

St Michael's Church of England Primary School Newsletter



Thursday 26th October 2023

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 and Carers,

Wow! It has been a busy but productive half term and as always, the children have worked incredibly hard.

I would like to take this opportunity to say a huge thank you for all of the support you have shown staff and the school for the autumn 1 half term.

If you are a parent or carer who has a Year 6 child within our school, this is a reminder that the secondary school applications must be filled out and submitted before the 31st of October. We have a number of children who show on our system as not having an application submitted. Please see the link below to do this.

Finally, a reminder that it is a teacher training day tomorrow (Friday 27th October) so there are no children in school.

I wish you all a safe and peaceful half term. I look forward to seeing you and your children on Monday 6th November.

Mrs Roberts

Headteacher

Attendance



*The whole school's attendance target is 96%. The whole school attendance for the year so far is **94.1%**. Unfortunately, our persistent absence is already at **19%**. Please ensure your child comes to school every day.*

Class Attendance - for this year so far!

RG - 94.4%

RS - 91.6%

1F - 93.2%

1M - 89.5%

2K - 93.1%

2R - 94%

3D - 93.2%

3T - 97.2%

4J - 94.2%

4R - 96.8%

5F - 95.6%

5H - 95.2%

6H - 95.4%

6L - 92.9%

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/>

For the attention of Year 6 parents and carers

Online admissions opened on 1 September 2023 for Year 7 2024 applications. Parents resident in Birmingham should apply through the Birmingham City Council website www.birmingham.gov.uk/schooladmissions up until the deadline of 31 October 2023. Further information, as well as the admission arrangements to support parents with making their preferences, can be found on the Birmingham City Council website. Advice and support is also available from Children's Services on 0121 303 1888.

For any queries or further information please contact the Admissions team at admissions@birmingham.gov.uk.

Key Dates

Thursday 26th October: Last day for the children to attend this half term.

Friday 27th October: School Closed for BDMAT Staff Training Day.

Monday 6th November: Return to school.

W/b Monday 13th November: Anti-bullying week.

Tuesday 14th : Year 2 Diwali Assembly (9.00am).

Thursday 9th November: Year 6 at St Michael's for the Remembrance Service (children only).

Wednesday 15th November - Friday 17th November - Year 6 Residential.

Wednesday 15th November: Year 2 parent and carer lunch and lesson (details to follow).

Thursday 16th November: Coffee morning for parents and carers of children with SEND (Ms Joyce will be sending out further details regarding this).

Friday 17th November: Children in Need (details to follow).

Tuesday 21st November: Reception phonics workshop for parents and carers.

Tuesday 21st November: Year 5 at the library.

Wednesday 22nd November: Year 1 phonics workshop for parents and carers.

Thursday 23rd November: Year 4 parent and carer lunch and lesson (details to follow).

Friday 24th November : photographer in school (solo and sibling photos).

Tuesday 28th November: Open Evening for parents and carers to look at their children's books.

Tuesday 28th November: Year 4 at the library.

Tuesday 5th December at 2pm: Nursery Carol Concert for parents and carers.

Thursday 7th December: Year 3 Hannukah Assembly (9.00am).

Wednesday 13th December: Year 2 trip to Aston Hall.

Thursday 14th December at 4pm: Year 5 Christmas Production at school (further details to follow).

Friday 15th December: Christmas Grotto and Christmas Jumper Day.

Tuesday 19th December: Whole School Pantomime.

Wednesday 20th December at 2pm and 4pm: Reception Nativity (details to follow).

Thursday 21st December: Whole school at St Michael's Church (children only).

Thursday 21st December: Christmas Parties in the afternoon (details to follow).

Friday 22nd December: Last day of term.

Headteacher Awards

The following children were nominated by the adults in their classroom for their contribution to school life this half term.

Reception

RG- Wilfred for always doing the right thing and being an excellent role model to his peers.

RS - Bailee is an always pupil. Miss Slattery can always count on him to be showing the correct learning behaviour. He is super sensible and a fantastic role model. Bailee is always eager to help and learn.

Year 1

1F

Austin gives 100% to any task. Austin not only does what is required, he will often go above and beyond.

Tahlia - For being a consistent role model. Tahlia is a role model not only in the classroom, but also within the whole school.

1M

Sukhmani - For always showing marvellous manners and trying her best.

Marcus - For always being a role model and a kind friend.

Year 2

Freddie B - For working very hard this half term. He has settled well into Year 2.

Savannah - For working hard all of the time and being a role model.

Daylen- For always showing courage through putting his hand up in every lesson to share his ideas.

Harry- For always being kind to his peers.

Year 3

Noah – At the beginning of the year, Noah struggled with coming into school but now he comes in confidently and happily. We have seen a positive change in Noah, and his attitude and effort in work has improved massively.

Maria always tries her hardest in everything that she does. Maria challenges herself and takes pride in her work. She is a happy member of 3T, who always comes in smiling and is a role model to her classmates.

Brook is an excellent role model and is always helping everyone in the classroom as well as around school.

Emily always shows her Wow Walking and Marvellous Manners around school and gives 100% in every lesson.

Year 4

Freya is a role model to the St Michaels School community. During lessons, Freya is ready to learn and contribute to every activity. Always helpful and a good friend. During our Harvest Festival Assembly, Freya ensured that she gave 100% when we were practicing and making sure she was contributing to the class at all times.

Lucas Dea has made leaps of progress within maths. Lucas can find maths a challenge, but seeing his confidence build has been a pleasure and now something that seemed so daunting, Lucas now takes the challenge and asks for help when he needs it. Lucas is a great example of courage this half term to all in his classmates.

Declan is a fantastic role model for everyone in the class. He is always giving 100% effort and getting involved in all aspects of life at St Michael's.

Sophia always gives her all into everything she does. She takes pride in her work and isn't satisfied unless everything is done to the best of her ability and is always contributing her ideas to the class.

Year 5

Ahria -For always trying her best in all aspects of school life

Mason - For working hard in all lessons and being an excellent role model

Jay – For always having a positive attitude to his work, others and staff around the school. He is a pleasure to have in my classroom.

Evie – For working hard in all lessons, showing a great attitude to those around her and always giving 100%.

Year 6

6H: x

Thomas G - For always going above and beyond in everything you do - what a fantastic role model!

Lydia W - For being courageous in everything you do.. always challenging yourself and pushing yourself to the limits. Well done!

6L

Oscar is so kind, caring and helpful. Every day he comes into school with a positive attitude and he tries so hard in every lesson. Oscar is always ready to help his classmates and adults around the school and this does not go unnoticed. Well done Oscar – you are a true role model!

Lily is respectful, ready, resilient and responsible. Every day, she comes to school ready to learn and works incredibly hard in every lesson. She is respectful to adults and children and is a good friend to everybody. Lily should be so proud of herself!

What is happening in the classroom?

Nursery

This week, the children have enjoyed using our new balance bikes and scooters in the outdoor area. They have been working hard on those turn taking skills and have been trying their hardest to wait to use the new toys.

We have learned how to create leaf rubbings by rolling a wax crayons over paper to reveal the leaf underneath and have been excited by the addition of "Dough Disco" to our timetable. We are going to be boogying our way to a strong pencil grip!

In the role play area this week, the kitchen has been upgraded to a "Hot Chocolate Cafe" and the children are enjoying cosyng up with a (pretend) warm drink as Autumn gets colder!

Reception

RG- This week RG have been learning about bonfire night. We have learnt about why we celebrate bonfire night and fire safety rules particularly around sparklers, fireworks and bonfires.

RS- This week in maths Reception we have been comparing different amounts, the teddy bear went on a picnic and we had to ensure they all had equal amounts of cutlery and food. In phonics we have been recapping the sound we have learnt this half term and explored making silly soup!!

Year 1

1F - In maths we have been looking at part whole models. Children have been looking how a whole number can be split into 2 parts, in addition how these parts make a whole number. Within the class we have also been focussing on writing. We have been looking at capital letters and full stops, in addition to when these should be used and why these should be used (Capital letters should be used at the the beginning of a sentence, a name, a place, a month, a day of the week and titles).

1M - This week we have been finishing our computing unit. The children have been using their logins to login in safely to J2E. They have been using the different tools on J2E to create a piece all about

themselves. They created a self-portrait in the paint tab and wrote some sentences about themselves. They also used different backgrounds on the write tab to describe which one was their favourite.

Year 2

This week in 2K we have been writing our own acrostic poems about animals. In Maths we have started learning addition and subtraction. We have been adding 1 and 10 to different numbers. In Geography we have been checking what we have learnt this half term. We completed a quiz about Continents and Oceans. Have a lovely half term from Year 2.

In 2R this week the children have been working really hard in our new topic of addition and subtraction in Maths. In English we have been looking at Acrostic poems and the children have had the chance to write their own. We have also been checking our understanding in Geography on our topic of Continents and Oceans. The children have worked super hard this half term, have a lovely rest 2R.

Year 3

3D - In writing this week we have been looking at poetry. We have looked at different examples of simile poems and created one as a class. The children then wrote their own simile poem all about themselves. We have also been focusing on column addition and subtraction in maths, looking at questions with exchanging.

3T - In Geography this week, children used the information they had already researched to create a poster about their chosen European country. In RE, we created an acrostic poem on creation, to show what we had learnt throughout the topic and to answer our big question. For Black History Month, we researched and created a fact file on Dr Anjana Khatwa, who is an Earth scientist. This linked well with our science topic Rocks and Soils.

Within Maths, we have been continuing to add and subtract up to three-digit numbers with exchanging, using the formal written method. If you could practise this at home during the half term then that would be fantastic!

In English, we have been writing our simile poems, which are all about us. We have drafted them, edited them and performed them to our classmates.

Year 4

4J - Children have been finishing off their Art unit this week where they have been inspired by the artist Giorgio Morandi to create still-life drawings. During our English lessons, 4J have been performing poetry where their body language and expression was challenged to perform in front of their classmates. As you are aware, Year Four have been focusing on their doubling the last couple of weeks. Now, they are looking at their three times table during Maths Lessons.

4R- Children have been working really hard this week using everything they have learned about condensation and evaporation to see how these processes link to the water cycle. Throughout our English lessons, we have been performing poetry, taking inspiration from Michael Rosen, to perform a piece of poetry using our facial and body expressions. In Maths, multiplication is going to be a big topic this year and have begun looking at their three times tables this week.

Year 5

5H - This week we have been consolidating our addition and subtraction skills and have use these to solve a variety of problems. We have been looking at poetry during our English lessons and enjoyed our parent lessons and lunches where we wrote cinquains. We have also been using scratch to create our own games in computing. This was great fun and we were able to test the games on each other.

5F - This week we have been diving deeper into addition and subtraction and focusing on multi-step problems to increase consolidation. In English, we have been learning about Poetry; specifically cinquain poems. The children had the opportunity to write their own poem with parents in our 'parent lesson' which followed our parent lunch. In DT, the children prepared their ingredients (by chopping, weighing and organising) and cooked their spaghetti Bolognese sauces ready to take home.

Year 6

6H -This week, we have been completing our Art Unit based on photography, truisms and photo montages. The children have really enjoyed this unit of work, and have thoroughly liked the creative element that is attached to it. Well done Year 6, there are some potential artists in the making!

6L- The children have been working so hard in Year 6 this week completing SATs assessments. We are so proud of their progress and attitudes! In art, the children have enjoyed creating montages out of celebrity photos. They also enjoyed creating meaningful truism posters and thought really hard about choosing powerful words to match their image. As Mrs Hession said, we definitely have some artists in Year 6! Well done again everybody.

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 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.

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 your 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 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
