

# St Michael's Church of England Primary School Newsletter



**Monday 11th September 2023**

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I have come that [you] may have life, and have it to the full' John 10:10,

[Therefore],

**'Be strong and courageous. The Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.'** Joshua 1:9

*These biblical texts underpin our vision summary, 'Courage to Flourish in the Love of God'.*

*Jesus' words from the New Testament describe his desire for everyone to be a full and flourishing version of their created selves, experiencing life in all its vibrant fullness, individually and in community.*

*Our ambition is for everyone to encounter this fullness through the life and work of the school, whatever their background, beliefs or circumstances.*

*God's words to Joshua from the Old Testament illustrate how life, and learning, can be challenging, bringing setbacks and discouragement. These words inspire us to keep on going in those circumstances, confident that God watches over us and walks beside us.*

*The joining of these biblical texts is meaningful for the particular circumstances of our school community. It gives coherence to our aspirational vision that will grow courage and resilience as enablers of 'life in all its fullness' for everyone.*

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## **Welcome**

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*Dear Parents and Carers,*

*A very warm (literally!) welcome back. It has been wonderful to welcome the children back to school today after the summer break. We hope that you have had an enjoyable summer. It is great to see the children settling in well and excited about the new academic year!*

*You will have seen in the news about RAAC (concrete) and schools. Thankfully, I am able to reassure you that it's business as usual at St Michaels.*

*This new academic year brings with it renewed hope and a sense of excitement. Our school community has always been known for its strong spirit, and I am confident that together, we will continue to flourish.*

*You will notice that we have slightly changed our vision summary, this was to reflect that we are committed to providing an environment in which each individual has the, **'Courage to Flourish in the Love of God'**.*

*We have also spent time looking at the school values and we have slightly amended these after consultation with the staff, children and governors. Our core Christian values have been chosen so that living them in a real way, in the life and work of our school and community, helps everyone to encounter 'life in all its fullness'. They are: **courage; hope; love and forgiveness; trust; community and thankfulness.***

*Throughout this half term, we will be focusing on courage with a focus on the scripture **'I can do all things through him who strengthen me', Philippians 4:13.** We focused on the story of Daniel in the Lion's Den (Chapter 6 of the Book Daniel). We looked at how it is difficult sometimes to have different views or feelings to our peers, however, it is important to have the courage to follow our morals. Daniel knew the penalty for praying to anyone but the King was death by lions but he courageously continued his devotion to God by praying three times a day in front of an open window. His faith in God gave him the strength to do what he knew was right.*

*Years 1-6 went to St Michael's Church last week for the first service of the year. Reverend Ruth spent time as well talking to the children about this story. It was a fabulous start to the year.*

*Parents and carers, your unwavering support and involvement in your child's education are crucial. We greatly value your partnership as we strive to provide the best possible educational experience for your children. Together, we can help them reach their full potential.*

*Mrs Roberts*

*Headteacher*

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## **Meet the Teacher Meetings**

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*Mrs Ranger and Mr Immanuel have been working with the staff to create a Meet the Teacher meeting that you are invited to. The aim of these meetings is to introduce ourselves and also give you as much information as possible about what will be happening in your child's class this year.*

*Year 1: Monday 18th September at 2.30pm*

*Year 2: Tuesday 19th September at 2.30pm*

*Year 3: Thursday 21st September at 2.30pm*

*Year 4: Monday 25th September at 2.30pm*

*Year 5: Wednesday 20th September at 2.30pm*

*Year 6: Friday 22nd September at 2.30pm*

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## **Key Dates**

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*Thursday 14th September: Roman visitor in Year 4 for the day.*

*Friday 15th September: 5F first swimming session (see separate letter for details).*

*Thursday 21st September: Year 5 at Cadbury World.*

*Tuesday 26th September: Year 6 at the Library.*

*Monday 2nd October: Years 1-6 at St Michael's Church to celebrate St Michael's Day (just the children).*

*Thursday 5th October: Year 4 Harvest Assembly at St Michael's Church (parents/carers invited) at 9.15am.*

*Thursday 5th October: Reception and Key Stage One Harvest Assembly at St Michael's Church (parents/carers welcome) at 2.00pm.*

*Friday 6th October: World Mental Health Day (wear yellow to school - further details will be sent out nearer the time).*

*Thursday 12th October: Year 6 Parent/Carer Lunch (details will be sent out in a separate letter nearer to the time).*

*Tuesday 17th October: Year 2 at the Library.*

*Wednesday 18th October: Pupil Progress Meetings (formerly known as Parent's Evening) from 3.30-7.00pm*

*Thursday 19th October: Pupil Progress Meetings (formerly known as Parent's Evening) from 3.30-5.30pm*

*Thursday 19th October: Open Afternoon for prospective Nursery and Reception Children (due to start September 2024) at 2.00pm.*

*Friday 20th October: Open Morning for prospective Nursery and Reception Children (due to start September 2024) at 10.00am.*

*Monday 23rd October: Key Stage 1 Headteacher Awards Celebration (invitations will be sent out the week before).*

*Tuesday 24th October: Year 1 at the Library.*

*Wednesday 25th October: Key Stage 2 Headteacher Awards Celebration (invitations will be sent out the week before).*

*Wednesday 25th October: Year 5 Parent/Carer Lunch (details will be sent out in a separate letter nearer to the time).*

*Thursday 26th October: Reception Welcome Service at St Michael's Church (parents and carers welcome) at 9.15am.*

*Thursday 26th October: Last day for the children to attend this half term.*

*Friday 27th October: School Closed for BDMAT Staff Training Day.*

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## **What you need to bring to school**

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*A reminder of what to bring to school:*

*✓ A water bottle (please make sure it has your name on it). This should only have water in it and have a pop up top (not a screw top as if these fall over on the desks, they will ruin the children's work).*

*✓ A school bag or bookbag.*

*✓ A healthy fruit snack for breaktime (Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are provided with this).*

*✓ You can bring your scooter or bike to school if you wish. Please remember to wear a helmet and not to ride them whilst on school grounds.*

*X As always, please remember not to bring in any toys or stationery from home, unless it has been specifically requested by your teacher.*

*X No non-prescribed medication. Any medication that has been prescribed must be handed by the parent/carer to the school office staff who will ask you to complete a medication form detailing permission and dosage.*

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## **Medical and Dietary Information**

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*It is very important that we have up-to-date medical information including new Care Plans so we will be sending these out for you to review, complete and return. Any other updated health information should be sent in via the school office.*

*Please remember to inform the school of any changes to your child's medical or dietary needs.*

*Please also ensure that any prescribed medication, including an inhaler or EpiPen, is in-date and in school - it is parents responsibility to ensure this.*

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## Free School Meals, Toast and Price Changes

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*All children in Year's Reception - Year 2 are entitled to a 'Universal Free School Meal'.*

*When a child enters Year 3 this entitlement ends. If you would like your child to receive a school dinner you will need to:*

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- Check you eligibility for a FSM here: [Online FSM Application \(cloudforedu.org.uk\)](https://cloudforedu.org.uk) School will be notified of the outcome of your application and proceed accordingly.*
  - Top up your 'School Food United' account to ensure there are funds to pay for your child's meals. The price for a school meal for the academic year 23/24 is £2.80 per day. Remember that these need to be ordered by **8.30 am** each day.*
  - We will no longer be accepting cash for toast, this will also need to be ordered each down through 'School Food United' The cost per day is 25p. All toast orders must be submitted on a Sunday evening for the coming week. You will not be able to order toast after this time. Children will receive their toast at their break time between around 10.30am. Remember that these need to be ordered by **8.30 am** each day.*
  - We sent out guidance of how to create/use your 'School Food United' app via Arbor last week - if you require any further assistance please speak to a member of the school office.*
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## Birthdays

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***Natasha's Law** came into effect on 1st October 2021. We appreciate that there may be some special times throughout the year when children may wish to bring sweets or chocolate in to share with their friends (e.g birthdays), please may we ask that children only bring in prepacked sweets such as Haribos which can then be handed out at the end of the day before children go and see their parents or guardians. Please understand that we cannot accept any homemade or individual sweets as this will not comply with Natasha's Law or current allergen requirements.*

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## Nut Free School

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*A reminder that the school is a nut-free zone as several children and members of have severe nut allergies. Please make sure that no nuts are brought to school and please check the ingredients on packets carefully. Thank you for helping us to keep all our community safe.*

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## School Uniform

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- *White polo shirt (with/without logo).*
  - *Red sweatshirt or cardigan (with or without logo).*
  - *Grey or black trousers, skirt or pinafore.*
  - *Red and white check dress (summer).*
  - *Grey or black shorts (summer).*
  - *Black shoes.*
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## P.E Uniform

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- *Red or black shorts.*

- *White t-shirt (with or without the school logo).*
  - *Black bumps/trainers.*
  - *Black tracksuit bottoms for outdoor games in winter.*
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*Pumps are needed for indoor PE and must come in a separate bag for children to change into for the lesson. Trainers are not to be worn inside. Please make sure that your child has a pair of pumps onsite in case the weather means we need to do P.E inside.*

*You can also purchase a hoodie with the school logo on for P.E. from the office. This is not compulsory.*

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## **Labelling**

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*We understand how much a new uniform and school items cost and we try our best to ensure the children look after their clothing and bags. Please label your child's clothing, bags, lunch boxes, shoes and water bottles to help us return lost items to their owner.*

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## Contact Details

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*Schools should hold two contact numbers for emergencies for each child. Please ensure these are up to date on your Arbor account.*

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