

St Michael's Church of England Primary School Newsletter

Friday 3rd May 2024

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 this message finds you well. It has been a pleasure this week meeting all the parents and carers of the children who will be joining St Michael's CE Primary School in September. We are looking forward to welcoming them into our school community. We do have some reception spaces still available for September 2024. If you could spread the word that would be fantastic. If you know any parent who does not have a school space for their child yet, please direct them to Mrs Davies in the office who will be more than happy to help.

I am delighted to share some highlights from this week. Key Stage 1 had a fantastic day participating in Quidditch Games with Premier Education, and Year 2 had a meaningful visit to St Michael's as part of their RE unit of work. A big thank you to Reverend Ruth for welcoming us and enriching our learning experience.

On Monday, our Worship Leaders led Collective Worship. They were exploring the story of Jonah and the Whale. This story teaches us about trust, and we have been discussing how we can apply this lesson to our daily lives. It is important for us to make the 'A' choice, trusting both ourselves and others to make the right decisions. These choices are what helps create a welcoming, kind, and supportive environment for all members of our school community. Thank you to Mrs Burke and the Collective Worship Team.

Ms Joyce would like to express her gratitude to all the families who were able to attend the SEND coffee afternoon. Your support and participation are greatly appreciated.

I would like to welcome Mrs Jones to the school office team. We are delighted that she has joined us. Miss Cockell will still work in the office but this will give her the time to focus more on her Attendance and Family Liaison Officer role.

Can I please ask you to avoid smoking by the gates as the children enter and exit the building. We have children who have health conditions that this impact upon.

Thank you for your ongoing support and dedication to our school community.

I hope you all have a lovely weekend.

Warm regards,

Mrs Roberts



Birmingham Hospice

We were delighted that Hettie from Birmingham Hospice came to visit today. She wanted to say thank you for the money that we have raised for them. She joined our Collective Worship and then did a walk around the school so that the children could spend some time with her. Kaitlyn and Yoaden had the pleasure of handing over our cheque.



Phonics

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

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

Year 1 Phonics Screening Check

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

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

Queries or concerns

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

Scotland Lane

I have been contacted by Preet Kaur Gill (MP for Edgbaston) this week. She has received complaints from residents of Scotland Lane in Bartley Green about parents/carers parking on the road. They have said that parents and carers of the school are parking over dropped kerbs, grass verges, and in front of houses. There are a number of elderly residents and residents with disabilities that this is impacting on. Can we please ask that you are mindful about where you park during pick up and drop off.

Key Dates

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

Tuesday 7th May - Reception at Bartley Green Library.

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

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

Friday 17th May - Photographer in school.

Friday 17th May - Year 6 Pizza afternoon.

Monday 20th May - Year 5 Celebrating the Pentecost at St Michael's Church (adults invited).

Thursday 23rd May - Year 4 at The Botanical Gardens.

Thursday 23rd May - Reception and Key Stage 1 Headteacher Awards.

Friday 24th May - Key Stage 2 Headteacher Awards.

Friday 24th May - Year 2 at Bartley Green library.

Friday 24th May - Year 1 at Black Country Museum.

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

Monday 3rd June - Teacher Training Day.

Tuesday 4th June - children return to school.

Week beginning 3rd June - Year 4 Multiplication Tables Check.

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

Nursery Places



The poster features a yellow background with a red border. On the left, there is a photo of a young girl with her hands painted in colorful paint (red, yellow, blue, green). Above the photo is the school logo: a cross inside a circle with 'St Michael's C.E. Primary School' written below it. In the center, a red box with white text reads 'NURSERY PLACES AVAILABLE'. To the right, a yellow speech bubble contains the text: 'If you have a child who turns 3 before September 1st 2024, they will be entitled to 15 hours free child care. Please contact the school office on the number below to enquire about the available spaces in our Nursery.' Below this, another yellow speech bubble contains the school's name and address: 'St Michael's CE Primary School, Nantmel Grove, Bartley Green, B32 3JS'. A red speech bubble with white text says 'Enquire Now - 0121 464 4345'. At the bottom, a yellow banner contains the email address 'office@stmichaelsb32.bdmad.org.uk'.

Attendance



*The whole school's attendance target is 96%. The whole school attendance for the year so far is **93.8%**. Unfortunately, our persistent absence is **18%**. Please ensure your child comes to school every day.*

So far this academic year, we have had 18 families taking unauthorised leave in term time (holidays). This has resulted in £2932 in fixed penalty notices issued by Birmingham City Council. We ask that families do not take leave in term time as these will not be authorised by school.

Class Attendance - for this year so far!

RG - 92.5%

RS - 90.3%

1F - 92.1%

1M - 91.8%

2K - 92.7%

2R - 94.1%

3D - 94.5%

3T - 95.4%

4J - 93.5%

4R - 96.1%

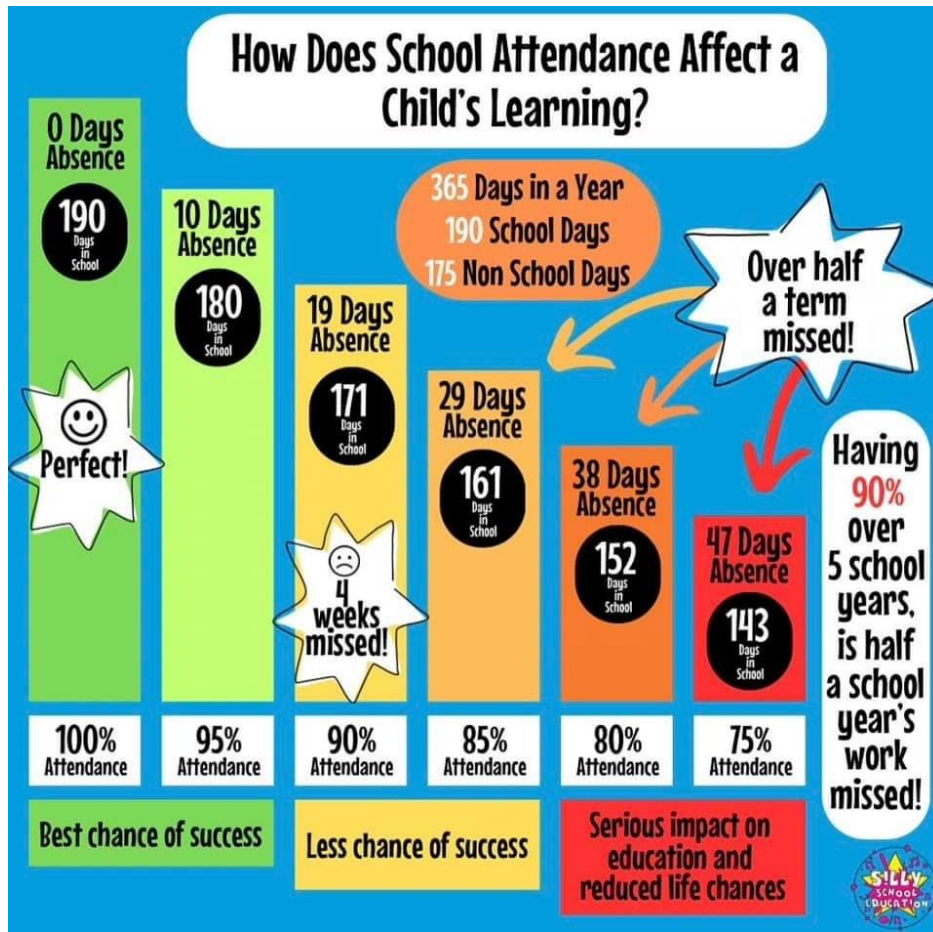
5F - 94.4%

5H - 95%

6H - 94.8%

6L - 93.6%

Since September 2023, we have had an increase in the number of children arriving to school late. When we have added these minutes up, they total 84 days worth of missed learning. Children must be in school and ready to learn promptly each day by 8:45am. Just a reminder that gates open at 8:35am.



NHS guidance for parents about illnesses and when their child should be in school or kept at home

The guidance can be found below:

<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

Action For Children - Advice For Parents On Children Vaping

The guidance can be found below:

<https://parents.actionforchildren.org.uk/behaviour/challenging-behaviour/im-worried-about-my-child-vaping/>

Times Tables Rockstars



Key Stage 2 TTRS Tournaments

Year Four Tournament

4J - 1,098

4R - 503

Key Stage 2 Tournament

4J - 1,430

4R - 594

3D - 201

5H - 32

3T - 31

5F - 21

6L - 20

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

Key Stage 2

1. Freya 4J
 2. Shema 4R
 3. Areng 4J
-

Stars of the Week

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

Nursery

Islah - for settling into nursery life so well and for having a fabulous first few weeks in our class.

Carter - for having an amazing week of continually doing the right thing.

Reception

RG

Zoe- for working really hard in Phonics lessons.

Firaol- For always Wow walking around school.

RS

Alice has been doing some beautiful writing, using her phonics.

Zion has been using his manners often saying please and thank you.

Year 1

1F

Alice - for trying hard in phonics.

Jewel - for trying her best in all lessons.

1M

Lucy - for always being a role model and kind to her friends.

Reggie - for trying super hard to concentrate in lessons and contributing his ideas.

Year 2

2K -

Oscar - for trying hard to make the right choices this week.

Hania - for trying hard in Dance this week.

2R

Rimaz- for ALWAYS doing the right thing and being a role model.

Etana- for always working hard in every lesson.

Year 3

3D

Violet - for trying really hard with her handwriting and getting a handwriting pen.

Lucas - for trying really hard in Maths.

3T

Amelia - for contributing well in Maths discussions and working hard in a group.

May - for consistently sharing fantastic ideas in class discussions.

Year 4

4J

Gabriel I - for his decoding skills in computing.

Elsie - for rereading and correcting her work.

4R

Lucas L- for his improvement in his handwriting

Shema- for her excellent attitude to her work.

Year 5

5F

Ellie Marshall - for producing an amazing piece of writing and being a model pupil

Colby - for amazing work working with angles in Maths

5H

Abi - for a fantastic effort as part of the girl's football team.

Anya - for beautiful presentation in all of your books

Year 6

6H

Harlow- for scoring 40/40 consistently on his arithmetic test.

Olivia F - for making good progress in Maths and becoming more independent

6L

Lois - For wonderful contributions in our RE lessons this term!

Sienna W - For scoring 40/40 on her arithmetic paper! Well done!

Pupil of the Month

The following children have been nominated by their classmates, for always demonstrating the school's values and for being excellent role models.

Nursery

Lase - for her enthusiasm and focus on learning and always being helpful to peers and adults without having to be asked.

Reception

RG

Victor - for always trying your best in every lesson and contributing your ideas.

RG

Lily has been trying really hard this half term. Her writing has improved so much!

Year 1

1M

Cordell -nfor excellent progress in phonics and trying really hard in lessons.

1F

Enzo - for always trying his best in lessons and being more independent .

Year 2

2K

Ellie- for always working hard in class and being a lovely friend.

2R

Nathan- for being a star in all lessons and being a fantastic role model to his peers.

Year 3

3D

Letisha - for working hard in every lesson and being a kind friend.

3T

Jake - for always being a fantastic friend; playing with everyone and being nice to others when they are hurt. Also, his classmates have noticed that he is always showing STAR behaviour and doing the right thing.

Year 4

4J

Oscar

-
- *He is funny and a nice friend*
 - *He makes everyone smile*
 - *He plays with everyone at break and lunch*
-

4R

River- for always being very kind and helpful and always fun to be around.

Year 5

5F

Evie - for being a great friend, being kind and caring and showing perseverance in lessons.

5H

Elijah - for working hard during lessons, being more independent and being a good friend

Year 6

6H

Yoadan- for setting herself the highest standards across all of her subjects, ensuring her books are equally as good in English as they are in RE and History.

6L

Ethan - for showing STAR behaviour in the classroom, being a good friend and making good choices.

Lunchtime Stars

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

Nursery

Ellie - for being polite and using marvellous manners.

Reception

Hadiza - for following instructions and being sensible during lunchtime. -

Simran -for always listening and following instructions.

Year 1

Loba - for being a role model.

Poppy - for wow walking and marvellous manners.

Year 2

Antonella - for playing well with all of your friends.

Lukeo - for always being sensible.

Year 5

Anit - for always being an excellent role model.

What is happening in the classroom?

Nursery

This week, we started our Monday by reading the classic book "The Very Hungry Caterpillar". This was in preparation for some very special visitors to the nursery classroom. The children were so excited to see some caterpillars arrive via post for us to keep and look after in our classroom. The children will watch them grow and change over the next few weeks until they become butterflies and we can release them into the garden.

We have been talking about the life cycle of the butterfly and the children have been full of questions, learning to order the stages and talking about what happens at each point. We have also had a go at making our own rorschach style butterfly paintings by adding colourful paint to paper and then folding it to make a symmetrical pattern.

Reception

RG

In maths this week Reception have been subtracting numbers within 10. We have also been exploring the life cycle of a human thinking about the different things we can do when we are babies, children, teenagers and adults.

RS

Reception have been exploring sinking and floating, they have had lots of fun doing an experiment with things that sink and float. In writing they have been using their phonic knowledge to write the opening of the story.

1F

This week in science, we have been comparing and contrasting deciduous and evergreen trees.

1M

In Year 1 this week we have been looking at a diary entry from Erin who is the main character in the story The Secret of Black Rock. The children have been exploring Erin's feelings and how she really wants to save Black Rock from being destroyed. The children had some great ideas and we used role play to act out how Erin was feeling. In Maths this week the children have been looking at finding a quarter of a shape or object. The children really enjoyed splitting lots of different shapes and objects into 4 equal parts.

Year 2

In Year 2 this week we have been continuing with measure in Maths which the children have clearly been enjoying and have enjoyed using the metre sticks to measure things in the classroom. In English we have started looking at a new example text but this time focusing on story writing. The children have also really enjoyed Art this week where they have been threading pictures.

Year 3

3D

In History this week, we have looked at different Ancient Egyptian artefacts, comparing them to similar things we use now. In English, we researched different artefacts to use in our writing next week, describing each one. In RE, we created information posters on what local Churches have to offer and how this contributes to a world Jesus would have wanted. In Maths, we started our new topic of time so please practice telling the time with children at home, using an analogue clock!

3T

In our quidditch slot this week, we learnt some new skills and had lots of fun. In RE, we looked at local churches noticeboards and websites to see what they offer and how this contributes to a world Jesus would have wanted. Then, we created informative posters on them. In History, we looked at and explored different Egyptian artefacts that have been found over the years and discussed their similarities to some of the things we use now. In Maths, we started our new topic of time so please practice telling the time with children at home, using an analogue clock!

Year 4

4J are preparing to write a Refugee Narrative in English this week. Children have been exploring emotive language and the impact this has on the reader. The Multiplication Check is soon, therefore children are having daily practice on TTRS and accessing the format used for the actual test. During PSHE lesson, children have explored a tough subject about losing someone. Please be aware that your child may want to continue this at home. If your child needs support with this please contact Mrs Joyce.

This week, 4R have been learning about hundredths as both fractions and decimals and have been doing very well with it having developed a great understanding of such a tricky skill! In writing, the children have been exploring emotive language and how it affects the reader. The Multiplication Check is soon, therefore children are having daily practice on TTRS and accessing the format used for the actual test. In PE, 4R have been practicing their over-arm bowling for cricket.

Year 5

5H

This week we have begun our non-fiction writing. We are learning what equipment and skills we would need to survive in different environments. We will use this information to write a survival guide for others. During maths, we are learning how to measure in degrees and apply this in different situations. Our Science lessons this week have involved us investigating which materials will insulate a cup to keep a drink hotter for longer.

5F

This week we have begun our non-fiction writing. We are learning what equipment and skills we would need to survive in different environments. We will use this information to write a survival guide for others. During maths, we are learning how to measure in degrees and apply this in different situations. Our Science lessons this week have involved us investigating which materials will insulate a cup to keep a drink hotter for longer.

Year 6

Our Year 6 students have been working diligently on their SATs preparation and recently enjoyed a fun game of cricket together. Additionally, as part of their curriculum, they have been diving into the exciting world of biographies by working on a project to write about the legendary explorer, Shackleton. They also had a math lesson outside, answering questions based on percentages, which provided a hands-on learning experience. We are incredibly proud of their hard work and dedication, and have no doubt that they will do themselves proud in their upcoming exams.

Measles

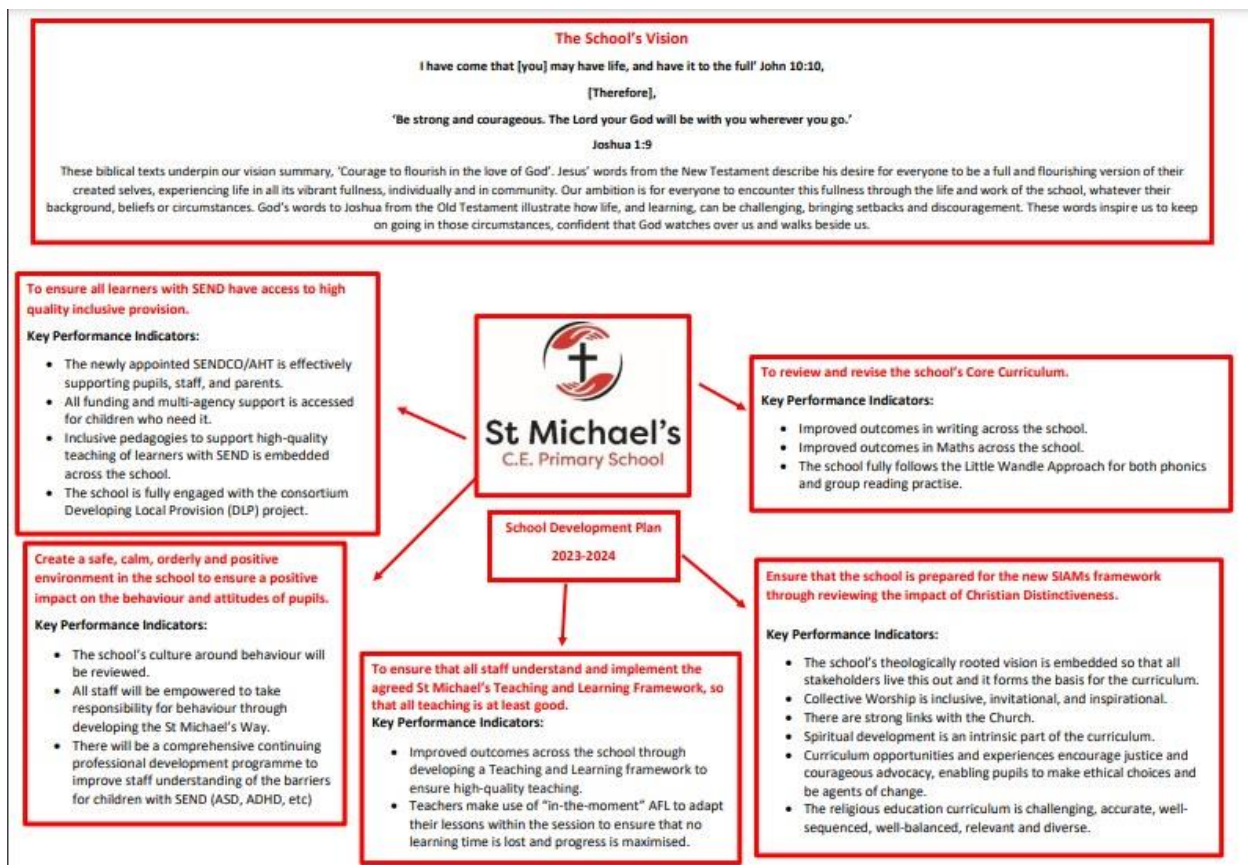
As you may be aware, across Birmingham there has been an outbreak of measles. Please read the following information which has been issued:

- There's no specific medical treatment for measles, so it's important to get vaccinated as it's the best protection against becoming seriously unwell.*
 - Measles usually starts with cold-like symptoms, followed by a rash a few days later.*
 - You should ask for an urgent GP appointment or get help from NHS 111 if you think you or your child may have measles.*
 - Don't go to the GP or any other healthcare setting without calling them first.*
 - If your child has been diagnosed with measles by a doctor, they should stay off nursery or school for at least 4 days from when the rash first appears. They should also avoid close contact with babies and anyone who is pregnant or has a weakened immune system.*
 - Parents can book a free vaccine through the GP but if a child has already been vaccinated it is very unlikely that they have measles. 'It's fine to send your child to school with a minor cough or common cold, provided they don't have a temperature'. The incubation period is the length of time it can take to develop the illness after being in contact with someone with measles. For measles, the incubation period can be up to 21 days.*
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School Development Plan

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.

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 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

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 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.

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.*
-



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
