

St Michael's Church of England Primary School Newsletter



Friday 13th October 2023

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.

Message from Mrs Roberts

Dear Parents and Carers,

This week we have continued to think about our school value of courage and have used the story, Jesus Calms the Storm (Mark 4:35-41).

We have explored the lessons it teaches us about finding courage in challenging times. We delved into the biblical narrative, explaining how Jesus' unwavering faith and calm presence brought peace to a turbulent sea. Then related this to how faith in Jesus can help students face their own storms, whether they be in school, at home, or in life.

Good news

I am delighted to let you know that our local MP Preet Kaur Gill has nominated our eco-group for the ONE's Global Changemaker Awards. The awards have been designed to celebrate individuals and schools across the country who have contributed towards building up the UK as a force for global good such as local schools who are working with their pupils to broaden understanding of global challenges, climate change and development. Thank you to Miss Chatfield and the eco-group for all of their hard work. We will keep you updated on the outcome.

Thank you to the Year 6 parents and carers who were able to make lunch on Thursday. We hope that you enjoyed having the time to spend with your children. We know that they loved having you here.

We have received a phone call from an elderly resident near to the school who lives on Brett Drive. They have said that the children are being unkind towards them as they pass their house (e.g. sticking their tongues out at them, sticking paper on their front door). We have spoken to the children at school but would ask that you do the same at home as well please.

As always, your support with this is appreciated.

Mrs Roberts

Headteacher

Attendance



The whole school's attendance target is 96%. The whole school attendance for the year so far is 93.8%. Unfortunately, our persistent absence is already at 19%. Please ensure your child comes to school every day.

Class Attendance - for this year so far!

RG - 93.8%

RS - 91.6%

1F - 93.2%

1M - 90.1%

2K - 92.2%

2R - 93.8%

3D - 92.3%

3T - 97.5%

4J - 94%

4R - 96.4%

5F - 95.3%

5H - 94.5%

6H - 94.8%

6L - 91.1%

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/>

Pupil Progress Meetings

We are really excited to meeting with you next week. If you haven't already, please sign up on Arbor. The meeting dates are either Wednesday 18th October or Thursday 19th October.

If you can't attend in person, don't worry; we can arrange telephone appointments. Please specify your preference when booking. If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to our office.

Thank you for your ongoing support. We're eager to connect and work together to ensure your child's success.

Nursery and Reception - September 2024

Is your child due to start school in September 2024?

Online admissions open on Sunday 1 October 2023 for Reception admissions in September 2024.

Applications can be made online through the Birmingham City Council website www.birmingham.gov.uk/schooladmissions until the final deadline of 15 January 2024. Offer notifications will be sent on 16 April 2024.

Please can you help raise awareness of the process as parents who apply late are less likely to be offered one of their preferred schools.

More advice and support is also available from Children's Services on 0121 303 1888.

We have some open sessions for parents and carers to come and see the school if their children are due to start Nursery or Reception in September 2024.

Please contact the office on 0121 464 4345 if you would like to attend one of these sessions.

Can you also please let any friends or families know who may be interested.

The session details are:

Thursday 19th October at 2:00pm

or

Friday 20th October at 10:00am

Black History Month

***Black History Month (BHM)** has been celebrated in the UK during October since 1987. It is a time to commemorate and celebrate the achievements, contributions, and experiences of Black people throughout history.*

*This year, Black History Month is dedicated to honouring the achievements of Black women. The theme this year is '**Saluting Our Sisters**'.*

As part of our Black History Month celebrations at St Michael's we are:

- Holding an assembly for the pupils on 3rd October 2023.*
 - Teaching about Black History during October.*
 - Creating a display to showcase the work that is produced by each class across the school.*
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At St Michaels we promote diversity across our curriculum and ensure that Black History is taught throughout the year.

For the attention of Year 6 parents and carers

Online admissions opened on 1 September 2023 for Year 7 2024 applications. Parents resident in Birmingham should apply through the Birmingham City Council website www.birmingham.gov.uk/schooladmissions up until the deadline of 31 October 2023. Further information, as well as the admission arrangements to support parents with making their preferences, can be found on the Birmingham City Council website. Advice and support is also available from Children's Services on 0121 303 1888.

For any queries or further information please contact the Admissions team at admissions@birmingham.gov.uk.

Reminders

A gentle reminder to please make regular checks up (for examples, the opticians and dentist) outside of school hours. This is to try and minimise the amount of time that children miss at school.

Can we also please remind you that unless you have a blue badge, you should not be driving up Nantmel Grove during morning and afternoon opening and drop off times. This is to make sure that we keep the children safe. Unfortunately, we have recently had a number of near misses. The large number of pedestrians walking up and down the grove, the fact that the grove is narrow and children running into the road, makes it unsuitable for vehicles at these times of day. I also need to make you aware that the Traffic Wardens and Local Police Community Support Officers are actively monitoring the areas during the start and end of the school day. The local MP Preet Gill Kaur is also in contact with the local council to see if speed calming measures can be put in place.

Key Dates

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 - please sign up via Arbor.

Thursday 19th October: Pupil Progress Meetings (formerly known as Parent's Evening) from 3.30-5.30pm - please sign up via Arbor.

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.

Tuesday 24th 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.

Stars of the Week

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

Nursery

Olivia - for having a fantastic week, listening carefully, joining in and trying hard to answer questions during carpet sessions.

Ellie - for being caring and supportive to the other children within the class.

Reception

Harriet- for always working hard in Talk for Writing lessons.

Wilfred- for always trying his best.

Sienna- For retelling the story of hairy Maclary with the actions.

Ivy- For showing excellent walking through school.

Year 1

Enzo- for a great attitude to learning.

Sienna- for fantastic handwriting.

Arlo - for always trying his best.

Imagen - for amazing WOW walking.

Year 2

Hadiatu- for always using marvellous manners.

Nahira- for working hard with his spellings.

Year 3

Violet - for always being ready to learn and showing good listening.

Amaya- for trying really hard in Maths.

Peyton - for showing good communication skills and teamwork in her PE lessons.

May - for persevering through Maths challenges which she found difficult.

Year 4

Lucas Dea - for his continuous improvement in his handwriting.

Barakah - for her amazing computing skills when creating an audiobook.

Lucas Dev- for being supportive and helping others around him.

Faith- for always trying her best and being helpful around the class.

Year 5

Mason W - for always trying your best

Ivy - for working hard to develop your explanations in maths

Dylan H - for always giving 100% and having a superb attitude to work.

Zach - for outstanding work in Maths (rounding).

Year 6

Amaziah - for a great understanding of rounding whole numbers and trying hard reason and problem solve.

Taliyah - for a fantastic effort in PE and showing super goalkeeping skills in our football lesson.

Cailin - for a wonderful effort in Writing and always trying your best.

Maddie C - for always being a fantastic role model.

What is happening in the classroom?

Nursery

At the start of this week, nursery had some visitors to the classroom when Rocket and Rolo the guinea pigs popped by for the day. All the children enjoyed meeting these loveable brothers, feeding them, holding them and caring for them for the day.

We have also been exploring Autumn activities this week, such as, washing pumpkins, making pine cone apple trees, collecting fallen leaves and exploring our sensory, muddy vegetable patch. The children have enjoyed the natural element to these activities and have been talking about what they have observed in our outdoor area as we move further into Autumn.

We are also learning about ourselves in our Topic carpet sessions. We talked about how we are similar and different and what makes us special. The children have used mirrors to look at their own faces, describing what they can see and naming different parts of the body.

Reception

This week, Reception we have been learning about Harvest. We have been exploring how farmers harvest their land and where the food goes, we then compared how farms have changed over time and what farmers did before they had tractors.

In Maths we have been learning about more and fewer than - we have been using the bears to compare different amounts and say who has more.

We have been continuing to practice writing our names and learning new sounds in phonics. This week we have learnt ck, e, u.

Year 1

This week Year 1 have been looking at poems. We focussed on an A-Z poem and will be using our knowledge of Science and Geography to write a poem about Autumn in Bartley Green.

On Thursday we went on a local walk around Bartley Green and the children really enjoyed looking at the physical and human features. They were also able to identify different types of settlements they spotted. We also saw signs of Autumn and the children noticed the leaves on the trees have changed colour.

Year 2

*This week 2K have been writing a story. They have used *The Lighthouse Keepers Lunch* and adapted it to write their own version. In Maths we have been counting in 2's, 3's, 5's, 10's. It would be great if you could practise this at home. In Science we have been learning about the absorbency of different materials. I wonder what materials you could explore at home?*

In 2R this week we have been writing our own version of the story 'The Lighthouse Keepers Lunch'. In Maths we have been focusing on counting in 2s,3s,5s and 10s, please practise these at home so children can become more fluent with their times tables. We have been doing some exciting experiments, looking at how absorbent materials are. We have also been looking at different coastlines in Geography.

Year 3

3D have been learning about prehistoric art in our art lessons and have created their own drawing and painting to show this. They have used natural products and coloured spices to create the paint, including turmeric, paprika, cinnamon and nutmeg which they have used to paint their chosen animal onto their cave.

3T have been planning and writing their own warning tale. They have used George's Marvellous Medicine and adapted it to write their own version. In Maths, we have been adding and subtracting, crossing 10 and 100. In Geography, we have been researching European countries and finding out about their population, climate, cities, land use and trade. In Science, we have been looking at the different properties of Rocks and what they are used for.

Year 4

Year Four have completed their Black History lesson this week where they explored and researched the life of African Roman Emperor Septimius. Children were amazed by his achievements and enjoyed researching the Garrisons and their success. In Maths, children have been looking at adding four-digit numbers with an exchange which has been challenging. During Reading lessons, we have been reading Jeremy Strong's 'Romans on the Rampage'. Year Four have found the book extremely funny which is then transferring into their writing skills.

4R have been working hard this week and have been doing research about the African Roman Emperor 'Severus Septimius'. We completed this as part of our History topic, the Romans. The children enjoyed learning about his achievements and his significance in history. In Maths, we have been working hard with adding and subtracting 2 four-digit numbers with exchange. This is a difficult skill that the children have worked hard and persevered through. In English, we have begun writing our narrative based on the book 'Romans on the Rampage'. This is a book we have found very funny and entertaining and have very much enjoyed reading.

Year 5

5H have been working to complete their DT topic 'From Farm to Fork.' They have chosen a recipe to adapt to make a pasta/bolognese sauce, prepared all their ingredients and made their final sauce. They have also completed nutritional labels and designed eye-catching labels for their jars. Hopefully, the children will be prepared to share theirs when they bring it home!

5F have been prepping and planning towards their final sauce in their DT lessons. We tasted two contrasting sauces; discussed what we liked, disliked and what we would change. Following this, we were able to complete our final recipes, nutritional information and brand names for our sauces. The children found this experience interesting and are all excited to begin chopping, preparing and cooking their sauces next week!

Year 6

In 6L, we have been learning all about tolerance, respect and individual liberty in our RE lessons and have thought carefully about how we can demonstrate these in school, at home and in our local community.

The children were so thoughtful when coming up with different ways to show The Golden Rule - treat others the way you wish to be treated. They thought about all of our learning from this term and wrote fantastic speeches on the importance of tolerance and respect. Well done 6L!

In 6H, we have been learning all about World War 2 and the different elements linked to this key event.

This week, in particular, we have been focusing on The Blitz and the impact it had on people, communities and leaders. The children have been very inquisitive and have really enjoyed learning new facts. They have carefully considered different sources and whether they are reliable or biased sources.

Well done 6H - what an interesting week it has been!

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.

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.

Medical and Dietary Information

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.

Free School Meals, Toast and Price Changes

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 your will need to:

- 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

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.

Nut Free School

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.

School Uniform

- *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

- *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.



Labelling

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.

Contact Details

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.

Twitter/X

Please follow us on:

@stmichaelsb32
