



# 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**

Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> June 2023

Dear Families,

Yesterday we invited the Governing Body into school to spend the day with us. This was a great opportunity for them to see the school in action and to carry out some of their monitoring for the end of the year. They spent the morning looking at books, talking to children and staff as well as talking to the leadership team. The afternoon was spent looking at the progress we have made this year and identifying the key strategic priorities for the next academic year. We will share these priorities with you in September and keep you updated on our progress throughout the year.

The Governors praised the staff and noted how calm, purposeful, and engaged the children were in their learning. They recognised the high expectations of both work and behaviour and commented on how articulate the children were about what it is like to be a pupil at St Michael's. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Governors for taking the time to come into school and work with us – especially as many of them had to take a day off work to do so.

Thank you also to the staff and children for being their usual brilliant selves!

As in every school, the next few weeks are very busy but hopefully not overwhelmingly so. Please see the end of this letter for all of the upcoming diary dates. **We will finish on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> July at 1pm.**

## **Sport update**

We have taken part in lots of sporting events recently. Thank you to all of the parents who have provided transport to and from these – we could not have taken part without you!

*At QuadKids, first we all got little stickers that said: your name, how old you are, what school you went to, what you were doing first, second, third and fourth and a number.*

*We were split into groups of what digits we were at the beginning of our selected number, for example number 672 and number 137 would go together as well as other people whose numbers started with a 1 or a 6. These groups were picked at random so maybe 3s and 8s would go together.*

*If you were a number with the digit six at the front, (like me) you would go to howlers first.*

*On howlers, you would throw a howler as far as you could, and they would write down your score.*

*Then it was 50m sprint. A group of people lined up and did a sprint up to a table.*

*Next it was long jump. There was a big sand pit which we had to jump into as far as you could.*

*Then after that there was the last event. 400m run. We had to run all around Tilsley park racing track.*

**By Bea.**





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## Outdoor Classroom

As you may know, the outdoor classroom on the field is currently being repaired. As part of our drive to ensure all procurement is ethical and local, L&E Carpentry are undertaking the work. Luke and Emma are restoring the roof, posts and stage and seating area and J Drew Landscaping will be installing a robust artificial floor covering.



HUGE thanks to Dave Machin for his incredible donation towards this repair so that the newly renamed "Machin Outdoor Classroom" can be enjoyed by the children of our school for many, many years to come.

## Truck

The children of St Michael's have provided the artwork to Truck for their annual tea-towel. The chosen artists were selected by the Truck team from a wide selection sent to them by school. These will be on sale at the festival and we as a school benefit from the profits. Last year we earned £500 which was spent on tickets for a Key Stage 2 trip to see the Oxfordshire Youth Orchestra in concert at the Sheldonian Theatre. This year we are hoping to spend any money raised on a class set of Ukuleles and updating some of the other musical instruments in school.



The artwork on the tea towel is by:

- Royal Blood – Mason in Rowan
- Two Door Cinema Club – Ren in Maple
- Swim Deep – Miller in Ash
- The Lathums – Jake in Elm
- Self-Esteem – Evelyn in Maple
- Kate Nash – Lyra in Willow

- Pale Waves – Owi in Oak
- Everything Everything – Maxi in Sycamore
- The Wombats – Arthur in Willow
- The Vaccines – Matilda in Oak
- ALT-J – Tommy in Elm
- DMA's – Izzy in Rowan

We are also aware that Truck Festival begins before we have finished for the summer. We have been in touch with the organisers and asked that access is still allowed for school, but it may be wise to park at the Village Hall and walk along. We will also be trialing using the back gate off School Close from w/c 17<sup>th</sup> July with a view to this being a permanent entrance to school from September. We hope this will ease the congestion at the other entrances and enable parents who do need to drive to school to park more safely.

## Attendance

As we come towards the end of the school year and the holidays are close, it seems the appropriate time to remind parents that once children are of statutory school age (the term after they are 5), any holiday during term time will be an unauthorised absence.

You will see in your child's end of year report that we are sharing the attendance expectations for children along with their behaviour and effort.

	Attendance	Behaviour	Effort
Exceptional	Attendance is 99% or higher. Always in school on time.	A role model for other pupils due to their excellent behaviour.	Goes beyond expectations in lessons and with home learning.
Good	Attendance is 96% or higher. Very rarely late to school.	Always meets the St Michael's Expectations for behaviour.	Consistently good effort with all work set.
Room for Improvement	Attendance falls below 96% or occasionally late to school.	Occasionally misses learning opportunities due to behaviour.	Effort is sometimes good, but not always consistently applied.
Cause for Concern	Attendance is below 90% or frequently late to school.	Incidents of poor behaviour cause disruption for other pupils.	Shows a poor attitude in lessons or to home learning.



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Attendance is a national focus post COVID, and persistent absence is on the increase. Low attendance has a direct impact on the children's social skills, behaviour, and attitude to learning as well as their academic attainment and progress. Whilst we recognise children get sick and occasional absence is unavoidable; long weekends away, holidays and other day trips should be planned for the school holidays.

It can be tricky to know whether to send your child to school if they are under the weather. This link from the NHS is an excellent aide: <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

## Transition Day

Children will be meeting their new class teachers on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> July. There is also the opportunity for parents to come and meet the new teacher straight after school so please do pop in and say hello!

## Lost Property

We have a phenomenal amount of lost property. This will be placed out on tables in the front playground on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup>, Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> and Friday 7<sup>th</sup> of July. Anything remaining after this date will either be taken to the charity shop or washed and put into our second-hand uniform stock.

## And finally...Honey!

You may or may not know that at St Michael's we have our own beehives! Ms. Jaeger and Agne Makauskaite have been working with villagers John and Sheenagh Broadbent to set up our bee keeping club now the hives are established. In the coming months these hives will provide us with our very own St Michael's honey which will be on sale from school for £5 per jar. All proceeds will go to the upkeep of the hives and the running of the bee keeping club.

Please speak to Ms. Jaeger for more information.

## Diary Dates

Please see Class Dojo for times

Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> July – SIAMS Inspection

Monday 10<sup>th</sup> July – Year 5/6 Afternoon Performance

Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> July – All Things SEN and Inclusion Coffee Morning with Mrs Sheehan

Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> July – Transition Day

Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> July – Year 5/6 Evening Performance

Friday 14<sup>th</sup> July – Reports home to parents

Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> July – iRock Concert for Parents

Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> July – Year 6 Celebration

Friday 21<sup>st</sup> July – Leavers Service at Church

Year 6 Leavers Assembly

End of Term

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