



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

9th December 2022

Dear Families,

This term is racing by, and I can't believe that we are only just over a week away from the school holidays. The children (and staff!) are exhausted but there are plenty of events to keep us going. Mr. Binning has very kindly gifted us the most wonderful Christmas Tree which is standing proudly in our front entrance. Groups of children from across school have decorated it and it really does look lovely.



Thank you to those of you who attended the Christingle Service on Sunday; it was such a beautiful way to come together as a community. If you have any photographs that you would be willing to share with us, please do email them or send them in a message on Class Dojo. We would love to add them to our scrap book of the year!

A huge thank you must also go to the SSA and the staff for their team effort in pulling together a great Christmas Fair. This was the first time we have done it straight after school and it was a great success. We raised in the region of £1500 for the school and will let you know the final grand total in the end of term newsletter!

Steventon School Association are a very small group of parents who work tirelessly to raise funds to support extra resources and experiences for the children at St Michael's. They fund coaches, pantomimes, equipment and so much more. A huge amount of time and effort goes into the behind the scenes organising of events like Christmas fairs but many hands make light work! If you are interested in joining the SSA then please speak to your child's class teacher or myself who can then put you in touch with the right people.

Our children are working hard on their parts for the Christmas Service. We will walk up to the church and plan to start at 9:30am. There will be several pews reserved for children and staff so please keep these clear, but you are welcome to sit anywhere else. If you are free to help us walk the children up to the church, please do let your child's class teacher know. We look forward to seeing as many of you there as possible.

Current Attendance

Year Group	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Attendance	93.2% (93.8%)	95.2% (95.9%)	93.6% (95.4%)	95.3% (96.0%)	96.8% (97.0%)	91.1% (93.8%)

With the current rise in cases of Scarlet Fever, Strep A and other RSV viruses, please do think twice about whether your child is well enough to be in school. Whilst we promote good attendance for all, we must also be mindful in managing the spread of viruses.

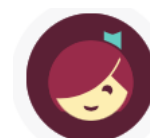
School Uniform

At St Michael's we are proud of our school uniform. We expect all children to wear school uniform as it encourages a sense of belonging, a feeling of equality and a pride in being a member of our school.

There is no requirement or expectation to wear the logo'd uniform. However, it can be bought directly from 'Trutex Schoolwear and More' at 14 Cockcroft Road, Didcot or online at <https://myschoolwear.co.uk/>. Plain school uniform can be purchased from most supermarkets, high street shops and online.

Libby App

Something that I have recently come across is the Libby App. Libby is a free app where you can borrow adults and children's eBooks, audiobooks, and magazines from your public library. You can stream titles with Wi-Fi or mobile data or download them for offline use. All you need to get started is a library card.





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Online Safety

With Christmas around the corner (two weeks on Sunday!) and the possible gifting of new devices, I thought it would be timely to share some of the online safety information for parents.

Information on setting up parental controls:

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/parental-controls/>

Advice for parents to understand the risks and to help your child to play online games safely:

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/online-games/>

Advice on deciding if a game or app is right for your child:

<https://www.childnet.com/blog/but-everyone-else-is-playing-it-how-do-i-decide-if-a-game-is-right-for-my-child/>

Ratings and reviews by parents:

<https://www.commonsemmedia.org>

We know it can be tempting to allow children to play games that are rated above their age group, however the certifications are there for a reason. Fortnite for example is PEGI 12 due to the violence and open chat and is therefore not appropriate for children at primary.

Diary Dates

Wednesday 14th December – Christmas Dinner Day (children may wear a Christmas jumper)

- 2pm – Key Stage 1 Nativity Performance

Thursday 15th December. – 6pm Key Stage 1 Nativity Performance

Friday 16th December. – 9:30am Christmas Church Service

Tuesday 20th December – 1pm – End of Term

Thursday 5th January - 8:45am – Start of Term 3

Kind Regards

Hayley Leyshon-Brady
Headteacher