

St Michael's Church of England Primary School Newsletter

Friday 1st December 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,

I can hardly believe that it is already December. Christmas is fast approaching. Please keep an eye on the key dates as we have lots of exciting things coming up!

Thank you to everyone who came to the open evening. We hope that you found it useful to see the work that your children has been doing and to have the chance to speak informally to their teacher. It was lovely to see so many of you.

Thank you also to those adults who were able to attend the Year 4 lunch and workshop. Again, we hope that you enjoyed having the chance to spend that time with your child.

As you will be aware, it looks like the weather is getting even colder next week. Please send children to school with coats, hats and gloves so that they can keep warm at break times.

Have a lovely weekend.

Mrs Roberts

Headteacher

Nursery Places

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.

A message from Reverend Ruth

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.

Christmas services

- *10th December at 10.00 am Toy Service please bring a new unwrapped toy for a child who will have very little at Christmas.*
 - *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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Christmas Gift Donations

We are once again asking for any donations of Christmas presents this year that we can offer out to our families in need during this festive period. We were overwhelmed with donations last year and were able to help many families. If you are able to donate any gifts for either boys or girls aged 2-11 years, please hand these into the school office by Friday 8th December. Please do not wrap the gifts.

If you are needing any support during Christmas and could benefit from these donations, please speak to myself in the school office.

Many thanks in advance.

Miss Cockell

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:

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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





*The whole school's attendance target is 96%. The whole school attendance for the year so far is **94.5%**. Unfortunately, our persistent absence is **15.5%**. 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.

Class Attendance - for this year so far!

RG - 92.9%

RS - 92.2%

1F - 93.9%

1M - 91.6%

2K - 92.4%

2R - 94.1%

3D - 94.3%

3T - 97.7%

4J - 93.9%

4R - 95.9%

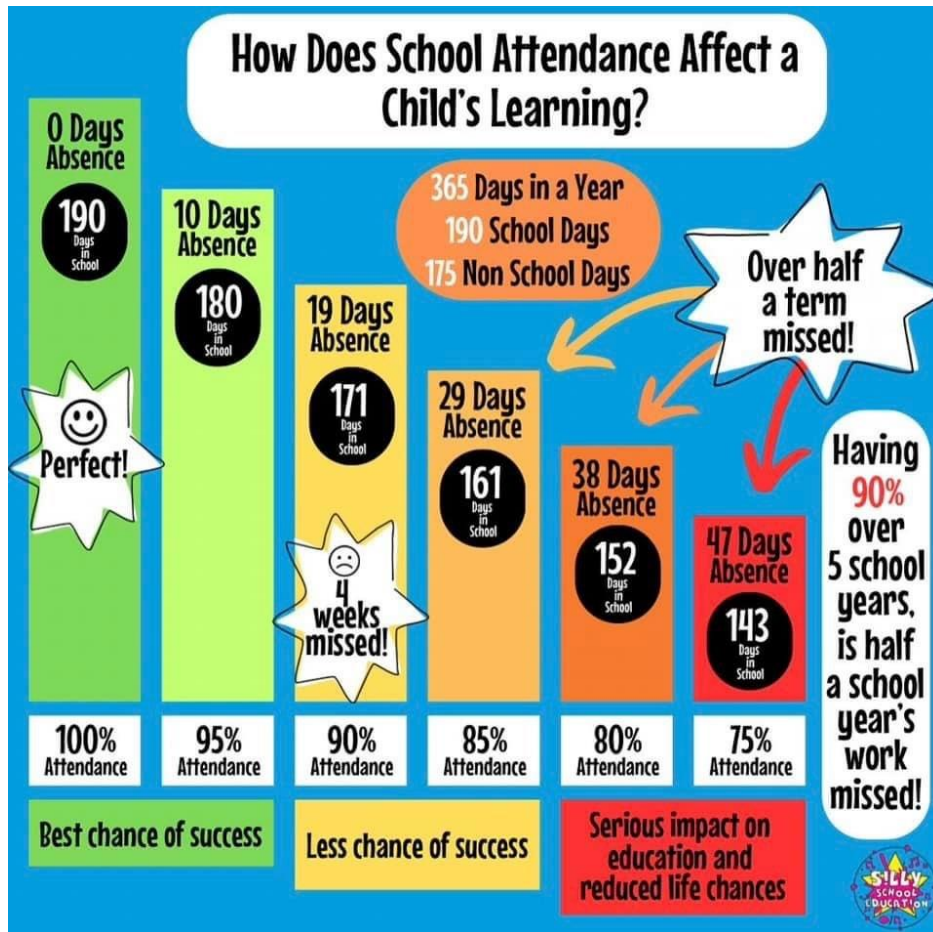
5F - 95.6%

5H - 95.4%

6H - 95.7%

6L - 93.6%

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/>

Bring it on Brum

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/>

Advice For Parents On Children Vaping

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/>

Key Dates

Thursday 7th December: Year 3 Hannukah Assembly (9.00am).

Friday 8th December: Year 1 trip to ThinkTank.

Monday 11th December at 2.30pm: Nursery Carol Concert for parents and carers.

Tuesday 12th December at 9.15am: Brass Concert.

Wednesday 13th December: Year 2 trip to Aston Hall.

Thursday 14th December at 2pm and 4pm: Year 5 Christmas Production at school (details sent on Arbor).

Friday 15th December: Christmas Grotto and Christmas Jumper Day.

Tuesday 19th December: Whole School Pantomime.

Wednesday 20th December at 2pm and 4pm: Reception Nativity (details sent on 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 to follow).

Friday 22nd December: Last day of term.

Stars of the Week

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

Nursery

Jack - For really working hard to answer questions on the carpet and playing collaboratively with the other children.

Zain - For growing in confidence when working with adults.

Reception

RG

Theodore W- Theodore has been working really hard in our maths lessons this week, he has been able to subitise numbers 1 to 5.

Abigail- Abigail has been working hard to learn and practice her lines for the Nativity, she has grown in confidence to say her lines in front of Reception. Well done!

RS

Mikail- Mikail always has excellent marvellous manors and is a fantastic WOW walking role model.

Araeyah- Araeyah has tried really hard with her writing this week, she has used her segmenting fingers to independently sound out words and write a phrase. Great work!

Year 1

1F

Austen - For always wow walking when moving around the school.

Jack - For consistently using good manners, especially thank you.

1M

Isabelle -For wow walking and being a role model.

Hunter - For making a tasty smoothie and working really hard during DT day.

Year 2

2K

Alanah P - For working very hard in her Maths with Miss Thompson. Well done.

David- For working very hard in Maths and trying very hard to complete challenges.

2R

Arif- For trying really hard in History, always having his hand up and sharing his ideas.

Aaliyah- For being always being a sensible and respectful member of the class.

Year 3

3D

Quinis - For trying really hard in every lesson

Elena - For always showing Wow Walking around school.

3T

Darcey - For trying really hard when dividing in Maths.

Bailey - For a fantastic effort in his writing this week.

Year 4

4J

Harry - For his goal keeping skills in Handball.

Areng - For her Wow Walking outside of school.

4R

Jusuf- For working really hard to improve his handwriting.

Beau- For the improvement in his presentation.

Year 5

5F

Dylan Hainsley - For outstanding effort and inspirational ideas in writing.

Maya - For always being kind, caring and a pleasure to have in the classroom.

5H

Dylan C - for making the A choice during lessons

Shamsiye - for working independently during lessons

Year 6

6H

Ayah - For working so hard on our new mathematical concept - long division!

Olivia F - For joining in and singing so beautifully in our assembly on Wednesday!

6L

Brooke R - For making amazing progress with her presentation and handwriting!

Ellie W - For showing an excellent understanding of long division!

Pupils of the Month

These children have been chosen by their classmates. They have been chosen for consistently demonstrating the school's values and being positive role models.

Nursery

Georgio - For always being eager to learn and showing a "can do" attitude.

Reception

RG

Theodore J, for being a role model to his peers as well as a kind friend. Theodore is always using Marvellous Manners and doing Wow Walking.

RS

Juana, for being such a kind friend. Juana is always one of the first children to comfort someone when they are feeling upset and she is also fantastic at sharing,

Year 1

1F

Matilda Bloxham has been chosen for being such a kind and caring member of the class.

1M

Neve has been chosen for always being a kind friend and being a fantastic role model in school.

Year 2

2K

Millie has been chosen for being a great friend and always being kind.

2R

Elim has been chosen for always being kind, responsible and respectful.

Year 3

3D - Theo has been chosen for pupil of the month for being a kind friend to everyone in the class.

3T - Isaac has been chosen for being an excellent role model to his peers and for being super kind to everyone on the playground.

Year 4

4R

Daisy- For being a kind friend and helping others

4J

Kyle - For showing the school values and being a trustworthy friend.

Year 5

5F

Thomas has been chose for pupil of the month in 5F for the following reasons:

- *Using marvellous manners*
 - *Being a STAR*
 - *Wow walking*
 - *Always helping others*
 - *He is always kind*
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5H

Alex has been chosen as pupil of the month because he always helps other children if they are finding something difficult. He always tries his best and is a good friend.

Year 6

6H

Za'Varyna has been chosen for Pupil of the Month because she is always caring, supportive and looking out for everyone in the class. She is a fantastic role model, helper and always tried her best in everything that she does. Well done, Za'Varyna... what amazing qualities to have!

6L

Josh has been chosen by his classmates for pupil of the month because he is kind-hearted, a good sport, an amazing, great friend, respectful and tries hard in his work! Wow, well done Josh!

What is happening in the classroom?

Nursery

This week the Nursery children have said "Goodbye" to Autumn and "Hello" to Winter. We raced Ice penguins down the bamboo chutes, made marks in 'flour snow' using different paint brushes, made salt dough christmas decorations, looked at what clothes we will need in the cold weather and read our new story of the week; The Snowman. We were introduced to the idea of 'Helicopter stories', an activity which allows the children to act out favourite stories and we all got involved in the re-telling of The Snowman.

The children also seem very excited about the build up to Christmas and have been enthusiastically practising our Christmas songs. You may have heard them singing at home as there are some very catchy tunes!

Reception

RG

This week RG have started a new story in Literacy called Star in a Jar. We have read the book and discussed the items of treasure from it. In Maths this week we have been learning to subitise numbers 1 to 5 using the standard dice arrangements.

RS

This week RS have been learning about celebrations. They have been discussing things we celebrate and why we celebrate them. They have been using their fine motor skills to cut and stick, creating their own class bunting and using their gross motor skills outside to paint lights on a string using paintbrushes on long sticks.

Year 1

1F - This week in English, the children have been introduced to the story of Rapunzel. The children were given the book cover and had to predict what they thought might happen. The imagination from the children was amazing.

In DT this week the children have designed their own smoothies. They learned all about where fruits and vegetables grow and what fruits they would include in their own smoothie. In addition to tasting a range of fruits and making their own smoothie, they also designed their own packaging for it. Dragons Den, here we come!

1M

The children has a fantastic day on Tuesday when we had our DT day. We looked at where fruit and vegetables come from and then we made our own tasty smoothies. They all worked really hard and had a fun day.

Year 2

2K

This week in 2K we have been trying very hard with addition and subtraction. We have even started to add and subtract 2 digit numbers crossing over 10. We are still finding this a little bit tricky but we will get there with lots of practise. In English we have been continuing with 'The Night Gardener' and we are learning lots of skills to enable us to write a diary.

2R

In 2R this week we have been trying really hard in Maths adding 2-digit numbers crossing 10. We have also been exploring The Great Fire of London, where we discussed the differences and similarities in life in 1666 compared to life now.

Year 3

3D

This week, the children have been practicing their roles for the Year 3 Hanukkah assembly. This included certain children reading their lines about what Hannukah is and how Jewish people celebrate this as well as learning a song which we will be sung during the assembly.

3T

In Maths this week, 3T have worked super hard dividing by 4. They have been solving reasoning problems, making sure that they show their working out. In English, we have been learning about fables. The texts we have been learning about, have had the moral - never trust a stranger. In RE, we have created a fact file all about Ramadan. I have been really impressed with the work we have been producing. Well done 3T!

Year 4

4J

During this weeks lesson 4J have been very focused! During Handball lessons, children were practising their penalty throws using a one handed arm throw. Children have been writing the narrative in English lessons where we have included the skills we have explored over the past few weeks. During Maths, we have found our seven TimesTables tricky this week please continue to practice at home.

4R

In this weeks, lessons, 4R have been working really hard to finish off our outsider narratives in writing and have wasted no time in starting their next unit of writing. We have continued our work with multiplication in maths, beginning to learn our seven times tables. In science, we have been planning our experiment for next week where we will be testing what materials conduct electricity.

Year 5

5H

This week we have been looking at equivalent fractions. The children have looked at different ways of finding equivalent fractions and how to compare them. During English, we have used different prefixes in our writing and have begun to look at the structure of letters. We have looked at maps of Bartley Green and compared them with an area of France to help us understand why people choose to live in different places.

5F

This week, in Maths, we have been continuing with our fraction work. Our focus this week is equivalent fractions, which involves finding a common denominator. During English, we have used different prefixes in our writing and have begun to look at the structure and varying language used in letters. In PHSE, we have looked at bullying, what it involves and how we can deal appropriately with it if it arises. As well as this, we have been continuing to learn and rehearse our Christmas production in preparation for rehearsals next week.

Year 6

6H

What another busy week! Thank you so much to the parents who came to look at their children's work on Tuesday - you should be so proud of everything they have achieved so far... I know I am!

This week, 6H, have been exploring the importance of VE Day and making Propaganda posters to advertise this key event. We have also been carefully looking after our 'home-made' fossils and increasing the weight, in line with the sediment weight ... who knew sweets and stale bread would develop such a discussion in our science lesson! Finally, we have been moving on to long division - keep going Year 6, not the easiest of mathematical concepts but well done for all your hard work and determination!

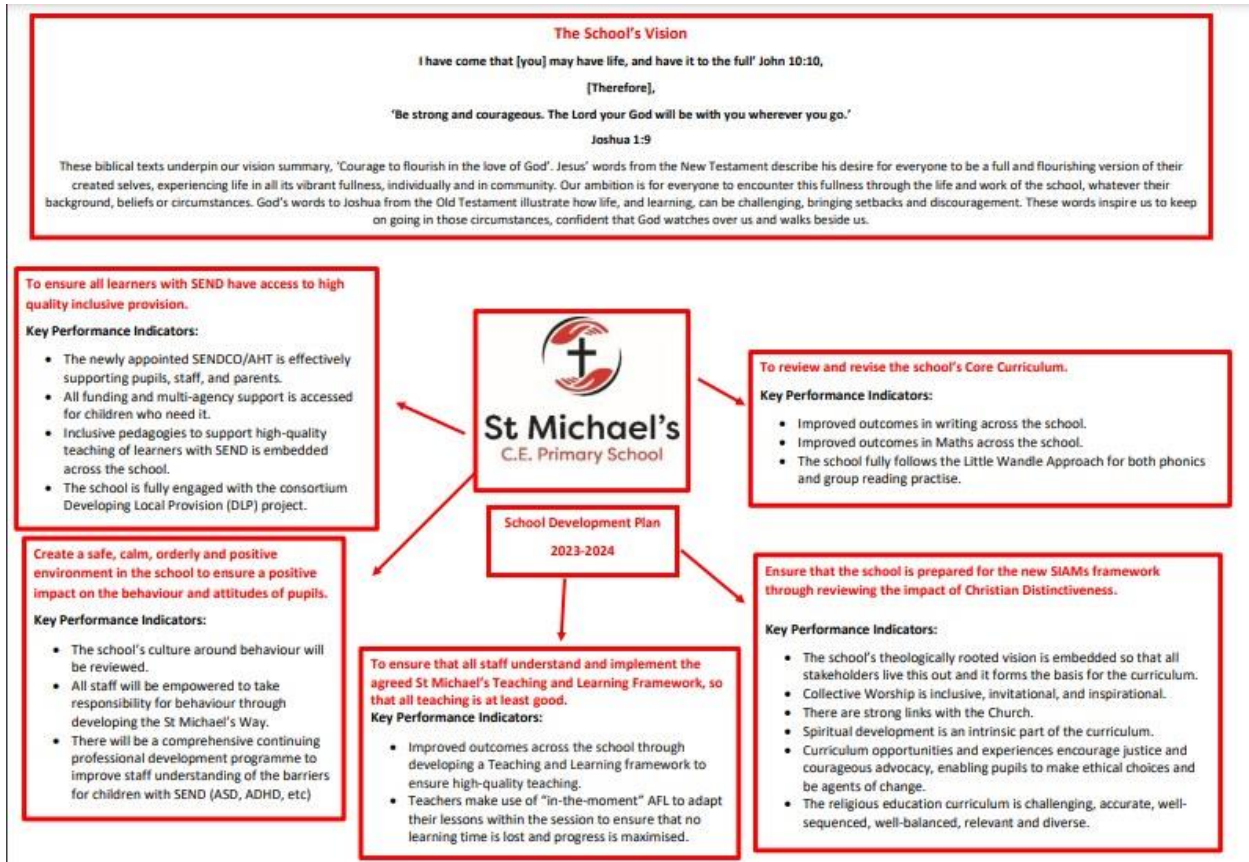
6L

Wow, 6L have been continuing their amazing work in the classroom and we are so proud of their fantastic learning. In History, we have created Propaganda posters to advertise VE Day (Victory in Europe). The children have been loving our new book that we have explored in writing - A Story Like the Wind. They have explored expanded noun phrases, similes and antonyms and new vocabulary in preparation for writing their own flashback story. Keep up the super 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 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 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.*
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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
