



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 21st July 2023

Dear Families,

As another school year comes to an end it is a time for look back and reflect on our journey so far; the friendships, events in the life of our school, achievements, learning, values and even how much the children have all grown!

The end of term is always such a mixed bag of emotions. Saying goodbye and good luck to our Year 6s and other families moving on to pastures new as well as looking forward to a clean slate in September. But at the end of my first year as a solo head, I can honestly say I have never felt prouder to work with such an incredibly talented and dedicated staff team, inquisitive and curious children, and wonderfully supportive parents. Thank you to you all for making this the best job in the world.

We know the summer holidays can be a challenging time for parents and children alike. Please do not compare your time with your children to others. Do whatever is right for your family; spend time in nature, go for walks or simply take a picnic to the park but importantly, make sure you take time for yourself – you cannot pour from an empty cup! I can highly recommend these short 10-15min podcasts: <https://www.annamathur.com/podcast/> to help you take a moment and gather your thoughts.

Statutory Data

As a school we have been working hard over the last few years on raising the expectations in all year groups and are now able to share with you the outcomes we have reported from the statutory assessments this academic year.

GLD – Good Level of Development

RWM – Reading, Writing and Maths Combined

GPS – Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling

Area	% Reported	2021/2022		
		School	Oxfordshire	National
EYFS				
GLD	76%	60%	67.5%	65.2%
Phonics				
Year 1	73%	57.7%	74.5%	75.5%
Year 2	73%	60%	45.3%	44.2%
Key Stage 2 ARE+				
Reading	80.9%	50%	75.2%	74.9%
Writing	75%	53.8%	69.3%	69.7%
Maths	66.6%	65.4%	71.3%	71.6%
RWM	61.9%	46.2%	58.1%	58.9%
GPS	71.4%	53.8%	71.7%	72.7%
Key Stage 2 - GD				
Reading	38%	19.2%	29.2%	28%
Writing	10%	7.7%	15%	12.8%
Maths	14.2%	11.5%	22%	22.5%



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RWM	4.7%	3.8%	8%	7.2%
GPS	19%	11.5%	27.2%	28.3%

We are delighted with the results and are very proud of the children and staff for all of their incredible work over the past year.

School Dinners

As with everything, we have had to review the daily cost of a school meal. We have tried to hold off as long as possible as we understand that everything has risen. However, we are now required to increase the price of a school meal from £2.40 to £2.50 each day. Whilst this is not a significant increase, we would rather do it now than when a more substantial increase is required.

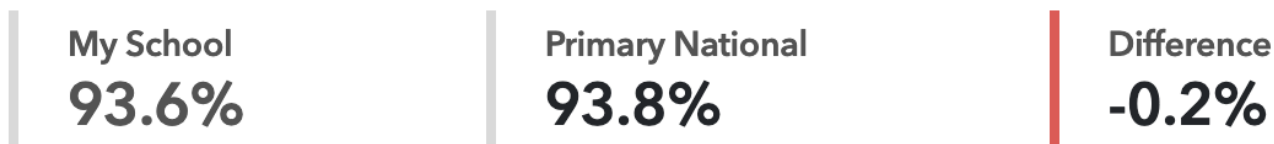
If you think you may be eligible for Free School Meals, then please speak to the office.

Attendance

This year we set ourselves the ambitious but not unattainable target of achieving 97% attendance for the children at St Michael's. As you can see, we fell short! Even though we are broadly in line with the National figure, we always strive to meet the highest expectations possible to ensure we are providing the very best for the children.

We will be continuing our focus on attendance in the coming academic year.

YEAR TO DATE ▾



One day = 2 sessions and these are marked independently. Therefore, if your child has an appointment in the morning and does not return to school, they are marked as absent for the afternoon session. These individual sessions all add up and contribute to your child's overall attendance figure. This is why we ask, that wherever possible, appointments should be made outside of school hours or that children are returned to school following an appointment.

If your child is absent and you do not inform school of the reason, your child is automatically marked as an unauthorized absence. The office team will always try and contact a family on the first day of absence if a voicemail or email has not been received.

Persistent Absenteeism

Persistent Absenteeism (PA) is defined a child whose attendance is 90% or lower. Our PA rate 14.9% which is lower than the National rate of 22% but is still the equivalent of 29 children: a whole class.

We will be striving to dramatically reduce this figure next academic year. We will monitor attendance every 4 weeks and make use of the full complement of strategies available to us as a school to ensure this happens swiftly.

Uniform

We are very proud of our uniform at St Michael's as it is something that brings us all together as a community; it is part of our identity both in and out of school.

I have noticed that over the last few weeks the standards have been slipping with children wearing joggers, leggings, hoodies and trainers. Please could you spend some time over the holidays reviewing your child's uniform and ensuring they have the correct items. We do hold a small selection of secondhand uniform in the school office if you need any.



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Children should wear:

- Grey, black or navy trousers, shorts, skirts or pinafores (no leggings, cycling shorts or jogging bottoms)
- Navy or gold polo-shirts
- Navy sweatshirts or cardigans (not hoodies)
- Blue or yellow checked dresses in the summer
- Black school shoes (not trainers) or sandals with socks in the summer
- Plain socks or tights in white, grey, navy or black

Jamathon!

Thank you to everyone who attended the Jamathon on Saturday 15th July and a huge thank you to Al Dewis and Carine for organizing – we look forward to making this an annual event!

The event raised £551.50 and then an additional £500 Match funding from the Halifax. We will be putting this incredible amount towards the renovation of the MUGA.

Diary Dates

Monday 4th September – School reopens 8:45am

Thursday 19th October - Term 1 ends – 3:15pm

Friday 20th October – INSET DAY – School Closed

Monday 30th October – Term 2 starts – 8:45am

Wednesday 20th December – Term 2 ends – 1pm

As always, please do contact us if you need anything. We have access to all sorts of support and advice so please do not hesitate to message your child's class teacher on Dojo, email myself or contact the office.

We wish you all a lovely summer,

Kind Regards

Hayley Leyshon-Brady
Headteacher