



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

10th February 2023

Dear Families,

Welcome to the final newsletter of the half term! We are now 50% of the way through the academic year; I don't know where time is going. – we have so much to fit in!

This term has been a brilliant start to 2023. The progress that children have made is a joy to see and so many children have said they wished the term was longer so they could keep on learning about their current topics. Confirmation that the curriculum we now have in place is engaging and exciting for our children.

What has been a real delight this week, has been the reaction that the children in Rowan class have had to the devastating earthquake in Turkey and Syria. They have been learning about Extreme Earth and the catastrophic impact of natural disasters and as part of their learning have asked what they can do to help the people affected. This courageous advocacy shows our vision in action and when they have decided what they will do I will share it with the whole community.

Thank you to those of you who have responded to the questionnaire around bullying. The general consensus was that the definition most parents felt aligned with was the following:

“Bullying is an ongoing and deliberate misuse of power in relationships through repeated verbal, physical and/or social behaviour that intends to cause physical, social and/or psychological harm. It can involve an individual or a group misusing their power, or perceived power, over one or more persons who feel unable to stop it from happening”

We will share these definitions with children and staff and come to an agreed statement for St Michael's.

In more personal news, I will be taking a period of compassionate leave from 8th March as my husband will be undergoing neurosurgery for an Acoustic Neuroma. During this time, I will still be on the end of the phone and contactable via e-mail and Class Dojo but the day to day operational running of school will be delegated to our more than capable leadership team. Please see the table below for who to contact, I have also included who our Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) is in my absence.

Date	SLT	DSL
08.03.2023 (Wed)	Mrs Sipson Mr Paynter Mrs Satchwell	Mrs Sipson Mr Paynter Mrs Green
09.03.2023 (Thu)	Mr Paynter Mrs Satchwell	Mr Paynter
10.03.2023 (Fri)	Mr Paynter Mrs Satchwell	Mr Paynter
13.03.2023 (Mon)	Mrs Sipson Mrs Satchwell	Mrs Sipson Mrs Green



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Poetry competition

We have been given the fantastic opportunity for 30 children across Years 4, 5 and 6 to attend the Sheldonian theatre on 28th March for an audience with Children's Laureate, Joseph Coelho.

Joseph Coelho follows in the footsteps of Quentin Blake, Michael Morpurgo, Michael Rosen, Malorie Blackman and Cressida Cowell in holding this prestigious position. The aim of the Laureateship is to celebrate and promote creativity, storytelling and inspiring all children to read a rich and diverse range of stories.



Joseph Coelho is renowned for his poetry and is inspired by magic, the ancient world and he often draws on his own experiences. With this in mind, we will be running a poetry competition for all children in Years 4, 5 and 6 with 10 winners per class chosen to attend the event. Poems can be written on any theme and should be submitted to school by 9am on Tuesday 14th March. The entries will be judged by some of our governors and members of the community.

Joseph Coelho has created a number of poetry prompts that you may wish to use as inspiration: <https://www.booktrust.org.uk/what-we-do/childrens-laureate/poetry-prompts/poetry-prompts-library/>

Parents Evenings

Parents evenings will be taking place w/c 13.03.23. These will be online, and details will be sent out via email w/c 20th February.

We will arrange other opportunities in Term 4 for you to come in and see the children's work.

Gloucester Rugby

We have been offered the opportunity to work with Gloucester Rugby. Children in Key Stage 2 will take part in workshops on Fridays in Term 4 and an after school club is also being held. There are still places if children would like to take part – please contact the office if your child is interested.

Holiday Swimming Lessons

We currently have a discount code for Swimming Lessons specifically for schools to share. We understand a lot of children are currently needing more support than ever before to learn to swim.

For anyone wanting to sign a child up to Swimming Lessons

If they visit <https://www.better.org.uk/what-we-offer/lessons-and-courses>

The discount code: HAPPYHOLIDAY will give 25% off signing up for swimming lessons at any of these centres:

Faringdon

Wantage

White Horse Leisure and Tennis Centre Abingdon

Henley Leisure Centre

Thame Leisure Centre

Didcot Wave

Abbey Sports Centre Berinsfield

Alternatively, anyone wanting to sign up a child for Swimming Lessons can go into centre and quote discount code HAPPYHOLIDAY to sign up in centre with 25% off.

After School Clubs

The after-school clubs for Terms 5 and 6 are currently being collated and the information will be sent out in due course. Please can I take this opportunity to remind parents that the school vision, values, and expectations still apply at **all** after school clubs (including wrap around) and that anyone whose behaviour falls below these expectations may be asked not to attend.



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Diary Dates

10.02.2023 End of Term 3 (3:15 finish)

20.02.2023 Start of Term 4

03.03.2023 Gloucester Rugby Workshops

08.03.2023 Girls in Football Day

16.03.2023 School Photos

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