



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

Friday 13th September 2024

Dear Families,

It has been fantastic to be back and the buzz around school is just brilliant. A big welcome to the new families to St Michael's in Acorn, Willow and across the school. It is wonderful to have you all as part of the St Michael's School community.

Each newsletter this year will have a piece written by a member of our Junior Leadership Team. Our Junior Leadership Team are a group of Year 6s with various responsibilities across the school. These include House Captains, Prefects and Sports Leaders.

We are starting the term with a welcome from the Head Boy – Tommy.

Hello my name is Tommy Newport, Head Boy of St Michael's Primary School. My favourite thing about this amazing school is the opportunity I have to learn but you cannot forget the kind, caring and extremely thoughtful teachers helping me and others to learn! There are multiple chances to go on school trips with your caring classmates. My favourite subject has to be English because I get the chance to show my writing.

I am looking forward to showing visitors around and giving the school a good reputation.

Priorities for 2024/2025

As always at the start of the academic year we set the priorities for the school year ahead.

Maths

We will be continuing to focus on the outcomes for children in Maths this year. Maths is a subject that historically children (and adults!) are happy to say they're "not good at" or that they "can't do". We have a new calculation policy this year that aims to keep Maths practical all the way through school, taking the very best practices from Early Years and rolling it out to the more challenging concepts across the school. Yes, even in Upper Key Stage 2!

Vulnerable learners

Vulnerability is something that is not a one size fits all. Different children have different vulnerabilities and different times. Our focus this year is on ensuring that any child who is vulnerable for any reason – family circumstances, additional needs, at risk of underachieving – what ever it may be – has the appropriate support at the point of need. This may be social, emotional or personal, it may be academic. We will be working with Rush Common School in Abingdon to develop a bank of support and opportunities for these children to help them achieve their personal potential.

OPAL

With MUGA facelift starting on Monday we are more able to focus our attention to OPAL – Outdoor Play and Learning. The aim of OPAL is to create unstructured times that are accessible to all children, enable play opportunities that enrich social skills and encourage negotiation as well as developing sensory and imaginative play experiences.

We have an audit of lunchtime provision on 1st October at which time we will know more about things we will specifically need to support this venture, however in the meantime, if you or your company think you may be able to help with resources such as sponsoring waterproofs, creating wellie boot storage or other construction skills please let us know!

Our Learning

Year 6 have got off to a brilliant start with their learning about Politics. They have been finding out about the Suffragettes, the difference between political ideologies such as fascism, communism, theocracy and absolutism as well as discussing whether strike action works!

Year 5 children will learn about the Ancient Greek civilisation and its legacy on the wider world. They will have opportunities to learn about aspects of Ancient Greek life, events and significant people. They are using the text *Who Let The Gods Out* in English,

Year 4 have begun their topic and will learn about the Roman Empire, including when, where and how it spread. They will use a range of sources to understand different reactions to the invasion and the impact the Romans had on life in Britain. They will also learn about the decline and fall of the Roman Empire.



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Year 3 are learning about The Stone Age. They have been using the text How To Wash A Woolly Mammoth to explore instructional writing and will be creating cave art, natural paints and learning about The Archer of Amesbury. They will be learning about different settlements and what people living in this period of history needed to survive.

Year 2 have begun finding out about the Great Fire of London. Children will learn about the history of the Great Fire of London, including causes and consequences. They will build their own model Tudor houses to reenact The Great Fire and understand more about the reasons the fire spread so quickly. They will also learn about Samuel Pepys and the impact of the fire on the fire service.

Year 1 have made a great start back at school. They will learn about Steventon and gain an understanding of where they are within the UK and the world. They will think about their immediate history. Children will walk around the village and make simple comparisons to Steventon today and Steventon in the early 1900s. Children will discuss what has changed and what has stayed the same. They will use the local environment to explore, identify and discuss features of UK common and wild plants as well as some native animal species.

Our new reception children will be learning about being in school, understanding routines and boundaries, making friends and settling in. Children will begin to understand that there are similarities and differences between them and their friends, and that they are part of a bigger world - where there are many similarities and differences between different groups of people. They will learn that they all bring something unique to the class - we need everyone.

And last but not at all least, our youngest members of the school. Our new nursery children have settled in brilliantly and it is really lovely getting to know them. They are already coming over to school to collect their snack each day and it is great to see their confidence growing already!

Snacks and lunches

Another reminder that children in Years 3-6 need to bring in a healthy snack for breaktime. There are still lots of children with crisps or other bits from their lunch boxes. Children in Nursery – Year 2 are provided with a snack under the Government scheme.

Please note: we are aiming to be a NUT FREE school. There are children in school with severe allergies and as such as ask that **no** peanut butter or other nut products are brought into school.

Attendance

As you know we will be regularly monitoring attendance at St Michael's as always. The attendance data to date is below:

	Maple	Sycamore	Rowan	Elm	Ash	Oak
Attendance	96.4%	96.1%	96.1%	91.4%	97.4%	92.1%
Unauthorised Absences	0.26%	0.0%	1.48%	3.87%	0.0%	5.62%

Please always speak to school about any reason for absence or difficulties that you are experiencing to see how we can best support you.

SSA

The Steventon School Association are a group of parents who work incredibly hard on a volunteer basis to raise funds for the school. If you are interested in helping out then please do contact them via email: ssa.stmichaels@gmail.com

Diary Dates

Diary Dates will always be at the end of the newsletters. Newsletters can be found on the website here:

<https://www.stmichaelssteventon.co.uk/newsletters>

19th September – Flu Vaccinations

30th September – Year 6 Residential to Kilvrough

2nd October – Open Morning for Prospective Parents

8th October – Individual School Photos

11th October – Harvest Festival, Church at 2pm

23rd/24th October – Parents Evening details to follow

25th October – INSET Day, School Closed to pupils

4th November – Term 2 starts 8:45am



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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:

School Safeguarding Team

Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) – Hayley Leyshon (HT)

Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads – Lina Sheehan (SENCO), Chris Paynter (DHT), Emily Green (EYFS Lead)

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 look forward to seeing everyone back on Wednesday 4th at 8:45am!

Kind Regards

Hayley Leyshon
Headteacher