

St Michael's Church of England Primary School Newsletter

Friday 19th January 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, Guardians, and Wonderful Students,

The Christian value that we are focussing on this half term is thankfulness. We have looked at the Story of Ruth and Naomi during Collective Worship this week.

In the story of Ruth and Naomi, Ruth is a young woman who decides to stay with her mother-in-law, Naomi, even when faced with challenging circumstances. Naomi, having lost her husband and sons, is returning to her hometown, Bethlehem. Ruth's loyalty and kindness shine through as she declares, "Where you go, I will go; where you lodge, I will lodge; your people shall be my people, and your God my God."

Ruth and Naomi arrive in Bethlehem, and Ruth works hard to support them by gleaning in the fields. Through a series of events, she meets Boaz, a relative of Naomi, who shows them kindness. Eventually, Boaz and Ruth marry, bringing blessings to Naomi and Ruth.

This story teaches us about the importance of loyalty, kindness, and gratitude. Ruth's thankfulness towards Naomi is seen in her actions, and the story shows how being grateful and loyal can lead to unexpected blessings. It's a beautiful example of how caring for others and showing gratitude can make a positive impact on our lives.

I am both grateful and thankful that as a school we are able to offer our children the opportunity of visiting a different place of worship each year. I know that the trips coming up over the next few weeks will be both informative and exciting for the children whilst also covering what they need to learn as part of the curriculum. I am really looking forward to hearing about everything they have learnt.

Mrs Roberts

Headteacher

Key Dates

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.

Friday 2nd February - Number Day

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.

Nursery Places

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.

Bad Weather Conditions

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:

- *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.*
-

Attendance





*The whole school's attendance target is 96%. The whole school attendance for the year so far is **94.3%**. Unfortunately, our persistent absence is **17.9%**. 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.

Class Attendance - for this year so far!

RG - 92.9%

RS - 91.5%

1F - 93.6%

1M - 93.2%

2K - 91.8%

2R - 94.3%

3D - 94.2%

3T - 96.1%

4J - 93.4%

4R - 96.4%

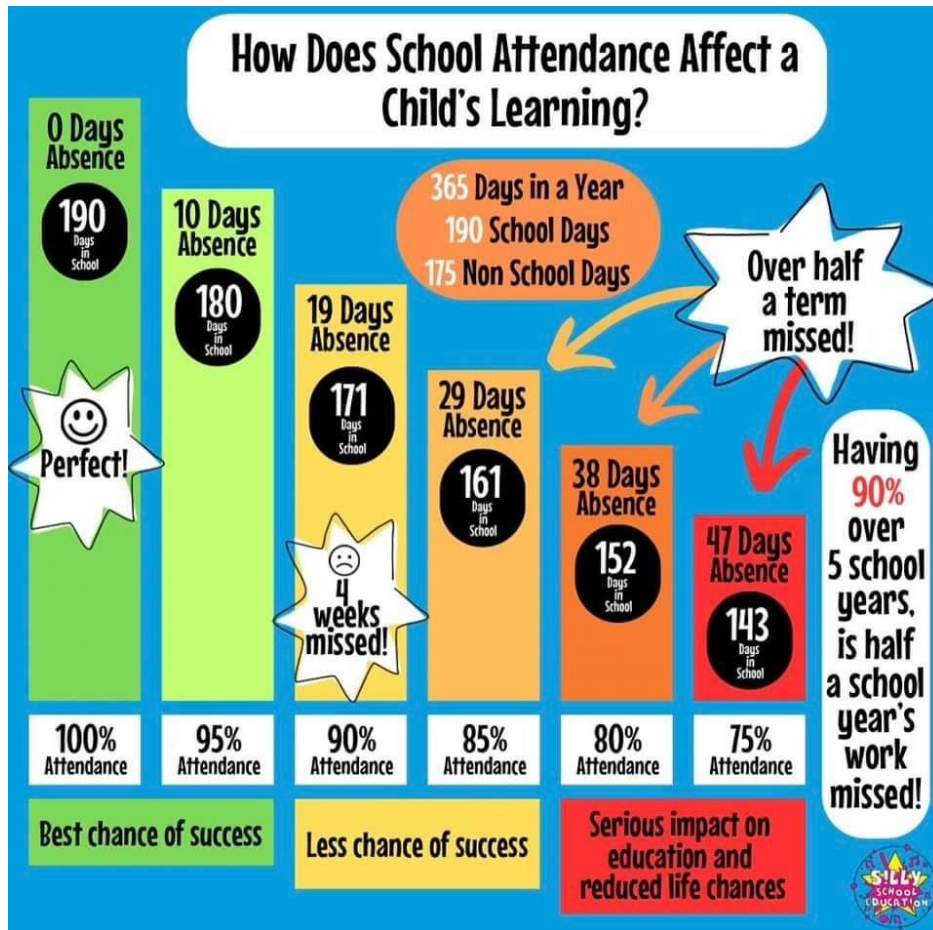
5F - 94.3%

5H - 95%

6H - 95.5%

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/>

Stars of the Week

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

Nursery

Ellie - for being really helpful and taking on little responsibilities around the classroom.

Olivia T - for jumping right into Nursery life and following routines on your first week at school!

Reception

RG

Zoe - for always being a kind friend and role model.

Alfie - for always working hard in maths lessons.

RS

Omar has really impressed Miss Slattery with his recall of our story juniper Jupiter. Omar has tried really hard to learn the story song.

Alice did some excellent work in literacy this week. She independently wrote adjectives to describe the main character in our story.

Year 1

1F

Matilda - for her amazing work in English.

Austin - for trying so hard in maths.

1M

Marcus - for beautiful handwriting in English and always trying his best.

Hunter - for always being a kind friend.

Year 2

2K -

Antonella - for working hard with her writing and handwriting this week.

Freddie H - For working very hard in Maths this week. He has been helping lots of other children.

2R - Harry- for working super hard this week. His hand has been up for almost every question and has really contributed to every lesson.

Teigan - for being a kind friend. Helping new friends around school.

Year 3

3D

Emily F - for always showing Marvellous Manners and Wow Walking.

Brook M - for always giving 100% in every lesson and being a role model student.

3T

Peyton -for impressing me with her 'can do' attitude since she has come back from half term. She has gained a handwriting pen and has been putting 110% into all of her work! Well done Peyton, keep it up!

Lilly - for being kind and helpful when working in partner/group work.

Year 4

4J

Elise - for consistently using her Marvellous Manners.

Kiya - for her multiplication progress.

4R

Ava- for producing a fantastic character description in her writing lesson.

Joshua- for working hard during lessons and contributing fantastic ideas during class discussions

Year 5

5F

Connor M - for excellent effort in English and contributing to class discussions

Colby - for outstanding work in Maths and going above and beyond when challenging himself

5H

Persia - for the super effort you have put into your maths work

Trey - for showing a positive attitude during lessons and working hard

Year 6

6H

Yoadan - for always being a fantastic role model.

Motoman -for always giving 100% effort, in everything!

6L

Zach - for showing a great understanding of evolution and inheritance during our retrieval quiz.

Ennis - for always putting in 100% effort into everything that he does!

What is happening in the classroom?

Nursery

We conducted an experiment this week in Nursery. We made a "Walking Rainbow" which consisted of 6 pots of water, 3 were the primary colours, and bridges made from kitchen roll. The coloured water walked over the bridges and mixed in the clear pots to make new colours! The children were amazed! We had to leave the experiment out for several days because it generated so much language! Such a talking point!

This week, we have also welcomed some new friends into our nursery. They have settled in really well and have already been enjoying getting to know everyone and getting to know their learning environment. We are looking forward to seeing all the progress our children will be making this Spring term!

Reception

RG

This week we have been subitising numbers to 6 in Maths. We have also harvested carrots which have grown in the Reception playground and we have had a chance to taste them.

RS

In literacy this week we have been learning the example text and the story song, we have been thinking about adjectives used to describe the main characters from the story. In music we have been learning wind the bobbin up and we had lots of fun trying to find the beat in different songs.

1F

What a busy week 1F have had!

This week in PE (dance) the children children practiced moving around the hall as a jungle animal. The children used their imaginations to stomp like an elephant, fly like a bird, slither like a snake and swing like a monkey. In maths the children worked very hard with subtraction within 20. They used their

number lines to jump backwards and even wrote a number sentence showing this. In English this week the children first planned the opening for their own story, then wrote this up in full.

1M

This week the children really enjoyed practicing their throwing skills in PE. We practiced rolling, over arm throw and under arm throw. They worked together in teams to score points. Also in Geography this week we have been learning about the United Kingdom. The children really enjoyed learning about Scotland and England.

Year 2

2K

In Year 2 this week we have been learning about shapes. We have been naming and describing 2D and 3D shapes. In Geography we have been focusing on weather and climate and recording daily weather patterns. In English we have begun to plan and write our own stories.

2R

Year 2 have had a very busy week. The children have been looking at 3D shapes, learning the characteristics as well as sorting 3D shapes and completing patterns. We have also got our body moving in science to see how movement effects our body as well as looking more at the weather and seasons in Geography.

Year 3

3D

This week in English, the children have been planning and writing their own setting description about their new book 'The rhythm of the rain'. In science, we have been learning about friction and how objects move differently on different surfaces. The children worked in groups to see which surfaces had the most friction and the least friction.

3T

In PE this week, we recapped our tuck sit, pike sit and straddle sit before moving onto a shoulder stand. In English I was really impressed with 3T's description in their writing! They really made me want to visit their settings that they had described. In computing, we used the IPADS to take photos of different kinds of fruit. We then took inspiration from Edward Weston (a famous photographer) and edited them into black and white pictures.

Year 4

4J

What an exciting week 4J has had! We have had Mrs Burke and Miss O'Keefe join the Year Four team this half term! Children have been working on their character descriptions this week, ensuring that they are using features such as fronted adverbials and alternative nouns. 4J have explored division during maths lessons, challenging their problem solving and reasoning skills. A reminder to all parents to continue to practice times tables at home using the Times Table Rockstar app.

4R

4R have been working really hard this week! We had the exciting news the Mrs Burke will be joining us in year 4 and will be helping us with our learning. The children have been working towards writing a character description in writing, trying hard to include features such as alternative nouns and adjectives. We have also began to explore multiplying and dividing by 10 and 100 and working hard to solve problems and explain their reasoning. The MTC isn't far away now so a big push on learning those times tables!

Year 5

5H

This week we have worked extremely hard to develop our formal methods of multiplication and have worked hard to use this skill to answer real life problems. We are really enjoying the story of 'The Hound

of the Baskervilles' and can't wait to find out what happens. While we continue to explore the text, we will write our own cliff hanger endings to a story. We have also been exploring the orbits of the planets and how this affects life on Earth.

5F

This week we have worked extremely hard to develop our formal methods of multiplication and have worked hard to use this skill to answer real life problems. We are really enjoying the story of 'The Hound of the Baskervilles' and can't wait to find out what happens. While we continue to explore the text, we will write our own cliff hanger endings to a story. We have also been exploring the Anglo Saxon kingdoms and how they differ to how England looks today.

Year 6

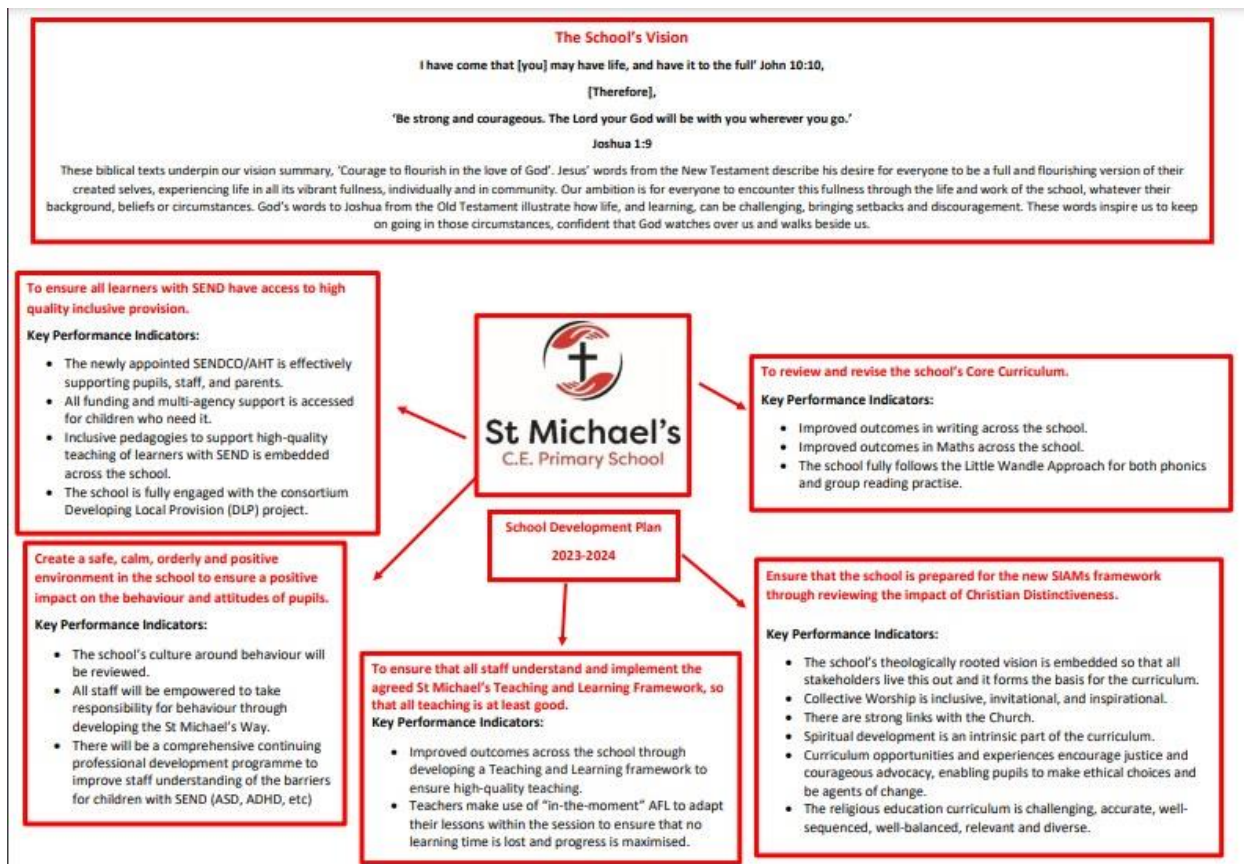
Year 6:

Wow it has been another busy week across Year 6! The children have certainly impressed us in their writing lessons as they have continued with their narrative writing based on Charles Darwin's Origin of the Species. We have used role play and freeze frames to portray how Charles and Captain FitzRoy may have felt when they arrived at new places and the children have generated some fantastic descriptive language. In P.E, the children have been working hard on their serving techniques in Badminton and have shown great teamwork when playing 2 V 2 games. We would also like to thank you for your support with the children's new homework; they have shown great perseverance and responsibility in completing this and we hope this will help them get ready for secondary school. Well done Year 6 - keep up the hard work!

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.*
-

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
