

St Michael's Church of England Primary School Newsletter



Friday 29th September 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,

I hope that you have had a fantastic week.

We have continued to look at the Story of Esther this week.

As we have read Esther's story, we have witnessed her unwavering bravery in the face of overwhelming adversity. She found herself in a perilous situation, where revealing her true identity as a Jewish woman to the powerful King Xerxes was a life-threatening risk. Yet, she summoned the strength to stand up for her people and confront the evil plot of Haman, demonstrating that courage isn't the absence of fear but the determination to act despite it.

Esther's story teaches us that courage is not reserved for grand acts alone. It can manifest in our everyday lives when we speak up against injustice, support those in need, or face personal challenges head-on. Her journey reminds us that we all possess the capacity for courage, and it's a force that can reshape destinies.

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

Our school community thrives when we foster an environment of mutual respect and open communication. We understand that there will be times that you feel frustrated or disagree with actions that the school has taken, however, we would always urge you to share these concerns in a calm and positive manner. We have now had a number of incidents, where staff have been shouted at and as you can imagine, this is not something that we will tolerate or condone.

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

Mrs Roberts

Headteacher

Nursery and Reception - September 2024

We have some open sessions for parents and carers to come and see the school if their children are due to start Nursery or Reception in September 2024.

Please contact the office on 0121 464 4345 if you would like to attend one of these sessions.

Can you also please let any friends or families know who may be interested.

The session details are:

Thursday 19th October at 2:00pm

or

Friday 20th October at 10:00am

World Mental Health Day

World Mental Health Day (10 October) is an international day for global mental health education, awareness and advocacy against social stigma. Its purpose is to raise awareness of mental health issues around the world and to mobilise efforts in support of mental health.

It was first celebrated in 1992 by the World Federation for Mental Health, a global mental health organisation with members in more than 150 countries. Each year supporters bring awareness to mental illness and its effects on people's lives worldwide.

World Mental Health Day 2023's theme is 'Mental Health is a Universal Human Right'.

Studies show that since the COVID-19 pandemic began, more children are reporting higher levels of anxiety and depression than ever before. Teaching children about mental health and wellbeing is important to their emotional development.

How are we celebrating World Mental Health Day at St Michaels?

- We are having a non-uniform day on **Friday 6th October 2023**. Please can your child/children wear something yellow and bring in a £1 donation (per child) to support World Mental Health Day.*
 - During the afternoon we have organised activities which raise awareness about and promote mental health and wellbeing.*
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Can we please ask you to talk to your child about the day and ask them to share what they have learnt with you.

Black History Month

Black History Month (BHM) has been celebrated in the UK during October since 1987. It is a time to commemorate and celebrate the achievements, contributions, and experiences of Black people throughout history.

This year, Black History Month is dedicated to honouring the achievements of Black women. The theme this year is 'Saluting Our Sisters'.

As part of our Black History Month celebrations at St Michael's we are:

- Holding an assembly for the pupils on 3rd October 2023.*
 - Teaching about Black History during October.*
 - Creating a display to showcase the work that is produced by each class across the school.*
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At St Michaels we promote diversity across our curriculum and ensure that Black History is taught throughout the year.

Feedback from Meet the Teacher Meetings

Thank you to everyone who was able to make the meetings. We really do appreciate you giving up your time. I just wanted to share some of the feedback we have received and the actions we will or have taken from it.

Communication

It was fantastic to get the feedback that you can see an improvement in communication already. Thank you for that. Actions we have already taken are:

- A weekly newsletter with key dates on to keep you updated and give you plenty of notice about events.*
 - The Senior Leadership Team are on the gates each morning and evening so that you can speak to us if you have any concerns or worries.*
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What we are working on going forward is making our messages clearer on Arbor and ensuring that we give you the maximum notice we can for trips.

Involvement of parents and carers

As discussed during the Meet the Teacher meetings, we really do value your involvement. What we are doing to ensure we keep building these positive relationships are plenty of workshops that we would love you to attend if you are able to, visits to St Michael's Church, Celebration Assemblies, parent lunches and lots of performances.

Homework

Some parents and carers feel that homework is not clear or consistent across the school. We will focus on improving that this year.

What the children are learning in school

We hope that through coming to the Meet the Teacher meetings, we have been able to provide more information on this for you. We will also continue to send home the termly class newsletter and keep the curriculum section of the website up to date.

<https://www.stmicb32.bham.sch.uk/Curriculum-Overviews/>

We will also provide further information during our Pupil Progress Meetings that you will be invited to.

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.

Reminders

A gentle reminder to please make regular checks up (for examples, the opticians and dentist) outside of school hours. This is to try and minimise the amount of time that children miss at school.

Can we also please remind you that unless you have a blue badge, you should not be driving up Nantmel Grove during morning and afternoon opening and drop off times. This is to make sure that we keep the children safe. Unfortunately, we have recently had a number of near misses. The large number of pedestrians walking up and down the grove, the fact that the grove is narrow and children running into the road, makes it unsuitable for vehicles at these times of day. I also need to make you aware that the Traffic Wardens and Local Police Community Support Officers are actively monitoring the areas during the start and end of the school day.

Key Dates

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

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

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

Friday 6th October: World Mental Health Day (wear yellow to school)

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

Tuesday 17th October: Year 2 at the Library.

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

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

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

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

Monday 23rd October: Key Stage 1 Headteacher Awards Celebration (invitations will be sent out the week before).

Tuesday 24th October: Year 1 at the Library.

Wednesday 25th October: Key Stage 2 Headteacher Awards Celebration (invitations will be sent out the week before).

Wednesday 25th October: Year 5 Parent/Carer Lunch (details will be sent out in a separate letter nearer to the time).

Thursday 26th October: Reception Welcome Service at St Michael's Church (parents and carers welcome) at 9.15am.

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

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

Stars of the Week

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

Nursery

Leo - for being respectful, kind and friendly to the other children.

Teddy - for settling well and coming in every day this week with a smile.

Reception

Edom has got Star of the Week because she has been working really hard on her name writing, both tracing and writing independently.

Theodore J has got Star of the Week this week because he has been working really hard in our Talk for Writing lessons learning to retell the story of Owl Babies

Tiana has got Star of the Week because she has been trying super hard in phonics. She has been working really hard to recall all of the new sounds that we have learnt.

Mason has got Star of the Week because he has been working really hard on his name writing. He started the week with mark making on his sheet as he said he couldn't do it but after persevering he is now able to write the M and a in his name and he has been super proud of himself.

Year 1

Alannah BM - for always being a role model and demonstrating marvellous manners.

Cordell - for trying really hard with his phonics and writing.

Shahnaz F - for trying hard in Maths and English.

Eshal N - for making a fantastic start to year 1 and making valuable contributions in lessons.

Year 2

Tara - she always shows she is ready and listens well. Tara works hard with all of her work.

Alannah A - She always works hard and uses her Marvellous Manners.

Lukeo- for trying super hard in his work this week. Always having your hand up and having a good go.

Summer- for always being a polite and respectful pupil. Always showing your marvellous manners and showing you are ready to learn.

Year 3

Letisha - for always showing you are ready and involving yourself in class discussions.

Theo - for working hard in every lesson.

Lilly S - for showing good listening and always being ready to learn.

Barrie - for always being positive and trying his hardest in every subject.

Year 4

Daisy - for becoming more confident and putting her hand up in lessons more

Lucas - for listening to instructions and trying his best

Dexie - for her lovely, marvellous manners.

Tayon - for his consistent effort to improve his handwriting.

Year 5

Anya - for being an excellent role model and always making the right choices around school

Dylan C- for trying hard with the presentation of your work.

Colby - for outstanding work in all lessons, especially maths.

Connor Mo - for having a great attitude and always giving 100%.

Year 6

Eryn K-S - for always trying so hard in maths and gaining so much confidence!

Harlow P- for trying great enthusiasm and perseverance towards our discussion writing.

Lois A - For always participating in every lesson and sharing her great ideas.

Connor D - for having a super attitude to learning and marvellous manners!

Pupil of the Month

The following children were nominated by the other children in their classroom. This is because they consistently follow the school rules and demonstrate the school values.

Nursery

Frankie - for being a role model; listening carefully on the carpet and being moved up to gold!

Reception

Wilfred has got Pupil of the Month because he has been an excellent role model, always showing marvellous manners and wow walking.

Bailee has got Pupil of the Month because he has been an excellent role model on the carpet. He is always showing me he is ready to learn by having his legs crossed, eyes at the front and listening ears on.

Year 1

Lucy - for always being kind and caring.

Xavier - for consistently doing the right thing and being a role model.

Year 2

Ava M- for always being a respectful member of the class and always showing her marvellous manners.

Mikiyas - For always being respectful and a role model.

Year 3

Brook- for always doing the right thing and being a role model.

Finley - for always being a role model and constantly getting to gold.

Year 4

Dara - for being a kind friend and always showing marvellous manners and wow walking

Areng - she is a wonderful role-model, she is kind and always looks out for others.

Year 5

Mia Hill -for being a great friend and always being a great role model.

Ellie - for being kind, friendly and always being helpful. Mrs Titley: 'Ellie is a delight and pleasure to have in the classroom'.

Year 6

Amelia A-J - for being a fantastic learner, a great role model, being so polite and a brilliant friend!

Melanie J - for being so nice to everyone, being kind and incredibly helpful!

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:

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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

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.
