



ST MICHAEL'S CE MIDDLE SCHOOL

Tel: 01202 883433 Fax: 01202 840145

Website: www.stmichaelsmiddle.org

Newsletter No.1

Wednesday 5th September
2018

Dear Parents and Guardians,

"Welcome" or indeed "welcome back" to St Michael's. It has been a very positive and productive start to term. Our staff training has covered many critical areas focussed on building from our successful Ofsted inspection in January so that we become an even stronger school. A key element of this has been ensuring that our strongest aspects get the chance to influence areas for development. This has meant that lots of colleagues have had the chance to take a lead across the two days which is, in itself a sign of how the school is growing.

As regulars will know we are also a growing school in terms of numbers. In fact we only have a couple of places left in Years 5 and 7 so if you know of anyone still looking for school places then please do encourage them to get in touch as soon as possible because these will no doubt be gone soon. If you have friends who are considering a place with us next year our open evening is on the 4th October where we will have a range of activities to give parents a feel for the school. We also have two open days on the 6th at 9am and 13th November at 2pm. The good news is there are still a relatively low number of children in our catchment area leaving plenty of places for those who want to choose us as their preferred school.

Staffing Information

Welcome to 2 new members of staff, Mr Montacute joining us in Year 5 and Mrs Holmes joining Year 6 team both have settled well and clearly have a lot to offer the pupils at St Michael's which is very exciting for those they teach.

Unfortunately, Mr Spurling will not be with us for the start of the year due to family illness. We wish him and his family all the best. Miss Atkins who was with us last year will take most of his Humanities classes and Mrs Gould will be assisting with his Maths classes.

Update of Building Works

Works to replace the school roof are progressing well. This is not a small job as you can imagine and is not scheduled to be complete until October half term. Inevitably there will be some disruption as pupils will hear folk working on the roof but all necessary precautions have taken place. This does mean that some footpaths are no longer available. If you need to come to the office then please take care to follow the signs around the builder's compound.

School Ethos & Collective Worship

This is an area Ofsted complemented but we are keen to continue to develop this area further. I am delighted that last year more pupils from backgrounds that the Government classes as having less advantage achieved positive outcomes. This is core aspect of our mission as a school which values 'Each child uniquely made in God's image'. Those of you who are new to school will continue to hear plenty about our ABC: our core values of Aspiration, Belief and Creativity.

Clubs

One of our key targets for all our children is to experience success at St Michael's and I am delighted that the feedback from a very large sample of parents showed this is happening. I believe this is partly due to the extensive range of clubs and activities we undertake as a school. We will soon send home a clubs list and I hope you are able to sit down with your child and identify at least one club for them to attend. There will also be some more invitation only clubs to support pupils in their learning e.g. groups for pupils who need extra support with gross or fine motor skills. If your child has an area of need that you think is not being supported do write and let me know.

Locked gates

Just to make you aware that in order to encourage prompt attendance the pedestrian gates (near Wimborne Rd) will be locked on the second bell at 8.40am and anyone who arrives after the final registration bell will need to come in via reception. Thank you for your assistance with prompt arrivals.

Mr Jenkinson

PROSPECTIVE PARENTS OPEN DAYS AND EVENING

Prospective parents of pupils who are moving up to Middle School in September 2019 are warmly invited to our Open Evening on Thursday 4th October from 5.30pm to 7.30pm. There will also be open days on 6th and 13th November at 9am and 2pm respectively..

QUEEN ELIZABETH SCHOOL OPEN EVENING

All parents are invited to Queen Elizabeth School's Open Evening on Thursday 27th September 2018.

Tours of the school commence at 5.30pm and presentations by the Headteacher are at 6.15pm and 7pm.

Mobile Phones

Most of us struggle to know how to handle the complexity that is our child's online life. We want to prevent pupils from coming to harm so we restrict the use of mobile phones in school time. If we see a mobile phone on the school site we will confiscate it! That means no switched on phones before, during or after school on site. They are welcome to bring a phone to school, switch it off as they approach, ideally hand it in the office (if they don't and it goes missing we will not accept any responsibility for it) and collect it at the end of the day which is when they can walk to the gate and then switch it back on.

If your child uses social media then the most responsible thing you can do is ensure you have all their passwords. Each year we deal with an increasing number of families who regret not having been more careful. If your child says that their friends parents don't check their phones they are most likely misleading you or being misled themselves because more and more parents have realised that trust has to be balanced with protection.

UNIFORM

We use our school uniform to build a sense of belonging and to ensure an appropriate clothing choice for school based activities. From time to time clothing manufacturers attempt to appeal to pupils sense of fashion ahead of what is sensible or matching the school policy. I ask that you remain vigilant before you spend money that will have to be wasted when the choice is rejected by school.

The biggest risks at the moment are hair styles, footwear and skirt length. Please be aware that school shoes (not boots) must be black and sturdy: some shoes are of a canvas type with a high moulding and these are fine as long as they are completely black but if the top is too flimsy they can not protect feet in technology workshop. In relation to skirt length, the problem is more prominent towards the end of the academic year: if you buy in September something that is borderline, by April it will be too short.

Finally, we try and be sensible about hair so long as it is safe but there is an increasing trend for hair dyes and braids. Braids which are tied back, with no beading on the end and are not long enough to cause a risk in PE lessons are usually allowed to pass. In relation to hair colour the use of non standard hair colours is pushing the boundaries of what is acceptable. Please do not put us in the difficult position of having to ask you to re-do your child's hair colour.

We believe that each child is unique and we understand the value of individual expression, however, the risk with fashion is that it feeds trends which in turn can become a pressure to conform; we are about learning and anything which we believe distracts pupils from being the best they can be in the classroom will be rejected by the school.

MEDICAL INFORMATION

A reminder to all pupils and parents that we aim to be a **"nut-free" school**. Please be aware that we have several children who carry Epipens due to severe allergies - mostly to nuts. Also, any medicines that need to be taken during the school day must be handed into the school office.

Please note that we are not allowed to give any aspirin, unless on prescription from your G.P.

In addition, pupils who have suffered sickness or any tummy bug should remain absent from school for 48 hours after symptoms have stopped.

HOLIDAY DATES FOR 2018/2019

AUTUMN TERM 2018

Staff Training Days:	Monday 3rd & Tuesday 4th September
First day of Term:	Wednesday 5th September
Half-term Holiday:	Monday 22nd – Friday 26th October
Staff Training Day:	Monday 29th October
Pupils Return:	Tuesday 30th October
Last day of Term:	Friday 21st December

SPRING TERM 2019

Staff Training Day:	Monday 7th January
First day of Term:	Tuesday 8th January
Half-term Holiday:	Monday 18th - Friday 22nd February, incl.
Last day of Term:	Thursday 4th April
Staff Training Day:	Friday 5th April

SUMMER TERM 2019

First day of Term:	Tuesday 23rd April
Bank Holiday:	Monday 6th May
Half-term Holiday:	Monday 27th May – Friday 31st May, incl.
Pupil's Return:	Monday 3rd June
Last day of Term:	Tuesday 23rd July