



# St Michael's CE Primary School

The Causeway, Steventon, Oxfordshire OX13 6SQ

Telephone and Fax: 01235 831298

Headteacher: Hayley Leyshon

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



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

Friday 28<sup>th</sup> February 2025

Dear Families,

Well today it feels that Spring may be just around the corner! What a difference the sunshine makes.

It has been wonderful to see how the children have come back to school after half term. The learning is well underway and I am looking forward to seeing where each of the new topics take the children this term.

Our current topics are:

- EYFS – Minibeasts
- Year 1 – Dinosaurs
- Year 2 – Alice in Wonderland
- Year 3 – History of Pictures
- Year 4 – Water
- Year 5 – The Tudors
- Year 6 – A Twisted Tale



## Staffing Update

We have welcomed Miss Hunnisett and Miss Wood to St Michael's this week. They have had a lovely first week with Year 2 and have a fantastic rest of the term planned. I know you will all make them feel at home.

Miss Holbourn has joined us in Year 4 too. She is getting to know the children and under Mrs Hyland's mentorship she will start taking on more teaching as the weeks progress.

As you know, Mrs Sheehan has decided to pursue her dream of moving to the coast. She now has a date for moving but we are fortunate enough to retain her phenomenal expertise until the end of the academic year with a hybrid role. Mrs Sheehan will work remotely (from the seaside!) and come into school as and when she needs to be here in person. This will enable us to see children through to the end of their current year and facilitate a thorough handover to the new person.

A note from Mrs Sheehan:

*"Over the years, I have worked with amazing children and colleagues and despite challenging times both personally and professionally, St Michael's has provided me with the opportunities to thrive."*

*"This support, personally and professionally, has seen me to a position where I now feel ready to fulfil my dream of moving to the coast and live a life with more balance, fresh country air and hopefully a dog to walk on long coastal paths. I have no job to go to but do have plenty of ideas for my future. With such a sound grounding in education, thanks to St Michael's, I hope to support children in a new are, whilst building a new life"*

Our role as a school is not only to enable children to meet their potential but also staff. As such it is with hugely mixed feelings that we share the news that Miss Gardiner will be leaving us at the end of the academic year. Miss Gardiner will be starting at Barton Park school in Oxford as the EYFS and Key Stage 1 Lead. This is a fantastic leadership opportunity for Miss Gardiner and whilst we feel very sad that she will be leaving us, we know that she will be incredible in this role.

A note from Miss Gardiner

*"Since joining St Michael's four years ago I have had the privilege of teaching wonderful children in their first years of school, working with fantastic colleagues who have always brought a smile to my face! It has been amazing to see children from my classes grow and flourish as they move through school, and I have many fond memories of "little" moments with individuals that I will hold on to. I have been touched by the support and generosity parents have shown me – from helping with various trips to fundraising missions. Whilst I am excited for this new step in my career*



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*and the opportunity to share the kindness I have received; I am sad in equal measure to be leaving a school that has a huge place in my heart. I hope to always remain a good friend of St Michael's!"*

And finally...Mrs Richardson has had her baby! He arrived safely on Tuesday and both Mum and baby are doing well.

## **OPAL**

Our project to improve the quality of play at St Michael's continues to gather momentum.



We will be sending out requests for donations as we tackle each area – this will help us manage any resources that come in and help us to teach the children how each area works rather than overwhelming them with “stuff”. By being more intentional in our practice we hope to have a smooth roll out of this initiative.

We are getting lots of the basic elements ready – including the construction of wellie racks! We are really grateful to Ben Walker for giving up his time to make a huge number of these. We are busy clearing a space in preparation of their arrival.

## *Resources*

We are looking for weaving materials – especially long strips of material and plastic. We would like the children to be able to practice their fine motor skills on the green fence on the field but a large amount of fabric etc is required! Please let us know if you have any we might be able to utilise.

Also – if you have any larger size wellies that particularly our Year 5 and 6s could use (sizes 1-5) we would be very grateful of the donation!

## **Parents Evening**

This term Parents Evening will be held on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> March and Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> March. The office will be in touch with the booking form so please do keep an eye on Dojo next week. These meetings will be in person and held at school.

## **Fundraising**

Much of the fundraising that occurs in school is driven by the SSA. We are also fortunate enough to receive funds from SARINC each year which help us to support the children at St Michael's the best way we know how. Occasionally other community groups also offer a donation and the Steventon Conservation Group have very kindly donated over £1000 to Forest School.

Ms Jaeger will be using this money to purchase a new trolley, new waterproofs and a storm shelter. She has carefully chosen a retailer who have sustainability at its heart so as to honour both our school values but also those of the Conservation Group.

## **Match Funding**

Many companies throughout the UK offer employees the chance to boost their fundraising efforts by ‘matching’ the money they raise. Reach out to your working parents, and your PTA could double the amount of cash it raises.

Match giving, or match funding, is a simple way to maximise the fundraising efforts of your individual PTA volunteers. It is an informal, albeit corporate, arrangement between a company and an employee. Usually, a company pledges to match a sum of money relating to the amount the employee has either raised or donated to a charity. It is likely that there will be an upper limit and certain criteria applied, such as the recipient organisation being a registered charity. Some companies will pledge time and resources instead of money, enabling their employees to





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support a cause during their working week. Or a tangible service may be offered, such as the opportunity to print posters, programmes and newsletters

## **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.

Have a lovely weekend!

Kind Regards

Hayley Leyshon  
Headteacher