



# ST MICHAEL'S CE MIDDLE SCHOOL

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Newsletter No.10.

May 16th 2016

Dear Parents/Carers,

Thank you to all the families in Year 6 for helping to make SATS week run smoothly. It was an extra challenge for these pupils to be the first to take these new style assessments and whatever happens we are proud of the way they pulled together and worked through the assessments.

I haven't had the chance, in writing, to congratulate the cast of The Wizard of Oz after their stunning performances last month. It was very inspiring to see young people performing to such a high standard and we are proud of them and the marvellous efforts of the staff involved.

## Reports

Thank you to everyone who responded to the questionnaire about Reporting. We had a good response rate and 85% of you voted to have more parents evenings and a reduced content report. That said there remain some valuable questions from a minority of you about the information we share with you in the report. At the moment we only tell you if your child has 'met' or 'not met' age related expectations but some of you wanted to know more about where in relation to the boundary line your child is. We are giving consideration to this. Firstly, we are speaking with QE school about linking up with them so that parents in Year 8 can find out which pathway or flightpath their child is on in relation to GCSE performance i.e. put simply if your child continued at the same rate of progress as they were currently on what grade would they get at GCSE. Secondly, we are in discussions with fellow schools in the Trust to talk through the information we share with parents. I would like to stress that regardless of what solutions we finally arrive at it is essential that your dialogue with your child revolves around the effort they are putting into their work. Attainment is a misleading motivator and the most reliable strategy for success is determined effort.

Finally, we have put into the diary three parents evenings towards the end of term so that you can talk with teachers about your child's actual performance this year. Next year these will be earlier in the term but time was against us this year. The report therefore is just a starting point for helping your child perform to the best of their ability. There will be no limit to the number of subject teachers you see and we will be organising the bookings online on a first come first served basis. More details will follow immediately after half term.

## Parent Questionnaire

Thank you to the 140 or so who responded to the parent questionnaire. This was very helpful and it was good to see movement on the areas that needed to be developed. Overall there remains a very high percentage of you 98/9 who agree or strongly agree that we are getting most things right most of the time, it was encouraging that the numbers who strongly agree went up significantly in some key areas (good behaviour / child happy at school / bullying). We will continue to use the information and as the paragraphs above show we are listening to parents when analysing areas like sharing academic information- which is the one area that some parents (17 out of 140) felt we could do more on.

## Pupil Numbers

This is to say that the school is rapidly filling up which is good news for helping us fund all the elements of education that matter. There are still some places in Year 5&6 this year but if you know someone who wants a place in Year 5 next year they will need to hurry as we look like we may be filling up on the second round of applications.

Mr Jenkinson

## **ATTENDANCE**

As you have probably heard, attendance is becoming a focus for schools around the country and our school is no exception.

As a school, we are committed to working with you to ensure your children enjoy high percentage attendance rates so please do not hesitate to contact us if there is any way in which we can help. National expectation is that children should have at least a 95% attendance record. If it is below 93%, we will inform you by letter and if your child's attendance is below 85%, we will not be able to authorise any absence unless it is on written recommendation from a medical professional. We hold regular attendance clinics with a representative from Dorset Attendance Support Services to see how we can best support you and your child with attendance. If you wish to arrange a meeting at one of these clinics, please contact the office and we will offer you an appointment.

Many thanks for your support.

## Girls Football



Year 7 girls played their socks off in the quarter final of the county cup against Glenmoor. It was 1-1 after extra time and unfortunately we narrowly lost out on penalties.

The year 8 girls have had a fantastic season this year and have managed to finish off spectacularly. They had a very exciting game against Twynham in the county cup final. Coming in at half time we were 1-0 down but the girls showed real character and desire and managed to score 3 goals in the second half. The final result was 3-2 to St Michael's crowning us the U13 girls county cup champions!

Following on from this the year 8 girls had to face Broadstone in the Poole and East Dorset final. After a cracking start and a superb goal from Abbie Lovering it was all square after full time and had to go to extra time and penalties. The girls were clinical with their penalties leading us to victory and the girls with another medal to add to their collection!

## Pick Up Time

We have noticed recently that there are number of children who are left at school waiting to be picked up after the school day or when clubs have finished. This can extend into quite a long time. Please be aware that we can not accept responsibility for any child on site after 4.30pm when most clubs have finished. The library is open Monday to Thursday only until 4pm. If you are unable to collect your child until later we suggest you make arrangements with another family locally to collect them

## NEW PIANO

The music department are extremely grateful to the School Association for purchasing a new piano for the practice room. It will make a huge difference to peripatetic teachers and those pupils receiving music lessons.

We are now searching "for a new home" for an elderly piano! Would suit a beginner, ideal in a village hall or retirement home. If anyone can help please contact Mr Johnston—[e.johnston@stmichaelsmiddle.org](mailto:e.johnston@stmichaelsmiddle.org)

## HOLIDAY DATES FOR 2015/2016

w/c Monday 16th May

Monday 16th May

Monday 30th May - 3rd June

Monday 20th - 23rd June

Monday 27th June

Monday 27th June

Tuesday 28th June

Tuesday 28th June

Wednesday 29th June

Thursday 30th June

Friday 1st July

Tuesday 5th July

Friday 8th July

Friday 15th July

Friday 15th July

Tuesday 19th July

Tuesday 19th July

Monday 5th September

Year 6 Residential to Heatree

Year 5 Activity Week

Half term

Year 8 Residential to France

Tall Ships

Parents Consultation 4pm - 6pm

Years 5 & 6 Sports Day

New Parents Evening 7pm

Years 7 & 8 Sports Day

Parents Consultation Evening 6pm - 8pm

Family Vibe (Summer Fair)

Parents Consultation Evening 4pm - 6pm

Transfer Day

Leavers Service@ St Michaels Church @ 10am

Year 8 Celebration Evening

Year 8 - Tower Park

Last day of term

First day for pupils