



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

Tuesday 23rd July 2024

Dear Families,

As another school year draws to a close it is time to reflect on all we have achieved.

This year we have:

- Achieved academic results that are at least in line with National outcomes.
- Increased our in school support for children's social and emotional well being
- Achieved incredible sporting achievements with county level successes for the cricket and Quad kids.
- Put on three fantastic drama performances
- Attended two well renowned musical events with the choir
- Run 12 different extra curricular clubs from chess to athletics to football
- Seen our wrap around care grow
- Secured funding for music therapy
- Held several successful SSA events which raise vital funds for school

None of the above would have been possible without the incredible talent and dedication of my wonderful team. I recently read an article likening school leadership to Taylor Swift. It said:

"I Can Do It With a Broken Heart" hit me hard because performance is part of leadership: smiling through the worries, the fear; being unreasonably optimistic whatever comes your way; showing everyone that it's going to be fine, that nothing can go wrong because you're a real tough kid, you can handle it. But I think there is strength in reminding yourself that you're not alone, that there are tortured poets behind a lot of people's smiles and sequins – and that you know you're good when you can do it with a broken heart"

Whole article: <https://schoolsweek.co.uk/what-taylor-swift-taught-me-about-school-leadership/#:~:text=I%20Can%20Do%20It%20With,kid%2C%20you%20can%20handle%20it.>

It very easy to lose sight of the fact that we are real people with real lives outside of our teacher personas – much like Taylor Swift – however, I must thank parents for their support in what has been a tough year personally for so many staff. We may have dropped balls, made mistakes and got things wrong but every decision, lesson, experience and opportunity is made with children at St Michael's at the very front and centre.

I must also thank the Governors for their support and challenge this year. They have a focussed eye on the outcomes for your children and ensuring that they are getting the very best possible. And not to mention our incredible office staff. Mrs Ashford and Mrs Scaysbrook work tirelessly to make sure all the trips, events and visitors to school have everything they need – before monitoring attendance, budgets and a whole host of other jobs around school. They are always looking for ways to make school more efficient and for that we are eternally grateful.

And finally a huge thank you to the children. They are the reason we come to school day in, day out. Their individual progress this year, their tenacity and resilience as well as their courage to go out of their comfort zone continually makes us all so very proud. Year 6 leave us as resilient, independent young people who are so ready for the next step on their journey. The world is yours for the taking – go grab it with both hands!

Message from the Governors

Dear Staff, Parents, and Carers,

It is hard to believe that we are nearing the end of the academic year here at St. Michael's. We trust you are enjoying the lead-up to the summer holidays, which is always a very exciting time within the school.

The Governors have had another busy few months, and we would like to share some thoughts with you as we look to the future here at St. Michael's.

Academisation

It may come as no surprise to learn that much Governor focus over the past few months has been on the question of academisation. The Governors looked into various options related to academising (or not), and thinking about what type of academy would be the best fit for St. Michael's, if academising were considered the best course of action.

After careful deliberation, the Governing board agreed that joining the Abingdon Learning Trust was the best possible decision for all at St. Michael's. Joining the ALT will provide a fantastic support network, which aligns with our school ethos and values, while allowing St. Michael's to retain autonomy over key decisions, such as curriculum and operational policies.



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The Governors are truly excited for this collaboration, and wholeheartedly believe it will be of enormous benefit to both the quality of education and the school experience of all pupils of St. Michael's.

For more information on St. Michael's academisation, please see:

<https://www.stmichaelssteventon.co.uk/page/?title=Academisation&pid=87>

Highlights

The governors have so many highlights from the past 12 months, so wanted to share a few with you.

First was the very successful SIAMS (Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools) inspection, which was testament to how effectively the staff at St. Michael's embed the values of Respect, Perseverance and Courage into the life of all pupils. Huge congratulations again.

Another particular highlight for us were the visits we paid to school. We were able to see the work of the pupils and see the wonderful progress they were making over the academic year. It was clear that pupils were engaged and took real pride in their work. We were also very impressed with how teaching staff provided feedback, adapted teaching according to individual needs, and diligently oversaw safeguarding duties.

We came away from each visit extremely impressed with both the pupils and staff at St. Michael's, and thank everyone who assisted with our visits.

And finally...

We wanted to round off the academic year by again thanking all parents/carers, pupils, and staff members at St. Michael's for contributing to such a successful academic year. The results speak for themselves, as the school finds itself at least in line with early national averages across a range of measures. We are confident that our Year 6 leavers will draw on skills obtained at St. Michael's at both secondary school and beyond – good luck to them in all their future endeavours.

We wish everyone a safe and enjoyable summer break and look forward to continuing work next term!

I will now pass you over to our Chair, Robin Conway, for his message.

Robin's Message from the Chair

The last academic year has been a busy but exciting time for St Michael's. Along with the usual governance schedule of strategic meetings, policy reviews and school monitoring, we have been working hard in the background to prepare for academisation. First reaching a recommendation ourselves, then in the consultation and now in preparing to onboard with the Abingdon Learning Trust. A really important part of this process was gathering the views of parents and staff and I'd like to thank everyone who wrote in or attended the consultation events. A huge amount of the additional load falls disproportionately on 2 people: Hayley Leyshon as headteacher and Sharon Scaysbrook as Business Manager. As ever they have rolled up their sleeves and worked unstintingly for the pupils of St Michael's. With an expectation of joining the Trust in the next academic year, we can now look forward to all that work bearing fruition in terms of the support the school will have in achieving even further excellence in the future.

I'd also like to thank everyone in the community who has done so much to support the school this year – staff, governors, volunteers and, of course, parents and students. In its exciting range of sports, clubs and other activities St Michael's continues to thrive in the way a great village school should; at the very heart of the community. As well as providing the learning that will be the foundation of their future success, the school creates memories which will last many of our students a lifetime. None of this happens without a huge amount of hard work and goodwill. So thank you to everyone who has contributed this year. For those who are leaving us, especially our departing year 6s, we wish the very best for the future. To everyone else, have a happy, restful and joyful summer and come back in September refreshed and ready for more!

With kind regards,

Sarah Hudson

(on behalf of the Governing Board of St. Michael's, Steventon)

School Dinners

Due to the wide range of price increases we will be raising the price of school dinners from £2.50 per meal to £2.60 a meal from September.

Children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 as well as those in receipt of the Pupil Premium Grant will continue to be eligible for free school meals.



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Safeguarding

If you are worried about your own child or another child in the community, please do not hesitate to contact the appropriate people:

Immediate danger

If you think a child is in immediate danger, call the police on **999**.

Immediate concern

If you have a concern about a child, please call MASH on **0345 050 7666**.

If you are a parent or carer

If you feel you are harming your child or are close to doing so please contact us on one of the following numbers:

- Office hours (8.30am – 5pm, Monday to Thursday, 8.30am – 4pm, Friday): Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub: **0345 050 7666**
- Outside office hours: Emergency Duty Team: **0800 833 408**

If you have any concerns or require any support, please do speak to us. We have access to lots of different types of support ranging from the Community Larder and parenting support right through to Social Care.

We wish all a restful holiday and look forward to seeing you Wednesday 4th September at 8:45am!

Kind Regards

Hayley Leyshon
Headteacher