

# St Michael's Church of England Primary School Newsletter

**Friday 26th April 2024**

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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 Guardians,*

*I am delighted to share with you the exciting news that our new prayer space at St Michael's CE Primary School has been officially opened by Reverend Ruth. This multi-space prayer area is a wonderful addition to our school, providing a peaceful and reflective environment for our students to pray and contemplate.*

*I would like to extend a special thank you to Miss. Jones for her dedication and hard work in creating this beautiful space. Her attention to detail and creativity have truly made this prayer space a special place for our school community.*

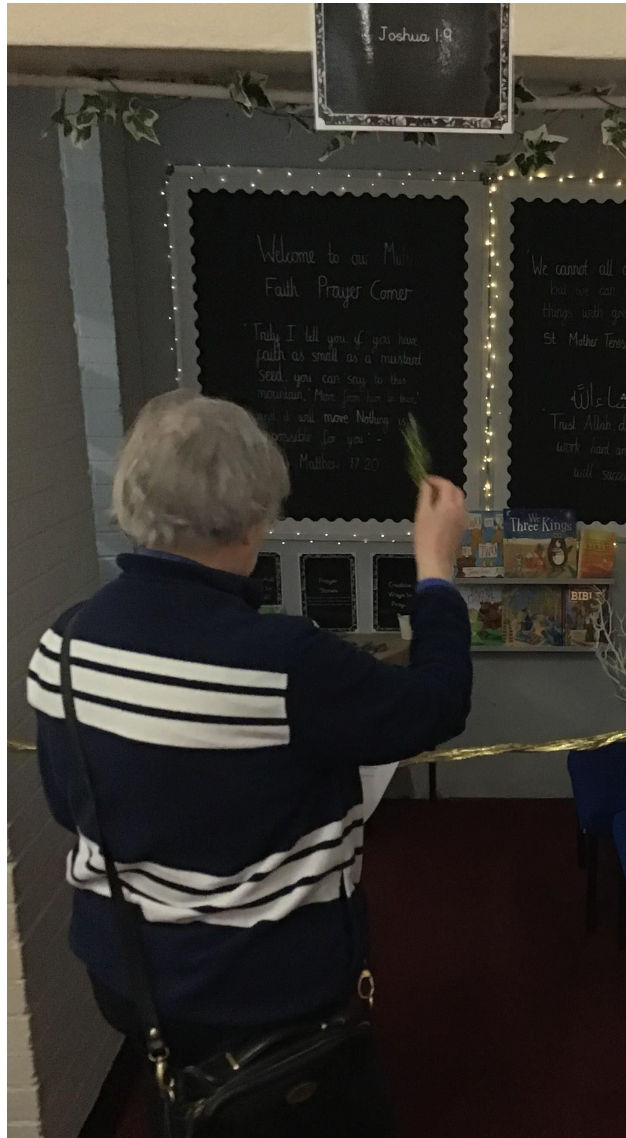
*As we continue to focus on the importance of faith and reflection in our school, we are reminded of the story of The First Passover and the lessons it teaches us about trust. This story serves as a powerful reminder of the importance of trusting in something greater than ourselves, and I encourage you to discuss this story with your children at home.*

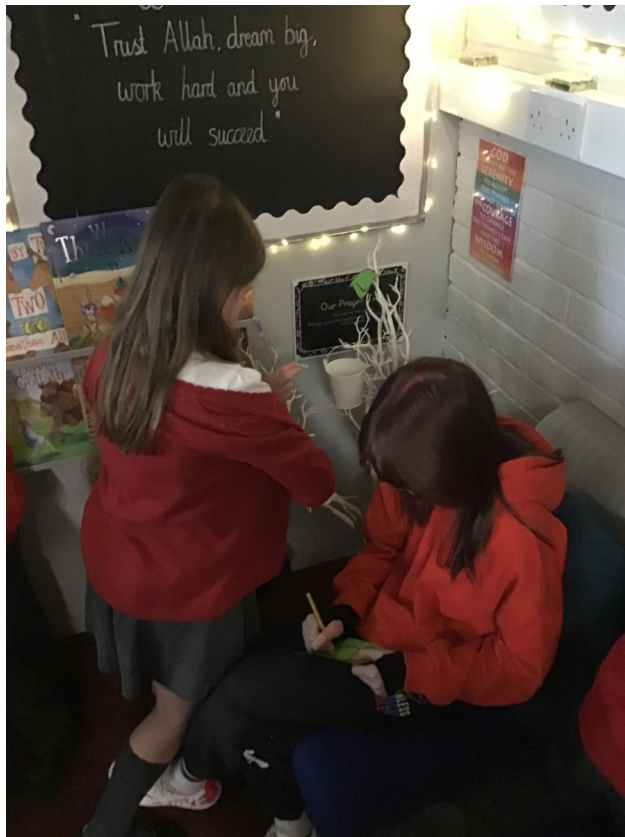
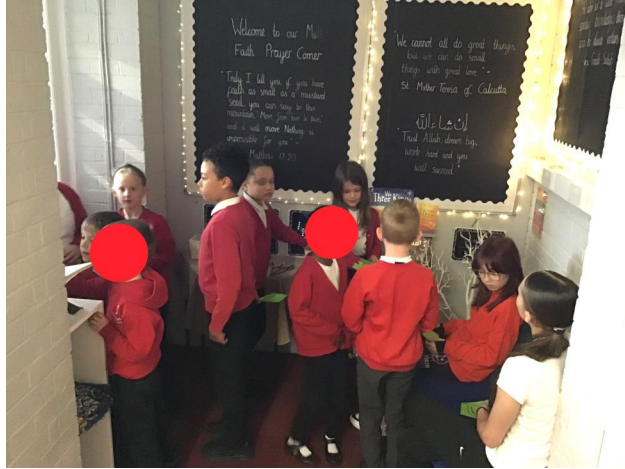
*I am constantly amazed by the dedication and creativity of our staff and students, and I am so proud of the positive and nurturing environment we have created here at St Michael's CE Primary School.*

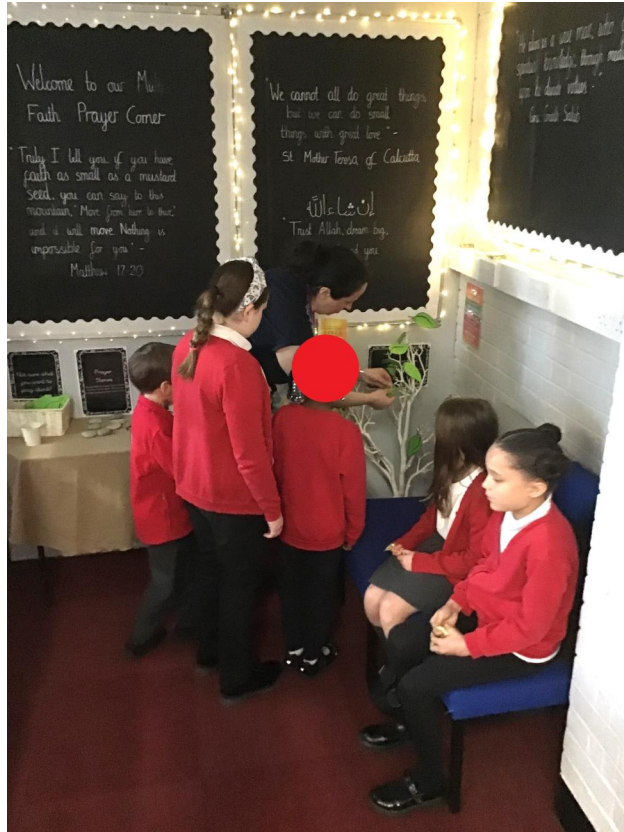
*Thank you for your continued support and partnership in your child's education.*

*I hope you all have a lovely weekend.*

*Warm regards,*







## Phonics

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*At St Michael's, we teach our children to read using a scheme called Little Wandle which is a systematic and synthetic phonics programme. We teach this programme from Nursery to Year 2. We have uploaded lots of useful resources onto the phonics page of our school website which you can use at home. [Phonics Resources](#)*

*You can also access the Little Wandle website which has lots of videos which explain how we teach reading and how to pronounce the sounds. [Little Wandle Website](#)*

### ***Year 1 Phonics Screening Check***

*All children in Year 1 will complete the Phonics Screening Check during the week of the 10th June. This is a check of your child's phonics knowledge. The Phonics Screening Check contains 40 words divided into two sections of 20 words. Both sections contain a mixture of real words and pseudo-words (alien words). The check is designed to give teachers information on how your child is progressing in phonics. It will help to identify whether your child needs additional support at this stage so that they do not fall behind in this*

vital early reading skill. There is lots of useful information about the Phonics Screening Check for Year 1 parents on our website. [Phonics Screening Check Information](#)

If you have any questions about phonics or the Phonics Screening Check, please speak to your child's class teacher or to Mr Bhatti our Deputy Headteacher.

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## Queries or concerns

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If you have a query or concern, please remember to speak to the classteacher in the first instance. You can arrange this by either phoning or emailing the office who will pass on the message. The class teacher will then get in touch with you as soon as possible. Please bear in mind that this will be before or after school as they are teaching throughout the day.

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## Scotland Lane

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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.

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## Key Dates

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Thursday 2nd May - Key Stage 1 Quidditch Day.

Thursday 2nd May - meeting for new Reception children (9.15am and 2.30pm).

Friday 3rd May - meeting for new Nursery children (9.15am and 2.30pm).

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

Tuesday 7th May - Reception at Bartley Green Library.

*Tuesday 7th May - Year 5 River Trip at Severn Valley Country Park.*

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

*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 - Year 1 at Black Country Museum.*

*Friday 24th May - Last day of the half term.*

*Monday 3rd June - Teacher Training Day.*

*Tuesday 4th June - children return to school.*

*Week beginning 3rd June - Year 4 Multiplication TablesCheck.*

*Week beginning 10th June - Key Stage 1 Phonics Screening Check.*

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## Nursery Places



**St Michael's**  
C.E. Primary School

**NURSERY PLACES AVAILABLE**

If you have a child who turns 3 before September 1st 2024, they will be entitled to 15 hours free child care. Please contact the school office on the number below to enquire about the available spaces in our Nursery.

St Michael's C.E Primary School  
Nantmel Grove  
Bartley Green  
B32 3JS

**Enquire Now - 0121 464 4345**

office@stmichaelsb32.bdmad.org.uk

## Attendance



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*The whole school's attendance target is 96%. The whole school attendance for the year so far is **93.7%**. Unfortunately, our persistent absence is **18%**. Please ensure your child comes to school every day.*

*So far this academic year, we have had 18 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 - 92.5%



RS - 90.2%

1F - 92.1%

1M - 91.7%

2K - 92.5%

2R - 94.3%

3D - 94.5%

3T - 95.4%

4J - 93.6%

4R - 96.1%

5F - 94.2%

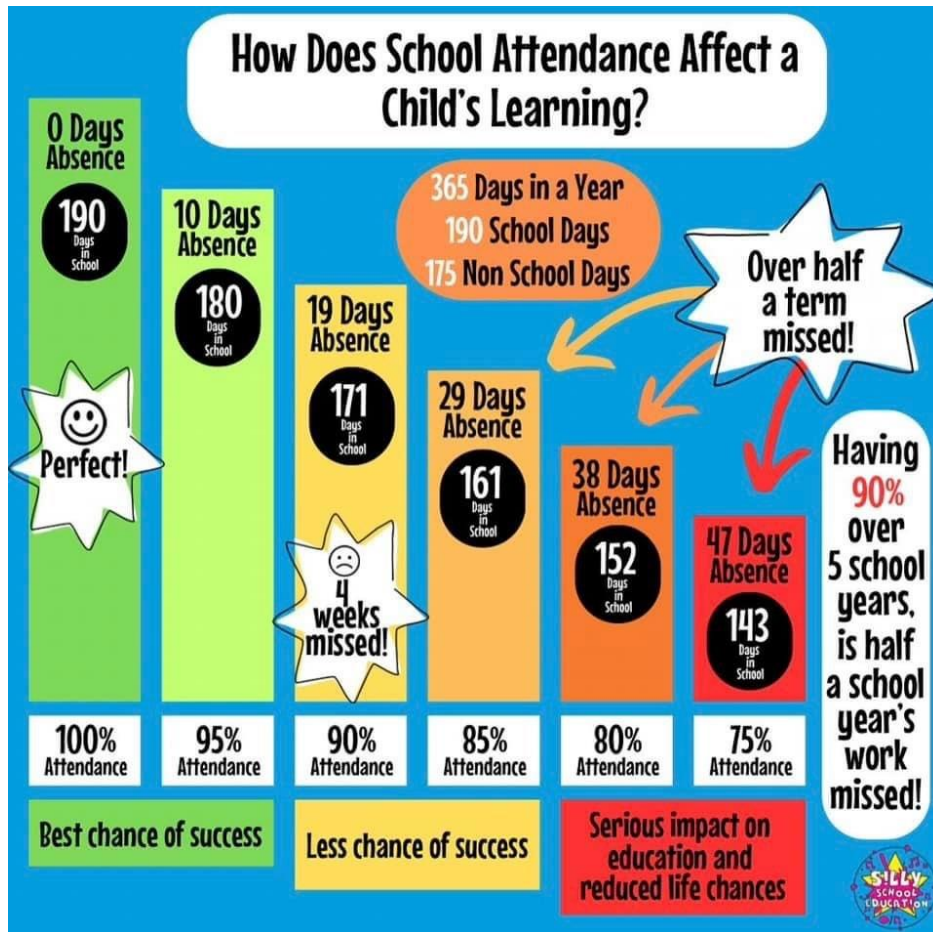
5H - 94.9%

6H - 94.7%

6L - 93.6%

*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.*

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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/>

## Times Tables Rockstars



## Key Stage 2 TTRS Tournaments

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### *Year Four Tournament*

*4J - 1,026*

*4R - 500*

### *Key Stage 2 Tournament*

*4J - 925*

*4R - 303*

*3D - 133*

*6H - 72*

*3T - 11*

*5H - 11*

*5F - 1*

*6L - 0*

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Most time spent on TTRS in KS2 in the past seven days (Wednesday-Wednesday)

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*Key Stage 2*

*1st place - Oscar Jagger*

*2nd place - Kiya Joseph*

*3rd place - Shema Carl*

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## Stars of the Week

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

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## Nursery

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*Mikiyas - for beginning to join in with some routines and learning opportunities.*

*Teddy - for enthusiasm in answering questions during learning time.*

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## Reception

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*RG*

*Stormi- Boo - for trying really hard in Phonics lessons.*

*Ariyah - for always doing Wow walking.*

*RS*

*Leo-Leo has been trying hard to do WOW walking and set a good example around school.*

*Michaella- Michaella has been engaged in her learning this week. She has enjoyed exploring the minibeasts.*

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## **Year 1**

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*1F*

*Loba - for amazing work in science, including using scientific vocabulary.*

*Austin - for consistent hard work and contributions in maths.*

*1M*

*Isabelle - for super work in phonics.*

*Thomas - for beautiful handwriting.*

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## **Year 2**

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*2K*

*Chase - for working hard this week and trying his best.*

*Savannah - for being a role model this week.*

*2R*

*Louie has worked exceptionally hard this week, being a role model and making good choices.*

*Summer has worked really hard in English this week and has created an amazing persuasive letter.*

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## **Year 3**

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*3D*

*Lilly - for having a great attitude to learning.*

*Brook - for practicing on TT Rockstars and being one of the top players in KS2.*

*3T*

*James - for always showing STAR behaviour.*

*Ashira- for being respectful, kind and helpful, both inside and outside of the classroom.*

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## **Year 4**

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*4J*

*Elliot - For his creative ideas in writing lessons.*

*Lucas S - For challenging himself in maths.*

*4R*

*Josiah - for becoming more independent and confident in his maths.*

*Annayah- for the hard work she has been putting in for her times tables.*

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## Year 5

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5F

*Connor Mem - for outstanding vocabulary contribution in our Big Write lessons.*

*Frankie - working extremely hard and making good progress with your handwriting.*

5H

*Jake - for making good vocabulary choices when writing*

*Ellora - for always making good choices*

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## Year 6

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6H

*Thomas - for always putting a huge amount of effort into your writing lessons. I always look forward to marking your book. It is clear that you are very focussed in lessons as you have included all the SPaG in your writing this week including ambitious vocabulary choices. You are a pleasure to teach.*

*Danae- for improving her independence in the classroom. Danae has become more resilient as well as knowing when she needs to ask for help; this will help her when she moves onto secondary school.*

6L

*Ellie - For persevering when things are tricky and writing a beautiful endurance narrative. We are so proud of you!*

*Ennis - For absolutely lighting up the room during singing worship assembly!*

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## Lunchtime Stars

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*These children have been nominated by the adults on the playground for being excellent role models.*

*Nursery - Eden - for being super kind to our new friends and showing them how we do things in Nursery.*

### *Reception*

*Harriet for helping to tidy in the dinner hall and playground*

*Charlie for making good choices and being helpful and tidying.*

### *Year 1*

*Ethan for wow walking.*

### *Year 2*

*Georgia - for being a lovely friend this week.*

*Belle- for always being a role model and being kind.*

### *Year 5*

*5H*

*Jake - for making good choices during lunchtime and playing games nicely*

*5F*

*Mia B - for always engaging positively in our lunchtime games.*

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## What is happening in the classroom?

### Nursery

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*Using our book of the week, Errol's Garden, as a stimulus, the nursery children explored different plants this week, including farm crops such as wheat and corn, and also looked at growing a variety of fruit and vegetables. We also carried out maintenance on our own nursery garden, such as weeding and planting seeds in our vegetable patch including carrots, tomatoes, pumpkins, potatoes, mint and strawberries. We now know the elements that plants need to grow and thrive so fingers crossed that, in a few months time, our hard work pays off!*

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### Reception

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RG

*This week in Reception we have been learning about different mini beasts, exploring the life-cycle of a frog as well as discussing where different plants grow. In Maths we have been adding numbers within 10.*

RS

*This week in literacy we have been exploring the structure of a story and what happens in each part. We have been using the story song to sing the different parts, ready to start writing this week.*

1F

*In English, our writing continues with the children both planning and writing their build up and problem. What will happen to their character when they escape the raging storm and plunge into the deep, dark sea? This week in history the children have been looking at timelines. Children then had to order on a timeline from oldest to recent. In maths, we have been recognising and finding half of a shape or object.*

1M

*This week we have been looking at finding a half of a shape or object in Maths. The children explored lots of different shapes and coloured in a half. In RE we have been exploring different parts of a Gurdwara. We set up the classroom like a langar and used role play to pretend we were having a meal together. The children really enjoyed this activity and could recall lots of features of a Gurdwara.*

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## **Year 2**

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2K

*This week we have been writing a persuasive letter in English. We have been writing to persuade a King not to ban the dark. In Maths we have been finishing off our fractions topic. In History we have learnt about Rosa Parkes this week. In PE we have been learning a dance routine. In science we have been looking at how animals are adapted to different habitats.*

2R

*This week the children have been writing their persuasive letter in English. The children have all worked really hard and have certainly convinced the adults in the room to not ban darkness. In Maths we finished off our fractions topic.*

*In History we were learning about Rosa Parkes which generated some really valuable conversations in the room. In RE we have been looking at places of worship and how this related to special places that we have.*

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## **Year 3**

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3D

*This week the children have been working hard in DT to design and make castles. They showed resilience and perseverance as they worked in a pair to create this. In English, the children have been writing their own narrative using the plan they created last week. In History we have been comparing what life was like for Ancient Egyptians to Modern Life.*

3T

*In Maths, we have started our new topic - money. We have been looking at pounds and pence Next week we will be adding money and finding change.*

*In RE, we discussed what kind of world Jesus would want, then we looked at the story of the four fisherman as disciples and answered the following questions:*

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- 1. What did the fishermen have to give up?*
  - 2. Why did these men leave everything to follow Jesus?*
  - 3. Why did Jesus call the men 'Fishers of men'?*
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*It was lovely to see them using think, pair, share to build on each other's ideas.*

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## **Year 4**

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4J

*4J started the week having a practice of the Multiplication Check to see how they were progressing. It was amazing to see those children who work so hard at home on their times tables make such a large leap in progress. During computing lessons, children have been decoding using a programme called Scratch. Children have been exploring our new prayer corner where they have been completing Tea Spoon Prayers.*

4R

*This week, 4R completed a practise of their multiplication check to see the progress they had made. It was incredible to see how much difference it makes for those who are logging on at home and practising just a few minutes every week! Children have been exploring our new prayer corner, Joshua 1:9, where*

*they have been completing Tea Spoon Prayers. This week, the children have been working hard to complete their refugee narratives in writing lessons. The children are all really looking forward to reading them once they are complete.*

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## **Year 5**

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*5H*

*Another busy week in Year 5! During our English lessons, we have been writing a survival narrative and practicing building up tension. Will our characters be able to survive the adventure they go on? In maths, we have been looking at reading table and using the information to answer questions. In our Science lessons, we have been investigating the properties of materials and finding out how this affects how they are used.*

*5F*

*Another busy week in Year 5! During our English lessons, we have been writing a survival narrative and practicing building up tension. Will our characters be able to survive the adventure they go on? In maths, we have been looking at statistics - including reading and interpreting: tables, timetables and two-way tables - and using this information to problem solve. In Geography, we have been looking at the different features of a river, key vocabulary and how a river changes on its journey to open water.*

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## **Year 6**

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*It has been another busy week in Year 6 as we prepare for our SATs. The children have been working so hard and we are very proud of them. We finished our narrative this week based on our Vehicle Text 'Shackleton's Journey'. We have enjoyed reading these and the children have produced work they should be really proud of; we are particularly impressed with their choice of vocabulary. In Maths, we have been focussing on Angles including: angles on a straight line, vertically opposite angles and angles in a triangle.*

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## Measles

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

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- *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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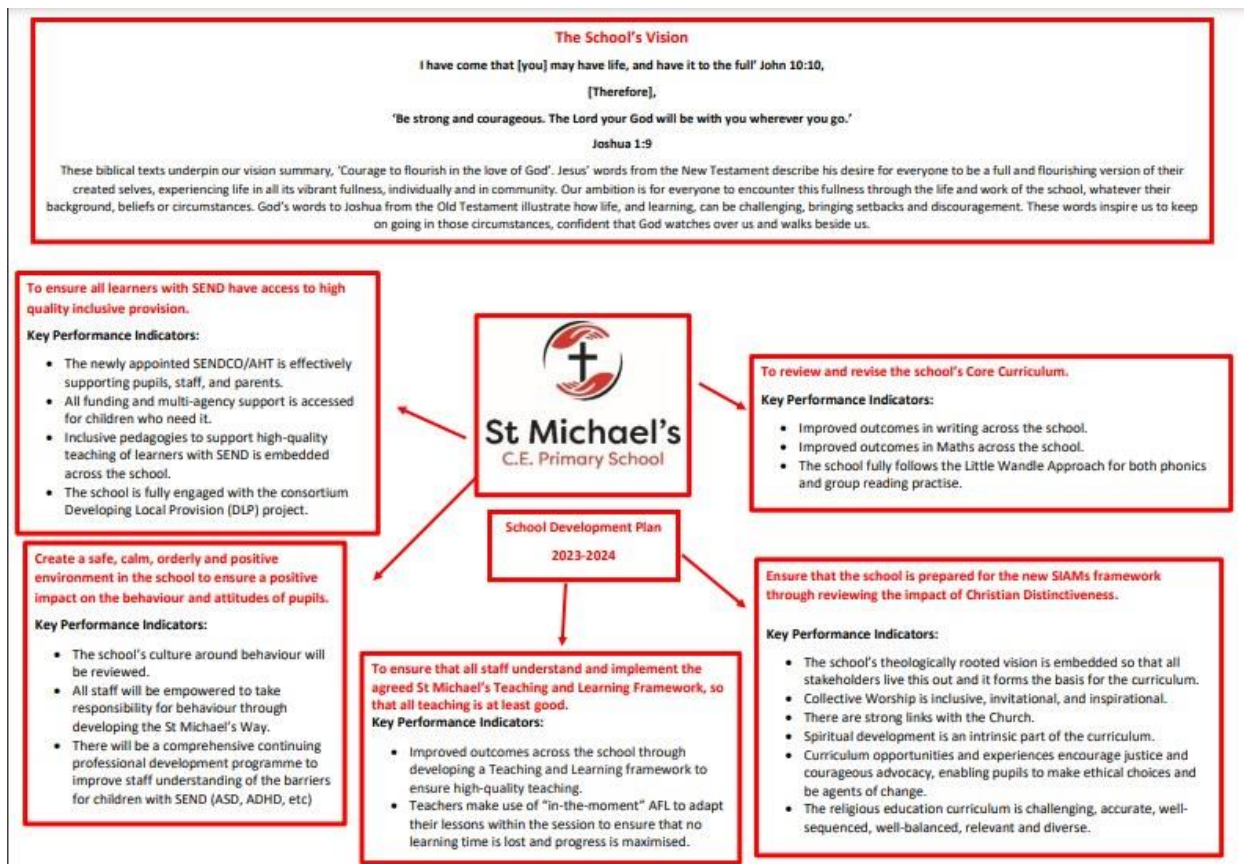
## School Development Plan

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*Please click on the link below to see this year's School Development Plan.*

[School Develop Plan](#)

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## What you need to bring to school

*A reminder of what to bring to school:*

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

✓ *A school bag or bookbag.*

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

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

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

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

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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 you 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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