

St Michael's Church of England Primary School Newsletter

Friday 19th April 2024

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, carers and students,

I hope this message finds you well. This week, during Collective Worship, we have continued to reflect on the importance of trust in our school community. Trust is the foundation of everything we do here at St Michael's CE Primary School, from the relationships between staff and students to the partnerships we have with parents and carers. We have continued to explore the story, 'The Road to Emmaus' and the valuable lessons it teaches us about faith, hope, and the power of belief. This story serves as a reminder that we must trust in each other and in the journey we are on together.

I would also like to take this opportunity to remind parents about the importance of monitoring the children's use of messaging apps such as WhatsApp. While technology can be a valuable tool for communication, it is essential to be aware of the impact it can have on the classroom and on children's social and emotional development. We are experiencing an increased number of issues being brought into school involving WhatsApp. This is impacting on both the children's wellbeing and learning. The minimum age for WhatsApp is 13.

As always, if you have any concerns or questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to a member of our dedicated staff. Your feedback and input are invaluable as we work together to create a safe and nurturing environment for all our students.

On a lighter note, I would like to wish all those who have been celebrating a Happy Vaishaki. May this special occasion bring joy, prosperity, and blessings to you and your loved ones.

Thank you for your continued support and partnership. Together, we can overcome any challenges that come our way.

I hope you all have a lovely weekend.

Mrs Roberts

Teampoints

We are updating our Housepoints to Teampoints. As part of this, we held a democratic election to select the Team Names for our houses.

Every child was able to vote for who they found most demonstrated the St Michael's Values of:

- *Courage*
 - *Hope*
 - *Love and Forgiveness*
 - *Trust*
 - *Community*
 - *Thankfulness*
-

The people the children voted for a below.

Simone Biles – Gymnast, Advocate



- Born on March 14, 1997, in Texas USA.
- Simone Biles was adopted as a child.
- She is known as the G.O.A.T gymnast of all time as she has won 23 world championship gold medals and 4 Olympic gold medals.
- She is an advocate for girls being safe in sport.



Sir David Attenborough – Naturalist, Film Maker



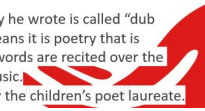
- Born in 1926 in London
- Sir David Attenborough is a natural historian and broadcaster Sir David has visited every continent on earth.
- He's had many different species named after him, from lizards and butterflies to plants and flowers.
- Works to raise awareness of the climate crisis and animal welfare.



Benjamin Zephaniah – Writer, Poet, Activist



- From Handsworth in Birmingham.
- He left school without being able to read or write.
- He was inspired to become a writer when he got a typewriter.
- He wrote about the life of black people, immigrants and working-class people in Britain.
- He worked with anti-racism and animal rights charities.
- The type of poetry he wrote is called "dub poetry," which means it is poetry that is performed—the words are recited over the beat of reggae music.
- He was previously the children's poet laureate.



Ian Wright OBE – Footballer, Pundit



- Born in 1963 in London
- Played for Arsenal, Crystal Palace and England. Scored 287 goals in his career.
- Became a professional footballer at 22 Years Old,
- which is quite late.
- Had a turbulent childhood but overcame adversity.



Phonics

At St Michael's, we teach our children to read using a scheme called Little Wandle which is a systematic and synthetic phonics programme. We teach this programme from Nursery to Year 2. We have uploaded lots of useful resources onto the phonics page of our school website which you can use at home. [Phonics Resources](#)

You can also access the Little Wandle website which has lots of videos which explain how we teach reading and how to pronounce the sounds. [Little Wandle Website](#)

Year 1 Phonics Screening Check

All children in Year 1 will complete the Phonics Screening Check during the week of the 10th June. This is a check of your child's phonics knowledge. The Phonics Screening Check contains 40 words divided into two sections of 20 words. Both sections contain a mixture of real words and pseudo-words (alien words). The check is designed to give teachers information on how your child is progressing in phonics. It will help to identify whether your child needs additional support at this stage so that they do not fall behind in this vital early reading skill. There is lots of useful information about the Phonics Screening Check for Year 1 parents on our website. [Phonics Screening Check Information](#)

If you have any questions about phonics or the Phonics Screening Check, please speak to your child's class teacher or to Mr Bhatti our Deputy Headteacher.

Queries or concerns

If you have a query or concern, please remember to speak to the classteacher in the first instance. You can arrange this by either phoning or emailing the office who will pass on the message. The class teacher will then get in touch with you as soon as possible. Please bear in mind that this will be before or after school as they are teaching throughout the day.

Scotland Lane

I have been contacted by Preet Kaur Gill (MP for Edgbaston) this week. She has received complaints from residents of Scotland Lane in Bartley Green about parents/carers parking on the road. They have said that parents and carers of the school are parking over dropped kerbs, grass verges, and in front of houses. There are a number of elderly residents and residents with disabilities that this is impacting on. Can we please ask that you are mindful about where you park during pick up and drop off.

Key Dates

Thursday 2nd May - Key Stage 1 Quidditch Day.

Thursday 2nd May - meeting for new Reception children (9.15am and 2.30pm).

Friday 3rd May - meeting for new Nursery children (9.15am and 2.30pm).

Monday 6th May - Bank Holiday (school closed).

Tuesday 7th May - Reception at Bartley Green Library.

Tuesday 7th May - Year 5 River Trip at Severn Valley Country Park.

Week beginning 13th May - Key Stage 2 SATs week.

Friday 17th May - Photographer in school.

Friday 17th May - Year 6 Pizza afternoon.

Monday 20th May - Year 5 Celebrating the Pentecost at St Michael's Church (adults invited).

Thursday 23rd May - Year 4 at The Botanical Gardens.

Thursday 23rd May - Reception and Key Stage 1 Headteacher Awards.

Friday 24th May - Key Stage 2 Headteacher Awards.

Friday 24th May - Year 2 at Bartley Green library.

Friday 24th May - Year 1 at Black Country Museum.

Friday 24th May - Last day of the half term.

Monday 3rd June - Teacher Training Day.

Tuesday 4th June - children return to school.

Week beginning 3rd June - Year 4 Multiplication Tables Check.

Week beginning 10th June - Key Stage 1 Phonics Screening Check.

Nursery Places



St Michael's
C.E. Primary School

**NURSERY
PLACES
AVAILABLE**

If you have a child who turns 3 before September 1st 2024, they will be entitled to 15 hours free child care. Please contact the school office on the number below to enquire about the available spaces in our Nursery.

St Michael's CE Primary School
Nantmel Grove
Bartley Green
B32 3JS

**Enquire Now -
0121 464 4345**

office@stmichaelsb32.bdmatt.org.uk

The poster features a central image of a young girl with her hands painted in bright colors (yellow, blue, orange, red) and holding them up to her face. The background is yellow with decorative floral patterns in red, blue, and green.

Attendance





*The whole school's attendance target is 96%. The whole school attendance for the year so far is **94.1%**. Unfortunately, our persistent absence is **16.4%**. Please ensure your child comes to school every day.*

So far this academic year, we have had 18 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.

Class Attendance - for this year so far!

RG - 93.1%

RS - 90.4%

1F - 92.7%

1M - 91.7%

2K - 92.5%

2R - 94.3%

3D - 94.4%

3T - 95.4%

4J - 93.9%

4R - 96.4%

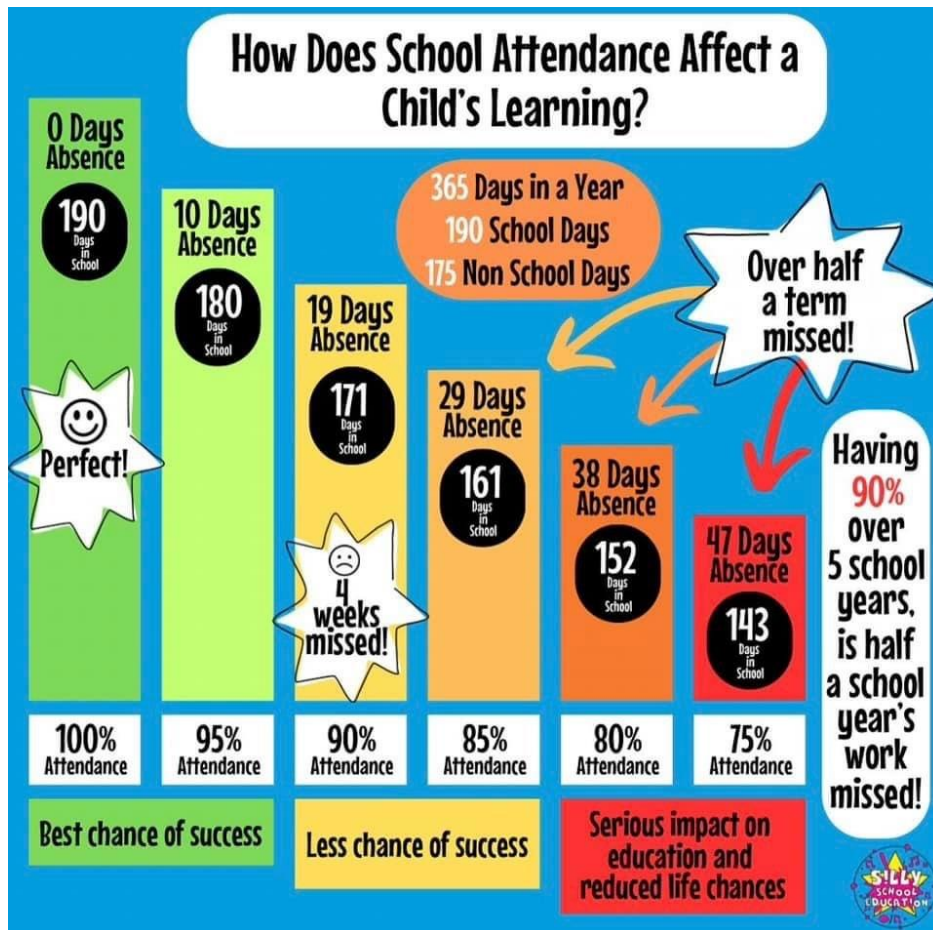
5F - 94%

5H - 94.9%

6H - 94.8%

6L - 93.7%

Since September 2023, we have had an increase in the number of children arriving to school late. When we have added these minutes up, they total 84 days worth of missed learning. Children must be in school and ready to learn promptly each day by 8:45am. Just a reminder that gates open at 8:35am.



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/>

Times Tables Rockstars



Key Stage 2 TTRS Tournaments

Year Four Tournament

1. 4R - 341

2. 4J - 64

Key Stage 2 Tournament

1. 4R - 177
 2. 4J - 37
 3. 3T - 27
 4. 3D - 4
 5. 5H - 1
 6. 5F - 0
 7. 6H - 0
 8. 6L - 0
-

Top 5 Players Key Stage 2

1. Tayon 4J
 2. Yoadan 6H
 3. Brook 3D
 4. Areng 4J
 5. Alex 5H
-

Stars of the Week

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

Nursery

Leo - for excellent effort in phonics and maths

Anna-Lea - for focusing hard on learning some sign language by joining in enthusiastically with our action song on the week.

Reception

RG

Jonathan- for working really hard in Maths lessons, always putting his hand up to contribute answers.

Harriet- for trying really hard during writing tasks and being independent.

RS

Bailee is an always pupil, he is always showing the correct learning behaviour and he is a fantastic role model.

Tamiya has been doing great WOW walking around school.

Year 1

1F

Maisen- for trying very hard in phonics and practicing new sounds.

Enzo- for trying very hard in reading.

1M

Cordell for great attitude to learning.

Kizhan for being helpful and kind.

Year 2

2K

Jayden - for fantastic art work this week.

Hania - for fantastic art work this week.

2R

Harley- for always being a star and showing me she is ready to learn

Teigan- for always being a positive role model at school

Year 3

3D

Olivia - for always being a STAR.

Alfie - for trying really hard in Maths.

3T

Abdurraheem - for always showing STAR behaviour. He is a fantastic role model to his peers as he is always ready to learn, follows the St Michael's way and puts 100% into his work.

Jake - for becoming more confident in class discussions. He has lovely ideas and it has been fab to hear them.

Year 4

4J

Oscar - for improving his handwriting.

Freya - for always showing STAR in lessons.

4R

Shema- for always practising on TT Rockstars and consistently being one of the top players in the year group.

Ruby- for always trying her best and putting in a lot of effort into all of her lessons.

Year 5

5F

Dionjay - for settling in excellently to 5F this week.

Oscar - for an amazing performance in our Quidditch lesson.

5H

Archie - for working hard to improve the size of your handwriting

Nawal - for speaking with confidence during our assembly

Year 6

6H

Kaitlyn - for a fabulous atmosphere poem! Kaitlyn included a range of interesting vocabulary and metaphors and it was an absolute pleasure to read.

Lacey - for showing great independence across the curriculum, particularly in maths!

6L

Amrit - For always being such a kind, caring and wonderful member of our class who uses marvellous manners and has a brilliant sense of humour.

Sienna W - For great focus during maths and working independently and as a table. Keep it up!

Lunchtime Stars

These children have been nominated by the adults on the playground for being excellent role models.

Nursery

Laith - for doing really well with new foods, tasting them and trying his best to persevere.

Reception

Lacey - for being a really good friend

Fiker - for using marvellous manners.

Year 1

AJ - for showing marvellous manners and always wow walking.

Harley - for wow walking.

Year 2

Oliver S- for always doing the right thing.

Ava - for being a role model.

Year 3

Abdurraheem - for always showing kind manners and being a good friend.

Georgina - for making the right choices all week.

Year 4

River - for always being polite to children and staff

Lucas Dea - for having a calm and positive attitude on the playground this week

Year 5

Anya - for being a good role model and always making good

Colby - engaging well throughout the lunchtime.

Year 6

Charlie- for being kind and helpful every lunchtime.

Connor- for always following instructions and being polite.

Pupil of the Month

These children have been nominated by their classmates for always demonstrating the school values and learning behaviours.

Nursery

Blake - for his continued and unwavering positive contributions to classroom life and learning.

Reception

Firaol - for always working hard and contributing his ideas in every lesson.

Araeyah- For being helpful and kind to her friends.

Year 1

AJ- for always being a role model and trying his hardest in all lessons.

Sukhmani for being a role model and wow walking.

Year 2

Belle- for always being a role model and trying her hardest in every lesson.

Maddie - For always being a great friend and always following the school rules.

Year 3

Arlo 3D - for being a helpful and kind friend.

Rosie 3T - A fantastic friend who is always nice to everyone.

Year 4

Tayon 4J - is funny and helpful. Always asks you if you need help. He is a good friend, includes you in his games.

Abbie 4R- Abbie was selected by her peers and they gave lots of reasons for this. Some of the reasons are because she is always kind, caring and helpful and that she is a good friend.

Year 5

Ahria 5H - for being a good friend and helping others

Frankie S - for being kind to others and trying really hard in all lessons.

Year 6

6H

Maddie is such a role model in all areas of the curriculum. She is a super friend and her behaviour around school is exemplary. You are a star pupil who is more than ready for secondary school!

6L

Connor's peers chose him because they have recognised the progress he has made this year and how hard he has worked in the classroom and on the playground. They said you are helpful and kind and are becoming more resilient. Well done Connor, keep up the super work!

What is happening in the classroom?

Nursery

This week, the nursery children have delved deeper into life on the farm. We have had a go at observational drawings of farm animals, being careful to notice different shapes so we can use them to create our pictures. Using our book of the week "Errol's Garden", we explored how plants can be used on the farm and we even planted some sunflower seeds of our own. We are excited to watch them grow! The children have enjoyed arranging our numerals to 5 and have used 5 little ducks in the water tray to do this. We explored a different way of painting by using forks to create a fluffy chick picture.

Reception

RG

This week, Reception have been exploring the composition of numbers beyond 10, identifying that 13 is made up of a 10 and a 3. Despite the weather this week we have also been learning about the signs of summer, ready to see them when they begin appearing.

RS

We have started our challenges this week across Reception. We have seen some great "I can see... " sentences in the writing area and some beautiful paintings of flowers in the creative area. Everyone is excited to complete their challenges!

1F

This week in English we have planned and written the opening to our story. The children have used their own imaginations to send their character to another destination. In Art the children have explored the work of Vincent Van Gogh. The children have been looking at the structure of a plant in Science and this week were able to name and label different parts.

1M

This week we explored Weoley Castle as our topic this term in History is Castles. The children made a prediction of what they thought it looked like by drawing a picture. They included the features of a castle. We have also been keeping an eye on our seeds that we planted last week to see if anything has grown. We noticed that the cress seeds have started to grow.

Year 2

2K-

This week, 2K have been working really hard in Maths this week learning about fractions. We have also been writing persuasive paragraphs in writing ready to write our persuasive letter next week.

In Art we have been making patterns on a clay tile. You will see these when they come home next week.

In History this week we learnt all about Mary Seacole.

2R

This week, in 2R the children have been working super hard in Maths as we carry on with our fractions. The children have also been writing persuasive paragraphs in English.

In science we went on a minibeast hunt and the children found a variety of bugs. The children then used the evidence to form a pictogram.

Year 3

3D

This week in DT, the children have been working in pairs to make their own pneumatic toys using shoe boxes and balloons. In English, the children have worked hard to plan their narrative based on our book 'Egyptology'. In Maths, we used practical equipment to help us answer questions on finding unit and non unit amounts of an object.

3T

What a fab week 3T have had. They had a whole DT day with Mr Bhatti, where they made their own pneumatic toy using shoe boxes and balloons. They showed resilience and perseverance as they worked in a pair to create this. In PE, we showed off our batting skills in our new topic, Cricket! In maths, we have been learning how to find unit and non unit amounts of an object, we used the practical equipment to help us find the answers to questions.

Year 4

4J

Wow! What a challenging week for 4J. At the beginning of the week, children created their book covers using their sewing skills. Mrs Joyce was amazed with all of the children's patience and resilience in creating their final products. During Maths lessons, they subtracted mixed numbers which was tricky and will be revisited later on in the week to embed skills. Next week, children will be taking their next multiplication baseline test. Please ensure your child is going on Timestable Rockstars every evening for their homework.

4R

Throughout this week, 4R have been working hard in all areas of the curriculum. In Maths, the children have been learning how to subtract mixed numbers which has been really tricky but they have shown great patience and resilience. In writing, we have been building up to writing our next piece which is a narrative. The children have also begun looking at their Art topic which involves analysing famous artworks and identifying the skills that have been used to create them. Next week, children will be taking their next multiplication baseline test. Please ensure your child is going on TimesTable Rockstars every evening for their homework.

Year 5

5H

Well done to both Year 5 classes for the fantastic assembly you performed on Tuesday. You all learn your lines and performed with confidence. You should be very proud of yourselves.

This week has been extremely busy with a French lesson from Hillcrest school and a 'Quidditch' lesson. It has been great to try these different skills and learn something new.

5F

Well done to both Year 5 classes for the fantastic assembly you performed on Tuesday. You all learn your lines and performed with confidence. You should be very proud of yourselves.

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Year 6

What another super week in Year 6 it has been! The children have worked incredibly hard on their writing, set in the arctic and have been using commas to avoid ambiguity, semi-colons and passive voice. We have spent our PSHE session talking about how to stay safe online, including on social media, and the importance of our digital footprint and being kind and being resilient. We think this is an important skill for the children, particularly as they are getting ready for secondary school. The children were excellent team members during Quidditch Day and they had great fun trying to catch the golden snitch!

Measles

As you may be aware, across Birmingham there has been an outbreak of measles. Please read the following information which has been issued:

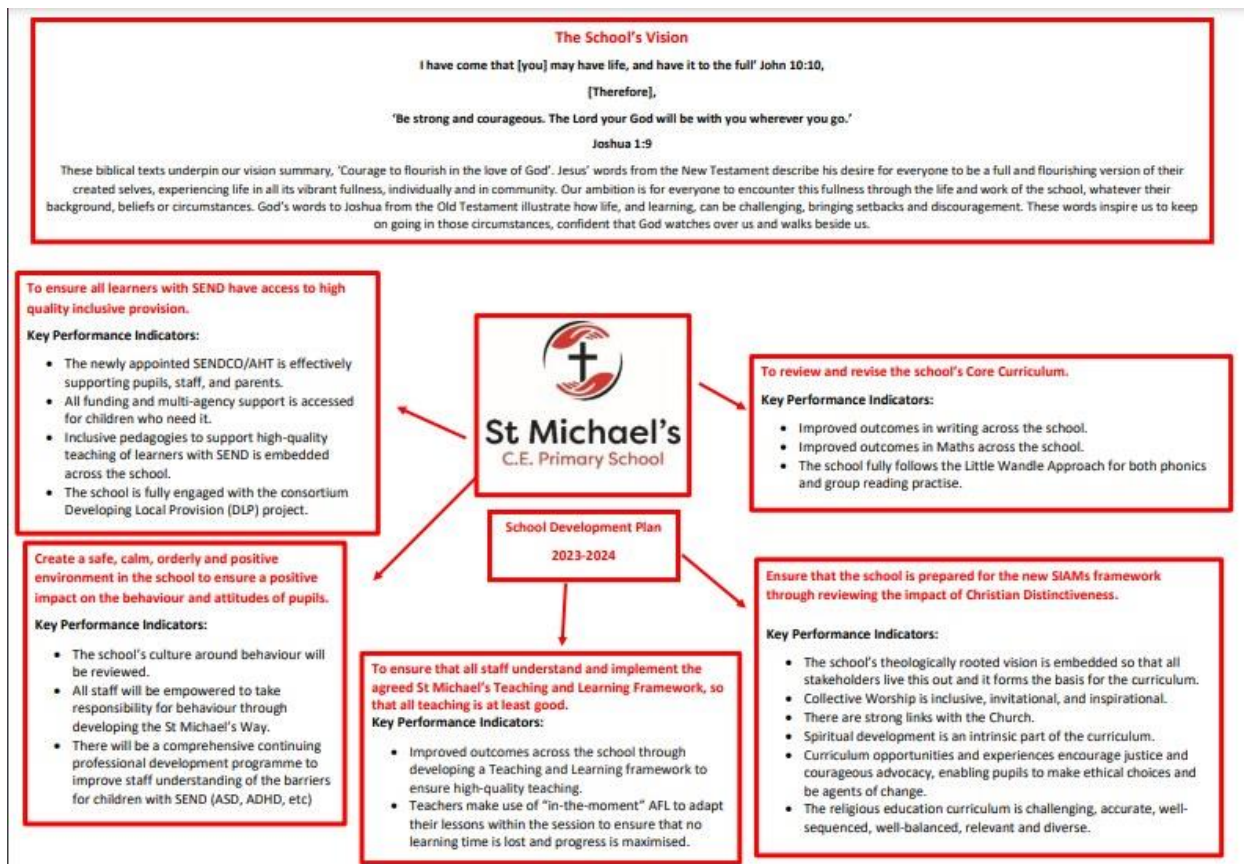
- *There's no specific medical treatment for measles, so it's important to get vaccinated as it's the best protection against becoming seriously unwell.*
- *Measles usually starts with cold-like symptoms, followed by a rash a few days later.*
- *You should ask for an urgent GP appointment or get help from NHS 111 if you think you or your child may have measles.*

- *Don't go to the GP or any other healthcare setting without calling them first.*
 - *If your child has been diagnosed with measles by a doctor, they should stay off nursery or school for at least 4 days from when the rash first appears. They should also avoid close contact with babies and anyone who is pregnant or has a weakened immune system.*
 - *Parents can book a free vaccine through the GP but if a child has already been vaccinated it is very unlikely that they have measles. 'It's fine to send your child to school with a minor cough or common cold, provided they don't have a temperature'. The incubation period is the length of time it can take to develop the illness after being in contact with someone with measles. For measles, the incubation period can be up to 21 days.*
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School Development Plan

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

[School Develop Plan](#)



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 you 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 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.

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.*
-



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.*
-

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
