



ST MICHAEL'S CE MIDDLE SCHOOL

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Newsletter No.5

TUESDAY 18TH JUNE 2019

STAFFING

It is that time of year when teachers move on or indeed join us. I am sad to say that Mrs Spear has had to step away from teaching for a while and so has handed in her resignation. She made an excellent start energising our Food and Nutrition department but has not been able to fully recover after her husband was tragically killed last year.

On a more positive note Miss Eary is taking the plunge and heading south- all the way to New Zealand! We wish her all the best in her adventures with her partner (who also used to work at St Michael's).

Also leaving us is Mrs Cox who many of you won't know because her role has been to support specific pupils with their language development. She has been an invaluable support to so many pupils over the years and her experience will be a sad loss to the school. We wish her a happy retirement.

Finally, it is a heartfelt thank you and farewell to Mrs Vine who is also retiring this year. Mrs Vine has been a stalwart at our school for 22 years performing a whole variety of roles most latterly as Textile Design teacher. We will miss her excellence as a seamstress as well as her organising abilities with the SEN Department.

We are delighted to have Mr Joy joining the team in Year 5. Mr Joy hails from Dorset but has been teaching in Hampshire across the primary age range so we are delighted to add his experience and enthusiasm to our team. We are currently also recruiting for Food and Textiles posts.

ST MICHAELS SCHOOL ASSOCIATION (PTA)

Our school has been served so well in the past years by our parent body and in recent years the spear head for that has been Mrs Weaver. She has reluctantly made the decision to step down and we pass on our sincere thanks. There is a healthy balance in the accounts and just as importantly some great memories.

HELP! Unfortunately the Association has been running on less and less support in recent years and we currently do not have a committee to take on the work. As such there will be no summer fayre this year and no other events are planned. If you have experience of running a committee or PTA and would like to help out please do get in touch via Mrs Wellman in the school office.

The money in the accounts are being managed by Mrs McGregor and the vast majority is allocated to playground facilities. One suggestion has been a climbing frame but some other folk have pointed out that even with appropriate supervision such things will lead to accidents. I would be grateful, therefore, if you could log on to this simple yes/ no survey to tell us if you, in principle, would be happy with the risks for children using a supervised climbing frame at break times : <https://forms.gle/xoNkbu2fvhoiNpfj7>

What ever the outcome we will spend the money on the playground.

PARENT SURVEY

Thank you for your really positive response to our parents survey. It showed an increase in the percentage agreeing or strongly agreeing in almost every area since the Ofsted Survey last year; the exception was homework and so we will make this a feature for review in our next school action plan.

There were big gains in several areas including: 'school deals well with bullying'; 'school responds well to concerns'; 'we receive valuable information' and 'my child is well taught'. These are obviously important areas within a school so it is very encouraging to see how you perceive them.

SECURITY

Can I thank you for the way you helped to prepare the pupils for our lockdown practice. It went really smoothly last Friday and pupils handled the practice calmly and with care.

I am pleased to be able to confirm that we have been successful in bidding for funds to replace the inadequate security fencing around the back of school. This work will be done over the summer.

MUNCHBOX/MUNCHPAY– Urgent action required

This is an advance notice that MunchBox and thereby MunchPay will not be trading from St Michaels from the end of this term. **URGENT: please take care to make sure that you run down any balance on your child's Munchpay account as there is no mechanism for refunding unspent balances.** It is important therefore they spend all they have on the account by the end of term. You can continue to use Munchpay or cash but from Friday 19th the Munchpay account will cease to be operational.

There will be more details about food services once we have news of which company has won the tender process to provide school meals but rest assured our Academy Committee are keen to attract a company that cooks fresh on site like the excellent MunchBox have always done. MunchPay started when DCC was outsourcing food provision and one of our Academy Committee members at the time, Mrs Gill Lewington was so concerned at the loss of quality she set up the company. Her vision for real cooked food has made MunchBox arguably the best service in East Dorset and on behalf of generations of families I thank her for the amazing work she has done.

ATTENDANCE

Thank you for your support in ensuring your child's attendance is good; this means being in school at least 97% of the time which amounts to 184 to 190 days in school. Your child's education is important so help them not to miss out!

Just a few reminders in connection with attendance:

- All children are expected to arrive at school ready to start the school day at 8:30 a.m. otherwise they may be recorded as late and will be missing out on important information needed for the school day ahead.
- If your child is too unwell to attend school, you need to contact the school by 9 a.m. on every day of their absence this is really important in terms of safeguarding to ensure your child is safe.

From September 2013, Head Teachers no longer have discretion to grant leave of absence during term times unless there are exceptional circumstances. The fundamental principles for defining 'exceptional' are rare, significant, unavoidable & short.

If you feel there is anything the school could do to support you and your child in ensuring their attendance is the best it could be then please do not hesitate to get in touch. We look forward to a continued, positive partnership with you to ensure your child is achieving their full potential.

'Whilst children can catch up on homework, they can never get back what's most important; the discussions, the questions, the explanations by the teacher and the thinking that makes the learning come alive.'

MUSICAL EVENTS

Michael James Concert at Minster 12:00 Tuesday 25th June.

Orchestra Extravaganza Wednesday 10th July - Bournemouth Pavillion - Orchestra involved in 200 strong orchestra including Dorset Youth Orchestra.

Summer Concert 2nd July at 7pm in the school hall.

SPORTS NEWS

ATHLETICS

Congratulations to the Yr 5 & 6 Athletics team who were runners-up at the East Dorset Town Sports event this week. Those pupils placed in the top three of their events will go on to represent East Dorset at the County Championships on Friday 28th June.

CRICKET

Congratulations and good luck to the Y8 Cricket team who have qualified for the County Cup semi final.

SPORTS DAYS

Thank you for your support on both Sports Days last week. It was great to see so many of your children involved in the main athletic events representing their house. A huge thank you to all the staff involved in making the days run so smoothly.

Mr Wellman
Head of PE

Collective Worship

Last half term we explored the idea of 'Love in action – What can you do to change the world?' We reflected on the different ways that we can be generous and the children had some excellent suggestions for making the world around them a nicer place.

This half term's theme is 'Spirituality – how can we 'get connected'?' We have been thinking about what spirituality is and how we can connect with the 'something' around us that is bigger than us and helps us to 'feel alive'. This could be achieved by getting involved in the school community or in the community where we live. It could be through music, sport, art for example.

We are always keen to hear about things your children are doing to 'think beyond themselves' and would love to hear about the ways in which they are living out our school values at home and in the wider community. Please do email Mrs Thompson-Brown with any details! a.thompsonbrown@stmichaelsmiddle.org

HOLIDAY DATES FOR 2018/2019

Parents Evening	Tuesday 18th June 4pm - 7pm
Tall Ships Trip	Monday 17th - Friday 21st June
Year 8 Residential	Monday 24th - Friday 28th June
Summer Concert	Tuesday 2nd July
French Workshop Years 5 & 6	Thursday 4th July
Transfer Day	Friday 5th July
New Parents Evening	Tuesday 9th July
Year 8 Celebration Evening	Friday 19th July 7pm - 9.30pm
Leavers Service at Church	Monday 22nd July - 9.50am
Year 8 Tower Park	Tuesday 23rd July morning only
Last day of Term:	Tuesday 23rd July - school finishes @ 3.15pm

HOLIDAY DATES FOR 2019/2020

AUTUMN TERM 2019

Staff Training Days:	Monday 2nd, Tuesday 3rd September & *Wednesday 4th September
First day of Term:	Thursday 5th September
Half-term Holiday:	Monday 28th – Friday 1st November
Staff Training Day:	Monday 4th November
Pupils Return:	Tuesday 5th November
Last day of Term:	Friday 20th December

SPRING TERM 2020

Staff Training Day:	Monday 6th January
First day of Term:	Tuesday 7th January
Half-term Holiday:	Monday 17th- Friday 21st February, incl.
Last day of Term:	Friday 3rd April

SUMMER TERM 2020

First day of Term:	Monday 20th April
Bank Holiday:	Friday 8th May
Half-term Holiday:	Monday 25th May – Friday 29th May, incl.
Pupil's Return:	Monday 1st June
Last day of Term:	Friday 17th July

* We are starting back one day later than other schools in the Trust to facilitate additional training in the needs of pupils with Autistic Spectrum Condition.