



St Michael's CE Primary School

The Causeway, Steventon, Oxfordshire OX13 6SQ

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Cultivating Respect, Persevering, and Learning with Courage

20th December 2022

Dear Families,

We have made it! The end of term is here. And what a term it has been. I have been reflecting on my first long-term working full time after 10 years and I can honestly say there is nowhere I would rather have made that leap. I will try to avoid a Gwyneth Paltrow-esque monologue but there are so many people that I would like to thank.

The staff – what a team. Such incredibly dedicated, creative, hardworking people who come to work each and every day with a smile and a positive attitude. There is not one person, from the office to the classroom and the kitchen, who does not go above and beyond for the children at St Michael's as if they were their own.

The Governors – Governance is not an easy role. The balance between strategic and operational, challenge and support, is fine but we are very lucky to have a board of Governors who find that balance, who are genuinely interested in the experience that children of Steventon have at St Michael's and really help to drive the school forward.

The Children – such a delight! The children of St Michael's are always noted as being polite, kind, caring and hardworking by external visitors. The pride children take in their work and the way they rise to meet the high expectations is incredible.

You, the parents – we could not do what we do without the support of you, the parents. Whether it is volunteering to help in classrooms, join Ms. Jaeger for forest school, be on the SSA, helping to dry out Nursery (Thank you, Mr Noys!), helping to keep the site neat and tidy, accompanying children on trips or transporting children to sporting events or whether it is reading with your child, completing homework and attending open days, this partnership is vital, and we are very grateful.

Current Attendance

As you know by now, we are having a real focus on attendance this academic year. So far, from September to date the whole school attendance is 95%. This is higher than attendance both regionally and nationally which are 94.0% and 93.8% respectively. Whilst 95% is good, we have set ourselves the target for 97% whole school attendance this year, so every day really does count.

If your child is genuinely unwell then of course, keep them at home until they are better. However, please refrain from taking holidays, long weekends or day trips during term time.

Year Group	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Attendance	93.1% (93.2%)	95.0% (95.2%)	93.2% (93.6%)	95.3% (95.3%)	95.9% (96.8%)	91.17% (91.1%)

Teaching and Learning

This year our school development plan is focusing on teaching that is good (or better!) for all children, in all subjects. This means that teachers have a good understanding of the different things each child needs and plans learning that meets these needs rather than just delivering a curriculum – we are not Amazon drivers! We recognised that remote learning had had an impact on this, and teachers have been really excited to get underway with flexible grouping alongside responsive and adaptive teaching. The impact of this is already being seen with children making really good progress in both teacher assessments and the more formal assessments we do periodically.

We are also exploring different ways of assessing subjects such as history, art and music. Our INSET day on 4th January will be spent looking at assessment, what do we want it to be like for children at St Michael's and how do we make sure it reflects the ethos of our curriculum.



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Fundraising

We have done some great fundraising this year. A HUGE thank you to everyone for your generous donations.

Children In Need raised **£155.98**

Poppy Appeal raised **£135.50**

Christmas Jumper Day raised **£123.90**

The Christmas Fair raised **£1475.60**

In 2023 we will be fundraising for two charities close to our community:

The Batemans Trust - This wonderful charity was founded by Alex Jacob and is run by a small voluntary committee who are raising funds to support the most disadvantage children in Chennai. They provide accommodation, food and healthcare and are now working to build a primary school and boarding school.

Oxford Hospitals Charity – we will be supporting the Keymer Family in their fundraising mission in memory of their son, Gethin.

Parent Forum- Friday 6th January 2023 – 9:00 – 10:00.

Following on from a discussion at Governors, we will be looking at the Bullying Policy and exploring a shared definition between teachers, children and parents, of what Bullying is. Please let the office know if you will be attending so we can ensure we have sufficient space.

Baby News!

On Friday 16th December, Mrs Altan who works in our nursery, had a beautiful baby girl. She was born a little early and has been keeping everyone on their toes, but we look forward to meeting her in the new year. I am sure you will join us in wishing Mrs Altan and her family a huge congratulations.

All that remains is to thank you all of the lovely cards, gifts and kind words and to wish you a wonderful Christmas with loved ones and we look forward to welcoming the children back on Thursday 5th January.

Kind Regards

Hayley Leyshon-Brady
Headteacher