

# St Michael's Church of England Primary School Newsletter

**Friday 2nd February 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 scripture that underpins our School Christian Value of Thankfulness.*

### **1 Thessalonians 5:18**

*'Be thankful in all circumstances, for this is gods will for you.'*

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- 1. Gratitude in All Circumstances: The verse emphasises the importance of maintaining an attitude of thankfulness regardless of the circumstances one faces in life. This doesn't mean pretending that difficult situations don't exist or ignoring pain and suffering, but rather choosing to focus on the good things that exist even amidst challenges.*
  - 2. God's Will for You: The verse suggests that being thankful in all circumstances is not just a suggestion but aligns with God's will for believers. It implies that gratitude is an integral aspect of living according to God's plan and brings us closer to understanding and fulfilling our purpose in life.*
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*We spent time reflecting on our blessings, even when times are difficult. We thought about how gratitude is not dependent on our circumstances but is a choice we can make regardless of our situation.*

*Our teacher training day at the start of the term, focused on improving the way we teaching writing. I have spent much of this week, looking at the children's books to see the impact of this. It has been fantastic to see the progress that the children are making. I need to say a great big thank you to all of the teachers for working so hard to implement this.*

*Mrs Roberts*

*Headteacher*

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## **Key Dates**

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*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 Prgress 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).*

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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.*

*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.*

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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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## 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 **16.9%**. Please ensure your child comes to school every day.*

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

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

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*RG - 93.1%*

*RS - 91%*

*1F - 93.3%*

1M - 93.1%

2K - 91.4%

2R - 94%

3D - 94.3%

3T - 96%

4J - 93.6%

4R - 96.1%

5F - 94.4%

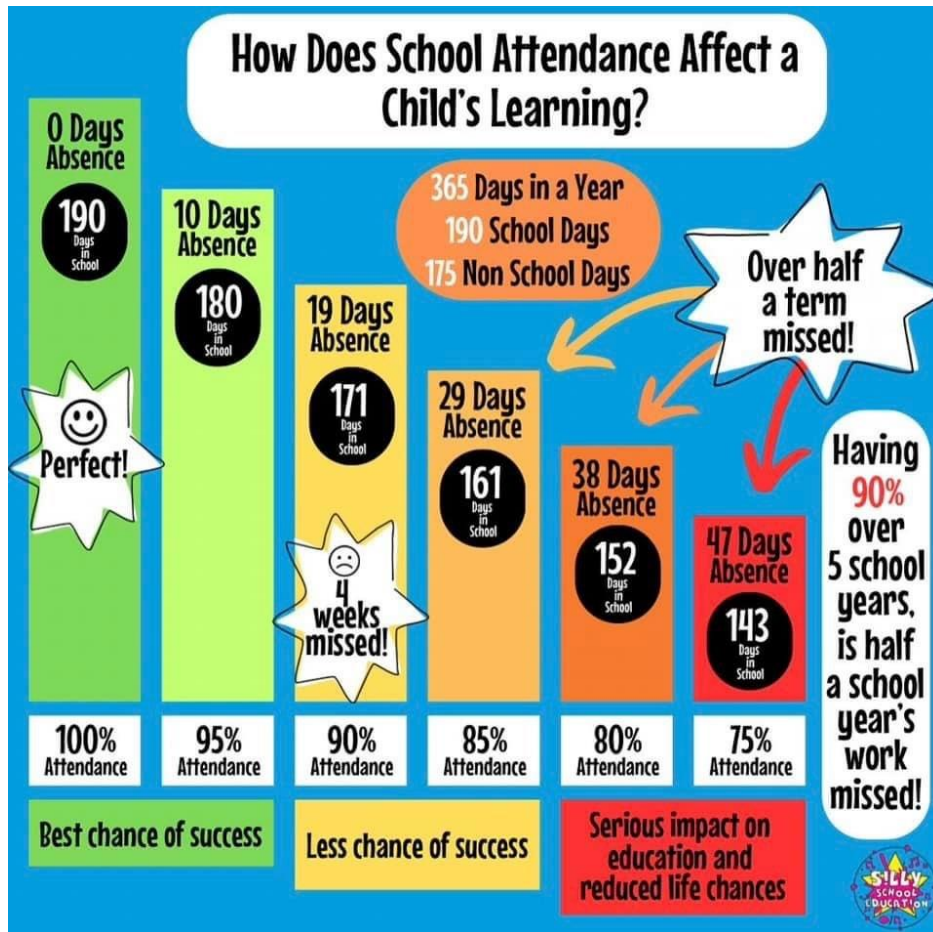
5H - 94.9%

6H - 95.2%

6L - 93.3%

*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/>



## 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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*Toluwalase - for being kind to the other children and including them in her play.*

*Ethan - for being a role model to the other children and always being ready to learn.*

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### Reception

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*RG*

*Alice- for always being a kind friend to others.*

*Kimberly- for working hard in handwriting lessons this week.*

*RS*

*Charlie has been focusing well during phonics. He has really been trying his best to join in and blend the words.*

*Zion has been trying hard this week when listening to instructions.*

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### Year 1

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*1F*

*Loba - for settling in so well and giving support to others.*

*Amine - for super phonics.*

1M

*Alannah - for being a role model.*

*Brayden - for super work in Maths.*

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## **Year 2**

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2K

*Elliot - for working hard in writing and writing a sentence.*

*Connie - for working hard in writing and sharing lots of ideas.*

2R

*Kieran- for trying extremely hard in maths this week.*

*Candance- for always being a positive role model.*

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## **Year 3**

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3D

*Arlo - for contributing to class discussions.*

*James - for always doing the right thing and trying hard in every lesson.*

3T

*Louie - for trying hard to join up his writing in handwriting lessons .*

*Abdurraheem - for always following the St Michael's way.*

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## Year 4

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4J

*Logan - for his imagination while writing his mythical narrative.*

*Kaylah -Rae - for using the 'A' Choice at all times.*

4R

*River - for always being ready and respectful in class.*

*Daisy - for always trying her best and completing her work to the best of her ability.*

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## Year 5

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5F

*Kaci P - for persevering in maths and always being respectful in class.*

*Zach - for outstanding work in maths with fractions and helping those around you.*

5H

*Jake - for remembering lots of facts for our maths lessons*

*Alfie - for contributing effectively during lessons*

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## **Year 6**

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*6H*

*Millie -for always having a positive attitude towards her learning.*

*Injila - For working so hard within her maths lessons, and really trying to push herself out of the comfort zone!*

*6L*

*Jack E: For being such a helpful and observant member of our class. Well done!*

*Megan B: For a fantastic understanding of fractions and always challenging herself. Well done!*

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

### **Nursery**

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*This week the nursery children heard the story of "Where's Lenny?", a story about a game of hide and seek between parents and their little boy, Lenny. We loved the story so much, we had a big game of hide and seek in the outdoor area. The children loved finding tiny spaces and being creative with their hiding places!*

*We also learnt about Jonah and the whale. We made paper plate fish, made our own books of the story and talked about the emotions that Jonah may have been feeling at different points. We learnt the word "weight" and looked for things that were heavy and light within the classroom. Then we did a science experiment and dropped two items at the same time, a glue stick and a feather, to see which one would fall first. This was the heavier object.*

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## Reception

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RG

*This week Reception have been to St Michael's Church, where we had a look at different objects and what they are used for. Reception loved having their parents come in for our poetry workshop and lunch on Tuesday!*

RS

*This week Reception have been learning about 1 more and 1 less in maths and exploring this in different ways In music they have learnt a rap about the 5 little monkeys jumping on the bed. Please ask them to sing it for you - not forgetting their cool rap poses!*

1F

*This week in maths, the children have been using base ten resources. The children have been working with numbers up to 50. In science we have been exploring materials, in particular materials which are waterproof. The children took part in an experiment to predict which material would be the best to make an umbrella.*

1M

*This week in computing, we looked at a new programme called Scratch. The children used this programme to create algorithms and predict their partners algorithm. We also have been using base ten resources in Maths this ween to make numbers to 30. The children have been looking at how many tens and ones each number has.*

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## Year 2

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*In 2K this week, have been working hard to count change and work out totals when working with Money. In English we have started to look at instructions. We are going to write instructions of how to build a habitat for their unusual creature. In Geography we have created our own weather station.*

*2R have continued to work hard in our Maths topic on money. The children have also used instructions in English to build a Bog Baby habitat. The children have also been looking at the growth of animals in science.*

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## **Year 3**

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*3D*

*This week in Maths, the children have been working hard in our topic of measurements. In English, we have been looking at information leaflets with the children researching and gathering information for their writing about waterfalls.*

*3T*

*In Science, we have been exploring which poles of the magnet attract or repel when placed near each other. In Art, we have started to make shadow puppets to use when retelling a cat and mouse poem. If possible could you send in any empty cereal boxes by Wednesday 7th February please?*

*In English, we have been researching natural wonders of the world, specifically focusing on volcanoes and rivers, we will be using this information to help us write an information leaflet.*

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## **Year 4**

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*4J*

*Children in 4J have focused their scientific enquiry skills during their lesson on the topic sound. Using the correct vocabulary, children described the journey of sound from outside the ear to the brain registering the messages sent. 4J used the States of Matter knowledge to describe how sound travels through different mediums. Year Four have started their new writing focus which is an information report. Children will be*

4R

*In maths this week, 4R have been working really hard with their division skills, practising dividing 2 and 3 digit numbers. In science, we learned how sound travels through different mediums and explored what happens to sound waves as it enters our ears. We have also started our new writing topic this week which will be to write an information report about how to defeat a mythical creature.*

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## Year 5

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5H

*This week we created our own Anglo-Saxon villages and had to explain what we included and why. We have been multiplying fractions during our maths lessons, using prior knowledge to convert improper numbers to mixed fractions. During our English lessons, we have been using formal historical language - it's really made us think!*

5F

*This week we created our own Anglo-Saxon villages and had to explain what we included and why. We have been multiplying fractions during our maths lessons, using prior knowledge to convert improper numbers to mixed fractions. During our English lessons, we have been using formal historical language - it's really made us think! As well as this, we have been designing and drawing our own monuments of ourselves, family, friends or famous people and explaining why they deserve their own monument.*

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## Year 6

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Year 6

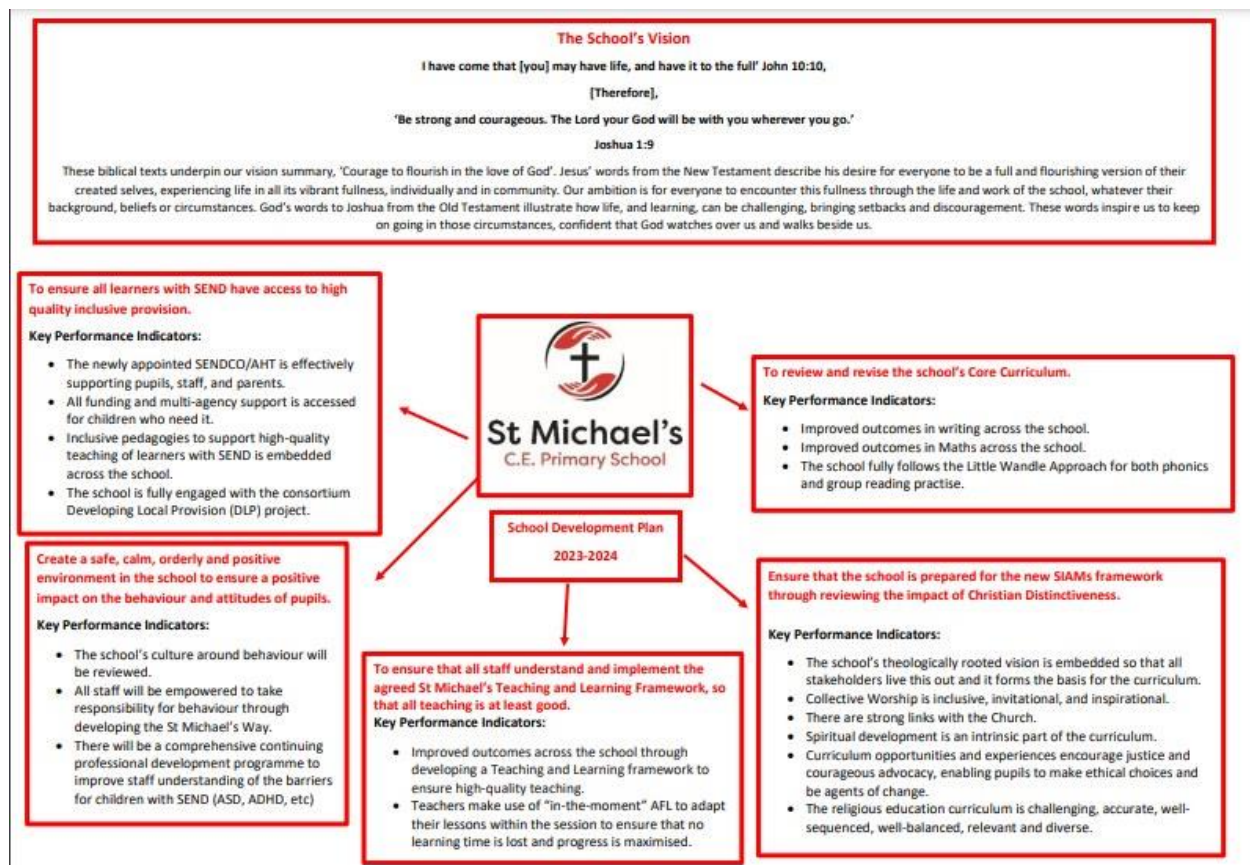
*Another busy, but fantastic week for Year 6. We have started our new Writing unit and the children have immersed themselves fully into the grammatical skills, researching aspects and generation of new and ambitious ideas. We have also continued to focus and embed the fundamental skills in Badminton and Gymnastics, whilst trying to push ourselves out of our comfort zones. Year 6 have really taken on the challenge of their new homework schedule with lots of children remembering to complete and bring it in on time - what great preparation for May and the transition into secondary school. Well done - only 1 more week to go!*

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# School Development Plan

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

## [School Develop Plan](#)



## What you need to bring to school

*A reminder of what to bring to school:*

✓ A water bottle (please make sure it has yourname 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 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 day 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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