

St Michael's Church of England Primary School Newsletter

Friday 23rd February 2024

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

[Therefore],

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

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

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

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

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

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



Message from Mrs Roberts

Dear parents, carers and students,

I hope this message finds you all well and refreshed after a lovely half-term break. As we return to school, I wanted to extend a warm welcome back to all our students, staff, and families. We're excited to continue our journey of learning and discovery together.

We have our Pupil Progress Meetings this half term so are really looking forward to meeting with you and being able to celebrate your children's successes. Please look out for the invite on Arbor to sign up for a time that is convenient for you.

We are focusing on the values of love and forgiveness this half term. During Collective Worship, we have been reading The story of Zacchaeus the Tax Collector, found in the New Testament in the Gospel of Luke (Luke 19:1-10). This story is a wonderful example of forgiveness.

- 1. Zacchaeus' Mistakes: Zacchaeus was a tax collector, and in those days, many people didn't like tax collectors because some of them were not fair or honest. Zacchaeus might have made some mistakes in the past by being unfair or greedy with people's money.*
- 2. Meeting Jesus: When Zacchaeus heard that Jesus was coming to his town, he was curious and wanted to see him. However, because Zacchaeus was short, he couldn't see over the crowd. So, he climbed up a tree to get a better view.*

3. *Jesus' Love: Jesus noticed Zacchaeus up in the tree and told him to come down because he wanted to visit his house. This surprised everyone because Zacchaeus wasn't very popular. Jesus showed that he loved Zacchaeus, even though he had made mistakes.*

4. *Zacchaeus' Change: When Zacchaeus met Jesus, he felt sorry for the wrong things he had done. He promised to give back money he had taken wrongly and to help people who were poor. This showed that Zacchaeus wanted to change and make things right.*

5. *Forgiveness and Friendship: Jesus forgave Zacchaeus for his mistakes and became his friend. Jesus showed everyone that no matter what mistakes we make, if we are truly sorry and want to change, he will forgive us and help us become better people.*

Thank you for your continued support and cooperation. Here's to a fantastic new term filled with joy, learning, and growth!

Kind regards,

Mrs Roberts

Dogs on the playground

A quick reminder please that we cannot have any dogs on the playground. This is to ensure the safety of all of our children.

Social Media

A quick plea, that if you have a query or concern regarding processes at the school that you contact us directly rather posting on social media. This way accurate information will be shared.

We are trying to teach the children how to use social media safely and responsibly so your support with this is appreciated.

Thank you for those parents and carers who continue to bring this to our attention.

Online Safety

We have had a few children mention Jeffy so we wanted to make you aware of this YouTube cartoon character by sharing this information from Safer Schools.

What is Jeffy?

- Jeffy is a puppet character featured in series of YouTube videos. The channel behind Jeffy has over five million subscribers and each video posted gains millions of views.*
 - The character of Jeffy has been criticised for portraying an offensive stereotype of someone with unspecified learning difficulties or disability. The creator has argued against this characterisation, saying Jeffy is meant to be funny and does not represent someone with a disability.*
 - Despite the video's child-friendly animation style, online safety experts found videos portraying sexual content, nudity, violence, gore, profanity and more inappropriate themes.*
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What are the risks of Jeffy and other adult-animations to children and young people?

- As the style of these animations is similar to other videos they view, children and young people may click onto content without realising it contains harmful material.*
- Even after viewing, a child may not realise how problematic the behaviour they've viewed is if they believe they are watching an age-appropriate cartoon.*
- Children and young people may copy behaviours and language they have viewed. This is not exclusive to the home environment as some content shows settings outside of the home, for example Jeffy at school.*

- *When exposed to inappropriate content, such as sexualised content, children may struggle to explain to an adult what they have seen and/or what is upsetting them, or they may worry they will get into trouble.*
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Top Tips

- **Stay calm.** *If you suspect the child or young person in your care has watched Jeffy or other inappropriate cartoon-style content, don't panic. Approach them calmly, ask open questions and listen. Importantly, avoid mentioning Jeffy or similar animations by name as you may be accidentally alerting them to something they knew nothing about!*
 - **Talk to them.** *If you know for sure they have viewed inappropriate content, ask them to explain what they have seen and give them space to tell you in their own words. It may be emotional or embarrassing to discuss, but being able to talk through complex feelings in a supportive environment will help them.*
 - **Never leave the safeguarding to someone else.** *Even though platforms like YouTube have age restrictions and moderators, they are not perfect and should not be relied upon to keep the child or young person in your care safe online.*
 - **Identify help.** *It's important that children and young people have someone they can turn to for help, even if that person is not you.*
 - **Check safety settings.** *Ensure the correct safety settings are in place on the devices your child has access to and use the [Online Safety Centre](#) to learn how to restrict content, block and report on the platform.*
 - **Keep the conversation going.** *Your child's online safety should be an ongoing discussion. Just as you would ask questions about their offline life, make their online experiences just as regular a topic in your household or the classroom.*
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[Link for Safer Schools](#)

Scotland Lane

I have been contacted by Preet Kaur Gill (MP for Edgbaston) this week. She has received complaints from residents of Scotland Lane in Bartley Green about parents/carers parking on the road. They have said that parents and carers of the school are parking over dropped kerbs, grass verges, and in front of houses. There are a number of elderly residents and residents with disabilities that this is impacting on. Can we please ask that you are mindful about where you park during pick up and drop off.

Key Dates

Tuesday 27th February - Year 4 at the Library.

Wednesday 28th February - Hillcrest School delivering a poetry workshop with Year 5.

Friday 1st March - Year 3 at the Library.

Tuesday 5th March - Year 6 at the Library.

Tuesday 5th March - Nursery 'Special Person in your Life' afternoon (2.15pm)

Wednesday 6th March - Wednesday 13th March - Book Fayre in School.

Thursday 7th March - World Book Day.

Friday 8th March - Year 1 Mother's Day Assembly at 9.15am (parents and carers invited).

Tuesday 12th March - Year 1 at the Library.

Tuesday 12th March - Pupil Progress Meetings (details to follow).

Wednesday 13th March - Pupil Progress Meetings (details to follow).

Friday 15th March - Red Nose Day (details to follow).

Tuesday 19th March - Easter Brass Concert at 9.15am.

Tuesday 19th March - Reception at the Library.

Wednesday 20th March - Reception and Key Stage 1 Headteacher Awards.

Thursday 21st March - Key Stage 2 Headteacher Awards.

Friday 22nd March - Year 3 Easter Service at Church (9.15am - adults are invited to attend if they are able to).

Friday 22nd March - Easter Bonnet Parade and Eggstravaganza (2pm - details to follow).

Friday 22nd March - last day of term.

Monday 8th April - Teacher Training Day

Tuesday 9th April - children return to school.

Thursday 11th April - whole school at St Michael's Church.

Tuesday 16th April - Year 5 Eid Assembly.

Monday 6th May - Bank Holiday (school closed).

Tuesday 7th May - Reception at Bartley Green Library.

Week beginning 13th May - Key Stage 2 SATs week.

Monday 13th May - Year 5 River Trip at Severn Valley Country Park.

Friday 17th May - Photographer in school.

Friday 17th May - Year 6 Pizza afternoon.

Monday 20th May - Year 5 Celebrating the Pentecost at St Michael's Church (adults invited).

Thursday 23rd May - Year 4 at The Botanical Gardens.

Thursday 23rd May - Reception and Key Stage 1 Headteacher Awards.

Friday 24th May - Key Stage 2 Headteacher Awards.

Friday 24th May - Year 2 at Bartley Green library.

Friday 24th May - last day of the half term.

Nursery Places

We are currently taking applications for September 2024. Please contact the office either in person or via telephone on 0121 464 4345 if you would like further information.

Bad Weather Conditions

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

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

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

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

- We will make you aware as soon we can via Arbor, the school website and Twitter (X).*
 - Work will be sent out for the children to complete by 10.30am. This will be sent via Arbor.*
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If you would like to find out more and how to apply, please contact the School Office on 0121 464 4345 or visit us in person.

Attendance



*The whole school's attendance target is 96%. The whole school attendance for the year so far is **94%**. Unfortunately, our persistent absence is **16.9%**. Please ensure your child comes to school every day.*

So far this academic year, we have had 17 families taking unauthorised leave in term time (holidays). This has resulted in £2932 in fixed penalty notices issued by Birmingham City Council. We ask that families do not take leave in term time as these will not be authorised by school.

Class Attendance - for this year so far!

RG - 93.2%

RS - 91.1%

1F - 93.1%

1M - 92.6%

2K - 91.6%

2R - 94.2%

3D - 94.4%

3T - 95.4%

4J - 93.7%

4R - 96.2%

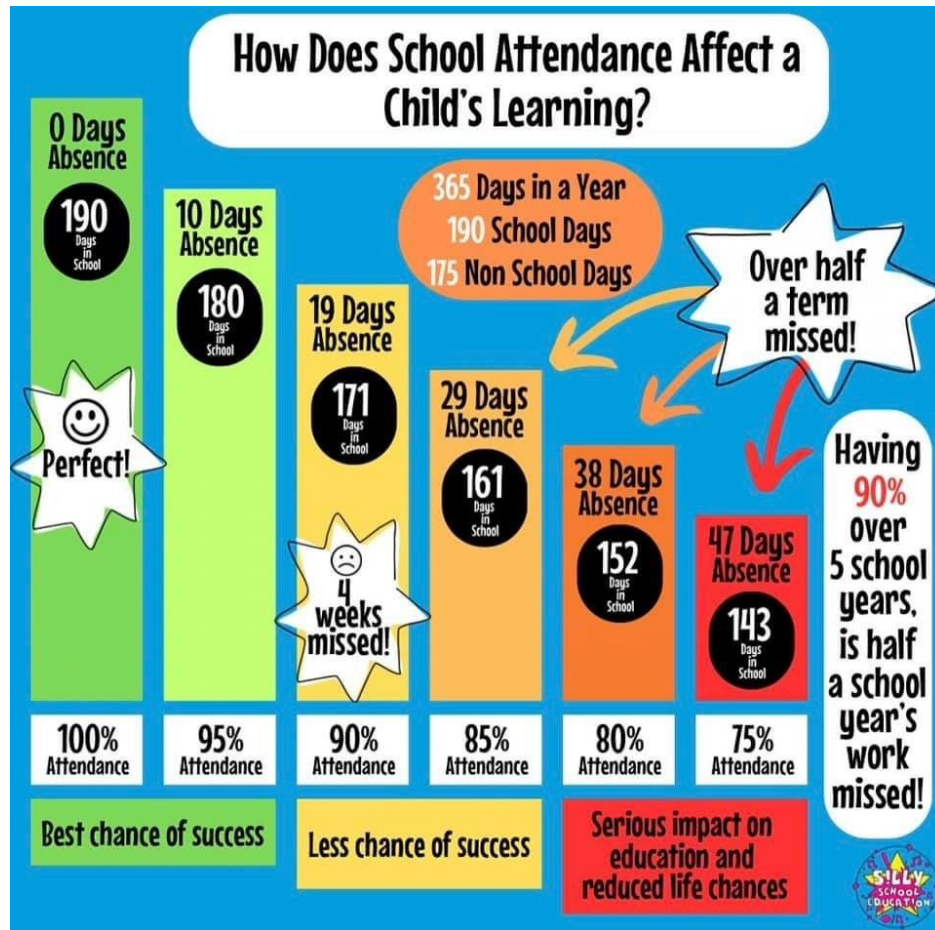
5F - 94%

5H - 94.7%

6H - 94.7%

6L - 93.4%

Since September 2023, we have had an increase in the number of children arriving to school late. When we have added these minutes up, they total 84 days worth of missed learning. Children must be in school and ready to learn promptly each day by 8:45am. Just a reminder that gates open at 8:35am.



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/>

Times Tables Rockstars



Key Stage 2 TTRS Tournaments

Well done all those children in Key Stage Two who have took part in last week's tournaments.

9/2/2024 - 16/2/2024

6H Winners!

6H 537 points - 6L 1 point

4R Winners!

4R 342 points - 4J 158 points

Top 5 Players Key Stage 2

1. Tayon 4J

2. *Areng 4I*

3. *Yoadan 6H*

4. *Brook 3D*

5. *Alex 5H*

Top 5 Players within the Year 4 Tournament

1. *Shema 4R*

2. *Kiya 4J*

3. *Joshua 4R*

4. *Ava 4R*

5. *Gabriel 4R*

Stars of the Week

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

Nursery

Blake - for being a class role model and helping others to make good decisions.

Frankie - for having a fabulous, happy and productive week in Nursery.

Reception

RG

Fiker- For always contributing your ideas in every lesson.

Lawson- For trying really hard in Phonics.

RS

Diego has tried hard this week in maths, we have been learning about weight. He was very interested in learning how the scales worked.

Lily has been very thoughtful this week, she has been looking out for her friends and supporting them when they need it.

Year 1

1F

Jewel - for trying hard with her learning both in school and at home.

Bethan- for fantastic singing in her music lesson.

1M

Reggie - for a fantastic first week at St. Michaels.

Ethan - for working really hard in Maths and measuring length using cubes.

Year 2

Year 3

2K

Georgia- For working hard with her maths. She was so pleased when she could work out multiplication questions.

Leighton - For working hard in Maths this week. Leighton was able to identify which number was worth more.

2R

Aaliyah- for trying really hard in Maths and persevering even when she found it hard.

Nathan- for trying hard in every lesson and having his hand up constantly to answer questions. Always showing he's a star.

3D

Keegan - for contributing in class discussions.

Cealan - for having a positive attitude to learning.

3T

Mason - for showing a real improvement in his work ethic.

Nevaeh - for becoming more confident in contributing to class discussions and group work.

Year 4

4J

Areng - for working brilliantly during pair work.

Tayon - for working brilliantly during pair work.

4R

Declan - for being an 'always' child and always making the right choices.

Mira- for always trying her best with her handwriting .

Year 5

5F

Ajay - for trying extremely hard to take care with his presentation and being a role

Archie P - for excellent contribution in our English lessons.

5H

Uzziah - for answering lots of questions during our maths lessons.

Inshirah - for being an excellent role model.

Year 6

6H

Yoadan - for being a fantastic role model in the classroom and always demonstrating the St Michael's values.👍

Maddie C - for an excellent narration paragraph. Maddie included a wide range of vocabulary and exciting vocabulary choices.

6L

Caylab L - for an excellent attitude to maths and working so hard on your multiplication and addition. Well done - we are very proud of you!

Harry L - for working so hard in our writing sessions and sharing lots of great ideas, especially for expanded noun phrases - well done!

What is happening in the classroom?

Nursery

With pancake day falling in the half term this year, Nursery celebrated and learned about all things 'pancake' in the first week back! We have practised our cutting skills by decorating pancakes with paper fruit, written shopping lists for pancake making, served pancakes in our role play cafe and had pancake races using our pancakes and frying pans along the playground pathway.

At the end of our week, the children assisted with making our own pancakes. They weighed out and measured the ingredients, whisked the batter and cut the fruit. We then chose our own toppings and enjoyed eating our snack with strawberries and chocolate sauce.

Reception

RG

This week Reception have been writing instructions for how to catch a wolf from the story of Little Red Riding hood. We have also baked cupcakes to take to Grannies house.

RS

1F

It has been lovely having the children back after their break. This week they have been working very hard in maths. The children have enjoyed learning about length. They have explored using cubes and a ruler to measure various classroom items. In DT the children have been exploring axels and wheels. They made their own moving vehicles which were put to the test. In history the children have been asking questions regarding modes of transport from the past and present.

1M

Year 1 have had a great first week back. They have had super listening skills on the carpet, especially during English. This week we have been planning our set of instructions on how to catch a witch. They have came up with some great ideas. In Maths they have really enjoyed exploring length. We have been measuring objects using cubes and a ruler.

Year 2

2K

This week we have been working really hard in 2K. We have started to learn about multiplication. This has been challenging at times but the children have worked really hard to learn new concepts. In English we have been reading our new book for this half term Grandad's Island.

2R

It has been lovely having the children back this week. We have had a super busy first day back! The children have been working hard looking at multiplication in Maths. We have also started a new book called 'Grandads Island' which the children have loved and started writing small incidental writes using our book.

Year 3

3D

This week in Maths, we have started our new topic which is fractions. We are also starting our new topics in PE, Netball and Tag Rugby, which the children have been really excited about. During writing, we have started to read and look at our new book 'Jemmy Button' and have been writing our own predictions about what we think might happen next in the story.

3T

What an exciting week 3T has had! We have had Miss Kassem join the Year three team this half term! In English, we have read our new book 'Jemmy Button' along with our example text and we have created a simile poem and written a setting description based on them. In Maths, we have started our new unit Fractions! 3T have really impressed me with how well they have been doing with comparing and ordering unit and non-unit fractions. In Geography, we have been identifying the different climate zones in the continents around the world.

Year 4

4J

4J have had an amazing start to this half term. Children will be starting their new topics in PE which us Tag Rugby and Netball. We have been exploring the eight times table which we have been finding tricky, practising at home will ensure your child's knowledge of the times tables is embedded. During writing lessons, children have been preparing their twisted narrative and building their imagination ready to plan their own in the up coming weeks. Mrs Burke has enjoyed hearing children individually read and is impressed on the progress children are making!

4R

For the start of this half term, 4R have been exploring their new books for reading and writing and have made a great start to learning all about and gathering ideas for a twisted narrative. In Maths, we have been continuing with our learning about measure by looking at and comparing distance. Children have been really exciting about starting their new PE topics, Netball and Tag Rugby with some brilliant skills being displayed. We have also begun to learn our 8 times tables as these have proven to be a bit tricky.

Year 5

5H

What a fantastic start to this half term. During English, we have written poems and a character description which will help us to write our character narrative. In our science lesson, we all had the name of an animal on our back then we had to ask questions to find out what animal group we were from. In maths, we have begun looking at decimal numbers.

5F

During English, we have written poems and a character description which will help us to write our character narrative. In our science lesson, we were learning about different animals and their life cycles - we finished our science lesson with an educational game, where we all had the name of an animal on our back and had to ask questions to find out what animal group we were from. In maths, we have begun looking at decimal numbers and converting them to equivalent fractions.

Year 6

Year 6

We have had a wonderful first week back in Year 6 and every child has returned to school with a fantastic attitude! We have been busy in our writing lessons immersing ourselves in our new text, "The Ways of the Wolf", which the children will be using to write a documentary narrative in the style of David

Attenborough! We have started our new geography and science topics: North America and Animals including Humans. The children enjoyed using ICT to explore North America and have worked hard when learning about the functions of the heart. Well done Year 6 - keep up the super work!

Measles

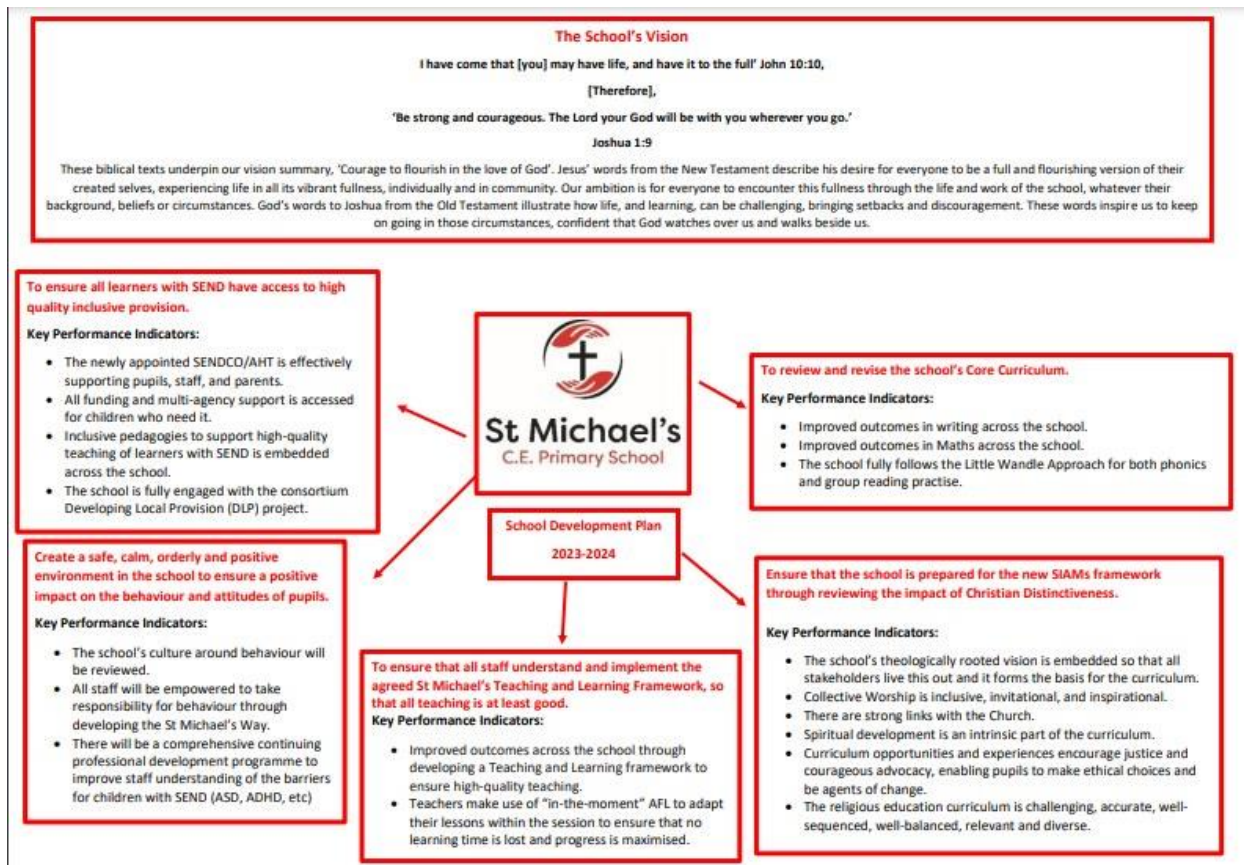
As you may be aware, across Birmingham there has been an outbreak of measles. Please read the following information which has been issued:

- There's no specific medical treatment for measles, so it's important to get vaccinated as it's the best protection against becoming seriously unwell.*
 - Measles usually starts with cold-like symptoms, followed by a rash a few days later.*
 - You should ask for an urgent GP appointment or get help from NHS 111 if you think you or your child may have measles.*
 - Don't go to the GP or any other healthcare setting without calling them first.*
 - If your child has been diagnosed with measles by a doctor, they should stay off nursery or school for at least 4 days from when the rash first appears. They should also avoid close contact with babies and anyone who is pregnant or has a weakened immune system.*
 - Parents can book a free vaccine through the GP but if a child has already been vaccinated it is very unlikely that they have measles. 'It's fine to send your child to school with a minor cough or common cold, provided they don't have a temperature'. The incubation period is the length of time it can take to develop the illness after being in contact with someone with measles. For measles, the incubation period can be up to 21 days.*
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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 breacktime (Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are provided with this).*

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

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

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

Medical and Dietary Information

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

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

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

Free School Meals, Toast and Price Changes

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

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

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

- *We sent out guidance of how to create/use your 'School Food United' app via Arbor last week - if you require any further assistance please speak to a member of the school office.*
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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
