

St Michael's Church of England Primary School Newsletter

Friday 9th February 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, Guardians, and Students,

During this half term, the children have continued to impress us with their dedication to their studies, their creativity in the classroom, and their kindness towards one another. We have seen fantastic progress across all year groups, and it's clear that each and every one of the children has worked incredibly hard.

We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to all the parents and guardians for their unwavering support throughout this half term. Your involvement in your child's education is invaluable, and we are truly grateful for the partnership we share in ensuring their success.

As we head into the half term break, we encourage the children to take some well-deserved rest and relaxation. Spend time with family, engage in activities that bring joy, and come back refreshed and ready to tackle the challenges and opportunities that await in the second half of the term.

Thank you once again for your continued support, and we look forward to seeing all our students back after the break.

The first day back is Monday 19th February.

Wishing you all a wonderful half term break!

Mrs Roberts

Headteacher

Parental Survey

If you have time, could we please ask you to complete the yearly survey sent out by the Trust. Please click on the link below to access. It should only take a few minutes to complete.

<https://forms.office.com/e/JEsUsvzQFB>

Social Media

A quick plea, that if you have a query or concern regarding processes at the school that you contact us directly rather posting on social media. This way accurate information will be shared.

We are trying to teach the children how to use social media safely and responsibly so your support with this is appreciated.

Thank you for those parents and carers who continue to bring this to our attention.

Key Dates

Monday 19th February - Children return to school.

Tuesday 20th February - Year 5 at the library.

Friday 23rd February - Year 2 at the Library.

Friday 23rd February - first swimming lesson for 5H.

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.

Tuesday 5th March - Nursery 'Special Person in your Life' afternoon (2.15pm)

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 Progress 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 - Easter Bonnet Parade and Eggstravaganza (details to follow).

Friday 22nd March - Year 3 Easter Service at Church (9.15am - adults are invited to attend if they are able to).

Nursery Places

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.

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 **94.2%**. 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.

Class Attendance - for this year so far!

RG - 93.4%

RS - 91%

1F - 93.2%

1M - 92.7%

2K - 91.6%

2R - 94.1%

3D - 94.4%

3T - 95.7%

4J - 93.7%

4R - 96.2%

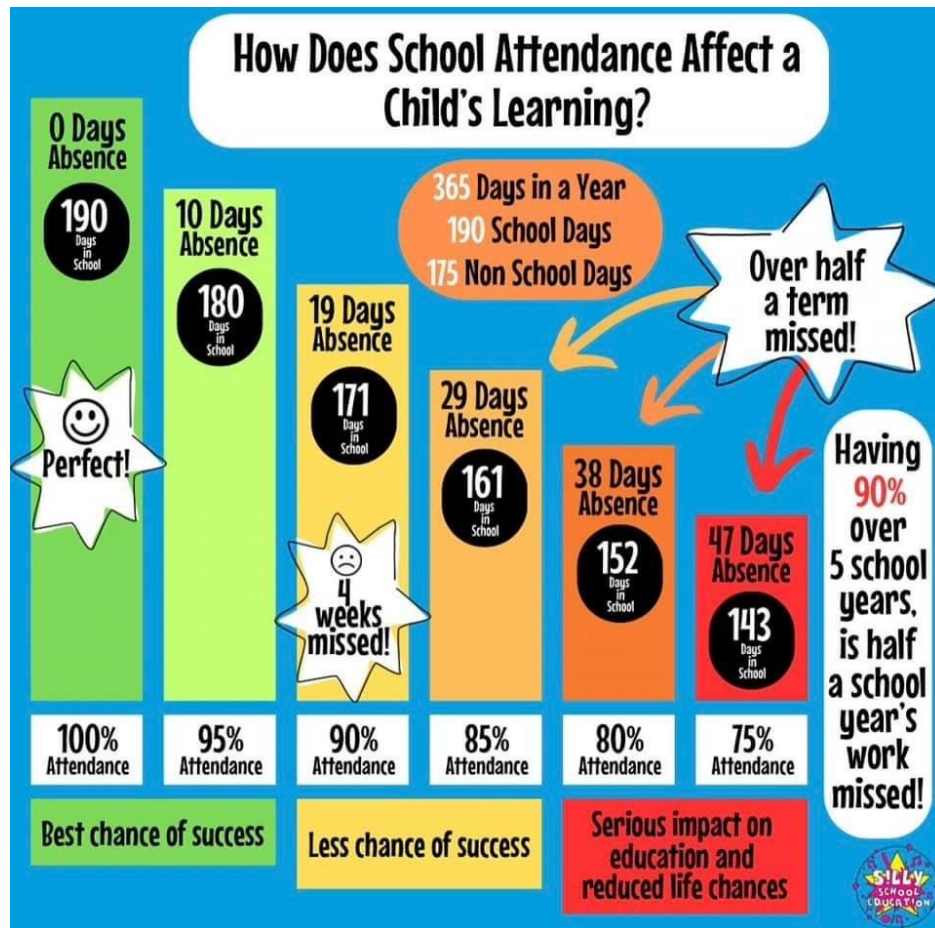
5F - 94.2%

5H - 94.9%

6H - 95%

6L - 93.4%

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/>

Headteacher Awards

The following children were nominated by the adults in their classroom for consistently showing the school values, positive learning behaviour and outstanding behaviour throughout the half term .

Nursery

Eden - for continuously demonstrating her desire to learn through her impressive listening and recall skills and modelling desired behaviour to other children.

Ubay - for being inquisitive, asking questions and always trying hard to make connections along his learning journey. Ubay always demonstrated good behaviour wherever we go in school.

Reception

RG

Fiker- for always being ready to learn and working hard in lessons.

Chanel- for always being a kind friend to others.

RS

Alfie has been trying super hard in phonics, he knows nearly all of his phase 3 sounds and is starting to apply this into his reading. Well done!

Ivy's confidence in phonics has grown over the past couple of weeks. Her blending has improved a lot and she is very proud of herself!

Year 1

1F

Sienna - for always applying herself in all lessons.

Nora For trying hard in everything she does.

1M

Kizhan - for always being ready to learn and great at problem solving.

Thomas - for always being helpful and a kind friend.

Year 2

2K

Antonella - for always being a role model. Antonella always uses her manners, and she is amazing at wow walking.

Adil - for working hard consistently in class and always offering to help others.

2R

Teigan - for going above and beyond in lessons. She has worked so hard this last half term, and her work is reflecting the hard work she has been putting in.

Isabelle - for always being a role model. Always trying hard and always showing she is ready to learn.

Year 3

3D

Letisha - for always contributing to class discussions and for always being ready to learn.

Evelyn - for always working hard and being a role model.

3T

Isaac - for always trying his hardest in every subject and his willingness to help others.

Rosie -for her outstanding presentation in all subjects and for being a STAR in every lesson.

Year 4

4J

Tayon -for his consistent contribution to lessons, asking and answering questions.

Kyle -for being a role model for his peers.

4R

Dara- for always striving to improve her work, helping others around her and being helpful in the classroom.

Ava- For always making sure her work is completed to the highest standard no matter what the lesson.

Year 5

5F

Elijah - for always working hard, challenging yourself and being kind to others.

Thomas - for always being on task, helping those around you and being a role model.

5H

Alex - for always trying your best in everything that you do. You are a fantastic role model!

Georgia - You always show the correct way to behave and demonstrate good learning behaviours which shows in the work you produce.

Year 6

6H

Jacob - for always going above and beyond in everything you do – you are always displaying the St Michael's Way and such a fantastic role model for your peers.

Za'Varnya - for always showing the correct learning behaviours, being a fantastic member of Year 6 and for always thinking of others before yourself.

6L

Bobbie-Beau - for always taking such pride and effort in everything that you do. You are helpful and kind to others and we are so proud of what you achieve every day. Well done!

Haddy - for making such fantastic progress across the curriculum. You are showing STAR behaviour in the classroom and the effort and learning behaviours you display are paying off. Well done!

What is happening in the classroom?

Nursery

This week we have enjoyed celebrating and learning about Chinese New Year. The nursery children listened to the story of the Chinese Zodiac (The Great Race) and learnt which year they were born in. We retold the story of the race across the river using story spoons and our small world wooden animals. The children also had a go at writing the story using animals movements that we changed to be pre-writing shapes made by our pencils.

We learnt about New Year traditions, cleaning the house, writing good luck messages and even talked about how red is considered a lucky colour. We investigated some Chinese artifacts including a teapot, a fan, traditional calendar and a beautiful paper umbrella.

In the outdoor area, children drew fireworks on the playground, used sensory exploration to play with noodles and had a go at dragon and lion dancing.

We have had a busy half term and I'm sure the children are ready for a little break, so we wish you all a restful holiday and look forward to greeting refreshed learners after half term.

Reception

RG

This week in Reception we have been learning about Chinese New Year. In our provision we have collaged Chinese lanterns, served in a Chinese restaurant and explored the story of the great race in the small word area.

RS

In literacy reception have been writing the problem and ending to Juniper Jupiter, it has been fantastic to see so many children applying their phonic knowledge to their writing. In Maths we have been exploring number bonds to 5 by creating different Numicon combinations.

1F

How great it was to have the parents join us in class this week. Children worked with their adults and wrote an acrostic poem. The engagement was fantastic and the ideas shared were most valuable for both child and parent. Parents also had the opportunity to see a phonics lesson, in addition to having lunch with their child. Thank you to all the parents that participated in the day!

The children have been busy writing their letters in English. Children have been using time conjunctions when explaining where to find the teddy bear in the story. The children have used their own imagination and writing skills to create some very impressive work.

In maths children have been partitioning numbers to 50 into tens and ones. children used the base ten resources to support them in understanding how many tens and how many ones make a whole number.

1M

This week we had our parents lunch where the children loved working with their special adult to write a winter acrostic poem. They came up with some fantastic poems and used lots of amazing adjectives. The children also really enjoyed finishing their computing unit and finalising their algorithms on scratch junior.

Year 2

2K

This week we have been working very hard in English. We have been writing our own instructions to help people create a habitat. In Maths, we have began to learn about multiplication and division. We will continue this after half term. I hope everyone has a lovely half term break.

2R - The children have been super busy in English this week writing a set of instructions on how to build a habitat for their creature. We have also started a new topic in Maths focusing on multiplication and division which the children have been working really hard in. I hope the children now have a well deserved break.

Year 2 will bring home a pack of handwriting and arithmetic practise. Please work to complete these over the next half term.

Year 3

3D

This week in Art, we have designed and created our own shadow puppets where the children performed stories in their shadow theatre to the rest of the class. We also completed different activities on safer internet day where we looked at different scenarios and came up with strategies to help us.

3T

In English, I was really impressed with 3T's information leaflets that they had written. Most of the children had written about volcanoes but a couple of children has written about rivers. In Art, we worked in pairs and created two shadow puppets and a shadow theatre. Then, we learnt a poem and performed it in front of each other!

Year 4

4J

Throughout this week, the students of 4J devoted their time and effort to crafting information reports detailing strategies for defeating mythical creatures. In addition, we wrapped up our Reading unit by sharpening our comprehension skills with the classic tale of 'The Lion, The Witch, and the Wardrobe'. Our science lessons involved an intriguing experiment aimed at determining which materials are most effective at absorbing sound, providing insight into potential options for constructing a sound studio.

4R

This week, 4R have been working hard writing their information reports all about how to defeat mythical beasts. We have also come to and end using our reading on comprehension skills on our book for our

Reading unit which was 'The Lion, The Witch, and the Wardrobe'. We conducted an experiment in science this week, to discover what materials absorbed sound the best to suggest what materials could be used to create a sound studio.

Year 5

5H

This week, we have completed our science unit on Earth in Space and we will be using the knowledge we have gained to create commoncraft videos. On Tuesday, we took part in safer internet day and discussed how different scenarios can make us feel. We looked at strategies to help us in these situations.

5F

This week, we have completed our science unit on Earth in Space. We have been continuing to learn about the Anglo-Saxons - focusing on the punishments they were given and why. On Tuesday, we took part in safer internet day and discussed how different scenarios can make us feel. We looked at strategies to help us in these situations. As well as this, we completed our Art topic, finishing with a double page spread, in a Hundertwasser fashion. We also designed a monument of somebody who inspires us.

Year 6

Year 6

It has been another incredibly busy week in Year 6 and, as always, the children have risen to every challenge that they have faced. It has been another proud week for us: we have seen the progress they have made in SPaG, Reading and Maths as we have completed practice SATs assessments. This will allow the children to continue to become familiar with SATs papers and enables us to ensure that we are tailoring our teaching to suit the needs of every child next term. They have celebrated Online Safety Day by discussing how to stay safe online and have thought about the future of technology by thinking about it may change in the next twenty years. We are so proud of every child and please enjoy a restful break :)

Measles

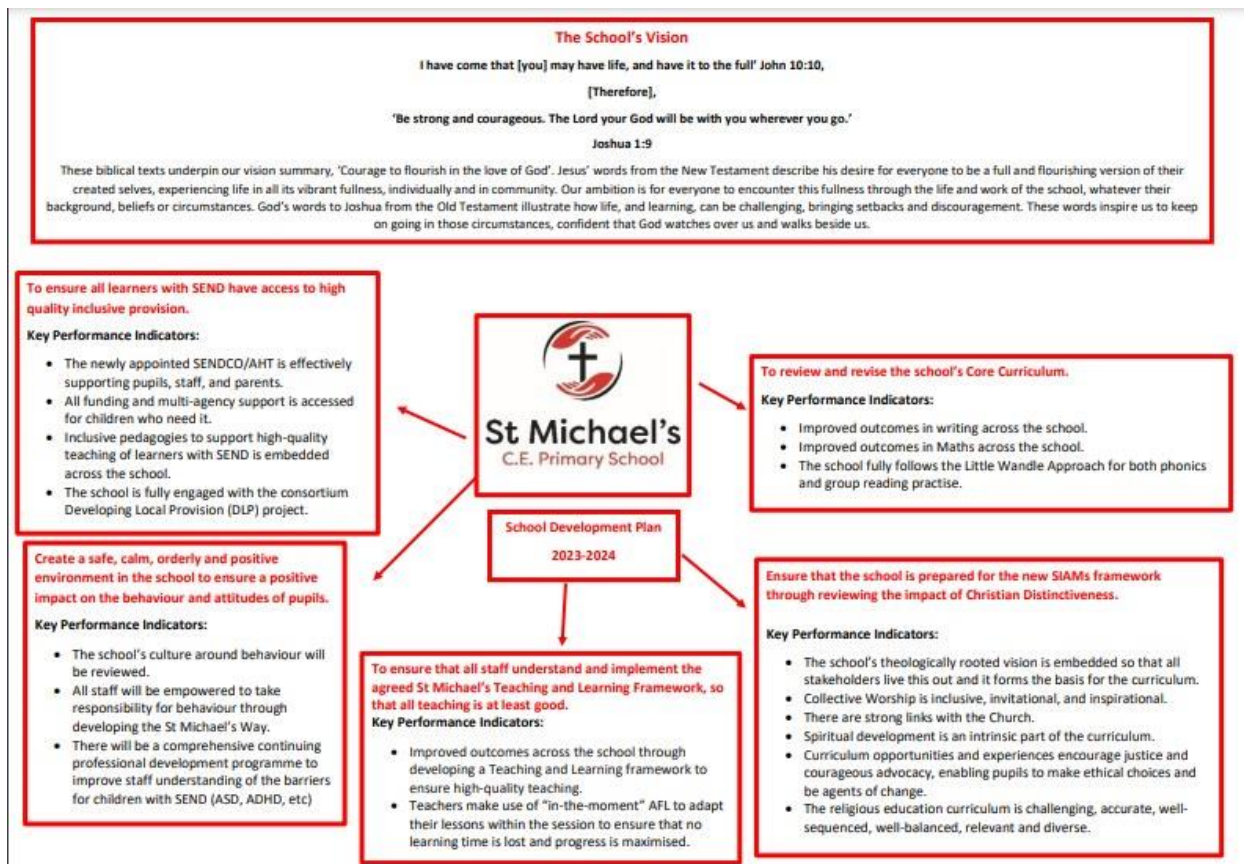
As you may be aware, across Birmingham there has been an outbreak of measles. Please read the following information which has been issued:

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

✓ *A school bag or bookbag.*

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

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

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

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

Medical and Dietary Information

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

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

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

Free School Meals, Toast and Price Changes

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

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