

# St Michael's Church of England Primary School Newsletter

**Friday 12th January 2024**

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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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## ***Message from Mrs Roberts***

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*Dear Parents, Guardians, and Wonderful Students,*

*Happy New Year and welcome to the first newsletter of 2024! I hope this message finds each of you in great spirits, filled with enthusiasm for the fresh adventures and learning opportunities that await us in 2024.*

*This half term is only five weeks but it is jam packed with school trips and workshops. We are really excited about all of the opportunities we have and are thankful that we are able to provide them for the children.*

*The whole school went to St Michael's Church on Thursday for our first Spring Term Service. As always, the children were amazing and we are incredibly proud of them. A huge thank you to Reverend Ruth for making us feel so welcome.*

*I would like to also extend a warm welcome to Mr Bhatti who has joined us as Deputy Headteacher. He has already met lots of the children. Mr Dunbar has also joined us. He is an experienced teacher who will be teaching across the school. We are delighted that both of them are now a part of the St Michael's family.*

*Mrs Roberts*

*Headteacher*

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## Mr Bhatti



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*It has been a pleasure joining St Michael's this week as the new Deputy Headteacher. I have really enjoyed getting to know many of the children over the last few days and I feel very privileged to be working in such a fantastic school. This week I have been working closely with Mrs Roberts on our school priorities for the year. Having previously worked as a senior leader in another BDMAT school, I have lots of experience in school improvement. I know that a successful and happy school depends on all of us working together. I look forward to working with you in partnership to secure the very best outcomes for your children. I am looking forward to meeting many more of you over the coming weeks. I will be available on the school gate before and after school so please do come and say hello!*

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## Key Dates

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*Monday 8th January: Teacher Training Day.*

*Tuesday 9th January: Children return to school.*

*Thursday 11th January - children at St Michael's Church.*

*Week beginning 15th January - Inter-faith Week (trip details to follow).*

*Friday 19th January - Year 1's Interfaith Trip.*

*Monday 22nd January (morning) - Year 4's Interfaith Trip.*

*Monday 22nd January (morning) - Year 6's Interfaith Trip.*

*Monday 22nd January at 2.15pm - Year 4 Multiplication Workshop.*

*Tuesday 23rd January - Year 2's Interfaith Trip*

*Wednesday 24th January - Year 5's Interfaith Trip.*

*Wednesday 24th January at 2.15pm - Year 6 SATs Workshop .*

*Wednesday 24th January - Young Voices Concert (after school).*

*Monday 29th January - Reception's Interfaith Trip.*

*Tuesday 30th January - Reception Parent Workshop and Lunch (details to follow).*

*Wednesday 31st January - Year 4 Chinese New Year Collective Workshop (details to follow).*

*Thursday 1st February - Year 3's Interfaith Trip.*

*Monday 5th February - Year 1 Parent Workshop and Lunch (details to follow).*

*Tuesday 6th February - Online Safety Day.*

*Friday 9th February - Last day of Term.*

*Monday 19th February - Children return to school.*

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## Nursery Places

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*We currently have places available in our nursery class.*

*Our nursery caters for children ages 3-4 years old.*

*Children can start our nursery, the term after they are 3. So if your child will be aged 3 by 31st December 2023, they will be eligible for a place.*

*If you would like to find out more about our Nursery and how to apply, please contact the School Office on 0121 464 4345 or visit us in person.*

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## Bad Weather Conditions

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*Should the weather be severe at any point through winter, we will let you know of any closures through Arbor communications.*

*As we are entering the winter months, I wanted to make you aware of the arrangements for if we are unable to open as a result of weather conditions. We will only do this as a last resort where we think there is a risk to the safety of pupils and staff. We have some staff who travel a long way and at times it may be unsafe for them to do so.*

*Please also be aware that as the snow often arrives between 7am and 9am, we may be in a position to open later in the morning when the air begins to warm slightly.*

*If we do need to close, this is what we will do:*

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- *We will make you aware as soon we can via Arbor, the school website and Twitter (X).*
  - *Work will be sent out for the children to complete by 10.30am. This will be sent via Arbor.*
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## **Attendance**





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*The whole school's attendance target is 96%. The whole school attendance for the year so far is **94.4%**. Unfortunately, our persistent absence is **15.9%**. Please ensure your child comes to school every day.*

*So far this academic year, we have had 17 families taking unauthorised leave in term time (holidays). This has resulted in £2932 in fixed penalty notices issued by Birmingham City Council. We ask that families do not take leave in term time as these will not be authorised by school.*

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## **Class Attendance - for this year so far!**

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*RG - 92.8%*

*RS - 91.6%*

*1F - 93.6%*

*1M - 93.4%*

*2K - 92%*

*2R - 94.3%*

*3D - 94%*

*3T - 96.4%*

*4J - 93.5%*

4R - 96.4%

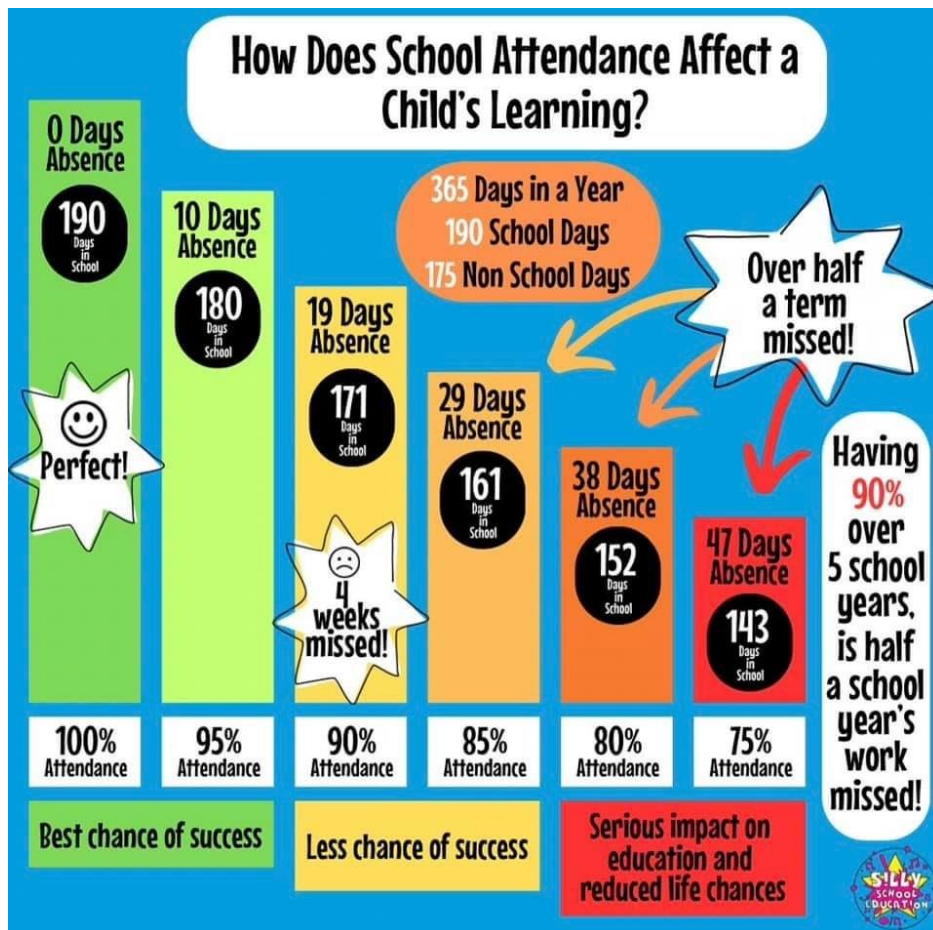
5F - 94.2%

5H - 95.2%

6H - 95.6%

6L - 93.4%

We have had an increase in the number of late arrivals in the mornings. Gates open at 8:35am and shut promptly at 8:45am. Please ensure your child is on time everyday to begin their learning.



NHS guidance for parents about illnesses and when their child should be in school or kept at home

The guidance can be found below:



<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

Action For Children - Advice For Parents On Children Vaping

The guidance can be found below:

<https://parents.actionforchildren.org.uk/behaviour/challenging-behaviour/im-worried-about-my-child-vaping/>

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## Stars of the Week

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The following children were nominated by the adults in their classroom this week.

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## Nursery

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Elliott - for showing Marvellous Manners and being kind to the other children.

Jack - for his contribution to learning during carpet time.

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## Reception

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RG

Chanel - for always working hard in lessons and for being a role model to her peers.

Audrey - for always trying and contributing in every lesson.

RS

*Ariana has done some beautiful handwriting this week. She always tries her hardest and takes her time, it is fantastic to see her taking such pride in her work.*

*Lacey has been trying hard to blend in phonics this week. She is becoming more confident to blend the words and say it out loud which is excellent to see.*

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## **Year 1**

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*1F*

*Aziah - fantastic contribution in maths input and trying his hardest with the number line to 20.*

*Sienna-Mae - great work in English predicting what our new story could be about.*

*1M*

*Saman - for a great first week back and always being a role model.*

*Sukhmani - for wow walking and marvellous manners.*

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## **Year 2**

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*2K*

*Jayden - for working hard to start learning cursive handwriting. This has been challenging but he hasn't given up.*

*Chase - for trying really hard in his handwriting group to work on forming his letters correctly.*

*2R*

*Oliver S - for making such a massive improvement on his handwriting.*

*Kieran- for showing a good attitude to learning.*

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## **Year 3**

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*3D*

*Lucas - for showing a positive attitude to school.*

*Elena - for trying hard in all lessons.*

*3T*

*Noah D - for coming back to school with such a positive attitude. He has been trying his hardest in his work.*

*Georgina - for trying hard in her times tables booklet and getting all her doubles correct.*

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## **Year 4**

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*4J*

*Kaylah-Rae - for always showing her Wow Walking around school and being an amazing role model.*

*Harry - for being responsible for his learning!*

*4R*

*Lucas B - for showing great concentration in his learning.*

*Daniel- for showing amazing Wow Walking around the school and being a role model for his peers.*

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## Year 5

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5F

*Ajay- for persevering during maths lessons to complete long multiplication questions*

*Kacie- her application on Thursday during all lessons as well as her transition between lesson has improved immensely.*

5H

*Ahmad - for answering questions during lessons*

*Abi - for always trying your best during lessons*

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## Year 6

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6H

*Lucas - for a great understanding of equivalent fractions.*

*Lydia - for working really hard within our writing lessons and using many of the grammatical features.*

6L

*Koray - for being so kind and caring whilst on our walk to Church with Reception.*

*Jessie - for displaying Marvellous Manners all the time!*

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## What is happening in the classroom?

### Nursery

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*This week we have welcomed back our Nursery children after a relaxing Christmas break. They did really well, jumping straight back into routine, remembering where their coats, hats and bags go, writing their names and singing our morning wake up song.*

*The children were introduced to our new topic this week; Colours! We have identified and named colours, sorted objects by colour and hunted for different coloured objects in the environment. We also read our story of the week, a colour based book called Mixed; a story about inclusivity and community.*

*The children were excited this week to see that the role play area has been updated and has changed into a Vet's Surgery! There was some lovely collaborative play as the children delegated roles such as Vet, Nurse, Office Staff and Patients. We look forward to some more of this play next week!*

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### Reception

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RG

*This week RG have been experimenting with the use of wax crayons, doing wax rubbings around the classroom. We have also started a new topic thinking about people who help us and who are real life super heroes.*

RS

*This week RS have explored their new text in literacy called Juniper Jupiter. We have been exploring different superhero's and what superhero's do. We will then be linking this to real life hero's and people who help us. In maths we have been exploring the composition of 5 by singing 5 little speckled frogs. Perhaps your child may share the song with you at home!*

1F

*This week in English we showed the children clues and they came up with their own predictions to what the story could be about. We then followed up to see if anyone predicted correctly. In maths we have been counting on within 20. Children have been using a number of resources to solve addition questions.*

*In music The children had an opportunity to not only perform the song, they also performed it using sign language.*

1M

*The children were super in PE this week. We have been practicing our throwing skills. The children were super at under arm and over arm throwing. In Science we also started our new topic on Materials. The children explored different objects and labelled what they were made from.*

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## Year 2

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2K

*This week in Maths we have been learning about shape. We have been naming and sorting 2d shapes and we have been looking at the lines of symmetry. In English we have started our new book 'The Bog Baby.' The children have enjoyed exploring the new character. In Science we have been learning about the basic needs of Animals. We have also started dance in PE this week. We were pretending to be penguins.*

2R

*This week 2R have been looking at shape in Maths, the children have loved this topic and been flying through it. The children have also started a new book called Bog Baby in English. We have also been looking at weather in Georgraphy which the children showed a lot of interest in.*

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## Year 3

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3D

*This week, we have looked at kenning poems in English where the children wrote their own poem to describe the river from our new book, 'The Rhythm of the Rain'. In Geography, we learnt that lines of latitude are used to know how far north and south a place is. The children worked with their partner to find which countries different lines of latitude pass through.*

3T

*This week, we have been immersing ourselves into our class text 'The Rhythm of the Rain.' We have been looking at pictures from the book and predicting what the story might be about. In another lesson, we created kenning poems about a river using fantastic vocabulary. In Geography, we worked in partners and used an Atlas to see what countries different lines of latitude passed through. In PE we started Gymnastics, where we created a sequence in pairs using a tuck sit, pike sit and straddle sit.*

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## Year 4

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4J

*Children have been exploring sound during Science lessons this week. They were surprised to learn how vibrations create sound and using their previous knowledge of states of matter to understand how they travel. Year Four were given their spelling lists this week please continue to use Spelling Shed at home to access spelling practice. Children are still focusing on multiplications within maths lessons which they are finding challenging multiplying by 100.*

4R

*In maths this week, the children have been learning about factor pairs using arrays to help us find them. Year 4 have also started both of their new text, 'The Golden Rope'. We wrote an abstract metaphor about this book using some of the illustrations. The children also started their new PE topics, gymnastics and badminton, which they were really excited about and displayed some great skills.*

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## Year 5

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5H

*This week, we have begun to look at our new text 'The Hound of the Baskervilles'. We have enjoyed exploring the text and have been acting as detectives trying to work out what is happening. In maths we have begun looking at formal methods of multiplication. We have used the column method to work out 4-digit by 1 digit multiplications before moving onto 2-digit by 2-digits. Our History topic is the Anglo-*

*Saxons. We found out where the name Anglo-Saxons came from and learnt where the different tribes settled.*

5F

*This week, we have introduced the formal method for multiplication. The children have found this challenging yet fun, showing resilience to get their answers. During Science, we look at the flat Earth theory in comparison to the spherical Earth theory, providing evidence for and against this.*

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## **Year 6**

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Year 6

*Welcome back, Year 6! This week we have been looking at our new writing text, 'On the Origin of Species'. We have thoroughly enjoyed exploring the new text and discussing why the author has used specific vocabulary choices. In Maths, we have been learning all about equivalent fractions and applying this skill to our reasoning and problem-solving challenges. In our Geography unit we have started to look at different types of mountains and how they are all formed. We have also spent some time discussing the transition from Year 6 to Year 7 and the importance of completing homework and working towards a deadline.*

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## **School Development Plan**

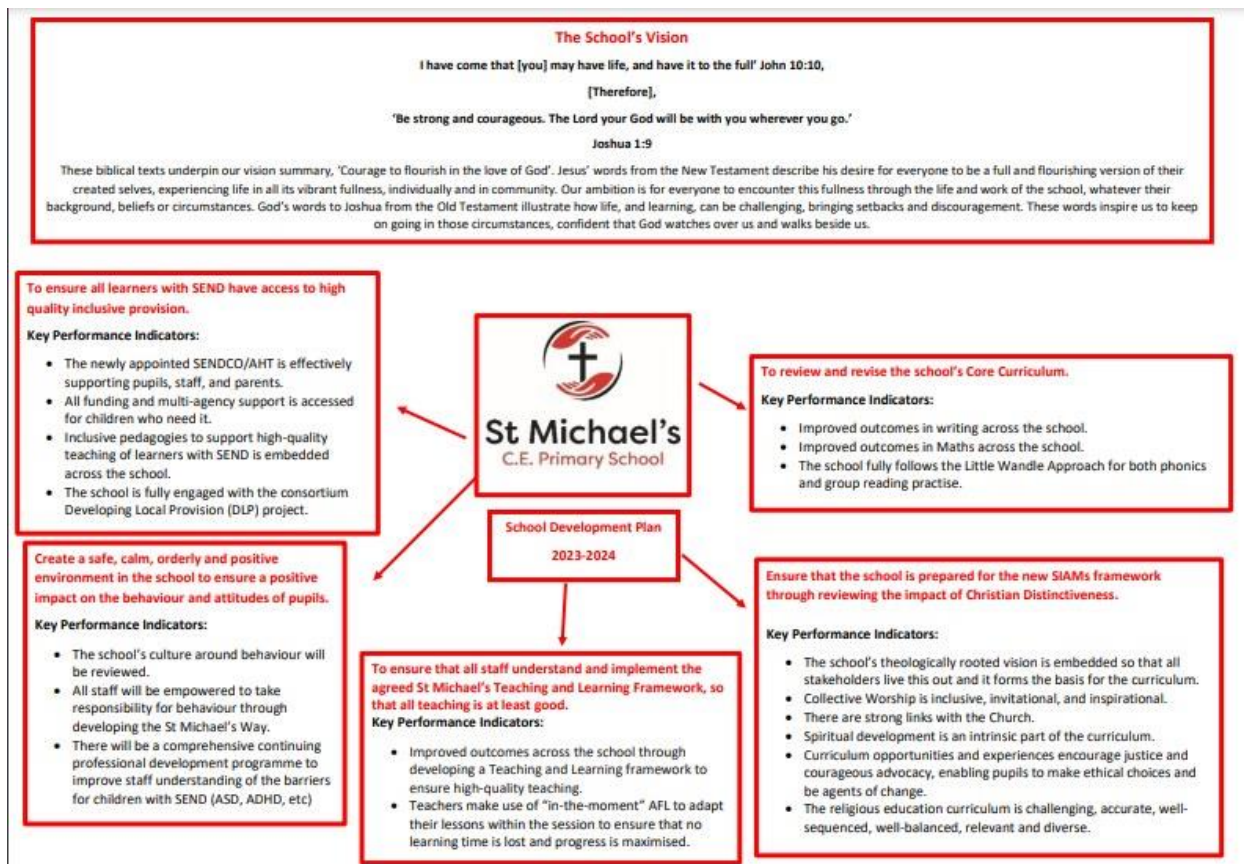
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*Please click on the link below to see this year's School Development Plan.*

[School Develop Plan](#)

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## What you need to bring to school

*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 (Nursery, 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.*

✓ *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. 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 staff 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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### ***Telephone Numbers***

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

### ***Email Address***

*We communicate with parents and carers through email. Please do check your email address is up to date on Arbor.*

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## Twitter/X

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*Please follow us on:*

*@stmichaelsb32*

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