



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

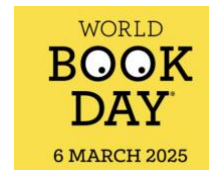


Friday 14th March 2025

Dear Families,

The end of another busy couple of weeks! Thank you to everyone for bearing with us during road closures and temporary traffic lights. These come as much of a surprise to us as they do you but in true St Michael's style we carried on regardless and adapted brilliantly. There are still some parking issues at either end of the day which can make it unsafe for our community. So I am compelled to remind you again to not park against the wall, on the zigzags (both by the car park and by the brook), outside the park or on the corner of St Michael's Way.

World Book Day was a fantastic celebration of books and reading. Thank you to all who joined us to read with your child in the hall, for the wonderful competition entries and the phenomenal creativity and effort that went into costumes. As a school we base our whole curriculum around books and so World Book day is a great opportunity to do what we do – but with bells on!



Following closely after World Book Day was British Science Week! The children shared their investigations in assembly today and it has been great to find out all about what we should and should not flush...which coins are magnetic and why...and where the newly created species should live depending on various

adaptations! We were introduced to a "Torca", a "Wolfx" and lots of other wonderfully creative species.

Next week brings Parent Consultations. These are a great opportunity to look through the work your children have been doing and to discuss their progress with the class teachers. If, for any reason, you are unable to attend your appointment please let the office know ahead of time so that staff can manage the timeslots effectively. There will be no interim reports.

Attitudes to Learning

One thing we have been developing as a staff are statements to assess children's attitudes to learning. This is to help us identify any barriers or ways that we can support children to access learning and feel successful at school beyond just the academic. These will be shared with you at Parents Evening and will then be referred to in the end of year reports.

Attendance

Just a reminder to let the office know if your child is absent from school. Please do not rely on sending the class teacher a Dojo message as it may not be seen until later in the day.

Remember you must always give a valid reason for absence – the children will always let it slip! If there is not a legitimate reason for the absence then this is marked as an unauthorised absence.

ALT

Last Friday we had a visit from the Education Standards Committee Trustee, Dr Grace Clifton. Her remit for the Trust is to ensure each school is providing a high quality education to all and to identify good practice to share.

Her feedback was *"The school has put a significant amount of time and resource into supporting children's emotional and behavioural issues – eg ELSA (in school 4 days a week), Forest School, PAWS (dog therapy) and nurture classes as well as additional TA support for specific academic interventions has supported academic outcomes.*

I was really impressed with the ambitious approach to reading particularly evident in year 2. The school has ambitious expectations around choice of text and I saw a year 2 class involved in the topic of Alice in Wonderland, making use of the unabridged text. Similarly, year 5 were involved in work around The Tempest, and year 6 Philip Pullman's rewriting of the Grimm Tales."

This was followed by a review of our provision for Vulnerable Learners across school. This was another successful visit which highlighted how much goes on at all levels in school to support children. This was carried out by Mrs Tridgell (Director of Education) and Mrs Wileman (Vulnerable Learner Lead for the Trust and DHT at Fitzharrys).



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One of the main advantages of joining a Trust was the additional support and challenge we would receive compared to OCC. This is certainly something that we are taking full advantage of and are looking forward to welcoming CEO Fiona Hammans and DoE Julie Tridgell later in the term to carry out a school review.

Fundraising



Thanks to the generosity of our participants the event raised an incredible £780 for the school. In addition, a parent contact at Elsevier RELX Ltd has kindly match-funded, increasing the final JAMATHON #5 total to £1,560. This is an amazing result and will help to refurbish our library.

The next SSA Events are the Easter Sponsored Hop and the Easter Hat competition. Please see the poster and the end of this newsletter for details.

Year 6 Fundraiser

Each year, the parents of children in Year 6 work incredibly hard to fundraise for the leaving celebrations. They have put together a great programme of events over the coming terms and we will share details with you as they come up.

Their first event will be a Duck Race and Chocolate raffle on Friday 4th April. Please keep an eye on Dojo for more information in the coming weeks.

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



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Attachment

EASTER FUN

The SSA invites
you to have fun this Easter!

SPONSORED HOP-A-MILE

At school during the last week of term
Sponsorship money in by Monday 31st March
Prize for the most sponsorship!

EASTER HAT COMPETITION

Design an Easter Hat!*

£1 entry per child

Hats to be completed and presented
during assembly on Thursday 3rd April

Prizes for best hat!



*There will be a drop-in family Easter hat making session held after school on Wednesday 2nd April. All welcome!