

# St Michael's Church of England Primary School Newsletter



**Friday 6th October 2023**

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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 and Carers,*

*We have been really lucky to have been able to visit St Michael's Church this week. On Monday, Years 1-6 visited to celebrate St Michael's Day. Please follow us on twitter/X (@stmichaelsb32) so that you can see the things that the children did. It was a fabulous start to the week.*

*Thank you to those adults who were able to join us for the Key Stage 1 and Year 4 Harvest Celebrations. We really do appreciate your support.*

*Mrs Roberts*

*Headteacher*

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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 93.6%. Unfortunately, our persistent absence is already at 24%. Please ensure your child comes to school every day.*

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Class Attendance - for this year so far!

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*RG - 94.1%*

*RS - 94.1%*

*1F - 93.5%*

*1M - 91.2%*

*2K - 92%*

2R - 92.1%

3D - 92.1%

3T - 96.7%

4J - 95.7%

4R - 95.4%

5F - 94.2%

5H - 94.5%

6H - 94.7%

6L - 91.9%

*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/>

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## Pupil Progress Meetings

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*We are excited to announce that in October, you'll have the chance to meet your child's teacher on either Wednesday 18th October or Thursday 19th October.*

*Time slots for these meetings will be made available through **Arbor**, and will open on **Wednesday 4th October 2023**. We encourage you to schedule an appointment – your input is invaluable to your child's education.*

*If you can't attend in person, don't worry; we can arrange telephone appointments. Please specify your preference when booking. If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to our office.*

*Thank you for your ongoing support. We're eager to connect and work together to ensure your child's success.*

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## Nursery and Reception - September 2024

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*Is your child due to start school in September 2024?*

*Online admissions open on Sunday 1 October 2023 for Reception admissions in September 2024.*

*Applications can be made online through the Birmingham City Council website [www.birmingham.gov.uk/schooladmissions](http://www.birmingham.gov.uk/schooladmissions) until the final deadline of 15 January 2024. Offer notifications will be sent on 16 April 2024.*

*Please can you help raise awareness of the process as parents who apply late are less likely to be offered one of their preferred schools.*

*More advice and support is also available from Children's Services on 0121 303 1888.*

*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*

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## **World Mental Health Day**

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***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?***

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- 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.*

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## **Black History Month**

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***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:***

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- 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.*

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## **For the attention of Year 6 parents and carers**

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*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](http://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](mailto:admissions@birmingham.gov.uk).

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## Reminders

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*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. The local MP Preet Gill Kaur is also in contact with the local council to see if speed calming measures can be put in place.*

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## Key Dates

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*Thursday 12th October: Year 6 Parent/Carer Lunch (details have been sent out separately regarding this).*

*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 - please sign up via Arbor.*

*Thursday 19th October: Pupil Progress Meetings (formerly known as Parent's Evening) from 3.30-5.30pm - please sign up via Arbor.*

*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.*

*Tuesday 24th 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.*

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## **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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*Elliott - for listening carefully to instructions and following classroom rules.*

*Carter - for trying hard to overcome a personal challenge.*

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## **Reception**

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*Jonathan- for showing enthusiasm and trying really hard in name writing.*

*Friaol- for always working hard in Maths*

*Alfie-for trying really hard in literacy this week, we have been learning about Hairy Maclary and Alfie has thought of some brilliant words to describe him.*

*Theodore W- for being such a kind friend this week. He is always trying to comfort his classmates if they are upset and find resolutions to help them.*

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## **Year 1**

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*Aziah - for maintaining a positive mindset, both learning and growing from any setbacks.*

*Annie-Jean - for always being ready to learn.*

*Brayden - for showing great enthusiasm with his writing and trying really hard.*

*Saman - for always being ready on the carpet and having a great attitude to learning.*

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## **Year 2**

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*Chenqi - He is always a great friend and always helps others.*

*Maddie - She is always a role model in 2K.*

*Logan - for trying really trying hard during his phonics sessions.*

*Candace- for settling in beautifully and showing maturity.*

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## **Year 3**

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*Felicity L - for always being ready to learn and working hard in all subjects.*

*James D - for always being a role model and showing Wow Walking at all times.*

*Cainen - for showing a real effort with his learning this week and contributing more in class discussions.*

*Freddy J - for being a role model to the rest of the class and showing good listening at all times.*

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## Year 4

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*Myles - for Marvellous Manners within all lessons.*

*Kyle - for Marvellous Manners within all lessons.*

*Shema - For settling into the class well and adjusting to the St Michael's way.*

*George - for contributing well in lessons and showing that he is ready.*

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## Year 5

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*Harrison - for always giving 100% and being extremely helpful.*

*Oscar - for outstanding effort in English and Maths.*

*Alexander - for working hard in all of your lessons.*

*Nawal - for the improvement in your handwriting*

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## Year 6

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*Thomas G - For completing all of his challenges, in maths, with fantastic reasoning and problem solving explanations.*

*Za'Varnya S - For being a fantastic role model and always trying extremely hard in everything!*

*Maddison G - For being an extremely helpful and kind member of our class.*

*Maddie NP - For always displaying the 4 Rs!*

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## What you need to bring to school

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*A reminder of what to bring to school:*

✓ *A water bottle (please make sure it has your name on it). This should only have water in it and have a pop up top (not a screw top as if these fall over on the desks, they will ruin the children's work).*

✓ *A school bag or bookbag.*

✓ *A healthy fruit snack for breaktime (Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are provided with this).*

✓ *You can bring your scooter or bike to school if you wish. Please remember to wear a helmet and not to ride them whilst on school grounds.*

X *As always, please remember not to bring in any toys or stationery from home, unless it has been specifically requested by your teacher.*

X *No non-prescribed medication. Any medication that has been prescribed must be handed by the parent/carer to the school office staff who will ask you to complete a medication form detailing permission and dosage.*

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## Medical and Dietary Information

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*It is very important that we have up-to-date medical information including new Care Plans so we will be sending these out for you to review, complete and return. Any other updated health information should be sent in via the school office.*

*Please remember to inform the school of any changes to your child's medical or dietary needs.*

*Please also ensure that any prescribed medication, including an inhaler or EpiPen, is in-date and in school - it is parents responsibility to ensure this.*

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## Free School Meals, Toast and Price Changes

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*All children in Year's Reception - Year 2 are entitled to a 'Universal Free School Meal'.*

*When a child enters Year 3 this entitlement ends. If you would like your child to receive a school dinner you will need to:*

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- Check you eligibility for a FSM here: [Online FSM Application \(cloudforedu.org.uk\)](https://cloudforedu.org.uk) School will be notified of the outcome of your application and proceed accordingly.*
  - Top up your 'School Food United' account to ensure there are funds to pay for your child's meals. The price for a school meal for the academic year 23/24 is £2.80 per day. Remember that these need to be ordered by **8.30 am** each day.*
  - We will no longer be accepting cash for toast, this will also need to be ordered each down through 'School Food United' The cost per day is 25p. Children will receive their toast at their break time between around 10.30am. Remember that these need to be ordered by **8.30 am** each day.*
  - We sent out guidance of how to create/use your 'School Food United' app via Arbor last week - if you require any further assistance please speak to a member of the school office.*
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## **Birthdays**

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***Natasha's Law** came into effect on 1st October 2021. We appreciate that there may be some special times throughout the year when children may wish to bring sweets or chocolate in to share with their friends (e.g birthdays), please may we ask that children only bring in prepacked sweets such as Haribos which can then be handed out at the end of the day before children go and see their parents or guardians. Please understand that we cannot accept any homemade or individual sweets as this will not comply with Natasha's Law or current allergen requirements.*

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## **Nut Free School**

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*A reminder that the school is a nut-free zone as several children and members of 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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