



# St Michael's CE Primary School

The Causeway, Steventon, Oxfordshire OX13 6SQ

Telephone and Fax: 01235 831298

Headteacher: Hayley Leyshon

Email: [head.3241@st-michaels-pri.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:head.3241@st-michaels-pri.oxon.sch.uk)

<http://www.stmichaelssteventon.co.uk>

**Cultivating Respect, Persevering, and Learning with Courage**

Monday 8<sup>th</sup> July 2024

Dear Families,

Even with the end of term on the horizon, we are still working very hard!

The Year 5 and 6s put on the most fantastic performance of Porridge yesterday. It was one of the best end of term productions I have ever seen. The children worked incredibly hard under the fabulous direction of Mrs. Hyland and Miss Fytche. They worked on their normal Maths and English every morning and play rehearsing in the afternoon around PE, art and other wider curriculum subjects. Thank you also Mrs. Ross for her lighting technician role and Ms. Mulvey for her stagehand support.

The raffle and interval snacks were a huge success and raised around £257 so a huge thank you to all who contributed.

The children have been undertaking their end of term assessments this week too. They have shown incredible courage, perseverance and respect for themselves and each other. They really have shown just how much progress they have made this year – it is brilliant to see. Your child's end of year reports will be coming home on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> July. If you require additional reports or reports to be sent to other parents, please make your child's class teacher aware.

Transition Day will be on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> July. This will be your child's opportunity to meet their new class teacher and spend the day in their new classroom. Please drop your child off and collect your child with their new class teacher in the following places:

Current Class	2024/2025 Class	Class Teacher	Location
Willow	Maple	Miss Cooper	Year 1 gate by the office
Maple	Sycamore	Miss Atkinson	Front playground in front of the arch
Sycamore	Rowan	Miss Heaps	Front Playground in front of the hall
Rowan	Elm	Mrs Drabble	Front Playground in front of the hall
Elm	Ash	Miss Fytche	Year 5 classroom by the MUGA
Ash	Oak	Mrs Satchwell/Mr Paynter	Year 6 classroom
Oak	-	Mrs Hyland	Hall

There is an opportunity for you to meet your child's new teacher and see their new classroom from 3:15 on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup>. If your child is at breakfast/after school club that day the staff will take them to their new classrooms.

## Academy Conversion

We received our conversion order from the Department of Education last week and behind the scenes Mrs. Scaysbrook and I have been busy completing all the required due diligence and making a start on the next step of the process. The official conversion will not happen for a good few months yet but we are starting to get involved with various projects and network groups across the Trust to make sure we have a smooth transition.

Please see below a note from Fiona Hammans, Trust CEO:

*We are delighted that St Michael's will be joining our Trust and we are excited about the opportunities that having two primary schools will bring to benefit everyone.*

*I know that Ms. Leyshon and Mr. Fawcett, the Headteacher of Rush Common School, are already planning activities for their pupils and staff in the spirit of openness, collaboration and genuine sharing. Benefits from working together as part of a larger educational organization include joint staff training and curriculum development with the possibility of joint trips and visits for pupils – all know how important a great primary experience is not just for secondary school, but for a successful adult life. There is so much that St Michael's can share to enhance children's experience.*



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*There are no planned changes to the ethos or was St Michael's is run and you should see very little difference on a day-to-day basis. Decisions will be made by Ms. Leyshon and governors, who know the school best, with the support and backing of the Trust's central team and Board of Trustees.*

*If you have any questions about any aspect of the conversion for St Michael's to an academy or Abingdon Learning Trust, then please do contact me via [consultation@abingdonlearningtrust.org](mailto:consultation@abingdonlearningtrust.org)*

*I look forward to working more closely with the school and its community and wish you a restful and enjoyable summer break.*

Dr Fiona Hammans

CEO

Abingdon Learning Trust

## Sports Day

It was wonderful to see so many of you at Sport's Day. The children were fantastic, and the level of sporting etiquette made me feel very proud indeed.

Congratulations to Hedgehog house on your well-deserved victory!

## Attendance

As you know, we take attendance very seriously at St Michael's and we monitor it regularly. Your child's report will be coming home in the next few weeks and you will see their attendance total for the year. Good attendance is 95% with ideal attendance being 97%.

Every day missed in school has an impact on not only the children's academic attainment, but repeated absence can lead to a rise in anxiety and confidence issues. This is a cycle that is then tricky to break.

The attendance for each year group from September until now is below:

Year Group	Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Cohort Size	30	29	30	24	30	22	27
Attendance	95.5%	95.79%	94.65%	96.17%	95.60%	93.08%	97.31%
Authorised	4.12%	2.73%	3.87%	3.07%	3.06%	5.26%	2.03%
Unauthorised	0.33%	1.48%	1.48%	0.76%	1.34%	1.66%	0.66%

From 19<sup>th</sup> August 2024 there is a new framework coming into force around attendance.

Since COVID the attendance of pupils in schools locally and nationally has dropped to unacceptable levels. This is largely driven by the working from home culture and the flexibility that this offers parents.

As part of the new framework the threshold for Penalty Notices is much lower. Just 10 sessions (5 school days) of **unauthorised** absence in 10 rolling weeks. This is the equivalent of a weeklong holiday. Unauthorised absence includes: holidays, absence where no reason is given, days out and late arrival after the register

The initial fines equate to £80 per parent per child. The fine then escalates to £160 per parent, per child at the second penalty notice.

Therefore:

1<sup>st</sup> PN - 2 parents (or stepparents) with 2 children = £320

2<sup>nd</sup> PN - 2 parents (or stepparents) with 2 children = £640

As a school we actively discourage parents from taking holidays in term time (the children will always let it slip...) however, if your child is absent for other reasons, we would rather work with you to support you getting your child to school before we refer to the Attendance Team for a Penalty Notice.

All the changes will be detailed in an updated attendance policy. We will share this as soon as it has been published and ratified by the Governors.



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## Abingdon Foodbank

The Foodbank will be offering parcels to existing clients but also parcels to families in receipt of free school meals or anybody else in need of help over the summer.

Please let me know if you would benefit. This can be via Dojo or email.

I just need to know:

- Household name
- Number and ages of children
- Any special dietary needs or restricted cooking facilities.
- Which Foodbank Centre you are likely to visit (Northcourt or Preston Road)

## Year 4 Trip to Harwell

*Last week we were lucky enough to go to Harwell Science Park. They talked to us about Space, planets, magnets and the diamond light source facility. First, we had a talk about different planets and the man told us which planets would be too hot or cold to inhabit as they were too close or far from the sun. He also discussed about the spacecraft that they are sending up to space in 2 years' time.*

*Next, we learnt about magnets and how magnets are used at the facility. We created some really cool bracelets that glowed in sunlight which turned different colours!*

*Then, we went to a science fair which was lots of fun. We did experiments including expanding marshmallows and F1 car simulators!*

*Finally, we made little space boxes that could reflect lasers. We had a great time at Harwell!!*

*Bella Y4*

## Quad Kids

*In Quad Kids we had loads of adventures like long jump, 400m, 50m and howler.*

*Long Jump – so we start at the edge of the sand pit and we swing arms and bend our legs and jump. We two tries and our score turns into points.*

*400m – We had to run around a lap of the Tylesly Park track.*

*50m – We had to sprint a bit of the track to the end and the time is converted into points.*

*Howler – On the Howler, you have to throw a howler as far as you can.*

*We came second in the first round and then the final we came second again because our rivals, Caldicott and now we have made it to the county finals. It was lots of fun!*

*Alex Y3*

## SSA

All upcoming events will be communicated via Class Dojo.

Upcoming Events:

- ☆ Colour Run – Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> July
- ☆ Bake Off – Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> July

If you are able to offer any help or would like to volunteer in any capacity, please do let the SSA know on this link:

[volunteersignup.org/KPQKM](http://volunteersignup.org/KPQKM)

The SSA runs solely on volunteers and without support they are unable to run. In the recent parent survey several people said they would like more SSA events so here is your chance to help.



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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.

Kind Regards

Hayley Leyshon  
Headteacher



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## TERM 6 DATES

Date	Event	Time	Year Groups
10 <sup>th</sup> July	DGS/SBS Transition Day	All day	Year 6
11 <sup>th</sup> July	King Alfred's Transition Day	All Day	Year 6
	Athletics Event	All Day	Year 6
	Stay and Play	3:30pm	New Reception Starters
14 <sup>th</sup> July	SSA Colour Run Event		All welcome
17 <sup>th</sup> July	Transition Day in school	-	All Year Groups
	Meet and Greet	3:15pm	All Year Groups
19 <sup>th</sup> July	Reports home to parents	-	All Year Groups
	Leavers Assembly	9.30am	Year 6
22 <sup>nd</sup> July	Bake Off	2pm	All welcome
23 <sup>rd</sup> July	Leavers Service at the Church	9:30am	All families welcome
	End of Term 6	1pm	