



# ST MICHAEL'S CE MIDDLE SCHOOL

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Newsletter No.7

Friday 6th January 2017

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Welcome back and a Happy New Year to you all.

St Michael's is a good school but we are not settled at that and so we are constantly challenging ourselves. Recently, when the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) were visiting lessons we identified some ways that we could increase our expectations of pupils and we would like your help with that. Lessons would start faster if all pupils had the correct equipment and that includes a [whiteboard pen](#) which can be bought at WHSmiths, Tesco, Poundland, Amazon etc. The reason this is so important is that if we ask a question in class and children just put their hand up we can only ask one at a time so some pupils can avoid joining in but if they have to write their own answer on the whiteboard in their PNB everyone is involved. Obviously we have spare pens but handing these out takes time. It is best for everyone's learning when all pupils are equipped. Please check that your child's pencil case has everything described on p10 of their PNB.

Also your child may receive a 'Taking care' slip. This slip will be given to pupils who are not meeting our raised expectations for taking care around school including getting to lessons on time, wearing the correct uniform and moving safely through the corridors. If they get such a slip they will have to present their books and pencil cases to SLT so we can review the care in their work. If that is not of a satisfactory standard we will be asking them to re-do some work.

## STAFFING

We sadly announce the early retirement of our friend and colleague Sue Vairy. We all recognise Sue for her unconditional dedication, enthusiasm, and friendliness. She will be deeply missed but we can only feel happy for her after 20 years of service, 8 of which were at St Michael's. On behalf of every one at St Michael's Middle School, I would like to wish her the best of luck. I am sure you will all join me in wishing her all the best for the future.

## LATEST E-SAFETY NEWSLETTER

Please use the link below to see the latest E-Safety Newsletter from Dorset Police

<https://www.dorset.police.uk/media/1531/ssct-parents-esafety-newsletter-spring-2016.pdf>

## Bystanders

As we continue to develop our response to best practice in dealing with bullying I would like to make you aware of another area where we are increasing our expectation of young people. Actually, support from bystanders is an area where things are very positive for us- often, if an incident has occurred, pupils will come and tell us about it before we have even had to ask. Even so, occasionally, I hear the phrase I didn't want to 'dob' someone in or just as bad: 'I wasn't doing anything I was just watching'.

It is important that we continue to reinforce the culture whereby, to paraphrase the famous quote, evil cannot triumph because good people are doing something about it! Another commonly used phrase is that *bullying thrives on silence* which is why we are making such a big deal about it in school; all pupils are currently being surveyed about bullying so we can learn more, encourage openness and if necessary do more. There is lots more to read about bystanders and this webpage may be a help to you <http://www.eyesonbullying.org/bystander.html>.

Please encourage your child (ren) to talk to us about behaviour that they think is upsetting them or their friends.

## Wimborne Academy Trust News

Pupil Voice Partnership Children from schools across the Trust met for the first time in November as part of the Pupil Voice Partnership to look at their first theme of bullying - the meeting had the following aims:



- to develop a shared vision among students across the Trust towards the prevention and resolution of bullying: and
- to empower students across the Trust to take ownership of the way in which they would like to develop an anti bullying ethos in their schools. Feedback from the meeting was very positive and children participating were keen to engage with each other and develop a trustwide anti-bullying strategy.

### HOLIDAY DATES FOR 2016/2017

Wednesday 4th January	Children Return to school
Thursday 26th January	Year 8 Holocaust Workshop
Thursday 26th January	Year 7 Time in a Bottle Workshop
Friday 3rd February	Year 8 Winchester Trip
Monday 13th - 17th February	Half Term
<b>Friday 7th April</b>	<b>Last Day of Term</b>
<b>Monday 24th April</b>	<b>First Day of Term</b>
<b>Monday 1st May</b>	<b>Bank Holiday</b>
Monday 8th - 12th May	Holne Park Residential
W/c 15th May	Heatree Residential
<b>Monday 29th May - Friday 2nd June</b>	<b>Half Term</b>
<b>Monday 5th June</b>	<b>Staff Training - School Closed</b>
Tuesday 6th June	Children Return to School

### PANTOMIME

Co.MaD's 2017 pantomime Little Red Riding Hood, will take place on Fri to Sun, 3rd to 5th February (7.30 Fri, 2.30 & 7.30 Sat, 2.30 Sun) at Colehill Memorial Hall.

It is an original script written by ex pupil Lisa Willis and featuring a current member of staff. As usual, donations from the proceeds will be given to a local good cause: this year Mosaic, a charity which helps children cope with family bereavement.

In this production of "Little Red Riding Hood", the folk of Fable Town are being terrorised by a wolf, but the hero of our panto is missing – the handsome prince has disappeared! Several townspeople, helped (or hindered) by a couple of clueless Knights, go on a quest. But it is Granny who comes face to face with the wolf in the middle of town! What will happen next?

### CHILD WORK PERMITS

School holidays are a time when young people may be searching for a part time job or perhaps have already found one.

Part time work can be beneficial for young people. It introduces them to the world of work and can develop self-confidence, communication and organisational skills, familiarity with money and dealing with other people.

However, were you aware that under the local byelaws, employers wishing to employ young people must apply for a Child Work Permit for every young person they employ who is still in compulsory education and aged between 13 and 16? It is illegal to employ a young person without a permit in place.

Employment is classed as any work or occupation for a trade or business carried out for profit or any commercial enterprise, whether paid or unpaid. This includes any work done for a relative in a family business.