



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 12th September 2025

Dear Families,

Welcome back to a new school year! We are so excited to have the children back in our classrooms, filling them with energy, enthusiasm, and a love for learning. It's been a fantastic start, and learning is off to a strong start across all classes. We are already seeing children engaged, focused, and eager. It is clear that the children are already settling into productive routines and enjoying the high expectations.

As we build strong academic habits, we're also placing a focus on school-wide routines that help students feel safe, confident, and ready to learn each day. Whether it's transitions between learning and playtime, collective worship, or classroom procedures, these structures help create a calm and respectful learning environment for all.

INSET

We spent two days as a team revisiting our curriculum vision and expectations. You may notice that some topics have been moved around to ensure that there the children's learning is ambitious and engaging.

Our new and updated curriculum vision is:

Curriculum Vision Statement

At our school, we are committed to delivering a rich, engaging, and inclusive curriculum that nurtures respect, courage, and perseverance in every learner. We believe education should be fun, creative, and adaptive, inspiring children to become lifelong learners who are proud of who they are and excited about who they can become.

Our curriculum is designed to help every child flourish, unlocking their potential through high expectations and personalised support. We celebrate diversity and promote a strong sense of belonging, ensuring that all pupils feel valued, safe, and included.

Through a broad and balanced offer that builds cultural capital, we empower children to be ambitious thinkers, ready to succeed in an ever-changing world. We prepare them not just for the next stage of their education, but for life.

We also identified three key words that will underpin everything we do this year: Community, Connection, Belonging. These words relate not only to the children, but staff, parents, families and the community which we serve. As the year goes on we will be focussing on each of these strands through our curriculum review, events and communications.

Meet and Greets - Connection

Thank you so much to all of you who were able to attend our recent Meet and Greet events. It was a joy to see so many families and begin building the strong partnerships that help our children thrive. Your involvement and support make a tremendous difference.

Improvements to School – Community

Over the summer there have been some improvements around school. Our wonderful handyman Mr Bell has painted the front entrance to school a brilliant white colour, replacing the old dark brown wood. This has made the office area look much brighter and cleaner.

The SSA along with the help of mighty Mitie volunteers have cleared the old SSA shed and replaced it with a much sturdier, and very cheerful looking, metal shed. The wonderful welly rack, built by Ben Walker, now has a new home just in front of it making it much easier for children to have weather appropriate footwear on at breaktimes.





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A huge thank you to everyone for their time and expertise in making our school environment a much nicer place.

We do have a little book of "TLC" jobs in the office. If you have an hour or two to spare during the school day and would like to help, please speak to Mrs Scaysbrook in the office; she is our Health and Safety Guru!

Library Project - Community

We're excited to share that our Library Project is officially underway! As part of our effort to create a vibrant, welcoming space that encourages a love of reading, we'll be sorting through our current book collection—and we'd love your help!

We're looking for volunteers to assist with:

- Sorting and organising books
- Reviewing condition and age-appropriateness
- Helping us create a more engaging and accessible space for our readers

Whether you can give an hour or a morning, your time and energy will go a long way in supporting this important project.

Details:

 **Date(s):** Monday 15th, Tuesday 16th, Monday 22nd and Tuesday 23rd September

 **Time:** Between 10:30 and 3pm

 **Location:** Library (Please sign in at the office)



No experience is needed—just a love of books and a willingness to pitch in. Light refreshments will be provided! If you're able to help, please let Mrs Satchwell or Ms Leyshon know.

Additional Provision – Connection

We all need a little help sometimes and we spend a lot of time explaining to children that fair is not everyone having the same, fair is everyone having what they need when they need it.

Where resources are incredibly stretched, waiting lists years long and support inaccessible to so many, we have worked hard to develop an "in house" offer at St Michael's to ensure that children can have access to support during the school day. Our additional provision offer have grown and grown over the years and over the summer we have created an additional space to provide this.

This year we will be providing:

- Emotional Literacy Support
- Lego Therapy
- Talking and Drawing
- Play Therapy
- PAWS – Pupil and Animal Well Being
- Nurture Forest School



Children can be referred to these services by their class teacher, by Mrs Satchwell our SENCO or by Miss Cooper our Vulnerable Learner Lead. If you would like to know any more about these provisions, please do ask.



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Clubs - Community

Do you have a skill, passion or interest that you would like to share with the children at St Michael's? Coding, crochet or creating? Our after school club list will be coming out soon but in order widen to offer for children in our school we are looking for volunteers to run a club on the school site.

If you think you can spare an hour a week then please speak to Mrs Ashford in the office.

Safeguarding - Community

As part of our routine site safety and security walk we have identified a couple of areas that are a risk, especially at the end of the school day.

As such, you will see that Year 2, 3 and 4 will be standing along the side of the hall, similar to how they line up in the morning. This is so it is easier to see parents and children alike. It also aims to keep the archway clear for parents and children coming from the back of school.

Please can I ask that parents of children in these year groups do not wait by the tree in the courtyard and take their children from there as the class teacher must dismiss them so that we know where they are.

Diary Dates

15.09 and 16.09 – Library working party 10:30 – 3pm

22.09 and 23.09 – Library working party 10:30 – 3pm

27.09 – SSA Colour Run – See posters and Dojo for booking link

03.10 – Harvest Festival – Dojo post to follow

07.10 – Individual and sibling photographs

21.10 – Year 6 trip to Imperial War Museum

Have a wonderful weekend,

Hayley Leyshon
Headteacher