



St Michael's CE Primary School

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Cultivating Respect, Persevering, and Learning with Courage

13th January 2023

Dear Families,

Welcome back. It has been so lovely to have everyone back and to welcome some new families in Years 3 and 5. I know that the children will be living our vision and making them feel welcome.

At St Michael's we have high expectations of everyone and we aim for everyone to achieve their potential not just academically but personally and socially too. We have shared with the children that the process of learning isn't a straight line, that it is messy, uncomfortable, exhilarating and everything in between! During the pandemic, it was much harder to "sweat the small stuff" and so things like punctuation, handwriting, spelling and number formation were much harder to embed. These may feel like unimportant things but these basic skills have such an impact as children progress through school especially in terms of pride in the work they produce.

Our marking policy means that work is "live marked" with the children. Adults use pink highlighter to demonstrate where children have achieved the learning objective and green highlighter to demonstrate new learning or next steps. We are now working on the mindset shift of the more green, the better as this is where the learning happens.

We look forward to welcoming you into school again soon to see this learning in action. Keep your eyes on Class Dojo for more details soon.

Collective Worship

In our Monday collective worship we always share a picture book. We use stories as a way to teach our vision and values just as Jesus did. In fact, story is the basis of so many religions and is an incredibly powerful way to explore complex themes and messages. This term we will be sharing stories on the theme of kindness and community which reinforces our vision to "do to others as you would have them do to you".

Our Thursday collective worship which is taken by Rev. Phil and the Children's Ministry Team will be along the theme of Perseverance. They will be learning about different bible stories that demonstrate this but also modern day links too.

Friday worship is a celebration assembly. We share postcards and celebrate our vision and values in action but in the classroom and at other times. It would be really great if we could share some achievements from outside of school too. Please do let your child's teacher know if there is something for us to share.

Playground

On the INSET day, Signet Signs spent the morning improving our playground! It has been on the 'to do' list for some time so it is great to finally have it actioned and looking great. The children across school are enjoying playing on the various aspects including a three way hopscotch, adventure trail and What's the Time Mr Wolf.

Parent Forum- Friday 6th January 2023 – 9:00 – 10:00.

Unfortunately, this time didn't seem to work for parents as it was a very small meeting this time! The purpose of the parent Forum is to give parents the opportunity to be involved in issues around school, on this occasion to co-create our schools Anti-Bullying Policy.

I will circulate a GoogleForm on ClassDojo for parents to complete but if you would like to be involved in future sessions to pull together this important piece of work, please let me know; it is important that we have representation from across school.



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Short story Competition

Oxfordshire Libraries eBook short story competition 2023

Inspiring original new writing from around Oxfordshire: all ages; all voices.

Competition dates: Tuesday 3 January 2023 – Sunday 26 February 2023

I am delighted to announce that our 9th writing competition launched on 3 January 2023. This year, children aged 7-11 are invited to write a short story (up to 3000 words). It is a perfect activity for the new year, inviting children to build on the creative writing skills practised in class – to then explore at home and in their own time.

The competition aims to encourage writers to tell their own story and is a great opportunity to encourage children to write for fun.

We have three age categories:

- 7-11 year olds
- 12-17 year olds
- 18+

The competition is free to enter, and entries can be submitted from Tuesday 3 January 2023. The closing date is Sunday 26 February 2023.

The winner of each category will see their entry published as an eBook and eAudiobook to be made available to members of Oxfordshire Libraries to borrow in 2023.

Full terms and conditions, as well as instructions on how to submit entries, can be found on the Oxfordshire Libraries website: www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/shortstorycompetition

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

