

St Michael's Church of England Primary School Newsletter



Friday 20th October 2023

I have come that [you] may have life, and have it to the full' John 10:10,

[Therefore],

'Be strong and courageous. The Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.' Joshua 1:9

These biblical texts underpin our vision summary, 'Courage to Flourish in the Love of God'.

Jesus' words from the New Testament describe his desire for everyone to be a full and flourishing version of their created selves, experiencing life in all its vibrant fullness, individually and in community.

Our ambition is for everyone to encounter this fullness through the life and work of the school, whatever their background, beliefs or circumstances.

God's words to Joshua from the Old Testament illustrate how life, and learning, can be challenging, bringing setbacks and discouragement. These words inspire us to keep on going in those circumstances, confident that God watches over us and walks beside us.

The joining of these biblical texts is meaningful for the particular circumstances of our school community. It gives coherence to our aspirational vision that will grow courage and resilience as enablers of 'life in all its fullness' for everyone.

Message from Mrs Roberts

Dear Parents and Carers,

Reverend Ruth led our Collective Worship on Monday. She continued to look at the story, Jesus Calms the Storm (Mark 4:35-41). She focused on how the disciples would have felt afraid but found courage through their faith in Jesus. Reverend Ruth left us with the question, 'Have you ever felt afraid and if so, what gave you courage?'

I hope you have a lovely weekend.

Mrs Roberts

Headteacher

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 already at **19%**. Please ensure your child comes to school every day.*

Class Attendance - for this year so far!

RG - 94.4%

RS - 91.6%

1F - 93.2%

1M - 89.5%

2K - 93.1%

2R - 94%

3D - 93.2%

3T - 97.2%

4J - 94.2%

4R - 96.8%

5F - 95.6%

5H - 95.2%

6H - 95.4%

6L - 92.9%

NHS guidance for parents about illnesses and when their child should be in school or kept at home

The guidance can be found below:

<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

Action For Children - Advice For Parents On Children Vaping

The guidance can be found below:

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

Pupil Progress Meetings

Thank you to everyone who was able to attend the Pupil Progress Meetings this week. We hope that you found them informative and enjoyed having the time to speak to your child's teacher. We really enjoyed

having the opportunity to meet with you or speak to you on the telephone. Attendance for each class was:

Nursery: 100%

RG: 81%

RS: 85%

1M: 89%

1F: 88%

2K: 93%

2R: 86%

3D: 86%

3T: 93%

4R: 84%

4J: 84%

5H: 93%

5F: 90%

6L: 93%

6H: 84%

For the attention of Year 6 parents and carers

Online admissions opened on 1 September 2023 for Year 7 2024 applications. Parents resident in Birmingham should apply through the Birmingham City Council website www.birmingham.gov.uk/schooladmissions up until the deadline of 31 October 2023. Further

information, as well as the admission arrangements to support parents with making their preferences, can be found on the Birmingham City Council website. Advice and support is also available from Children's Services on 0121 303 1888.

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

Reminders

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

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

Key Dates

Monday 23rd October: Key Stage 1 Headteacher Awards Celebration (invitations will be sent out the week before).

Tuesday 24th October: Year 1 at the Library.

Tuesday 24th October: Key Stage 2 Headteacher Awards Celebration (invitations will be sent out the week before).

Wednesday 25th October: Year 5 Parent/Carer Lunch (details will be sent out in a separate letter nearer to the time).

Thursday 26th October: Reception Welcome Service at St Michael's Church (parents and carers welcome) at 9.15am.

Thursday 26th October: Last day for the children to attend this half term.

Friday 27th October: School Closed for BDMAT Staff Training Day.

Monday 6th November: Return to school.

W/b Monday 13th November: Anti-bullying week.

Tuesday 14th : Year 2 Diwali Assembly (details to follow).

Thursday 9th December: Year 6 at St Michael's for the Remembrance Service (children only).

Wednesday 15th November - Friday 17th November - Year 6 Residential.

Wednesday 15th November: Year 2 parent and carer lunch and lesson.

Wednesday 15th November: Coffee morning for parents and carers of children with SEND (Ms Joyce will be sending out further details regarding this).

Friday 17th November: Children in Need (details to follow).

Tuesday 21st November: Reception phonics workshop for parents and carers.

Tuesday 21st November: Year 5 at the library.

Wednesday 22nd November: Year 1 phonics workshop for parents and carers.

Thursday 23rd November: Year 4 parent and carer lunch and lesson.

Friday 24th November : photographer in school (solo and sibling photos).

Tuesday 28th November: Open Evening for parents and carers to look at their children's books.

Tuesday 28th November: Year 4 at the library.

Tuesday 5th December at 2pm: Nursery Carol Concert for parents and carers.

Thursday 7th December: Year 3 Hannukah Assembly (details to follow).

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

Thursday 14th December at 4pm: Year 5 Christmas Production at school (further details to follow).

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 to follow).

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

Leila - for having a fantastic week and beginning to learn the classroom rules and routines.

Ethan - for trying really hard to join in more during carpet time.

Reception

Juana has really impressed Miss Slattery with her communication this week. She has been frequently putting her hand up and participating during carpet times.

Abdulrahman has been making excellent choices on the carpet. He has been a great role model and influence on his friends.

Noah Y has been trying really hard in maths this week, putting his hand up to answer questions.

Mariam -for always being a kind friend to her peers, she is always there to help and encourage others who need it.

Year 1

Ben - for trying his best in maths.

Conor H - for trying his best in phonics.

Kizhan - for being really helpful and supporting her friends.

Hugo - for trying his best in everything he does.

Year 2

Scarlett- for always trying her hardest in every lesson, showing she is always ready and respectful.

Bella- for always being responsible, respectful and kind.

Olivia - for always using her marvellous manners.

Ellie- for always being a role model and working hard.

Year 3

Jorgie - for trying hard in every lesson and always showing you are ready.

Olivia - for always being a role model and showing your Marvellous Manners.

Jake J - for fantastic presentation in Maths when using the formal written method.

Freddie S for writing an amazing warning tale and taking pride in his presentation.

Year 4

Mira- for her amazing narrative she wrote in writing.

Loay- for showing great skills in football PE lessonsz.

Elijah H - For improving his Wow Waling around school.

Oscar - For the use of his Marvellous Manners at school.

Year 5

Ruby C- for supporting other children to improve their handwriting

Chloe-Mai - for a huge improvement in maths

Kacey-Mae - for the massive improvement you have made since starting at St Michael's and the positive attitude you now have to your work and those around you.

Connor Mem - for outstanding work in maths and enthusiastic attitude to work in all lessons.

Year 6

Abigail L - for working really hard in our writing lessons - understanding the use of relative pronouns and relative clauses.

Bobby B - for trying really hard in our grammar lessons and implementing the use of relative pronouns and clauses.

Megan B - for always participating in every lesson and sharing her fantastic ideas and answers. Well done!

Sophie - for working incredibly hard in our Black History Month lesson and producing a fantastic piece of work about Lilian Bader.

Pupil of the Month

Nursery

Eden - for always being responsible, sensible and helpful in the classroom and around the school. Eden exhibits Wow Walking when moving along the corridors and is great at remembering her Marvellous Manners!

Reception

Ivy is always so engaged on the carpet. She always has her hand up and showing the correct learning behaviour, she is a fantastic role model and a pleasure to have in the class.

Chanel has settled into reception really well. She is always a good role model and showing her marvellous manners.

Year 1

Joseph - fantastic contributions during class learning time. Joseph is very engaged during input time and will regularly share his ideas, experiences and knowledge on relevant topics with the whole class.

Poppy - for being a kind and caring friend.

Year 2

Harry- for always showing kindness and being a fantastic friend to his peers.

Hadiatu - for always working hard and for having lovely handwriting.

Year 3

James D - for always putting in 100% effort and being a role model> James consistently demonstrates marvellous manners and WOW walking throughout school.

Lilly-Poppy got picked by many classmates for for being an excellent role model and a wonderful friend to everyone. Well done Lilly!

Year 4

Gabriel I - many of Gabriel's classmates spoke about his amazing attitude towards learning and how he is a great friend to have. Gabriel always shows kindness to others around school.

Sophia- for always working hard in lessons and being a good friend to everyone in the class!

Year 5

Anya - for being a great friend and being kind to everyone

Colby - for being a great friend, excellent helper and always giving 100%

Year 6

Olivia D (6H):

Olivia was picked by 6H for Pupil of the Month because she is always ready, respectful, helpful and kind. She constantly checks in on people who are possibly sad or unhappy and will ensure that they okay. Olivia is a fantastic role model and we are incredibly lucky to have her in our class!

Amaziah D-M (6L):

Amaziah was picked by many of his classmates for Pupil of the month because they have noticed that he has been trying really hard in lessons and even when he finds things challenging, he has put in the effort needed to achieve. 6L explain that he is a role model in maths and has been answering lots of questions and explaining his thinking. Well done Amaziah, your hard work hasn't gone unnoticed!

What is happening in the classroom?

Nursery

This week in Nursery, we have carried on our exploration of instruments by thinking about how we can move our bodies in different ways to the sounds. The children also enjoyed making their own shakers by choosing from a range of materials to add to their shaker egg, including rice, chickpeas, lentils or beans. We then listened to how all their shakers sounded different!

We have also continued with our autumnal activities by mark making on chalkboard pumpkins, creating leaf rubbings, using our new conker run and using painted apple halves to print a pumpkin pattern.

Reception

RG- In Understanding the World we have been thinking about where in the world our families come from. In Literacy we have been innovating the story of Hairy Mclairy by creating our own dog to add to the story.

RS have been exploring pumpkins this week. We have been using our fine motor skills to tap in sticks and pegs into the pumpkin and using white board pens to practice writing our name on the pumpkin. In maths we have been learning about number five and exploring the concept of a high five and that they have 5 fingers on their hand.

Year 1

1M - We have been writing an A-Z poem about Autumn in Bartley Green. The children took inspiration from their local walk around Bartley Green. They have also really enjoyed Maths this week as they have been exploring part-whole models and looking at what is the whole amount and what are the parts.

1F - This week we have been looking at rainfall. We collected rain that had fallen outside and together we recorded the amount on a bar chart. The Children then had the opportunity to conduct their own scientific experiment with measuring jugs and liquid. The children have also been writing their own A-Z Autumn poem. They have taken inspiration from their local area walk and together generated words for each letter of the alphabet.

Year 2

In 2K this week we have been practising our handwriting. We are working hard to improve it. We have also been learning all about acrostic poems. We are going to write our own next week. In maths we have been focusing on our number bonds to 10 and in science we have been doing a fun experiment to see the what properties different materials have.

In 2R this week we have been looking at Acrostic poems. We have then been using different animals to make our own poems. In maths we have been focusing on our number bonds to 10 and in science we have been doing a fun experiment to see the what properties different materials have.

Year 3

3D - In Science this week we have been looking at different types of soil including compost, sandy soil and chalk. The children looked at the appearance, texture and colour of each soil before completing a table in their books, comparing each type.

3T - In English, we have been looking at and listening to different types of Poetry. We then started to focus on simile poems in preparation for writing our own, all about ourselves! In Maths, we have been adding and subtracting using the written formal methods. In RE, we sequenced the Christian Creation story in our own words and drew pictures to represent each day. 3T work super hard each week and should be extremely proud of themselves!

Year 4

4J - The children have been taking part in a Science Experiment this week where they have been monitoring the link between temperature and evaporation. Children are now monitoring and recording their results. During Writing lessons, children have been writing their narratives about a champion charioteer! They've been trying so hard to ensure they include ambitious vocabulary, front adverbials and correct punctuation. We have been using our rounding skills to estimate in Maths.

4R- The children have been working really hard writing their narratives in their writing lessons. In maths, we have been learning about the most efficient methods for adding and subtracting and how to estimate answers using our rounding skills. In history, the children have been learning about how the Romans have influenced our society and in science, we have conducted an experiment to see how temperature and evaporation are linked.

Year 5

5H - This week we have been investigating pulleys and how they make it easier to lift a load. We have also been writing a narrative with a focus on speech punctuation and have had fun creating conversations between the teacher and the children.

5F - This week we have been investigating the effect of water resistance and friction have on a falling object. In writing we have completed our 'BIG write' narrative; with a focus on speech punctuation and have had fun creating conversations between the teacher and the children. In maths, we are furthering our understanding and comprehension of column addition and subtraction challenges that include exchanges.

Year 6

6L - This week the children have been working incredibly hard on their character descriptions and narrative writing in our English lessons. They have thought carefully about the protagonist for their own 'Rags to Riches' tale and have described their character's looks and personality traits using a wide range of descriptive and cohesive techniques, such as relative pronouns and relative clauses. Their ideas are always amazing and we are so proud of what they achieve each week. Well done 6L!

6H - This week the children have been working really hard in their History lessons and focusing particularly on The Battle of Britain. They have looked at Propaganda posters related to The Battle of Britain and have evaluated the important messages behind these. The children then did a vote based on which poster they thought was the most influential and conveyed the message the most.

Well done, 6H - you impress me every single week with your hard work and effort!

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 yourname on it). This should only have water in it and have a pop up top (not a screw top as if these fall over on the desks, they will ruin the children's work).*

✓ *A school bag or bookbag.*

✓ *A healthy fruit snack for breaktime (Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are provided with this).*

✓ *You can bring your scooter or bike to school if you wish. Please remember to wear a helmet and not to ride them whilst on school grounds.*

X *As always, please remember not to bring in any toys or stationery from home, unless it has been specifically requested by your teacher.*

X *No non-prescribed medication. Any medication that has been prescribed must be handed by the parent/carer to the school office staff who will ask you to complete a medication form detailing- permission and dosage.*

Medical and Dietary Information

It is very important that we have up-to-date medical information including new Care Plans so we will be sending these out for you to review, complete and return. Any other updated health information should be sent in via the school office.

Please remember to inform the school of any changes to your child's medical or dietary needs.

Please also ensure that any prescribed medication, including an inhaler or EpiPen, is in-date and in school - it is parents responsibility to ensure this.

Free School Meals, Toast and Price Changes

All children in Year's Reception - Year 2 are entitled to a 'Universal Free School Meal'.

When a child enters Year 3 this entitlement ends. If you would like your child to receive a school dinner your will need to:

- Check you eligibility for a FSM here: [Online FSM Application \(cloudforedu.org.uk\)](https://cloudforedu.org.uk) School will be notified of the outcome of your application and proceed accordingly.*
 - Top up your 'School Food United' account to ensure there are funds to pay for your child's meals. The price for a school meal for the academic year 23/24 is £2.80 per day. Remember that these need to be ordered by **8.30 am** each day.*
 - We will no longer be accepting cash for toast, this will also need to be ordered each down through 'School Food United' The cost per day is 25p. Children will receive their toast at their break time between around 10.30am. Remember that these need to be ordered by **8.30 am** each day.*
 - We sent out guidance of how to create/use your 'School Food United' app via Arbor last week - if you require any further assistance please speak to a member of the school office.*
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Birthdays

Natasha's Law came into effect on 1st October 2021. We appreciate that there may be some special times throughout the year when children may wish to bring sweets or chocolate in to share with their friends (e.g birthdays), please may we ask that children only bring in prepacked sweets such as Haribos which can then be handed out at the end of the day before children go and see their parents or guardians. Please understand that we cannot accept any homemade or individual sweets as this will not comply with Natasha's Law or current allergen requirements.

Nut Free School

A reminder that the school is a nut-free zone as several children and members of have severe nut allergies. Please make sure that no nuts are brought to school and please check the ingredients on packets carefully. Thank you for helping us to keep all our community safe.

School Uniform

- *White polo shirt (with/without logo).*
 - *Red sweatshirt or cardigan (with or without logo).*
 - *Grey or black trousers, skirt or pinafore.*
 - *Red and white check dress (summer).*
 - *Grey or black shorts (summer).*
 - *Black shoes.*
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P.E Uniform

- *Red or black shorts.*
 - *White t-shirt (with or without the school logo).*
 - *Black bumps/trainers.*
 - *Black tracksuit bottoms for outdoor games in winter.*
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Pumps are needed for indoor PE and must come in a separate bag for children to change into for the lesson. Trainers are not to be worn inside. Please make sure that your child has a pair of pumps onsite in case the weather means we need to do P.E inside.

You can also purchase a hoodie with the school logo on for P.E. from the office. This is not compulsory.



Labelling

We understand how much a new uniform and school items cost and we try our best to ensure the children look after their clothing and bags. Please label your child's clothing, bags, lunch boxes, shoes and water bottles to help us return lost items to their owner.

Contact Details

Telephone Numbers

Schools should hold two contact numbers for emergencies for each child. Please ensure these are up to date on your Arbor account.

Email Address

We communicate with parents and carers through email. Please do check your email address is up to date on Arbor.

Twitter/X

Please follow us on:

@stmichaelsb32
