

# St Michael's Church of England Primary School Newsletter

**Friday 26th January 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, Guardians, and Wonderful Students,*

*During Collective Worship this week, we have focused on the story of Jesus healing the ten men. Jesus meets a group of people with a skin disease called leprosy. These men ask Jesus for help, and he tells them to show themselves to the priests. As they go, they are miraculously healed.*

*Surprisingly, only one of them comes back to thank Jesus. The others seem to forget to express their gratitude. Jesus praises the thankful man for recognising and appreciating the healing.*

*This story teaches us about the importance of being thankful. It shows that even when good things happen to us, we should take a moment to say thank you. The man's gratitude reminds us to be grateful for the good things in our lives and not to forget to appreciate and acknowledge the kindness we receive.*

*It has been a fantastic week at school. I have loved speaking to the children after their interfaith trips as they have been so excited to share their knowledge.*

*A wow moment for me was the choir performing in Young Voices Concert. The children's behaviour throughout the day was outstanding and their performance was pure joy. It was an absolute privilege to be a part of it. I hope that the adults who were able to attend enjoyed the 90's dance off! Who do you think won - the children or the adults?*

*Mrs Roberts*

## Key Dates

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*Monday 29th January - Reception's Interfaith Trip.*

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

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

*Thursday 1st February - Year 3's Interfaith Trip.*

*Friday 2nd February - Number Day*

*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.*

*Tuesday 20th February - first swimming lesson for 5H.*

*Tuesday 20th February - Year 5 at the library.*

*Friday 23rd February - Year 2 at the Library.*

*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.*

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

*Thursday 7th March - World Book Day (details to follow).*

*Friday 8th March - Year 1 Mother's Day Assembly (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.*

*Tuesday 19th March - Reception at the Library.*

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

*Friday 22nd March - last day of the term.*

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## **Nursery Places**

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*We currently have places available in our nursery class.*

*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.*

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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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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.

## Attendance



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*The whole school's attendance target is 96%. The whole school attendance for the year so far is **94.3%**. Unfortunately, our persistent absence is **16.4%**. 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.*

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

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*RG - 92.9%*

*RS - 91.4%*

*1F - 93.4%*

*1M - 93.1%*

*2K - 91.7%*

*2R - 94.1%*

*3D - 94.3%*

*3T - 96.1%*

*4J - 93.5%*

*4R - 96.3%*

*5F - 94.5%*

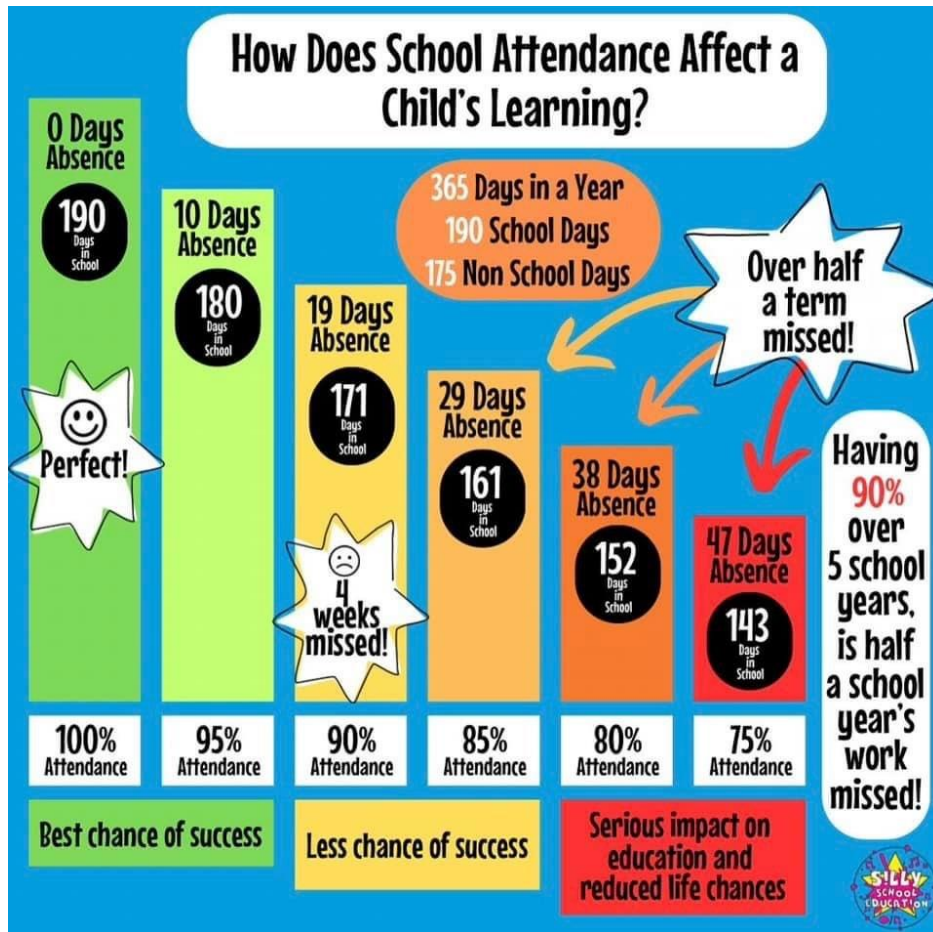
*5H - 95%*

*6H - 95.3%*

*6L - 93.5%*

*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/>



## 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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*Ceiara - for having a brilliant first week at school!*

*Ann-Lea - for showing that she is ready to learn by following classroom rules.*

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### Reception

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*RG*

*Bonnie - for working hard, practicing name writing and letter formation.*

*Ilyas - for trying really hard in our music lessons.*

*RS*

*Isla has become much more confident with blending in phonics. She has tried really hard this week.*

*Tiana has really focused during literacy. She has been able to discuss what has happened in the story and used her comprehension to anticipate key parts.*

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### Year 1

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*1F*

*Shahnaz- for fantastic work in maths.*

*Austin- for trying very hard in phonics.*

1M

*Lailah - for super phonics and engaging in her learning.*

*Poppy - for super writing and being proud of her work.*

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## Year 2

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2K

*Freddie B - for working very hard with his writing.*

*Olivia - for focusing in class really well and writing a lovely story.*

2R

*Belle- for working really hard in English this week and creating a great story.*

*Joseph- for amazing reading with great expression.*

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## Year 3

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3D

*Letisha - for contributing in lesson and putting 100% effort into any task given.*

*Evelyn - for being a role model and always using marvellous manners.*

3T

*Arcaeia for explaining her reasoning in Maths discussions.*

*Nevaeh for showing STAR behaviour at all times.*

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## Year 4

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4J

*Izma - for her amazing character description.*

*Ellie - for tuning into lessons.*

4R

*Sophia- for showing all parts of STAR but tuning in especially.*

*Lucas B- for showing amazing resilience and confidence in our gymnastics lessons*

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## Year 5

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5F

*Josiah - excellent effort in his writing 'Big write'.*

*Freya - for working hard to be a good role model and showing perseverance in Maths.*

5H

*Archie - for working hard to develop your writing.*

*Sham - for being a 'STAR' in our classroom.*

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## **Year 6**

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*6H*

*Mason - for showing STAR behaviour during our Writing lesson! Keep answering all those questions, Mason!*

*Danae - for always being so kind and caring towards others.*

*6L*

*Sola - for showing STAR behaviour in all lessons, answering questions and engaging well in his learning.*

*Ollie - for being funny, kind and a great friend!*

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## **What is happening in the classroom?**

### **Nursery**

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*This week, Nursery have been introduced to their first Bible story; Noah's Ark. We have listened to the story, learnt a song about the animals and played matching games to find the pairs of animals to board the boat. We even had a go at writing parts of the story using our pre-writing mark making skills.*

*The children have been learning about routine this week and have had fun talking about what we do in the daytime and what we do at night time. We then used our sequencing and ordering skills to order events and numbers. What comes first, what comes next, what comes last?*

*Our new sensory and calm down room is also now open and the children have enjoyed using the soft play that has been kindly donated by one of our parents! The children love it, Thank you!*

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## Reception

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RG

*This week RG have been learning about people who help us such as a doctor, police officer and a firefighter. In Maths RG have been learning to identify more than and fewer than.*

RS

*This week RS have loved using their gross motor skills to build a range of things in the outdoor area. We have seen, dens, garages, rockets and cars being built from a range of different resources. It is fantastic to see such great imagination!*

*In literacy we have started to plan and write our story about a superhero called Joop who is looking for a sidekick. The children have been using their phonic knowledge and applying this to their writing.*

1F

*In art this week the children used lines to create an underwater picture. They then used a range of colours and materials to make their pictures stand out. In English the children have worked very hard by planning and writing their build up, problem and ending to their own story. The children have enjoyed their music lesson this week where they learned a new song called sparkle. They practiced the song before performing it as a whole class.*

1M

*This week, in Year 1, the children achieved a goal in PSHE. They worked with a partner to design a wellie that was identical. They had to use skills such as listening to their partner, taking it in turns and talking to one another. We also have enjoyed Science this week as the children looked at different properties of everyday materials. In Art the children created a under water picture using different materials and exploring the different lines we have learnt about.*

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## Year 2

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2K

*In 2K we have been learning about Money this week. We have been looking at different coins and notes and how to make different amounts. In writing we have been writing our story about finding an unusual creature. We also visited the mosque this week. We had a lovely time learning all about Islam and parts of a mosque.*

2R

*In 2R we have been working really hard on our story writing in English. The work the children have produced is amazing and they should all be so proud. We have also been working really hard in Maths in our topic about Money. This is definitely a hard topic but the children are doing amazing. Well done for such hard work this week 2R keep up the good work.*

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## Year 3

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3D

*This week in English, the children have been writing their own setting narrative, using their plan about a river's journey. They have been using different writing techniques such as personification, prepositions, expanded noun phrases and many more. In French, the children have been learning how to count to 20 and different animals.*

3T

*This week, we have written our own setting narrative about a river's journey. I was amazed by all of the writing in 3T, they included prepositions, personification, expanded noun phrases, conjunctions and so much more! They should be really proud of themselves!*

*In Geography, we looked at lines of longitude and what countries they pass through using an atlas.*

*In Science, we looked at different forces and which everyday objects would be a push force and which would be a pull force.*

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## **Year 4**

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*4J*

*Children had a wonderful visit to the Gurdwara in Smethwick where children learnt about the Sikh faith in great detail. This visit will support learning within their RE lessons this half term. During Art this week, children have been exploring geometric patterns using compasses. 4J have focused on their narrative writing skills this week, using the skills they have learnt over two weeks into their own independent writing.*

*4R*

*This week, we had a wonderful trip to the Gurdwara in Smethwick and all the children were very polite and respectful. We then used the knowledge we learned for this trip and applied it to our RE lessons. We had an Art day this week where 4R learned all about geometric shapes and patterns and created their own prints. In writing, we have been completing our Mythical narrative using all the skills and knowledge they have learned over the past two weeks.*

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## **Year 5**

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*5H*

*We had a fantastic visit to the Buddhist Centre this week and we all learnt lots of new facts. In science, we used torches to help us understand how day and night occur and discussed why this year is a leap year! During our maths lessons, we have been practicing formal methods of division and can confidently divide a 4-digit number by a 1-digit number.*

*5F*

*We had a fantastic visit to the Buddhist Centre this week and we all learnt lots of new facts. In science, we used torches to help us understand how day and night occur and discussed why this year is a leap year! In writing, we have been completing our 'Big write' where children are implemented their learnt skills to produce a cliff-hanger ending. During our maths lessons, we have been practicing formal methods of division and can confidently divide a 4-digit number by a 1-digit number.*

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## **Year 6**

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### *Year 6*

*Year 6 had a wonderful start to the week with our Inter-Faith visit to Shree Geeta Bhawan Hindu Temple; the children were respectful, engaged and enjoyed their tour around a new place of worship. We learnt about the different representations of Gods which were displayed around the temple and it was fascinating to see the traditions that took place. We have continued our learning in RE by learning about influential Hindus, such as Mahatma Gandhi, and how they have helped the wider-world community. As always, the children have demonstrated fantastic learning behaviours in maths, continuing their fraction and calculation work, and their growing confidence is wonderful to see. Well done Year 6 for another superb week!*

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## **Pupil of the Month**

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*These children were nominated by their classmates for consistently demonstrating the school values, following the behaviour expectations and for being excellent role models.*

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## **Nursery**

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*Elliott - for coming back after Christmas with a fresh desire to learn and a greater independence in the classroom.*

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## **Reception**

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*Mariam - for always being a kind friend and a role model to her peers.*

RS

*Mikial for always doing wow walking and being ready to learn.*

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## **Year 1**

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1F

*Aziah Walker - for overcoming challenges to aid good learning.*

1M

*Neve - for always being a role model and being ready to learn.*

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## **Year 2**

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2K

*Ellie - for working very hard in class and being a great friend.*

2R

*Ava - for always working hard and producing fabulous work every time.*

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## Year 3

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3D

*Violet -for being a kind friend and being a role model to others in the class.*

3T

*James - for always showing STAR behaviour, being a role model to everyone around him and for being a good friend on the playground.*

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## Year 4

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4J

*Elijah - for always being a good friend and a role model to others.*

4R

*Declan- for being a kind friends and working hard during lessons.*

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## Year 5

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5H

*Mason - for being a good friend and always working*

5F

*Connor Moo - for being kind, caring and being a positive role*

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## Year 6

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6H

*Oliver - for always going above and beyond in everything he does. He constantly demonstrates all the learning behaviours, always so kind to his friends and is an amazing role model! Well done Oliver what lovely words!*

6L

*Lois A - for being such a kind and caring friend who always demonstrates our 3 Rs around school. You display STAR behaviour in the classroom and your classmates are impressed by your confidence when answering and asking questions. I agree with all of your peers! Well done Lois!*

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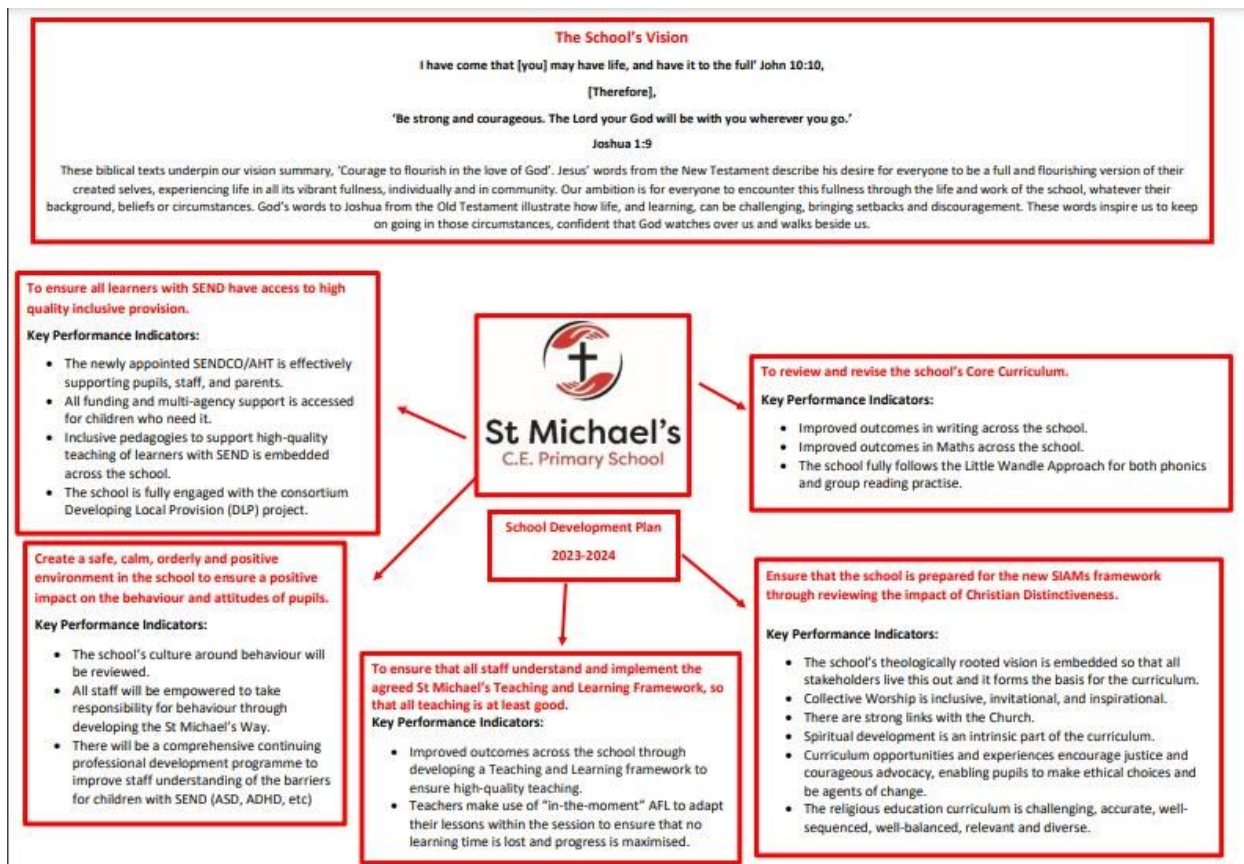
## School Development Plan

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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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