

# St Michael's Church of England Primary School Newsletter

**Friday 22nd December 2023**

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

**[Therefore],**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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## ***Message from Mrs Roberts***

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*Dear Parents and Carers,*

*Welcome to the last newsletter of 2023.*

*The whole school went to St Michael's Church on Thursday as an end of term celebration. It was a beautiful service and the children were fantastic. The singing was absolutely beautiful. A huge thank you to Reverend Ruth for always making us feel so welcome at church.*

*Well done to Reception as well. They did their first production this week and were superb. We are so proud of them.*

*As we draw the curtains on this eventful autumn term, I wanted to take a moment to express my heartfelt gratitude to each and every one of you for your unwavering support, collaboration, and trust in our school community.*

*The children have worked incredibly hard and we are incredibly proud of the progress they have made in all areas of school life.*

*I extend my deepest appreciation to our exceptional team of staff members who continuously go above and beyond to create an engaging and nurturing learning environment for our students.*

*As we approach the festive season and the well-deserved break, I encourage everyone to take this time to rest, rejuvenate, and cherish moments with loved ones.*

*Please stay tuned for updates on upcoming events, workshops, and opportunities for parental involvement. Your continued support and active participation in school activities are invaluable.*

*Wishing you all a joyous holiday season filled with laughter, love, and cherished memories.*

*Thank you once again for your unwavering support and partnership. I eagerly anticipate our continued journey together in the upcoming term.*

*Mrs Roberts*

*Headteacher*

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## **Thank you**

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*Thank you to everyone who has contributed to the Christmas present donation. As a result of your generosity, we were able to help 15 families. Thank you*

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## Staffing Update

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*Mrs Ranger will be leaving us today to take on some exciting new career opportunities. I want to express my thanks to Mrs Ranger for all of her hard work and commitment over the last two terms in her role of Acting Deputy Headteacher. She has brought joy and happiness to the school and she will be missed.*

*We have Mr Bhatti joining us as the substantive Deputy Headteacher. Mr Bhatti is an experienced leader from within the Trust with a proven track record in school improvement. We are very excited to have him join us at the school.*

*The Senior Leadership team will be:*

*Mrs Roberts (Headteacher)*

*Mr Bhatti (Deputy Headteacher)*

*Mr Immanuel (Deputy Headteacher)*

*Ms Joyce (Assistant Headteacher)*

*We also have Mr Dunbar joining us as a teacher. Mr Dunbar is an experienced teacher with a wealth of experience. I know that he will be another excellent addition to the team.*

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## Reminder

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*We have received reports from our neighbours on Scotland Lane of parents/carers parking on the yellow lines and causing obstructions. They are concerned that these obstructions are going to result in a child getting run over and injured. Can we please ask you to be mindful of where you are parking and the impact it may have on others.*

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## Key Dates

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*Monday 8th January: Teacher Training Day.*

*Tuesday 9th January: Children return to school.*

*Thursday 11th January - children at St Michael's Church.*

*Week beginning 15th January - Inter-faith Week (trip details to follow).*

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

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

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

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

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

*Monday 5th February - Year 1 Parent Workshop and Lunch (details to follow).*

*Tuesday 6th February - Online Safety Day.*

*Friday 9th February - Last day of Term.*

*Monday 19th February - Children return to school.*

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## **Nursery Places**

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

*Our nursery caters for children ages 3-4 years old.*

*Children can start our nursery, the term after they are 3. So if your child will be aged 3 by 31st December 2023, they will be eligible for a place.*

*If you would like to find out more about our Nursery and how to apply, please contact the School Office on 0121 464 4345 or visit us in person.*

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## **Bad Weather Conditions**

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*Should the weather be severe at any point through winter, we will let you know of any closures through Arbor communications.*

*As we are entering the winter months, I wanted to make you aware of the arrangements for if we are unable to open as a result of weather conditions. We will only do this as a last resort where we think there is a risk to the safety of pupils and staff. We have some staff who travel a long way and at times it may be unsafe for them to do so.*

*Please also be aware that as the snow often arrives between 7am and 9am, we may be in a position to open later in the morning when the air begins to warm slightly.*

*If we do need to close, this is what we will do:*

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- We will make you aware as soon we can via Arbor, the school website and Twitter (X).*
  - Work will be sent out for the children to complete by 10.30am. This will be sent via Arbor.*
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## Attendance



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*The whole school's attendance target is 96%. The whole school attendance for the year so far is **94.1%**. Unfortunately, our persistent absence is **18.4%**. Please ensure your child comes to school every day.*

*So far this academic year, we have had 16 families taking unauthorised leave in term time (holidays). This has resulted in £2932 in fixed penalty notices issued by Birmingham City Council. We ask that families do not take leave in term time as these will not be authorised by school.*

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## **Class Attendance - for this year so far!**

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*RG - 92.6%*

*RS - 91.6%*

*1F - 93%*

*1M - 91.1%*

*2K - 92.5%*

*2R - 93.4%*

*3D - 94%*

*3T - 96.5%*

*4J - 93.5%*

*4R - 96.3%*

*5F - 94.3%*

*5H - 95.2%*

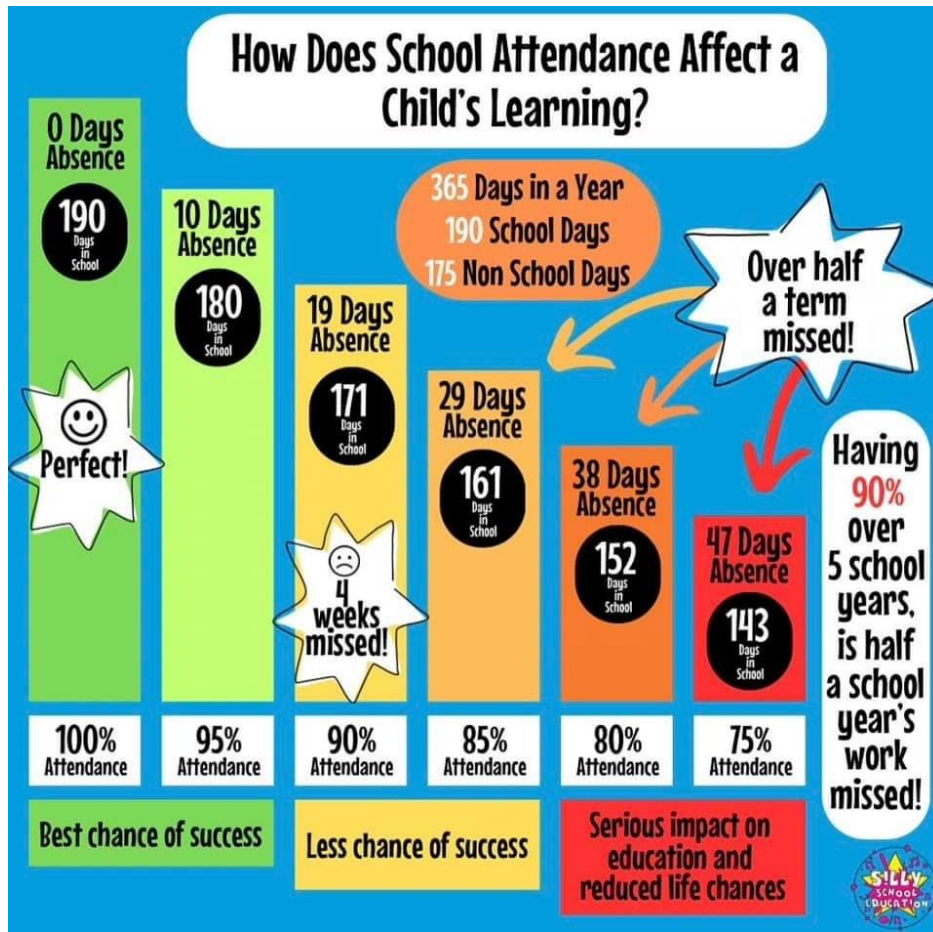
*6H - 95.6%*

*6L - 93.3%*

*We have had an increase in the number of late arrivals in the mornings. Gates open at 8:35am and shut promptly at 8:45am. Please ensure your child is on time everyday to begin their learning.*

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

The guidance can be found below:

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

Action For Children - Advice For Parents On Children Vaping

The guidance can be found below:

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

## Headteacher Awards

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*The following children were nominated by the adults in their classroom for consistently showing the school values, positive learning behaviour and outstanding behaviour throughout the half term .*

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### Nursery

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*Olivia - for giving 100% effort at everything she tries.*

*Teddy - for always doing the right thing and being a role model for the other children.*

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### Reception

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*RG*

*Theodore J -for always using Marvellous manners and being a role model.*

*Edom -for always being a really kind friend to her peers.*

*RS*

*Juana has made so much progress this past half term, she knows almost all of her sounds in phonics and her confidence has grown so much. She is such a kind and caring friend to her peers and it is so lovely to see her making so many friends. I am very proud of her!*

*Mikail is always making the right choices. He is always showing the 3Rs and is a fantastic role model. Mikail is always ready to learn on the carpet and showing that he is listening which is fantastic to see.*

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## Year 1

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1F

*Nora- for giving 100% to all of her work.*

*Xavier- for consistently being a role model.*

1M

*George - for always have marvellous manners and being a role model.*

*Harley - for trying super hard in phonics.*

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## Year 2

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2K

*Mikiyas - for being a great role model. Mikiyas always works hard and shows marvellous manners*

*Hadiatu - for amazing presentation in her work all the time.*

2R

*Lukeo works so hard every single day, no matter how hard he finds the work he will always give it his all.*

*Summer is always doing the right thing, always making the right choice and is an amazing friend to everyone in the class.*

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## Year 3

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3D

*Ben always tries his hardest in every lesson and shows his Wow Walking and Marvellous manners at all times. He is always polite to everyone and is a kind friend.*

*Olivia is a role model student to the rest of the children in the class and in the school. Her presentation is always completed to a high standard and she always does what we expect, going above and beyond in lesson.*

3T

*Ashira - because she is such a lovely addition to 3T. She is helpful, caring and tries her hardest in everything that she does. She is truly a St Michael's STAR.*

*May - because she is always so positive. She makes the A choice. She is helpful and even though she lacks confidence sometimes, she always tries her hardest.*

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## Year 4

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4J

*Gabriel - During our 'Parent Book Look', Gabriel spoke to his mother and nan about all of the exciting topics we have covered during Autumn Term. Gabriel confidently spoke about the Romans including dates and key events. Well done Gabriel.*

*Elizabeth has been increasing in confidence during this Autumn term. At the start of the year Elizabeth found contributing to class discussion challenging. However, now I'm so pleased to say Elizabeth is contributing and working independently!*

4R

*Tantoluwa is a role model student who is always putting her hand up in the classroom and working to the best of her ability. She has embraced the St Michael's way and her work is always beautifully presented.*

*Joshua has worked hard this term to improve his work. His presentation of his work has improved greatly and is always completed to a high standard. He is polite to all adults around school and is kind to everybody.*

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## **Year 5**

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*5F*

*Oscar has more recently shown a lot of maturity both inside the classroom and outside of it. He has produced amazing work in English and put a real effort in his foundation subjects - such as Geography and Science. He is working extremely hard and always getting himself involved in classroom discussions. Keep up the good work, Oscar!*

*Cerys is a role model to every member of our class and child at St Michael's. She always has a great attitude and determination to her work which shows through what she produces. She is extremely kind, caring and polite. Cerys is and always will be a pleasure to teach. Well done, Cerys!*

*5H*

*Mia is a fantastic role model to her class and the whole school. She always makes the right choices and tries hard in every lesson. She follows our marvellous manners, A choice and star and is a pleasure to have in the class.*

*Dylan C has worked extremely hard to improve in all aspects of his work. He has worked especially hard to develop his writing and the skill of editing his own work and always pushes himself to develop the range of vocabulary he is using.*

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## **Year 6**

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*6H*

*Charlie A - for always going above and beyond in the classroom!*

*Lacey G - for being such a helpful, respectful and wonderful member of our class!*

6L

*Maddison G1 - for ALWAYS displaying our school values and rules. She is a true role model and an absolute delight to have in the classroom. She is incredibly helpful to adults and children and always wants to do her best. Well done, Maddison!*

*Sasan - For making outstanding progress in all areas of the curriculum. Sasan works so hard in every lesson and listens carefully to feedback and advice. He has a fantastic attitude to learning and we are very proud of him!*

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## **Pupil of the Month**

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*These children have been nominated by their classmates for bring excellent role models.*

*Nursery*

*Ethan - for his continued hard work during focus activities and contribution to maths and phonics lessons.*

*RG*

*Fiker for always being a role model and a kind friend.*

*RS*

*Simran for always showing the 3rs. Simran is always eager to learn and shows excellent learning behaviour.*

*1F*

*Tahlia- for consistently being a role model, wow walking, marvellous manners, great attitude to work.*

*1M*

*Ethan - for being independent and trying super hard in everything he does.*

2K

*Savannah - for being a great role model and friend in 2K*

2R

*Summer - for always being a great friend and being the first one to comfort her friends when they are sad.*

3T

*Ashira - for being an amazing role model to everyone in her class! She is always being kind to people that are sad and plays with them outside. She is really helpful around the classroom and is always showing her peers the correct expectations of the classroom.*

3D

*Gracie - for always being a kind and polite friend to everyone around her.*

4R

*Ava- She works hard in lessons and is always being helpful and being a kind friend and always making people laugh around her.*

4J

*Alaysia - She was voted by her class for being a great friend and having caring nature. 4J said that Alaysia looks out for everyone and makes sure they are ok specially on the playground.*

5H

*Abi - for being kind and always listening to others*

5F

*Elijah - for being kind and always helping others around him.*

6H

*Eryn: For always being a fantastic role model, supportive to her friends and always showing the St Michael's Way!*

6L

*Oscar: For being a fantastic friend, being super kind and having great jokes!*

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## What is happening in the classroom?

### Nursery

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*Nursery have enjoyed another Christmassy week at school, putting the finishing touches to their craft folders, with calendars, cards, baubles, decorations and reindeer food. They were also amazed when we made snow appear in the water tray outside! They enjoyed playing with our Christmas scene, making snow balls and delivering presents to all the snow covered houses.*

*We also looked back at photos from the last term, talking about the things we have enjoyed doing and telling our favourite memories from Autumn and Christmas.*

*The children have come so far this term and have made lots of lovely progress. Well Done to all nursery children. We hope you have a wonderful Christmas with your families and look forward to seeing you in the New Year!*

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### Reception

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RG

*This week we have been busy practicing our Nativity play. We had a performance to the school on Tuesday and two performances to parents on Wednesday. Thank you to all those who came to watch, the*



*children loved having you there. Well done Reception for all of the hard work you have put into this Nativity!*

*RS*

*Reception have had lots of Christmassy fun this week. They loved watching the pantomime and then they had a fantastic time performing their nativity . They felt so proud of themselves.*

*1F*

*This week has been a fun filled time in 1F. The children enjoyed the pantomime and one of our class members was chosen to participate. The children have decorated Christmas biscuits in addition to decorating their own Christmas trees. We finished off our English unit on Rapunzel with the children writing up their own endings. Lots of fun was had at the Christmas party, where the children played games, danced and also watched the Grinch.*

*1M*

*This week Year 1 have had a lovely week filled with Christmas activities. We decorated biscuits with Christmas decorations and enjoyed them with a Christmas film. The children really enjoyed the Pantomime in school and joined in with lots of the fun. In English we finished re-telling our own story of Rapunzel. The children thoroughly enjoyed reading the story and creating their own characters.*

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## **Year 2**

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*2K*

*This week we have completed our Ferris wheel project in DT. This was very challenging but all the children worked very hard. We have also watched the pantomime it was lots of fun! We have also practised addition subtraction and punctuation and grammar.*

*Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all of Year 2 and their families.*

2R

*What a fun week 2R have had this week. We completed our DT project of building a ferris wheel. We have been going over our English topic and practicing out spelling, punctuation and grammar and we have had lots of Christmas Maths fun. Children have also had lots of christmas activities, parties and colouring to do which they have all enjoyed. I hope everyone in 2R and their families has a well deserved rest and we will see you in the new year.*

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## Year 3

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3D

*During this last week of term, we have been working hard on our DT lessons. The children have been looking at why food comes from different places around the world and have been able to explain the benefits of seasonal foods. Using this knowledge, the children were able to cook their own seasonal tarts, choosing their own ingredients.*

3T

*We have had a fabulous week and really enjoyed creating, cooking and evaluating our own seasonal tarts. As well as this, 3T have enjoyed lots of Christmas activities, parties and crafts. I hope everyone in 3T and their families have an amazing half term and a well deserved rest. I can't wait to hear all about what you have been up to in the New Year.*

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## Year 4

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4J

*We are coming to the end of Autumn Term and 4J have been busy finishing their current topics by answering their Big Questions. 4J amazingly used their knowledge from over the term to answer the Science Big Question 'Does everything Shiny conduct electricity?'. Children have had the opportunity to recap learning that they aren't so secure in such as Roman Numerals and expanded noun phrase*

4R

*In the run up to Christmas, 4R have been working hard to finish off all of their topics. We have done a DT day where we had to design, build, and evaluate a torch. 4R have also had to use everything they have learned over the whole term to answer our History big question: 'How have the Romans influenced our country and culture?'. Children have also had the opportunity to recap learning done across the term.*

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## Year 5

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5H

*We are coming to the end of our maths topic on fractions and the children are able to convert fractions so they have the same denominator. They were then able to add and subtract them and solve real life problems. I have been really impressed with the children's knowledge of Roman numerals. We have one to work out each day and we have nearly cracked it! Well done 5H*

5F

*This week, 5F have been finishing off their Geography and Science topics. The children completed their end of topic assessments and have shown how much information they have retained and applied which is amazing. As well as this, the children attended church for a Christmas celebration and are finishing the week with a well deserved Christmas party! Have a lovely Christmas 5F!*

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## Year 6

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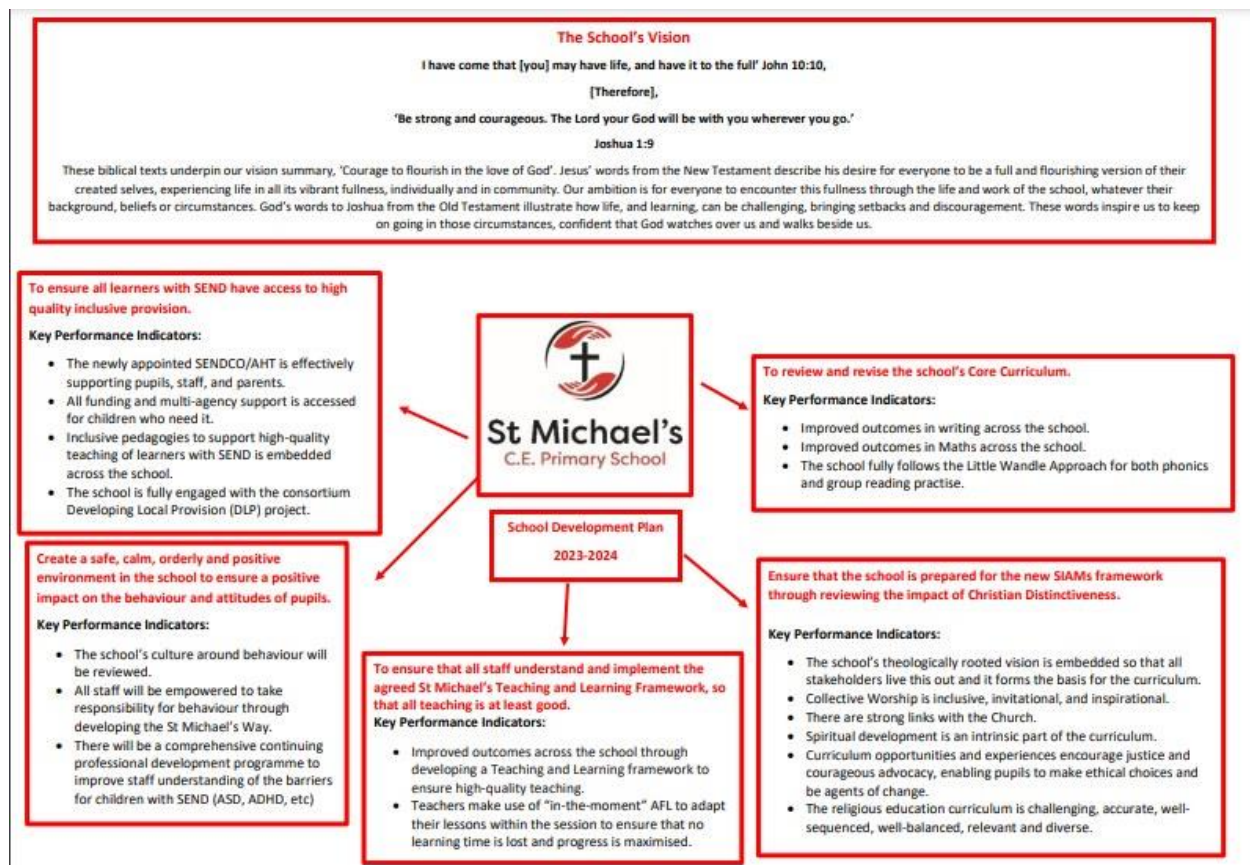
*6H have had another busy, but exciting Christmassy week! Our SATs analysis highlighted some key concepts in Maths that needed addressing and therefore were completed through the use of Christmas problem-solving and team work! We now feel confident in approaching multi-step problems and which mathematical operation is best to use. We have also finished off our flashback narrative, with many children being super proud of their efforts... and so they should be! Well done, Year 6, there are so many higher order grammatical techniques, words and punctuation! We have also attended a wonderful service, at Church, which really allowed us to embrace the Christmas period and spirit. I wish all the families a special and restful holiday, and look forward to welcoming you all back in January :)*

*Oh 6L, you have made my first term at St Michael's a fantastic one! We have had another busy week completing our learning for this half term and I am particularly proud of your flashback narratives which you have written, revised and edited - such tricky skills! You have demonstrated your artistic flare by using a grid method to create realistic self portraits and your determination and effort has definitely paid off. I hope you all have a wonderful break and I look forward to your return!*

## 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

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*A reminder of what to bring to school:*

✓ *A water bottle (please make sure it has your name on it). This should only have water in it and have a pop up top (not a screw top as if these fall over on the desks, they will ruin the children's work).*

✓ *A school bag or bookbag.*

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

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

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

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

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## Medical and Dietary Information

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

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

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

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## Free School Meals, Toast and Price Changes

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

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

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

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

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## **Nut Free School**

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

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## School Uniform

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

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

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

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## Labelling

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

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## Contact Details

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### ***Telephone Numbers***

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

### ***Email Address***



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

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## **Twitter/X**

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*Please follow us on:*

*@stmichaelsb32*

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