

# St Michael's Church of England Primary School Newsletter



**Friday 22nd September 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,*

*I hope that you have all had a fantastic week.*

*The children have been discussing The Story of Esther during Collective Worship this week. This narrative from the Book of Esther in the Old Testament has been cherished for generations, and its lessons continue to inspire us today.*

*Esther, a Jewish orphan, found herself in an extraordinary position. She became the Queen of Persia, but her real strength was not in her crown, but in her heart and her unwavering courage. The message of Esther's story is one of remarkable bravery, resilience, and faith.*

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- 1. Stand Up for What is Right:** *Esther's uncle, Mordecai, urged her to intercede with King Xerxes to save her people from a wicked plot. Esther faced a daunting choice: remain silent to protect herself or risk everything to stand up for justice. She chose the latter, showing us that courage often means doing what is right, even when it's difficult.*
- 2. Overcome Fear:** *Esther was afraid to approach the king, knowing that doing so without being summoned could cost her life. However, she overcame her fear, understanding that sometimes the greatest battles we face are within ourselves. Her courage serves as a powerful reminder that we can conquer our fears to make a positive impact.*
- 3. Faith and Belief:** *Esther's faith played a crucial role in her courage. She fasted and prayed, drawing strength from her convictions. This demonstrates the power of faith and self-belief as sources of courage during challenging times.*
- 4. Empathy and Compassion:** *Esther's empathy for her people drove her to act. She felt their pain and suffering deeply and couldn't bear to see them harmed. Her story reminds us of the*

*importance of empathy and compassion in motivating us to take courageous actions to help others.*

5. **Unity and Collective Courage:** *Esther's story is not just about individual bravery; it also highlights the strength of collective courage. When her people rallied together, they were able to overcome the threats they faced. This emphasises the importance of unity and working together to achieve common goals.*
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*We have been discussing with the children that even though we may not face the same challenges as Esther, her story can inspire us to act with courage when faced with adversity, injustice, or difficult decisions. It reminds us that each of us has the potential to make a difference, to stand up for what is right, and to create positive change in our communities.*

*As the headteacher of St Michael's, I want to take a moment to emphasise the importance of respectful communication between our valued parents and our dedicated staff.*

*Our school community thrives when we foster an environment of mutual respect and open communication. Our staff members work tirelessly to provide the best possible education and support for your children. They are committed to their roles and have a genuine concern for the well-being and growth of each student.*

*To ensure a positive and respectful atmosphere, I kindly request that parents and guardians keep the following principles in mind when interacting with our staff:*

1. **Politeness and Courtesy:** *Please address our staff members with politeness and courtesy. This includes using respectful language, maintaining a calm tone, and demonstrating patience, even in challenging situations.*
2. **Active Listening:** *When engaging with our staff, take the time to actively listen to their perspective. Constructive conversations often arise when both parties feel heard and understood.*
3. **Private Discussions:** *If you have concerns or feedback, please schedule a private meeting with the relevant staff member or appropriate member of staff. Public discussions or confrontations should be avoided, as they can be detrimental to our school community.*

*By adhering to these principles, we can create a harmonious and productive school environment where our students can thrive and reach their full potential. Our staff members are an integral part of this educational journey, and we value their contributions immensely.*

*Thank you for your continued support and cooperation in fostering a respectful and inclusive community here at St Michael's.*

*Mrs Roberts*

*Headteacher*

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## **Reminders**

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*A gentle reminder to please make regular checks 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.*

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## **Meet the Teacher Meetings**

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*Thank you to everyone who was able to make the meetings. It was fantastic to see so many of you and the feedback has been fantastic. Please do not worry if you have been unable to make them as all of the information is being sent out on Arbor.*

*We hope that you have found the sessions informative and we look forward to working with you to achieve the very best for all of the children.*

*Year 4, we look forward to seeing you on Monday 25th September at 2.30pm.*

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## Key Dates

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*Tuesday 26th September: Year 6 at the Library.*

*Monday 2nd October: Years 1-6 at St Michael's Church to celebrate St Michael's Day (just the children).*

*Thursday 5th October: Year 4 Harvest Assembly at St Michael's Church (parents/carers invited) at 9.15am.*

*Thursday 5th October: Reception and Key Stage One Harvest Assembly at St Michael's Church (parents/carers welcome) at 2.00pm.*

*Friday 6th October: World Mental Health Day (wear yellow to school - further details will be sent out nearer the time).*

*Thursday 12th October: Year 6 Parent/Carer Lunch (details will be sent out in a separate letter nearer to the time).*

*Tuesday 17th October: Year 2 at the Library.*

*Wednesday 18th October: Pupil Progress Meetings (formerly known as Parent's Evening) from 3.30-7.00pm*

*Thursday 19th October: Pupil Progress Meetings (formerly known as Parent's Evening) from 3.30-5.30pm*

*Thursday 19th October: Open Afternoon for prospective Nursery and Reception Children (due to start September 2024) at 2.00pm.*

*Friday 20th October: Open Morning for prospective Nursery and Reception Children (due to start September 2024) at 10.00am.*

*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.*

*Wednesday 25th 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.*

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## **Stars of the Week**

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

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### **Year 1**

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*George - for marvellous manners and being kind.*

*Poppy - for amazing wow walking and being a role model.*

*Matilda - for always showing Marvellous Manners.*

*AJ - for being a fabulous role model at all times.*

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### **Year 2**

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*Daylen F- For always being a role model, being respectful and showing Wow Walking at all times.*

*Isabelle D- For always showing marvellous manners and always being ready to learn.*

*Mikiyas - For being a role model and showing Wow Walking and Marvellous Manners.*

*Millie - For being a lovely member of 2K. She is such a role model and works hard at all times.*

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## Year 3

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*Emily F- for always using Marvellous Manners.*

*Benjamin B - for working really hard in all subjects.*

*Amelia L- for always using her Marvellous Manners.*

*Adam A - for being kind and helping a new child to settle into our class.*

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## Year 4

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*Sophia - for embracing our new school handwriting style and earning her handwriting pen.*

*Abbie - for embracing our new school handwriting style and earning her handwriting pen.*

*Lucas S - for excellent Wow Walking at all times! All adults are noticing, well done.*

*Logan B- for his great contribution during Roman Day.*

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## Year 5

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*Frankie - for the determination to improve you are showing in every aspect of your work and behaviour.*

*Mia - for always using marvellous manners.*

*Thomas - for settling into class marvellously and setting a good example for others.*

*Oreoluwa - for producing excellent work that is always beautifully presented.*

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## Year 6

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*Charlie A - For constantly trying, really hard, in every lesson.*

*Brooke W - For taking pride in her work and being a fantastic role model.*

*Lily B - For constantly thinking of ways on how to improve her work.*

*Josh E-C - For having a fantastic attitude to learning in Maths.*

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

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