



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

23rd February 2023

Dear Families,

Welcome Back! I hope that you all had a break over half term and that you were able to get out and enjoy the improving weather.

We started Term 4 with a bang – Kinetic Kirsty from Bright Sparks Science came in to do a demonstration of the exciting everyday science they do at Science Club. There are a couple of spaces left so please contact the office if your child is interested.



The new topics have been launched and homework grids are now on Class Dojo. Whilst homework is not compulsory, it is a great way to get involved with your child's learning and to support them at home. The homework grids have a balance of activities that will extend the learning in class that you can select to work around your family life. We also welcome anything different that piques your child's interest on the topic.

Willow – Minibeasts

Maple – Mini Zoo

Sycamore – Alice in Wonderland

Rowan – A History of Pictures

Elm – Chocolate

Ash – Space

Oak – Darwin's Dragons



Attendance

In September, the DfE announced that all schools should be providing education for 32.5 hours a week. As such we amended our school day to 8:45-3:15 in order to meet the correct number of hours. This is also why punctuality and attendance is so important.

Lateness = Lost Learning*	
5 mins per day	3 days lost
10 mins per day	6.5 days lost
15mins per day	10 days lost
20 mins per day	13 days lost
30 mins per day	19 days lost

*Calculated across an academic year

We have recently been getting a number of requests for children to be collected early for various appointments and clubs after school. Whilst this doesn't directly impact on the attendance figures, the lost learning opportunities are the same as lateness. This also sets a precedent which we cannot condone.

Please can we remind parents that, wherever practicably possible, appointments should be made outside of the school day or in the holidays.

We appreciate that timings of clubs and extra-curricular activities are out of parents control however, we cannot authorise children being routinely collected before the end of the school day in order to attend these.

SIAMS

As you may or may not know, we are expecting a SIAMs inspection imminently. This is the Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools and they will come in to assess how effective we are as a Church School. Our SEF (Self Evaluation) can be found on the website along with lots of other information about the things we do as a Church School.

Ultimately, the inspectors will be looking at how well our vision is embedded into everything we do, how effective our values are and how well we help children, staff and yourselves as parents, to flourish.

A Message from Rowan Class

In class collective worship this week we have been focussing on ways to be generous during the time of Lent. Rowan class have shown that they really understand this by deciding how they would like to raise money to support Turkey and Syria.



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On Wednesday 29 March they will be holding a cake, book and toy sale. We know that the financial times aren't easy for anyone so we will just be asking for a donation of what you can afford if you would like to buy something. If you have any books or toys that you no longer need but are in relatively good condition we would be extremely grateful. We would also appreciate any cake donations! Thank you in advance for your support. We are very proud of Rowan Class for being such courageous advocates.

Parents Evenings

Parents evenings will be taking place w/c 13.03.23. This will be an opportunity to talk about your child's academic achievement, progress and their next steps.

Questions you might want to ask your child's class teacher:

- Is my child's progress in line with your expectations?
- Have they done anything particularly well, or found anything particularly hard?
- What can they do to improve?
- How can I help as a parent?
- Do they contribute in lessons?

Forest School

Sadly, during half term, Ms. Jaeger's pallet and bird bath at forest school were removed from the site and vandalised a little further into the copse. Thankfully, nothing else was damaged but please could you remind children who may be playing in the copse to be respectful of the items in the setting.

Poetry competition - reminder

Just a reminder that we are running a poetry competition for all children in Years 4, 5 and 6 with 10 winners per class chosen to attend the event in Oxford with Joseph Coelho. 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, members of the community and staff from Mostly Books.



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/>

Readathon 2023

We are again running a World Book Day Readathon and we'd love your child to join in.

It's been proven that children who read for pleasure are more likely to be successful and happy throughout their lives (OECD). Read more at [gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk)

The children can choose whatever they want to read – from comics to classics and audio books to blogs – they are not being assessed, it's all about reading for fun. And, they are motivated to read because the money they raise in sponsorship helps to provide new books for the school.

All the children need to do is:

1. Spend at least 10 minutes each day during book week (27th Feb– 5th March 2023), reading/listening and sharing stories.
2. GET SPONSORS!



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All **you** have to do is:

1. Take a look at what they plan to read, or help them complete their list of books to read. Remember they can read whatever they want: books, e-books, poetry, comics – anything goes! Sharing books is fine too (in fact recommended!) as well as listening to audio books.
2. Help your child find sponsors among family and friends.

Please support your child's sponsored read as much as you can. The money raised will be used to improve and upgrade each classrooms reading area! We would love to raise £1,000!

The child who raises the most in each year group will be awarded with a book of their choice and a copy of the same book will go into the class library.

After the sponsored read/listen, please make sure that all the sponsorship money is paid by Friday 10th March 2023.

Community Notices

St Blaise School 'Swish'

St Blaise Swish

SWISHING - STALLS - FASHION SHOW

Friday 17th March, 5pm - 7pm, St Blaise School

Free entry, £2 to join the swish.

Bar & pizza on sale.

All proceeds to St Blaise School.



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Race Night



We would love you to join us for



'A Night at the 'Races'

on Friday 24th March

To be held in the beautifully restored barn at Hill Farm, Steventon

(Courtesy of the Binning Family)

We will be raising funds for local projects supported by **The Rotary Club** and for the work of **The Batemans Trust** in India.

The evening Includes a **delicious, sit down dinner** (vegan options available) and six 'Races' to have a flutter' on at the 'tote'!

You are invited to **bring your own drinks** – glasses will be provided – but there will be a soft drinks bar.

Dress: for the 'races'

Doors open 6.30PM

Suggested donation: £25 per head

Races start 7pm

Tables of 6 or 8 can be reserved if requested – or just join others.

Tickets: email Alex on alexandpoppyt@yahoo.co.uk or text Lawrence on 07990932464. We will provide you with online payment details and ticket numbers. Alternatively, we can arrange for cash/cheque payments.



There will be a race card with details of the races and the horses (which all have very interesting names!) You can select your horse, place a small 'bet' at the 'tote' and then cheer your horse home as the race is viewed on the large screen. Or you can just sit back, sip your wine and enjoy the lovely setting, good company and delicious food!





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Diary Dates

W.C 27.02.2023

World Book Week

02.03.2023 World Book Day Dressing Up

03.03.2023 Gloucester Rugby Workshops

08.03.2023 Girls in Football Day

16.03.2023 School Photos

29.03.2023 Rowan Class Cake, Book and Toy Sale

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