. For homework to be effective it must be bespoke to the child, working on individual targets.

Some parents have said that homework causes a significant source of stress. Barriers to homework can be for many reasons such as families own experiences of school, language barriers, access to resources or time to allocate to longer creative pieces. It can also be a source of stress and shame for the children – where parents cannot support it can be difficult for the children to complete homework, or where parents are keen for a “beautiful” piece to be handed in and the children are unable to talk about their involvement! Conversely, other families enjoy doing homework and find it an engaging way to be involved with what and how their child is learning.

I have compiled an opportunity for parent voice around homework. Please do take some time to complete this so that we can review our homework provision and come to a model that is equitable and inclusive.

Please complete by Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> February

<https://forms.gle/ukQS3T66k8aSANKn8>

## World Book Day – Advanced notice

This year World Book Day is being celebrated on **7<sup>th</sup> March** but as you know at St. Michael's we love books so much we like to make a whole week of it!

This year we are inviting you to come in during that week to share books with your children. This will happen at 2.45-3.10pm on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. On the Wednesday it will happen from 8.30-9.00am. Family members are welcome to come to one session or all five!

On the 7<sup>th</sup> children are invited to dress up as their favourite book character or in pyjamas/comfy loungewear. Please contact Mrs Satchwell if you need any support with this.

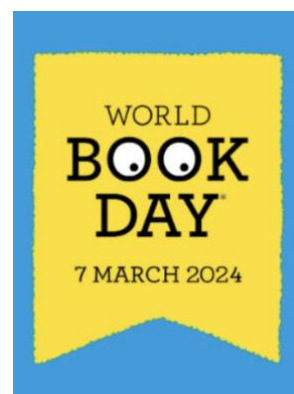
This term the children in school have been choosing some books that they would like to update their book corner and we are going to set up a wish list at Mostly Books. If you would like to purchase a book for the school the details of how to do so will be shared soon.

If you have any questions, please ask your child's class teacher or Mrs Satchwell.

## Half term Activities

The Oxford Rocks website is busy with lots of community events and of course we've featured lots of free activities including parks, walks, and play areas to help keep the kids entertained this half term break.

<https://www.oxford-rocks.co.uk/>





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## Jamathon!

After a resounding success last time, (raising over £1000!) we will be raising funds for School with another Jamathon! This event has now been marked as an annual fundraiser for the school.

**BODYJAM:** The cardio workout where you are free to enjoy the sensation of dance. BODYJAM covers a variety of dance styles and global music. During the 2 hours, you will dance four routines that will be introduced by layering up each move to create epic routines to sensational music. Thanks to the incredible tunes and your feedback, we'd love to bring back BODYJAM release 104 "I Miss The Old Jam" and 106 "Westside Story".

We are requesting a minimum £10 donation on the door. Follow the link to sign up!



<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=DQSIKWdsW0yxEiajBLZtrQAAAAAAAAAAAAAMAANd3nD9UMTNVSO5RUjhCWU4yQkwzSU5DTkMwSDI0Si4u>

## Diary Dates

Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February – Term 4 starts 8:45am

Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> February – Non uniform day for OxTrail

Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> March – Jamathon 10:30 – 12:30

W/C 4<sup>th</sup> March – World Book Week

W/C 18<sup>th</sup> March – Parents Consultations

Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March – Non uniform day for Red Nose Day

Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March - Open Classrooms 3:00pm

Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March – SSA Pub Quiz and Pizza at the Village Hall

Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March – Easter Service, 9:30am St Michael's Church

Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March – Finish for Easter 1pm

Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March – SSA Easter Egg Hunt

Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April – Start of the Summer Term 8:45am

## Safeguarding

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**

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