

# St Michael's Church of England Primary School Newsletter

**Friday 15th December 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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## ***Message from Mrs Roberts***

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*Dear Parents and Carers,*

*What an exciting week we have. Father Christmas came to visit today. It was a truly magical experience. Thank you to all of the staff at school who helped to make this happen.*

*Thank you to everyone who was able to come to the Brass Concert this week. The children were amazing and it was a fabulous concert. Your support is appreciated. It makes the children so happy to be able to show you the outcomes of their hardwork. We are so lucky to have Mrs Haddilington working with us.*

*Year 5 also did their Christmas performance this week. The children were fantastic. It really was brilliant. Thank you to all of the adults at school who worked so hard to put the production together. Also, thank you to everyone who was able to make the performances. It was lovely to see the smiles on the children's faces.*

*During Collective Worship this week, we have been reflecting on the story of The Parable of The Lost Sheep (Matthew 18: 10-14) and how this can teach is about hope.*

*In this parable, Jesus speaks of a shepherd who leaves behind 99 sheep to search for the one that went astray. When he finds it, he rejoices and celebrates its return more than he does for the 99 that were not lost.*

*This story showcases hope in a few ways:*

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- 1. Individual Worth: The shepherd doesn't disregard the lost sheep; instead, he values each one, emphasizing the worth of every individual. This emphasizes the hope that every person matters and is worth seeking out and rescuing.*
  - 2. Unconditional Love and Compassion: Despite the wandering of the sheep, the shepherd doesn't give up on it. His determination to find and bring it back demonstrates an unwavering love and compassion. This symbolises the hope that no matter how lost or far someone may feel, there's always a chance for redemption and reconciliation.*
  - 3. Joy in Restoration: The shepherd's joy upon finding the lost sheep reflects the joy in restoration. It highlights the hope that there is immense joy in spiritual or personal restoration, emphasising the possibility of change and renewal.*
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*Overall, the parable offers hope by emphasising the value of every individual, the unwavering love and compassion of a higher power, and the joy in redemption and restoration.*

*Have a lovely weekend.*

*Mrs Roberts*

*Headteacher*

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## **Nursery Places**

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*We currently have places available in our nursery class from January 2024.*

*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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## **A message from Reverend Ruth**

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*I am the Vicar at St Michael and All Angels Church in Bartley Green. I come into school to take Collective Worship and for other activities plus the children visit me in church.*

*Once a month we hold Messy Church in St Michaels around the 3rd Sunday in the month from 3.00-5.00. This includes lots of craft activities, a short act of worship and food to finish. We have some spare places at the moment for children in Key Stage 1. The next session will be 21st January 2024 in the season of Epiphany. This will be our Christingle service but we also make crafts around the theme of the wise men visiting Jesus and his parents. If you would like to come please e mail Rev Ruth [revruthvicarbg@gmail.com](mailto:revruthvicarbg@gmail.com).*

### *Christmas services*

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- *17th December at 3.00 pm Carol Service*
  - *24th December at 4.00 pm Crib service come and hear the Christmas story*
  - *25th December at 10.00 am Christmas morning - all age service*
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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 **94.2%**. Unfortunately, our persistent absence is **18.4%**. Please ensure your child comes to school every day.*

*So far this academic year, we have had 16 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 - 92.5%*

*RS - 91.4%*

*1F - 93.6%*

1M - 91.2%

2K - 92.5%

2R - 93.6%

3D - 93.9%

3T - 96.9%

4J - 93.6%

4R - 96.3%

5F - 94.3%

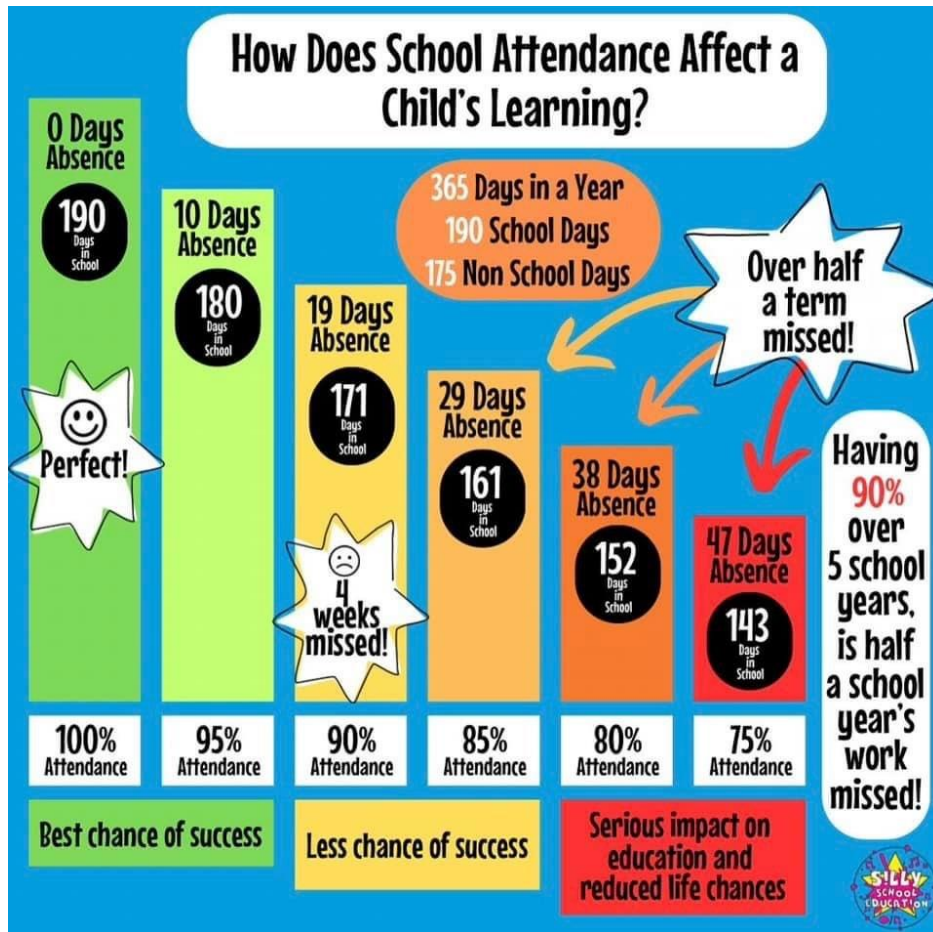
5H - 95.4%

6H - 95.6%

6L - 93.3%

*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.*

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*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/>



## Bring it on Brum

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*For those children who are entitled to free school meals in Reception-Year 6, we have sent the codes via email on Arbor. This code can be used to book onto activities during the Christmas holiday.*

<https://www.bringitonbrum.co.uk/>

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## Advice For Parents On Children Vaping

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*Please click on the link below for guidance on children vaping.*

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

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## Key Dates

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*Tuesday 19th December: Whole School Pantomime.*

*Wednesday 20th December at 2pm and 4pm: Reception Nativity (details have been sent via Arbor).*

*Wednesday 20th December: Christmas Lunch (children only).*

*Thursday 21st December: Whole school at St Michael's Church (children only).*

*Thursday 21st December: Christmas Parties in the afternoon (details have been sent via Arbor).*

*Friday 22nd December: Last day of term.*

*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).*

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

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

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

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

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

*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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## Birmingham Public Health

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*Birmingham Public Health have asked if all schools can pass on the following message.*

*They are encouraging that all parents and carers check that their child has been vaccinated. Parents can check the personal child health record (the Red Book) or if this doesn't help, speak to their GP surgery. Parents can contact their GP surgery to catch their child up, at any age, or indeed, for themselves.*

*Measles is highly infectious (it can spread easily from person to person). While most people recover completely within a couple of weeks, measles can cause serious illness and in rare cases it can be fatal. Vaccination with two doses of MMR is the only way to give people maximum protection.*

*The first signs of measles are:*

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- *high temperature*
  - *runny or blocked nose*
    - *sneezing*
    - *cough*
  - *red, sore, watery eyes*
  - *rash usually appears a few days after cold-like symptoms (sometimes starts around the ears before spreading to rest of the body)*
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*Measles can cause complications, especially in certain at-risk groups that include babies and small children, pregnant women and people with weak immunity.*

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### ***Further important information***

#### ***The MMR vaccine***

*If your child has not received two doses of MMR vaccination as part of their childhood immunisation programme, you should take up the offer of the MMR vaccine for your child now. If you are not sure if your child needs an MMR vaccine, you can contact your GP to check.*

*The MMR vaccination is the best way to protect against measles as it is:*

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- *effective*
  - *safe and*
  - *free of charge*
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*The vaccine provides effective protection against three diseases – measles, mumps and rubella. The first dose of MMR is given soon after the first birthday. A second dose is normally given before school entry.*

*However, you can have the MMR vaccine at any age. If either you or your child are not fully protected against measles (two doses of MMR), you can contact your GP surgery to arrange vaccination. It is never too late to get vaccinated. Two doses of MMR are required to produce satisfactory protection against measles, mumps and rubella. If your family avoids pork, a MMR vaccine is available that does not contain any pork products.*

*This is especially important when measles is circulating because any child or adult who has not had at least one dose of MMR and comes into contact with a person with measles will have to be excluded from nursery, school or work for 21 days and stay at home.*

### ***What to do if you think your child has measles***

*If your child develops symptoms, you should contact your GP. You must contact the surgery by telephone before visiting and tell the reception staff that you think that your child may have measles and not attend the surgery unless you are asked to. The doctor will make special arrangements to see your child so that, if they have measles, they won't pass it to others.*

*People with measles will remain infectious, and so be able to pass on the disease to others for 4 days after the start of the rash. Therefore, it is important that anyone with measles stays away from nursery, school, group activities, gatherings or anywhere with people outside of the household during that time.*

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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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*Laith - for his continued hard work on rhyming words and alliteration in phonics.*

*Leo - for making positive choices and following classroom rules.*

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## Reception

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RG

*Fiker for learning all of his part in the Nativity play and being a role model to his peers.*

*Darius for being a role model to his peers by learning all of the words for the Nativity and always joining in enthusiastically.*

RS

*Leo has been trying really hard in handwriting over the past couple of weeks. He has been taking his time to carefully form the letters and he is proud of his improvement.*

*Jayden- Jayden has been practicing his lines for the play, we have been working on getting into character and adding expression. Jayden is becoming more confident in saying his lines.*

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## Year 1

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1F

*Amine - for always trying her best in lessons.*

*Alice - for her fantastic contributions during class discussions.*

1M

*Alex - for trying really hard with his handwriting.*

*Elio - for being a kind friend and always trying his best.*

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## Year 2

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2K -

*Georgia - for working really hard on her presentation this week.*

*Hania - for working hard to use her Marvellous Manners.*

2R

*Kieran - for working hard this week and being responsible and respectful on our school trip.*

*Elim- for ALWAYS being kind and respectful and for ALWAYS following our school rules.*

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## Year 3

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3D

*Arlo - for his contributions in class.*

*Analise - for trying really hard in everything.*

3T

*Amelia - for always using her marvellous manners and showing her wow walking. She is a St Michael's STAR.*

*Lilly-Poppy- for always being a fantastic role model in class and just being a joy to teach.*

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## Year 4

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4J

*Eviee - for using technical language within her writing.*

*Lucas Sh - for his continuous improvement during multiplication practice.*

4R

*Mia-Rose - for creating a fantastic information report*

*Joshua - for applying STAR in his attitude to learning*

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## Year 5

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5F

*Jay - for your outstanding performance in our production.*

*Elijah - for stepping in last minute in our production and doing an amazing job.*

5H

*Ahria - for working hard to know all your lines for the Christmas production and your lovely singing.*

*Ruby-Leigh - for your amazing singing during our production.*

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## Year 6

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6H

*Olivia D - for achieving so well in her mock SATs papers. You have shown fantastic learning behaviours!  
Well done!*

*Oliver - for always displaying the 'St Michael's Way'!*

6L

*Sienna W - for using all of her learning from this term about WW2 to create a fantastic non-chronological report. Well done!*

*Jack E - for fantastic effort and showing brilliant dribbling skills in handball. Well done!*

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## What is happening in the classroom?

### Nursery

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*On Monday this week, the children blew everyone away with their amazing Christmas singing! They were fantastic! Miss Coe and the adults in nursery are so proud of all the children for their brilliant performance! Thank you to all adults who attended, we hope you enjoyed our show.*

*The children have enjoyed more Christmas activities this week. They have been filling stockings with presents, making calendars and baubles and have joined in reading the nativity story with actions! We have also watched Stickman; a story which the children love because Santa helps our hero to find his way home!*

*In phonics this week, we were introduced to initial sounds and we began by listening to and identifying the first sound in our names. And in Maths we have been looking at length and height; comparing the length of objects and seeing who is the tallest in our class!*

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## Reception

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RG

*This week RG have been learning more about the Nativity story. We have also had a busy week practicing our Nativity play ready for our performances next week.*

RS

*This week RS have been learning about shapes. They have been exploring the properties of triangles, squares, rectangle and circles and comparing them. They also had lots of fun playing shape bingo.*

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## Year 1

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1F

*This week in English the children have been writing their own story. The children have learned about plurals, suffixes and nouns and are now applying them to their writing. In maths the children have been using number lines to 20 and also finding one more and one less. This week the children have also practiced their handwriting by writing their own letter to Santa. We then took a trip to post the letters in the post box next to Santa's grotto. The children were very excited and hoping their letters get to Santa very soon.*

1M

*In Year 1 this week, the children have been super at using a number line to 20. They have been finding one more and one less. They have also been using numicon to represent 20 in different ways. We also answered our big question in History which was how have toys changed over time? They came up with some super sentences and had lots of interesting facts.*

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## Year 2

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2K

*This week we have been writing our diary entries based on The Night Gardner. I am very impressed with how hard the children have worked on these. The children loved the trip to Aston Hall this week. We found out lots of facts about The Great Fire of London.*

2R

*We have had another busy week in 2R, the children have been writing up their diary entry in English and we had our amazing school trip to Aston Hall where the children got the opportunity to live the life of someone in 1666 and expand on our knowledge of The Great Fire of London even more. They were all amazing and should be very proud.*

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## Year 3

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3D

*The children had their brass concert this week and did very well performing in front of you all. We hope you enjoyed it!*

*In English, we have been looking at fable narratives. The children gathered their ideas about the text through roleplay, thinking of different questions to ask the characters and putting them in the hot seat.*

3T

*I want to say how proud I was of ALL of the children in year 3 during the brass concert! They have worked their socks off in their music lessons since September and the concert really showcased their skills and the talent they have. Thank you for coming to watch them, it really boosts their confidence and they love seeing their adult in the audience!*

*In DT this week, we have been looking at seasonal vegetables and exploring where different fruits and vegetables come from. This is in preparation for making our own seasonal tarts.*

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## **Year 4**

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*4J*

*Children have started their information report on polar bears during writing lessons this week. 4J have been trying to use technical vocabulary and use fronted adverbials correctly. They've also focused on multiplication during maths lessons where children have used their problem solving and reasoning skills to calculate multiplying by one and zero. 4J have enjoyed finishing off their Electricity topic within Science lessons. Children answered their Big Question 'Does everything shiny conduct electricity?' by using their scientific skills to test a variety of material to classify them as conductors or insulators.*

*4R - This week, children started their information report on polar bears after working hard on leaning the skill for the past two weeks. During maths lessons, 4R have been using their reasoning and problem .solving skills to help them multiply by one and zero. In history, we are beginning to come to the end of our topic, the Romans. We will be applying this knowledge to answer our big question next week*

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## **Year 5**

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*5H*

*This week we performed our Christmas production. We worked Thankyou for all your support and we hoped you enjoyed it.*

*5F*

*This week we performed our Christmas production. We worked extremely hard and are very proud. Thankyou for all your support and we hoped you enjoyed it. As well as this, the children have written a letter in their final piece of writing.*

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## Year 6

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6H

*Well done, Year 6 ... another week accomplished! Year 6 have been completing another round of SATs papers, and WOW... how they have all impressed us!*

*We have also enjoyed completing our DT day - looking at mechanisms and playground equipment... definitely some potential jobs for the future! Keep up the hard work, 6H... not long to go now :)*

6L

*Another busy week in Year 6 and again, we are so proud of them! Their recent SATs scores have shown amazing progress and they have shown brilliant attitudes once again.*

*As a whole class, the children have enjoyed thinking about the parables, stories and prayers that we have explored in our RE unit this term. We have thought carefully about what they have taught us and how we can make our school a happy, respectful and calm place to be.*

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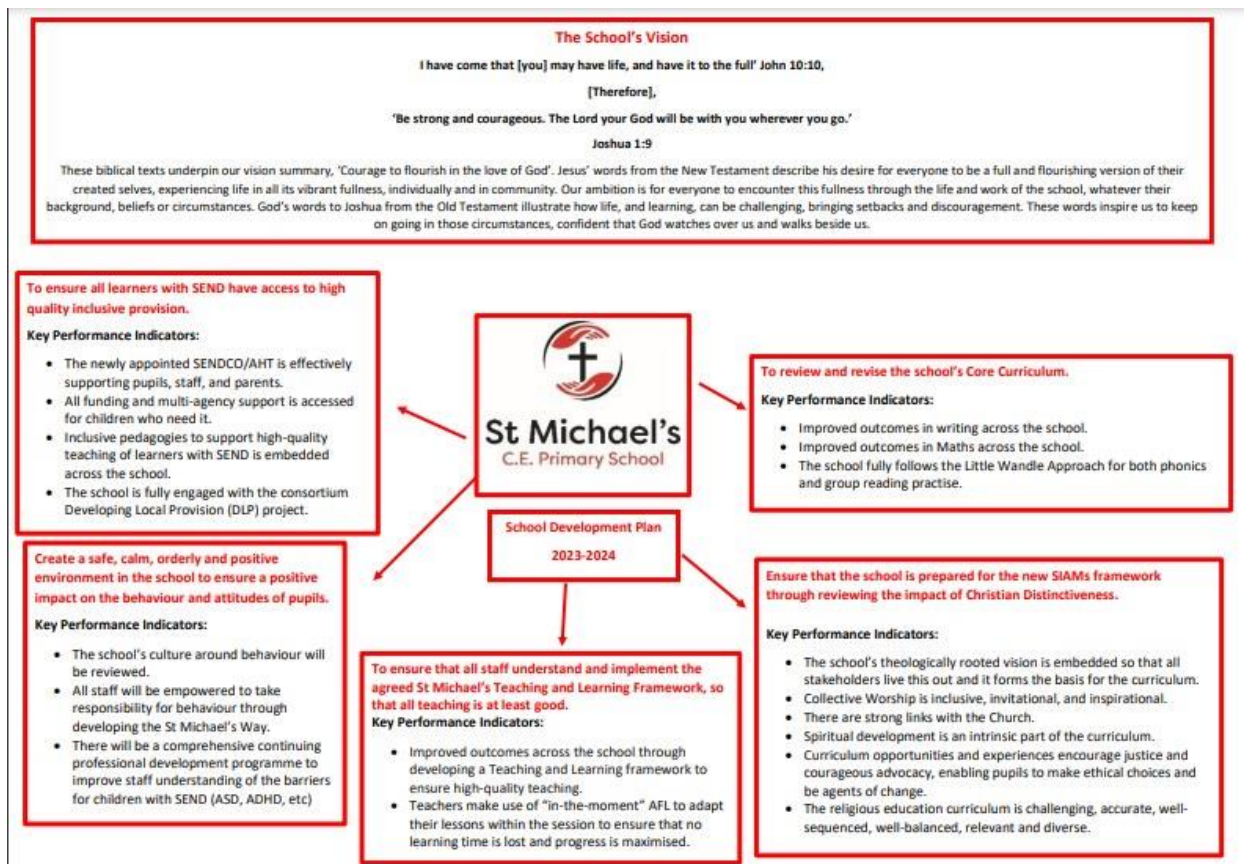
## School Development Plan

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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.*

*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. 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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