



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 24th March 2023

Dear Families,

As we come towards the end of the Spring Term, we are 2/3 of the way through this academic year! It has been an incredibly busy term and World Book Day seems like a lifetime ago but again the children continue to do us proud with their attitude to learning. This year we have really upped our expectations of children in terms of the content we teach but also in terms of presentation, attitudes, resilience and growth mindset. This is something that post COVID was hugely affected but we know that our children are more than capable of returning to

The annual parent questionnaire is now live – thank you to those of you who have already completed it. As a school we are committed to listening to feedback from parents and carers. This helps us to ensure the best possible experience for families in our school and to help drive us forward on our journey to excellence.

The questionnaire will be open until 3pm on Friday 21st April.

Follow the link here: <https://forms.gle/fH1GksD3dHxEBF4k9>

As we get to the end of this term, we have also been reflecting on the devastating and unnecessary death of fellow Headteacher, Ruth Perry. Ruth was the Headteacher at Caversham Primary near Reading who took her own life following an OFSTED inspection. If you would like to show your support for the petition to hold an inquiry into the inspection and the wider role of OFSTED then please do sign the petition: <https://www.change.org/p/grant-an-inquiry-of-the-ofsted-inspection-at-caversham-primary-school>.

It is very easy to dehumanise school staff but please remember that we do not always know what someone is dealing with underneath their professional façade. We ask that the whole school community remember to “*Do to others*” when communicating with staff, children, and each other.

Website update

Over this term we have been updating various sections of the website. We have uploaded a Guide for Parents, more information about the Early Years, clubs information and much more. Do look and let us know if there is anything you can't find or would be useful to have.

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

Behaviour

We have spent a long time working on the behaviour expectations with children in school and it is now something that is always commented on positively when showing people around. We use our vision and values when discussing behaviour with children and follow a restorative approach when resolving issues.

We have in school, our behaviour policy and every classroom has the picture version on the walls for the children. This is a very simplistic version and really only takes into consideration isolated incidents. If a child's behaviour becomes persistently disruptive then a letter is sent home and the child will be required to check in with a member of the leadership team after every lesson for a fixed period. We are determined to clamp down on disruption in classes and behaviour of this sort will not be tolerated. There will be children for whom the behaviour policy does not apply due to additional needs and thus appropriate adaptations will be made in consultation with the Reintegration Team at the Local Authority.

In the most extreme cases, if a child's behaviour is dangerous; putting themselves, other children or staff at risk, then it may be necessary to suspend them from school for a fixed period of time. There will then be a reintegration meeting with the child and their parents before they return to ensure the appropriate measures are in place and a restorative conversation has been held.

Please help us to maintain the high expectations of all children by reiterating the messages sent home about behaviour and by discussing any incidents with your child.



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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 Easter 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.

Children should wear:

- Grey, black or navy trousers, shorts, skirts or pinafores (no leggings 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

Extra-Curricular Clubs

We have worked hard this year to increase the number of clubs on offer and to improve participation. We rely heavily on the goodwill of staff to provide as many free clubs as possible. If you, a relative or a neighbour would like to come in and run a club either after school or at a lunchtime then let the office know – the more the merrier!

	Terms 1&2	Term 3&4	Terms 5&6
Number of clubs on offer	8	9	7
Total Number of children	81	100	49
1 Club	55	61	35
2-3 Clubs	26	38	14
4 +Clubs	0	1	0

Parking

Parking continues to be an issue. We are in the process of ordering some additional signage that we will place on the zigzags but at a cost of nearly £2000 we are asking parents to also do their part. As a school we do not have any jurisdiction over the land outside of the walls and so policing it is very difficult. We have tried on many occasions to engage the local PCSO but to no avail.

Therefore, we are relying on the moral compass and values of our families. Now that the weather is set to be brighter and drier, you could park at the Village Hall and walk along the Causeway, park at the Church and walk down or if you live in the village, scoot, cycle or walk.

The parking is difficult and, on many occasions, dangerous. Please do consider our vision to "do to others" when you park around school.

Healthy Eating

Edwards and Ward are our school catering company. They work with a nutritionist and dietician following the government guidelines to plan the meals on the school lunch menu. We have been looking at a variety of Healthy Eating policies and are in the process of formalising one for our school. In the meantime, we have drawn up the following guidelines on which the policy will be based.

Snacks

Children in Acorn, Willow, Maple and Sycamore are all provided with a free snack as part of the Government scheme.



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Children in Key Stage 2 (Rowan, Elm, Ash and Oak) will need to bring a snack to school for breaktime. These snacks should be:

- Fresh fruit or vegetables
- Dried fruit
- Rice cakes or crackers
- Cheese

These snacks should not be:

- Biscuits or cakes
- Crisps
- Fruit winders/sweets
- Chocolate



Lunches

Packed lunches should be balanced. Children may bring a chocolate covered biscuit (eg KitKat, Penguin, Jaffa Cake etc) but should not bring sweets, chocolate or fizzy drinks. We do not have the facility to reheat food brought in packed lunches but if your child would like to bring soup or similar in a food flask they are more than welcome.

Water is provided at lunchtime but if children would like to bring a smoothie, milkshake or carton of fruit juice (eg orange or apple) then they are welcome. Drinks in the classrooms **must** be water.

Edwards and Ward are nut free kitchens and we ask that all packed lunches and snacks are too. We have children in school who have nut allergies.

We will share the policy once it is ready.

Diary Dates

27.03.2023 Sycamore Class Open Classroom

29.03.2023 Sycamore Class Trip to Story Museum

29.03.2023 Rowan Class Cake, Book and Toy Sale

31.03.2023 Easter Service, Church 9:30am

31.03.2023 SSA Easter Egg Hunt

31.03.2023 End of Term 4 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.

Kind Regards

Hayley Leyshon-Brady
Headteacher