



St Michael's CE Primary School

The Causeway, Steventon, Oxfordshire OX13 6SQ

Telephone and Fax: 01235 831298

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

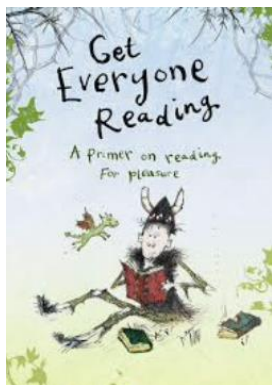
Cultivating Respect, Persevering, and Learning with Courage

12th September 2022

Dear Families,

Welcome back! This is the delayed newsletter from last week as it didn't feel appropriate to send it following the death of Queen Elizabeth II. School will be closed all day on Monday 19th September for the Funeral Bank Holiday. We will reopen on Tuesday 20th September at 8:45am.

It has been so wonderful to have the children back in school this week. The new Willow Class children have started school as though they have always been here! They are settled, curious, creative and so incredibly imaginative. There has been a great buzz in classrooms and the children have really hit the ground running with their learning. We have all sorts going on, from placards and banners about Suffrage, a Stone Age dig, and even "flights" to New Zealand!



School Development

Time stands still for no (wo)man and the process of setting our school development priorities for 2022/2023 is well underway. One key focus will be the promotion of reading for pleasure. As a school we have a wonderfully challenging and diverse text rich curriculum which we are very proud of. However, we would love to ensure this curriculum is really instilling a love of reading in our whole school community. As a staff we will be using our staff meeting time to work with the Open University undertaking their Reading For Pleasure professional development as well as other workshops with the Abingdon Partnership of schools.

You may have seen that we will be launching our Grown Ups Community Book Swap located in the front entrance of school, outside of the office. Please do come along to take a book, swap a book or just donate a book.

School Lunches

For children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 (Willow, Maple and Sycamore) school dinners are available free of charge under the Universal Free School Meal scheme. Children in Years 3-6 (Rowan, Elm, Ash and Oak) are required to pay for their school lunches (£2.40 a day) This can be done in a number of ways:

- Topping up the School Money 'pot'. This is then automatically charged each time a school lunch is taken.
- BACS payment directly into the school bank account
- Cash paid into the school office

Cash payments into the school office are preferably just for the week that the lunches are taken.

All school lunches can be chosen on the day – there is no requirement to prebook them.

Communication

As mentioned at the end of last term, we will be using Class Dojo as our primary communication method with parents. This will be used by class teachers to share aspects of classroom learning, reminders, homework and updates. There is a private message facility to allow parents to communicate directly with the class teacher. This replaces the individual teacher Gmail email address but will not be constantly monitored. Therefore, if you require an urgent response from the class teacher e.g. there is a change to who is collecting your child, please still email or call the school office.



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Please follow the link to sign up here:

<https://www.classdojo.com/invite/?s=59b2b05ff14966661e0d4e99>

Headteacher newsletters will come out via the office email fortnightly – please ensure you have office.3241@st-michaels-pri.oxon.sch.uk as a safe sender otherwise these have been known to go to junk as they are sent as a bulk email.

Meet and Greet

Meet and Greets for children in Years 1-6 will be on Tuesday 20th September and will run from 3:15 – 3:45pm. It will be an informal “drop in” opportunity for you to come into the classrooms, meet the teachers and look around school. There will be no presentation as in previous years but there will be an opportunity to ask individual questions about the year ahead. We hope this makes it easier for parents with children in multiple year groups.

In a bid to save trees (and money!) we will be uploading the information to Class Dojo in advance.

Times of Day

With the DfE issuing a statutory number of hours per school week, we have brought the start of school forward by 5minutes. School will start at 8:45am and finish at 3:15pm. Please note that children in Ash and Oak who walk to school by themselves must not arrive before 8:35am.

If your child is in Year 5 or Year 6 and would like to walk home by themselves at 3:15pm please let school know in writing by emailing the school office.

Applying to Secondary School

Parents of children in Ash and Oak are invited to visit local secondary schools ahead of the Year 6 application deadline of 31st October.

Some of the local school Open Days can be found below:

John Mason – 19th and 20th September 2022 at 9am

St Birinus Boys School – 5th October 5:30-8pm

Didcot Girl's School – 28th September 4:30 – 7:30pm

Fitzharrys School – 29th September, 5:30 – 8pm. 3rd – 6th October 9am – 11am (Booking on a morning session is essential)

Larkmead School – 6th October 5:30 – 8pm, 10th, 11th, 18th October 9am

Truck Hoodies

The sale of our St Michael's tea towels at Truck has raised a phenomenal £500 for school. We will be putting this towards music experiences for the children.

We have also been gifted a number of Truck hoodies that were left over from the festival. They are largely in a 3-4 or a 5-6 with a couple of 7-8s but they are quite roomy. If you would like one, they will be outside school this week before and after school. A donation towards Forest School equipment (Ms. Jaeger needs a new trolley!) would be very welcome.





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Baby News!

Some of you may have guessed, Mrs. Altan in nursery is having a baby! Baby Altan is due over the Christmas holidays, and we are looking forward to meeting them in the new year. We are very excited for Mrs. Altan and her family, and we will share news of their safe arrival in due course

And finally...

As some of you may already know, Mrs. Ross has a love of all sport and works during the holidays for Full Circle Sports camps. Mrs. Ross' sport of choice is hockey, and she has been selected to represent England and the Hockey World Cup in Cape Town at the end of September! We are hoping that we will be able to watch some of the games live and will keep you posted regarding their progress. After school club will still run in Mrs. Ross' absence.

I am sure you will join us in wishing Mrs. Ross and the rest of the England Squad well on their adventure!

Diary Dates

20th September – Class Teacher Meet and Greet sessions (Year 1 – Year 6)

26th September – Visit from Julie Bradbury, Badminton Gold Medalist

4th October – Open Morning for prospective Reception Parents, 10am

w/c 10th October – Travelling Book Fair

11th October – Reading Curriculum Evening, 6pm

13th October – Open Afternoon for prospective Reception Parents, 1:30pm

w/c 17th October – Aspirations Week

21st October – Finish for Half Term 3:15pm

Kind Regards

Hayley Leyshon-Brady

Headteacher