ST.MICHAEL'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

PROSPECTUS

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Welcome

Phil Knox-Roberts
Chair of Governors

St. Michael's is a welcoming, vibrant and safe learning community in which everyone is encouraged and enabled to reach their full potential. We are a very committed and active Governing Body. As well as fulfilling our duties by both supporting and challenging the Headteacher and the Senior Management Team, monitoring activities and progress in school, we also enjoy being involved in day-to-day events.

Our school's outstanding staff team is committed to every child's success by instilling a real love for learning, respect for others and building their self-confidence. As quoted by a parent in our last Ofsted Inspection *"I feel that staff are approachable, professional and not only make a positive impact on my children's education but are positive role models for life."*

As parents and carers, you are very much part of the school community. Your child will be joining a happy, thriving and Osfted rated 'Good' school. St.Michael's Primary School is where children are supported to learn independently, behave exceptionally well and aim for success.

As governors, we are committed to working as a team with the school leadership for the benefit of the whole school community. If you would like to learn more about the role of the school governors, then please contact us.

clerk@stmichaels.reading.sch.uk

Aimee Crofts
Headteacher

I am delighted to welcome you to St. Michael' s Primary School.

Our school is a place where the children come first; they are central to our every decision. We place nurturing pupils' social and emotional wellbeing with upmost importance and we support all of the children in their personal development. At St. Michael' s, we strive for the children to become happy, resilient and compassionate members of society.

Through our positive and caring learning environment, we encourage children at St. Michael' s to aspire in reaching high standards and to have the personal goal of reaching their full potential. Through this ethos, our pupils can build self-motivation and high self-esteem; they acquire the enthusiasm to pursue their next phases of education and future ambitions.

At St Michael' s, we have a stimulating and supportive learning environment with a curriculum which is both exciting and challenging. In our school, we encourage pupils to be inquisitive and, through this, develop a love of learning. We provide a balanced and broad curriculum to enable pupils to discover a wide range of interests and passions.

To support this further, we enrich the curriculum through extra-curricular activities. As a school we offer a wide range of clubs, for the children to have a variety of experiences and find additional areas in which they can flourish.

We are a dedicated and hard-working team, who are committed to providing the very best learning opportunities for all of the children in our care. Our shared vision, ' Together we achieve' , is embedded into our daily school life and our high expectations for the children.

The strong partnership between school and family is vital and lies at the heart of children' s happiness and success. Our open-door policy means that, as parents and carers, you are always welcome to come into school to discuss your child.

In addition, there are many opportunities during the year where you are invited into school to learn more about what we do and to celebrate the achievements of all.

This prospectus will give you a flavour of our school and visits are warmly welcomed. I feel very privileged to be Headteacher of this inclusive and friendly school, at the heart of the local community, and very much look forward to showing you our school.

Our vision

We provide children with the foundations to become good citizens of the future.

We are committed to enabling each child to reach their potential and to have high aspirations. We maintain high expectations in all areas of learning and deliver a broad and well-balanced curriculum.

Through enriched provision, we encourage children to fully develop opportunities to shine and share their strengths with others. Our school values are embedded in all aspects of school life.

Admissions

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Visiting the School

We appreciate that choosing the right school for your child is important and we strongly encourage parents to make an appointment to visit the school before making their decision. You will be offered a short tour and meet with the Headteacher, who will be happy to answer your questions.

Admissions Process

St. Michael's admits 60 children in September whose 5th birthday falls between 1st September and 31st August of that academic year. As a maintained school, Reading Borough Council manages the school admissions process.

For further details please visit www.reading.gov.uk

Receiving a place at St. Michael's

If your application is successful, you will be invited to attend a Parent's meeting where you will meet the Foundation Stage staff and the Headteacher.

At the meeting, you will be given an information pack containing documents to be completed and returned to school on your next visit.

Taster Sessions

You are invited to come to school for a morning or afternoon session before the summer holidays. This helps children to get used to their new environment, meet their new teachers and make a few more friends before they come to school in September. Details of these visits will be contained in the information pack given out at the Parent's meeting.

Home Visits

The Foundation Stage staff will also organise a home visit with you and your child before starting school in September. They get to know you and your child and help you with any further queries or concerns before their first day at school. Further information about home visits will be available at the Parent's meeting.

In year admissions

If your child is already at school then a similar process is followed. Reading Borough Council hold our waiting list and will advise you if a place becomes available. At this point, a visit can be arranged to meet with the Headteacher and a time agreed for your child to transfer to us.

Charging and Remissions Policy

The education your child receives at our school is free and without charge.

There will be occasions however, when extra activities such as cookery, swimming, visiting theatre groups or school trips will necessitate the school asking you for a voluntary contribution towards the cost. The contribution we ask for will only cover the cost of the activity and will not make a profit. Please do not worry should you be unable to contribute, your child will not be excluded from the activity.

If the total contributions made by parents towards the activity are not sufficient to cover its costs then the activity may not be able to go ahead.

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School Life

St.Michael's is fortunate to have extensive grounds which include 3 hard-surface playgrounds, a Foundation Stage garden offering a variety of stimulating play equipment for our younger children and large grassed areas with mature trees providing ample open play areas and opportunities for sports activities. We have a large hall which serves as a gymnasium and dining hall and provides a welcoming space for school concerts and weekly special assemblies where children share their topics and successes with the rest of the school and invited visitors.

In the year 2019/2020, we had a 2.7 million pound refurbishment of our main teaching block, which included, the hall, nurture space, 4 classrooms and the library. In addition to this, we purchased 60 Chrome books to enable the children to become comfortable with this technology and the rapid progress in this field. St.Michael's has a well-stocked library room which can serve as a separate learning environment for smaller groups of children, as can several other multi-purpose rooms within the school.

The School Day

Please note that times may vary depending on the year group.

08.40
School starts for everyone
11.45
Foundation lunchtime
12:00
Key Stage 1 lunchtime
12.20
Key Stage 2 lunchtime
13.15
Afternoon school starts
15.00
Foundation Stage finish school
15.10
Key Stage 1 & 2 finish school
15.15

Collective Worship

All of our collective worship is non-denominational so please consult the Headteacher if you wish to withdraw your child from this activity.

Our Code Of Conduct

At St. Michael's, we aim to develop, in children, a sense of self-discipline and an acceptance of responsibility for their own actions. Our staff are positive in their approach, and expectations of the children are high. We also expect our parents to work in partnership with us. If we get it wrong, we will say so. Parents are expected to always behave in a calm and polite manner whilst on the school site and when communicating with school staff.

All parents and carers must be prepared to work with us to achieve the best result for your child.

A copy of our Therapeutic Behaviour for Learning Policy is available from the school office.

Home School Agreement

Schools are now required to ask parents and pupils to join with them in a Home School Agreement. This is a simple agreement where each of the three parties concerned knows what is expected of them and, in return, what may reasonably be expected from others. We would urge you to take this agreement seriously, as children who take their own progress seriously, that have the support of their parents and the school, tend to do better than those who do not. The Home School Agreement will be included in the information pack provided at the parents meeting.

Personal, Social & Health Education & Citizenship

Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) and Citizenship gives children the opportunity to develop their emotional literacy, empathy, respect for others and knowledge for life such as taking responsibility, managing money ,looking after their own health, staying safe and growing and changing.

St. Michael's aims to teach children to recognise and respond appropriately to feelings. The 'Star of the Day' in each class is given special responsibilities and compliments from class mates and teachers.

Whole school themes such as Anti-bulling Week and Enterprise Week are used alongside class PSHE lessons. Sex and Relationships Education are taught in PSHE and as part of the science curriculum at an appropriate level from Year 1. In Years 5 and 6 , some of these sessions are taught alongside the School Nurse. A copy of the policy is available on request.

Inclusion

We strive for every child to achieve their full potential. Our Wave 1 provision (quality first teaching by the class teacher) ensures that every child can access the curriculum through learning tasks pitched at the right level of challenge for them. For those children with additional needs, support falls into 3 main categories:

More Able

To ensure that our highest achievers are stretched and extended, children with potential to achieve above age related expectations are identified early and given additional challenge through an appropriately differentiated curriculum.

Special Educational Needs

Where an additional need is identified, an IEP (Individual Education Plan) is written and shared with parents. This may include in-school support for specific targets from a Teacher or Teaching Assistant or support from outside agencies such as the Speech and Language Therapy Service or the Autism Advisory Service. IEPs are reviewed at least termly and for some children, half-termly.

English as an Additional Language

St. Michael's welcomes children from all cultural backgrounds and supports those children for whom English is an Additional Language. This may include assessments or individual support from Reading Equality Services or additional sessions focused on individual targets (e.g. vocabulary and grammar in speaking or writing).

Pupil Premium

Pupil Premium funding is allocated to the school to ensure that all children, regardless of their background, have the best chance to achieve their full potential. The impact of this is beneficial to all children in the school by helping to fund strategies identified by the Senior Management Team to improve outcomes for children and enrich the curriculum for all.

Pupil Premium funding is a significant contributor to the school's budget. It is possible for the school to check if the presence of your child entitles the school to this additional funding. Please contact the school office for further information.

For further information on other aspects of Inclusion and Family Support, please contact the Inclusion Manager.

SRE

In broad terms, our Sex and Relationship Education Policy provides children with an understanding of the working of their bodies, basic knowledge of human reproduction in the context of family life, loving relationships and respect for others. It is easy to understand, relevant and appropriate to the age and maturity of the children. It is delivered through topics and science. Parents are kept informed and invited into school to preview any resources that will be used.

The School Council

The purpose of the School Council is for class representatives to work together to make the school an even better place to learn, to decide upon how the school will support charitable causes and to give children an understanding of the democratic process. It meets regularly, is facilitated by an adult member of staff and consists of representatives from each class, who are responsible for reporting back to their class.

School Meals

Meals are provided at the school by Caterlink catering.

Parents are able to choose, in advance, lunch for their child using an online booking system. For those that prefer, packed lunches can also be brought into school.

School Uniform/PE Kit

We expect our children to be smart, presentable and to wear school uniform at all times. Please check the table below for full details of acceptable clothing depending on the weather and season. We request that all uniform is labelled with your child's name.

Girls
Cardigan/Sweatshirt - Red
Polo Shirt/Blouse - White
Skirt/Trousers - Black or Grey
Pinafore Dress - Black or Grey
Dress - Red Gingham
Shoes - Black

Boys
Sweatshirt - Red
Polo Shirt/Shirt - White
Trousers - tailored - Black or Grey
Shorts - tailored - Black or Grey
Shoes - Black

Trainers are not permitted.

Uniform embroidered with the school logo can be ordered online via our current suppliers website :
www.sumosam.com

PE Kit
Black shorts
Plain white T shirt
Black pumps

Jewellery
Children who have pierced ears and can competently remove and replace their earrings unaided may wear plain studs in their ears.

Hair styles
No tracks or dyed hair are permitted in school.

After-school Care Club

The After-school Care Club forms part of the Government's extended schools agenda and offers your child consistent care on the days it's needed.

The Afterschool Care Club is a great opportunity for parents to bridge the gap between school and work hours. Parents have the confidence that their child is in a safe, familiar and friendly environment.

Children will be able to take part in a range of activities, with their friends, such as games or art and crafts.

Places are available Monday to Friday between 15:20 and 18:00.

Breakfast Club

The Breakfast Club operates Monday to Friday from 07:30 - 08:30. Breakfast is served until 08:15. For full details, including charges and how to book please contact the school office.

The Breakfast Club and the After-School Care club are run by Funky Fidgets at St Michael's school.

Please contact the school office for details.

School Values

Statement of Curriculum Intent

Curriculum Intent

Our School Curriculum will:

- **Be enjoyable, engaging, exciting and memorable.**
- **Give children the knowledge and skills to be successful learners.**
- **Teach about different traditions and cultures and respect for one another.**
- **Teach us to be proud of ourselves, our families and our communities.**
- **Provide challenge and promote resilience.**
- **Teach empathy and encourage well-being.**
- **Enable children to be confident readers, writers and mathematicians and to be curious about the world around them.**

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Curriculum

English

At St. Michael's, we are committed to developing literacy skills through uniting the important skills of spoken language, reading and writing.

Reading

We initially teach children to read using a synthetic phonics approach supplemented by a variety of means as children's abilities and skills develop. Our phonics scheme is Read, Write Inc and runs from Foundation age to Year 3. The scheme enables for focused teaching of phonics, reading and spelling. Intervention sessions supplement this learning for those children who require extra time and support. Guided reading from Year 2 onwards allows children to read with the teacher in a group, discuss vocabulary and varying themes that are discovered in the chosen text. Teachers use a plethora of questions and thought provoking activities to deepen children's understanding, their inquisitiveness and love of reading. From the start of their education in Foundation Stage, a wide range of good quality books and texts are available.

These are found both in the classrooms and in the well-stocked library. Story time is a very important part of the day in all classrooms whether this be sharing a picture book in Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1 or sharing a class novel in Key Stage 2.

Writing

Writing takes the form of a novel study, which is linked to the themed curriculum where possible. Children are taught to write different genre and the grammar and punctuation associated with it. Handwriting and spelling are both taught as discreet subjects. In Foundation Stage, children are taught letter formation and given a wide range of activities to practise this. From Year 2, we develop the cursive handwriting style and have created our own developmental scheme. Good presentation is important at St. Michael's and ultimately we want each child to develop a fluent, legible and attractive style of handwriting.

Spoken Language

Spoken language weaves itself through all of our themed curriculum. Children have opportunities to orally rehearse what they may want to write and improve their public speaking skills. This is achieved through discussions, drama and presenting work in class, Key Stage or whole school assemblies. Good oral work enhances children's understanding of how language works in oral and written forms.

Maths

Maths at St Michael's follows the principles of teaching for mastery, underpinned by the belief that all children can achieve in Mathematics. Our sequence of learning follows that prescribed by the White Rose Maths organisation, which is endorsed by the National Centre for Excellence in the Teaching of Mathematics. Our aim is to produce confident mathematicians with a love of the subject.

Daily lessons focus on the development of fluency with number facts so that they can be applied in a variety of contexts. Understanding of number is promoted through a consistent progressive approach in the use of supporting resources; manipulatives and representations. Emphasis is placed upon the development of mathematical vocabulary in order to explain and reason about mathematical concepts.

In each lesson, children will have the opportunity to discuss their work with their teacher and their partner. Carefully considered lesson content allows the children to move from this collaborative learning, to independent practice based upon what has been taught. Each lesson ends with an opportunity for the children to reflect upon the progress that they have made and explain their new understanding. This in turn, allows teachers to assess children's progress and plan intervention accordingly.

Science

Science, at St.Michael's, aims to ensure that all pupils are taught to understand the world around them. We encourage children's excitement and curiosity about natural phenomena, while developing the skills needed to plan and carry out different types of practical investigations.

In teaching science we are developing in our children:

- a positive attitude towards science and an awareness of its fascination;
- an understanding of science through a process of enquiryand investigation;
- confidence and competence in scientific knowledge, concepts and skills;
- an ability to reason, predict, think logically and to work systematically and accurately;
- an ability to communicate scientifically;
- the initiative to work both independently and in co-operation with others;
- the ability and meaning to use and apply science across the curriculum and in real life.

Physical Education (PE)

We believe that PE is about developing children's enjoyment, confidence and skill in physical activity and introduces them to the enjoyment of sports whether this is through gymnastics, dance, outdoor team games or swimming. It is a practical subject which gives all children, irrespective of age, gender or ability, opportunities for participation, enjoyment and success. We aim to develop a positive attitude to physical endeavour including fair play and sporting behaviour, perseverance and the ability to cope with success and failure.

Children will be shown the need for safe practice in physical activities and understand how they can achieve this.

St. Michael's aims to promote an enjoyment in undertaking exercise in all children that will hopefully prepare them for a healthy and active lifestyle.

Enrichment

We believe that visits outside of the classroom are as equally important to the children, giving them independence and awareness of the world around them. We regularly visit Lousehill Copse to participate in forest school acitivities and also have visiting speakers and experts to the school. Recent destinations have been Legoland, Winchester Science Museum, Cotswold Wildlife Park and Englefield Estate.

In addition, our Year 6 children are offered an annual residential course at an activity centre. Year 4 children are also offered a 3 day residential to a place of historical interest. Building on team work and confidence the children can experience high ropes, assault courses, canoeing, orienteering in a safe and fun environment.

Computing

Computers are now part of everyday life. For most people, technology is essential to their lives, at home and at work. 'Computational thinking' is a skill children must be taught if they are to be ready for the workplace and able to participate effectively in this digital world.

Building on the discreet teaching of specific skills in the different areas of computing, at St. Michael's we aim to provide opportunities to apply these skills across the curriculum. Children are encouraged to make use of appropriate resources to enhance their learning.

In addition to 60 Chrome Books each classroom is also equipped with an interactive whiteboard. In addition, the school also has 20 ipads.

Religious Education

At St. Michael's we follow the pan-Berkshire agreed syllabus of Religious Education, through which pupils acquire and develop knowledge and understanding of Christianity and other principle religions represented in Britain.

This multi-faith, enquiry-based model of Religious Education emphasises what it means to believe, belong and behave in different faiths.

Through Religious Education pupils critical thinking skills are developed and their empathy with other people and their beliefs, religious or otherwise, enhanced. We promote the development of respect, understanding and tolerance for those of different faiths by exploring traditions and beliefs in addition to our own. The basic tenets of Christianity underpin all that we do as we strive to encourage a tolerant and compassionate attitude in our pupils.

Parents may, if they so wish, withdraw their child from Religious Education lessons.

History, Geography, Art, Music and Design Technology

These subjects take the form of topic lessons and are part of our knowledge based curriculum.

Each term, children and parents receive a knowledge organiser containing key information for the topic that the children will need to know by the end of the unit of work.

This approach teaches children deep subject knowledge which in turn makes the subject interesting and enjoyable for the pupils. The curriculum is structured carefully so children are building on what they already know.

Strategies such as: constant recall, turn and talk, call and response and quizzes are used regularly to aid children in their learning.

Current topics can be found on the Class Pages of our website.

together
we achieve