



ST MICHAEL'S CE MIDDLE SCHOOL

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Newsletter No.2

Friday 29th September 2017

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Thank you for your continued support with uniform and attendance. Please refer to information overleaf about how we follow up pupil absence as the rules from the Government have changed and we want you to be fully informed. Does your child have a **purple pen** in their pencil case– if not they are being slowed down by having to wait for us to provide one and we would be grateful if you could ensure they have their own.

I am pleased to announce that Mrs Chandler, who has a daughter in Year 6, has agreed to be our new Chair of Governors. She has considerable experience in this role and will be able to support and challenge the school to improve further. We have also recently appointed a new Emotional Literacy Support Assistant to the staff to help with pupils' sense of well-being. Mrs Lennon is a very experienced ex-mental health nurse who has actually been in charge of managing both clients and professionals in East Dorset and beyond and we are delighted she wanted to bring those skills back to young people at our school.

Currently we are short of some more 'do-ers' on our PTA. We have a great core team and are keen to put on several events over the year and would benefit from one or two more folk who are happy to chip in and help a little. Our next meeting is Monday 9th October at 7pm at the school.

Assessment is key to understanding what a child's next step in their learning should be. This might take the form of a conversation, a piece of work or a test in one form or another. We have recently made great strides forward using diagnostic tests to ensure all gaps in pupils' understanding are filled. Even our most able pupils have gaps which they have learned to compensate for but will cause them to come unstuck later in the year/school. In such cases the bulk of a test may appear easier but we are focussing on the one mistake so that we can ensure pupils have truly mastered a concept before moving on.



Finally, how old is the oldest thing in your garden? Well at St Michael's we have an ancient burial mound dating back over 3000 years! I am delighted to say that working with the Wimborne History Festival, EDAS, FOAM, local archaeologists Julian Richards and Keith Childs and the illustrator Martin Brown our pupils have created this fabulous new display board to explain all. Thank you to all the adults and George Sedgewick, Spencer Hurst, Ben Beedles, Elwood Hardy and Joseph Malone.

Mr Jenkinson

SAFEGUARDING

St Michael's is totally committed to safeguarding your children. During tutor times, they will be speaking about what to do if they don't feel safe or if they are worried about someone else's safety either at school, at home or online.

At St Michael's, children can speak to any member of staff if they have a concern. We do have designated safeguarding leads: Mrs Howieson, Mr Jenkinson and Mr Wallis who they are also welcome to speak with.

Please do chat with your children at home and ensure that they are clear who they can go to. We are also here to listen and respond to any concerns that you as parents and guardians may have.

PROSPECTIVE PARENTS OPEN DAYS AND EVENING

Prospective parents of pupils who are moving up to middle school in September 2018 are warmly invited to our Open Evening on Wednesday 4th October from 5.30pm to 7.30pm. There will also be open days on 7th and 8th November at 9am and 2pm respectively.

Harvest– next Wednesday

This year we are supporting Routes to Roots [<http://www.routestoroots.org/charity/>] a charity for the homeless in Poole and beyond. *Please can pupils bring* with them one of the following items with a donation taped to them on Wednesday:

Small shampoo/ deodorant / shower gel

Tinned meat/fish/beans

Coffee/ sugar/ biscuits

Attendance- Important Details

Dear Parent/Carer,

As you are all probably aware, attendance is an area which we take very seriously. As part of the Wimborne Academy Trust, we follow government guidelines which means that we have certain trigger points. I am writing to you all to make you aware of the procedures that we follow at St Michael's Middle School.

Firstly, we know that children get ill and we certainly wouldn't want for a child to come to school if they are unable to do so. However, we would ask that ALL absences and on EACH DAY of absence, you phone the school office to let us know. If we don't hear from you, we have certain protocols to follow which, if we cannot get hold of you, may end in us asking the police to conduct a welfare check to ensure your child's safety. This is easily avoided if you ring in.

Our first trigger point comes when your child's attendance falls to 95% attendance. We will write home to let you know what the percentage is and to inform you that we will be monitoring it.

If your child has attendance of less than 90%, you will be invited in to a meeting to discuss how we can support improving attendance for your child.

Please can I urge you to contact the school if your child's attendance is causing you some concern. We are here to help and can provide a range of strategies (including accessing outside agencies if required) to support you with your child.

Please also be aware that Dorset are now fining parents for pupil absence. Any period of 10 or more sessions of unauthorised absence (this is an absence where we have had no reason or an absence that cannot be authorised and is equal to just 5 days) in a 12 week period, will incur a fine from Dorset County Council. DCC have also asked that we make you aware that they are not accepting instalment payments on these fines.

Yours sincerely

Year 5 Church Experience

If you are involved in a local church and your child is in Y5 or older years, and would be able to offer some time during Church Experience week it would greatly appreciated.

Please contact Reverend Suzanne Pattle at St Michael's church office.

FIREWORKS

Unfortunately it is unlikely that we will be able to put on a full fireworks event this year. We have been looking to recruit a professional event organiser to take on this enormous task but the deadlines for this year has probably passed. If you know of any specialist event organisers who would be willing to take on a commissioned role for this next year then do tell them to get in touch with Mr Jenkinson.

We are still exploring whether we can put on a smaller event just for school families.

Mainstage School for Performing Arts

On Thursday 14th September we welcomed performers from Mainstage School for Performing Arts into school. They led a wonderful dance experience for our Year 5 and 6 pupils and you can enjoy the photos from this afternoon on our school website, these include Mr Wheeler, Head of Year 6, shaping some moves and getting involved! Our thanks go to Joel and Jasper, our new year 8 photographers, for capturing this on camera. We are grateful to the John Thornton Young Achievers Foundation for funding this event. We look forward to the JTYAF providing further funding so that we can again have the expertise of Mainstage with the choreography for our school show next March.

Uniform- theft

A reminder: please can uniform and all personal belongings be clearly named. We have had a couple of recent cases where personal belongings may have been stolen and usually we have not yet identified any culprits. It is therefore all the more important that possessions are named.

Thank you

Request for Parental support for Food and Nutrition and Textiles, all year groups

If you would be willing to volunteer any morning except Thursdays please contact a.spear@stmichaelsmiddle.org or j.vine@stmichaelsmiddle.org for Food and Nutrition and Textiles respectively.

St Michael's Church Car Park

Parents are welcome to use the Church car park for dropping off and collection of children, but this is through the goodwill of the Church and not through any right to park.

Regretfully there have been a few occasions when parents have been extremely uncooperative towards Church Centre users, if this continues the car park will be locked and parents will be not be able to use it.

Sports Clubs

With the new term well under way can we encourage you to talk to your children about joining a sports club offered by the school. We are extremely proud of the range of clubs on offer to pupils, most at no cost to parents, and are keen to promote the PE department's vision of 'educating pupils to adopt a healthy lifestyle'. With this in mind could you ensure that your child has their PE and swimming kit in school in preparation for PE lessons and clubs.

Clubs are run on a voluntary basis by staff and sometimes we have to cancel a club due to meetings or training in school. Pupils are notified on the school message board in advance. If the cancellation is on the same day pupils are instructed to phone home from the school office.

CSI Investigation

On Monday 25th September a group of children took part in a CSI investigation at QE school. All 15 pupils performed admirably, using a range of clues to come to logical conclusions, they also presented their findings with clarity and confidence.

DATES FOR 2017/2018

Wednesday 4th October	Open Evening for Prospective Parents - 5.30pm - 7.30pm
Friday 6th October	Individual Photographs
W/c 9th October	Year 5 Activity Week
Thursday 19th October	Parents Evening for Year 5 only 4pm - 6pm
Half-term Holiday:	Monday 23rd – Friday 27th October

Staff Training Day:	Monday 30 October
Pupils Return:	Tuesday 31 October
Tuesday 7th November	Open Morning for Prospective Parents - 9am - 10am
Wednesday 8th November	Open Afternoon for Prospective Parents - 2pm - 3pm
Tuesday 21st November	Parents Evening for Years 6, 7, & 8 - 5.30pm –7.30pm
Tuesday 28th November	Parents Evening for Years 6, 7, & 8 - 4pm – 6pm
Thursday 30th November	Carol Service at Wimborne Minster - 7pm
Thursday 14th December	Christmas Lunch
Last day of Term:	Friday 15 December

SPRING TERM 2018

Staff Training Day:	Tuesday 2 January
First day of Term:	Wednesday 3 January
Half-term Holiday:	Monday 12 - Friday 16 February, incl.