

St Michael's Church of England Primary School Newsletter

Friday 8th December 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,

During Collective Worship this week, we have been reflecting on the story of Hanukkah.

The Story of Hanukkah:

Long ago, in ancient Israel, there was a time of great struggle. The Jewish people faced oppression and were forbidden from practicing their faith freely. Their temple was desecrated, and they longed for freedom and the ability to worship in peace.

However, hope emerged in the form of a small group of brave individuals led by Judah Maccabee. They refused to give in to despair and fought for their beliefs. Against all odds, they reclaimed their temple.

The Miracle of the Oil:

As part of the temple's rededication, a lamp, known as the menorah, needed to be lit. But there was only enough oil for one day, and it would take eight days to prepare more. Miraculously, the small amount of oil burned for the entire eight days, symbolising hope and perseverance.

Lessons of Hanukkah:

- *Hope Against Adversity: Hanukkah teaches us that even in the darkest of times, hope can shine through. The Maccabees never gave up, reminding us to persevere in the face of challenges.*

- *The Power of Unity: This celebration also highlights the strength found in unity. When people come together, incredible things can happen.*
 - *Spreading Light: Another essential lesson of Hanukkah is to share light and kindness. Each night, a candle on the menorah is lit, spreading warmth and hope.*
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We have discussed how no matter how challenging things may seem, there is always hope.

A big well done to the dodgeball team who won their event this week.

Have a lovely weekend.

Mrs Roberts

Headteacher

Thank you

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to the Christmas present donation. Your generosity has been overwhelming and we really can't thank you enough. We know there are going to be some very happy children.

Nursery Places

We currently have places available in our nursery class from January 2024.

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.

A message from Reverend Ruth

I am the Vicar at St Michael and All Angels Church in Bartley Green. I come into school to take Collective Worship and for other activities plus the children visit me in church.

Once a month we hold Messy Church in St Michaels around the 3rd Sunday in the month from 3.00-5.00. This includes lots of craft activities, a short act of worship and food to finish. We have some spare places at the moment for children in Key Stage 1. The next session will be 21st January 2024 in the season of Epiphany. This will be our Christingle service but we also make crafts around the theme of the wise men visiting Jesus and his parents. If you would like to come please e mail Rev Ruth [.revruthvicarbg@gmail.com](mailto:revruthvicarbg@gmail.com).

Christmas services

- *10th December at 10.00 am Toy Service please bring a new unwrapped toy for a child who will have very little at Christmas.*
 - *17th December at 3.00 pm Carol Service*
 - *24th December at 4.00 pm Crib service come and hear the Christmas story*
 - *25th December at 10.00 am Christmas morning - all age service*
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Bad Weather Conditions

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:

- 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





*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 **19%**. Please ensure your child comes to school every day.*

So far this academic year, we have had 16 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%

RS - 91.3%

1F - 93.7%

1M - 91.2%

2K - 92.8%

2R - 93.6%

3D - 93.9%

3T - 97.2%

4J - 93.7%

4R - 96.2%

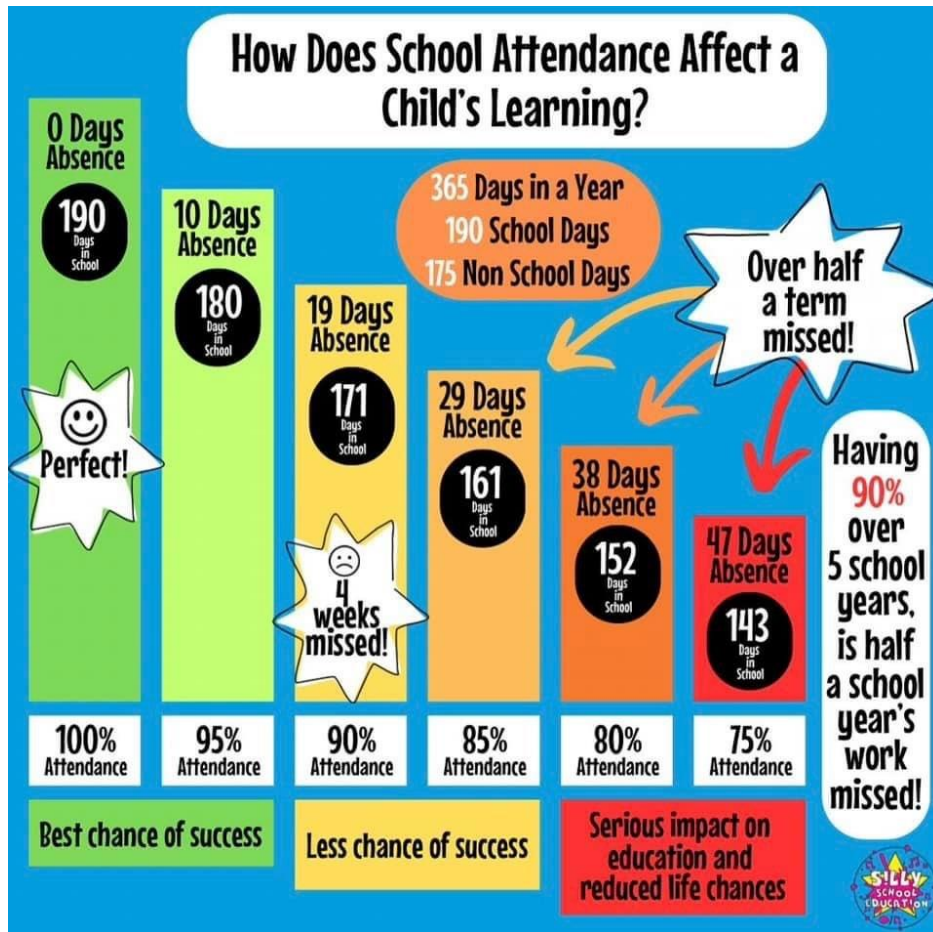
5F - 94.4%

5H - 95.4%

6H - 95.8%

6L - 93.5%

We have had an increase in the number of late arrivals in the mornings. Gates open at 8:35am and shut promptly at 8:45am. Please ensure your child is on time everyday to begin their learning.



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/>

Bring it on Brum

For those children who are entitled to free school meals in Reception-Year 6, we have sent the codes via email on Arbor. This code can be used to book onto activities during the Christmas holiday.

<https://www.bringitonbrum.co.uk/>

Advice For Parents On Children Vaping

Please click on the link below for guidance on children vaping.

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

Key Dates

Monday 11th December at 2.30pm: Nursery Carol Concert for parents and carers.

Tuesday 12th December at 9.15am: Brass Concert at school (details have been sent via Arbor to the parents and carers of the children involved).

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

Thursday 14th December at 2pm and 4pm: Year 5 Christmas Production at school (details have been sent via Arbor).

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 have been sent via Arbor).

Wednesday 20th December: Christmas Lunch (children only).

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

Thursday 21st December: Christmas Parties in the afternoon (details have been sent via Arbor).

Friday 22nd December: Last day of term.

Monday 8th January: Teacher Training Day

Tuesday 9th January: Children return to school.

Birmingham Public Health

Birmingham Public Health have asked if all schools can pass on the following message.

They are encouraging that all parents and carers check that their child has been vaccinated. Parents can check the personal child health record (the Red Book) or if this doesn't help, speak to their GP surgery. Parents can contact their GP surgery to catch their child up, at any age, or indeed, for themselves.

Measles is highly infectious (it can spread easily from person to person). While most people recover completely within a couple of weeks, measles can cause serious illness and in rare cases it can be fatal. Vaccination with two doses of MMR is the only way to give people maximum protection.

The first signs of measles are:

- *high temperature*
- *runny or blocked nose*
 - *sneezing*
 - *cough*
- *red, sore, watery eyes*

- *rash usually appears a few days after cold-like symptoms (sometimes starts around the ears before spreading to rest of the body)*
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Measles can cause complications, especially in certain at-risk groups that include babies and small children, pregnant women and people with weak immunity.

Further important information

The MMR vaccine

If your child has not received two doses of MMR vaccination as part of their childhood immunisation programme, you should take up the offer of the MMR vaccine for your child now. If you are not sure if your child needs an MMR vaccine, you can contact your GP to check.

The MMR vaccination is the best way to protect against measles as it is:

- *effective*
 - *safe and*
 - *free of charge*
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The vaccine provides effective protection against three diseases – measles, mumps and rubella. The first dose of MMR is given soon after the first birthday. A second dose is normally given before school entry. However, you can have the MMR vaccine at any age. If either you or your child are not fully protected against measles (two doses of MMR), you can contact your GP surgery to arrange vaccination. It is never too late to get vaccinated. Two doses of MMR are required to produce satisfactory protection against measles, mumps and rubella. If your family avoids pork, a MMR vaccine is available that does not contain any pork products.

This is especially important when measles is circulating because any child or adult who has not had at least one dose of MMR and comes into contact with a person with measles will have to be excluded from nursery, school or work for 21 days and stay at home.

What to do if you think your child has measles

If your child develops symptoms, you should contact your GP. You must contact the surgery by telephone before visiting and tell the reception staff that you think that your child may have measles and not attend the surgery unless you are asked to. The doctor will make special arrangements to see your child so that, if they have measles, they won't pass it to others.

People with measles will remain infectious, and so be able to pass on the disease to others for 4 days after the start of the rash. Therefore, it is important that anyone with measles stays away from nursery, school, group activities, gatherings or anywhere with people outside of the household during that time.

Stars of the Week

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

Nursery

Frankie - For being a kind and caring friend to all the children.

Ubay - For trying really hard in all areas of learning, including joining in on the carpet.

Reception

RG

Kimberly has been trying really hard in the Nativity to learn all of the words to the songs. She always joins in with the songs and actions.

Sienna- Sienna has been a really good role model this week, joining in with the Nativity and also always doing her wow walking.

RS

Tamiya is always a super kind helper, she is always doing the correct learning behaviour and ready to learn, this has also been specifically noticed by lunchtime staff.

Lily has been trying really hard in the nativity. She always join in with the songs and sets a great example with how to behave whilst performing.

Year 1

1F

Maisen - for trying hard in maths.

Joseph - for his enthusiasm and confidence during class discussions.

1M

Neve - for always being ready to work and a great attitude to learning.

Lucy - for always being a kind friend and helping others.

Year 2

2K

Paisley-Rae - for working very hard in Maths recently. Even when it was a little bit tricky, Paisley kept on trying.

Adil - for working hard with her handwriting and trying hard to apply this in all lessons.

2R

Teigan has worked so hard this week on her writing in English.

Bella has done amazing this week in maths, it has been really tricky and she has got through it and then helped friends.

Year 3

3D

Mia - for always being helpful in the classroom.

Keegan - for trying really hard with his times tables in maths.

3T

Maria - for how amazing she was in the Hanukkah assembly. She was loud, confident and knew all of her words and actions!

Jensen - for trying hard in his writing lessons and contributing well to class discussions.

Year 4

4J

Elliot - For trying extremely hard with his joining during handwriting lessons.

Izma - For always showing the St Michaels Way.

4R

Ava- for always working hard and trying her best.

Annayah- for always showing marvellous manners around school.

Year 5

5F

Josiah - excellent application in our letter writing.

Elijah - outstanding work with fractions.

5H

Frankie - for trying your best in all lessons

Georgia - for being an excellent role model

Year 6

6H:

Remie - for creating such an outstanding writing piece, you used so many of our grammatical techniques.

Kaitlyn - for being so imaginative during our writing lesson, you always have such creative ideas!

6L

Melanie - for being a true role model and always helping your classmates and the adults around school.

*Haddy - for displaying 'STAR' behaviour, tuning in to every lesson and answering and asking questions.
Super learning behaviours, keep it up!*

What is happening in the classroom?

Nursery

The nursery children have enjoyed playing in our new role play area this week. Santa's workshop has come to the nursery classroom and the children have been practising their wrapping skills, decorating the tree and designing their own toys for Santa to make.

We have also written letters to Santa and posted them in our nursery postbox. The children then made their own handprint Christmas card that they will be bringing home at the end of the half term.

We have been practising rhyming words during phonics this week. The children have been trying to think of words that sound similar and helped Miss Coe find rhyming objects inside the magic treasure chest.

In Maths, we have been continuing practising subitising numbers to 5 using a dice to look at number patterns and have been introduced to a 10 frame to help us with counting objects.

Reception

RG

This week we have been learning about our new book in Literacy called Star in a Jar. We have been identifying the four main parts of the story and drawing them. We have also been working hard to practice our Nativity.

RS

This week we have been learning about winter. We have been thinking about how we dress for winter now that it has got much colder and comparing this to how we would dress in summer. We have had lots of fun exploring the weather outside this week by using magnifying glasses to look at the icicles.

Year 1

1F

This week we have been exploring numbers to 20. Children have been looking at both the numerical and word form. In RE this week the children have been looking at ways we can help Gods creation (the earth and all within it). Children discussed ways to look after the planet such as recycling, turning off lights, turning taps off and riding a bike instead of using a car.

1M

In Year 1 this week, we have been planning our own story in English. The children are re-telling the story of Rapunzel but changing the characters. They have been super at using adjectives to describe their new characters. In Maths the children have been looking at numbers to 20 and using different resources to make these numbers such as counters, cubes and numicon.

Year 2

2K

We have been working very hard in 2K in Maths this week. We have been subtracting 2 digit numbers crossing 10 this is a new concept so we have been practising lots this week. We have also starting to prepare to write a diary. The children have been working very hard to do this.

2R

Its been a busy week in 2R this week. We have worked super hard in Maths subtracting 2-digit numbers crossing 10. We have also been carrying on with our History unit on The Great Fire of London. The children love sharing their knowledge on this now.

Year 3

3D

This week, the children have been working very hard on their Hanukkah assembly. We have loved performing it and inviting you to come and watch it. All the children showed courage in their part!

In science, the children have been looking at light and how dark is the absence of light. We used a cardboard box with an object inside and two holes on either side to show what we could see when there wasn't a source of light and what we could see when a flash light was used.

3T

I would like to say how proud I am of year 3, they worked so hard for the Hanukkah assembly and it was lovely to see their hard work pay off as the assembly was wonderful!

Thank you to all of the parents/carers for attending. We had a lovely turnout and all of the children had big smiles on their faces.

In writing this week, we have been writing contrasting character descriptions of the Fox and Magpie. In Maths, we have been learning our 8 times tables. If you could continue to practise times tables at home with the children, that would be fab.

Year 4

4J

This week, children in 4J have been working hard on their 12 times tables and using the problem solving and reasoning skills in maths. During our handball tournament this week, children were incredible at showing their skills they have learnt and developed over this half-term. Next week we will be starting our new topic badminton - please have a change of trainer or pumps for the hall please.

4R

This week, year 4 have been working hard on their times tables in maths, with a focus on the 12x tables. In writing, we have been building up to writing our information reports which we will be writing next week. The children have been using their scientific skills in science by creating a simple circuit and testing to see which materials are conductors and which are insulators. We have finished our handball module in PE, wrapping it up with a tournament with everyone displaying some excellent skills.

Year 5

5H

This week we have been learning how to convert mixed numbers to improper fractions and vice versa and using this to solve real life problems. In Geography, we learnt how to use 6-figure grid references to locate places more accurately. We have also been practising our Christmas production and look forward to sharing it with you next week.

5F

In Maths, we have been learning how to convert mixed numbers to improper fractions and vice versa - using this to solve real life problems. In science we experimented with the pulleys and how they can impact weight bearing in every day life. We have also been practising our Christmas production and look forward to sharing it with you next week.

Year 6

6H

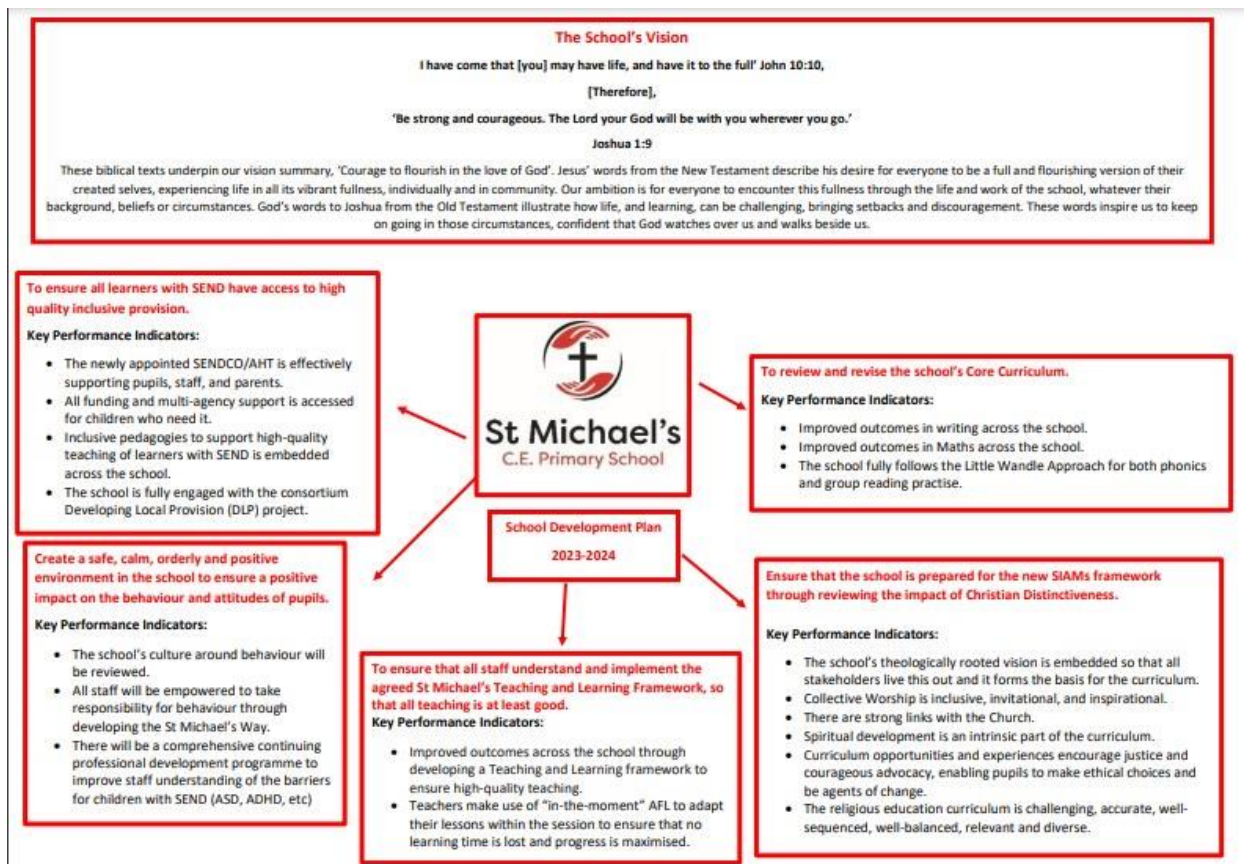
What another busy week in 6H! The children have all worked extremely hard thinking about their grammatical techniques and how they can incorporate these into their planning and flashback narrative. In science, the children have really enjoyed looking at their family pictures and studying what obvious and not so obvious traits and characteristics they have inherited from their family members (maybe not all good - they decided)!!!! 6H have really stepped up a gear, this week, and been fantastic role models around school and their learning behaviours are exemplary. We have lots of children following and demonstrating the 'St. Michael's Way'! Keep up the hard work, 6H... only 10 more working days!

It has been another great week in 6L and the children have been working hard, planning and writing their flashback narrative stories. They have been working on a range of Year 6 skills, such as developing rich description, semi-colons and hyphens. In science, the children have continued their evolution and inheritance unit of work by thinking carefully about the traits and characteristics that they have inherited from their family members. I would also like to say well done to everybody in 6L for their fantastic learning behaviours and showing brilliant attitudes towards their learning, answering and asking lots of questions and listening carefully. Well done 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.*

✓ *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 you 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 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.*
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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
