



ST MICHAEL'S CE MIDDLE SCHOOL

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Newsletter No.7.

February 12th 2016

Dear Parents / Carers,

Thank you for the positive feedback at Parents Evening and regarding the spring term report- it is encouraging for me and my staff to have so many of you pleased with the development and progress at school both for your child and the school in general. We are now looking at all our reporting systems and we will be writing to you after half term with a range of suggestions for the summer term reports for which we will welcome your feedback; we will incorporate suggestions from the last parent's consultation on reports too. Our goal is to give parents the information they need to support us in raising pupil's expectations of themselves and their work. If you are aware of helpful information you have received in other contexts we would be delighted to hear about it and may include it in our practice.

Success

We continue to have an excellent programme of extra-curricular activities and the commitment of staff and pupils is outstanding. You will see elsewhere in this newsletter some amazing sporting achievements.

In addition to sporting success it was great to see St Michael's pupils participate in the amazing Lion King production at QE School. We are well underway with our own production of 'The Wizard of Oz' now and the dates for this are Wednesday 20th April and Thursday 21st. Can I encourage you to plan ahead because we will be using the same booking system as QE which means it will be first come first served on line. We will let you know when the system is open to parents. If you haven't been to a St Michael's production before then prepare to be amazed!

Learning behaviour

Whilst last summer's parents survey celebrated good behaviour around school generally it did correctly identify that some lessons had been disrupted. We have been working hard on this in school using a variety of strategies including: raising our and pupil's expectations of what good learning behaviour is; responding more quickly to behaviour which is disturbing learning; and praising good character through the credit marks. In the autumn term just 1.5% of our lessons were disrupted to a point where a child was given a lunch time detention which, in broad terms, means that a child was warned to change their behaviour and then didn't improve significantly. The vast majority of these detentions came from a very small number of pupils and I am glad to say that we have made even further improvements, working specifically with these pupils, and reduced the total by at least a third again.

That said we will not be complacent and I do invite you to let me know if you are aware of any of your child's lessons which are being repeatedly disrupted by the poor behaviour of a tiny minority.

Mr Jenkinson

Arrival Time:

Since Christmas there has been an increase in the number of pupils on site before 8.20a.m. I have spoken to several and reminded them that we do not supervise playgrounds then and that the first bell goes at 8.35. If pupils are coming to site that early we will write to you and after that point charge families to put pupils into Breakfast Club so that they are supervised safely.

NEW GARDEN PROJECT

Over the last six months, some of our Year 7 students have been working hard on an exciting new garden project within the area that is currently known as our Quiet Zone. They have carefully and creatively planned a new garden that will combine a reflection area and memorial garden. The team were successful in winning a bid of £400 from Dorset Gardens Trust, which will hopefully enable us to start work on the project soon. We would very much appreciate any offers of help in creating our visions. Please contact Mr Jenkinson or Mrs Thompson-Brown if you think you may be able to offer some help.



THE WIZARD OF OZ

Our school production of 'The Wizard of Oz' is fast approaching and the talented Year 7 and 8 pupils involved are hard at work in our rehearsals. The performances will take place at Queen Elizabeth's School on the evenings of Wednesday 20th and Thursday 21st of April. We will keep you updated as to how you can book your tickets but in the meantime put the dates on your calendar and spread the word...it is set to be an evening you will not want to miss! For a sneak preview of our main characters in costume take a look at our website!

DICK WHITTINGTON

"Dick Whittington" is coming to Colehill! He brings with him his faithful cat Jess, has to battle rats, win the love of his life, and put up with the incompetence of Dame Gertie and her son Jack. There will be songs, dances, jokes and a host of characters from the ditzy Fairy to the exotic Sultan Pepper. Come and join us at Colehill Memorial Hall from Friday 12th to Sunday 14th February. There are 4 performances (see local posters for details). Tickets £7 adult, £5 child, from 01202 886303 / 07512 818318. Proceeds to Colehill Community Library.

BBC NEWS

You may have seen the BBC news headlines on Tuesday in which they identified a growing risk to young people from the internet. This news coincided with the discovery this week that children as young as 10 at St Michael's have an Instagram account as well as other social media. The legal age for most of these sites is considerably older. Our evidence suggests that even children with a good understanding of what is right and wrong are getting drawn into behaviours and experiences which you, as parents, would not want for your child.

In our recent experience it is simply not wise to just say 'I trust my child' because the peer pressure placed on children on line and the ease with which unsavoury images pop up seems to be just too much of a risk. In the last 5 years Mr Jenkinson, across two different schools, working with archetypal 'good' children has dealt with: children being solicited; being sent adult porn indiscriminately; being involuntarily added to conversations which have become destructive to a child's sense of well-being; being sent personal sexual images; and bullying. There comes a time when we are mature enough to recognise the signs and turn off but it seems, from experience, there is also an age when pupils are not ready to handle this.

Many parents monitor children's activity online and research suggests this is wise but it is probably also worth pointing out that in several of the situations we have dealt with have involved young people having more than one account with the same provider. Another clue that all is not well is when they have large numbers of followers as this is only achieved by indiscriminate networking. If they have more 'friends' or 'followers' than that which they can personally know you should be concerned as to why their feed is popular– there must be a reason it is drawing attention.

We are sharing this information with you in good faith as we want your children to be safe. We strongly suggest children do not join websites ahead of their age restrictions. We have pasted a table alongside which had information up to date as of Feb 2015.

You will find good safety information for parents on our school website under the 'Parents' tab (<http://www.stmichaelscolehill.dorset.sch.uk/Parents>) or the NSPCC: <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/share-aware/> .

As part of their work with Schools the Safer Schools and Neighbourhood Team have visited Year 7 & 8 today educating them about safe behaviour on the internet.

Age

Social Media & Internet

Restrictions

13	Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, Pinterest, Google+, Tumblr, Reddit, Snapchat, Secret, Pandora, iTunes, Spotify, Skype, Myspace, Minecraft
14	LinkedIn
16	Whats App
17	Tinder, YikYak, Vine
18 (Or, need adult permission)	Youtube, WeChat, Kik, Keek, Foursquare, Flickr Path, Xbox Live (child account until 18), Playstation Network (sub account until 17)

Current age limits as of 2/24/2015

<http://theparentingskill.com>

SPORTS NEWS

Year 5 & 6 Swimming

A squad of 16 year 5 & 6 swimmers attended the East Dorset Swimming Gala and did extremely well! We came second overall, narrowly missing out on first place by just 3 points against a local independent school. 9 of the events were won by St Michael's meaning we will have lots of swimmers representing East Dorset at the County finals in June.

Year 8 Basketball

Congratulations to Year 8 basketball who are, for the second year running, the East Dorset Champions and will be representing the school in the Dorset Games later in the year.

Year 8 Girls Football

The year 8 girls had to travel to Lyme Regis last week to play Woodroffe in the semi finals of the county cup. Despite extremely poor conditions they came away victorious with a 2-0 win and are looking forward to the final in March!

Year 8 Netball

The St Michaels team played in the Poole and East Dorset U13 Netball Tournament. They played well as a team showing some excellent attacking tactics with good wins against Lockyers and Swanage. Unfortunately losses against Dumpton and Parkstone Grammar meant that they did not progress past the group stage. Dumpton went on to win the tournament, Allenbourn were second and Parkstone were third. The top three will go to the county tournament.

Year 4 Dance and Swim Festival

On January 27th a total of 100 excited, year 4 pupils arrived at St Michaels to take part in a Swimming and Dance festival. The dance session involved 28 Year 8 girls teaching a dance which the year 4s later performed. Mr Jenkinson came in to watch the final performance and was very impressed with the leadership skills demonstrated by the year 8 pupils. The year 4s also had an opportunity to take part in an aquasplash gala in the pool.

Boys Football

Well done to the Yr 8 boys football team who have: reached the quarter-finals of the Poole & East Dorset Cup defeating West Moors; reached the semi-finals of the County Cup defeating Bishop of Winchester School and play in the last 16 of the English Schools National Trophy on Wednesday 24th February in North Devon.

Athletics

The Year 6 Indoor Athletics team put in a great performance but ultimately narrowly missed out on reaching the School Games finals by finishing 3rd in the East Dorset competition.

LETTINGS

The Dance Studio is available to let at weekends. If you are interested or require further details please contact Andy Lovering, Facilities Manager on a.lovering@stmichaelsmiddle.org.

HOLIDAY DATES FOR 2015/2016

Monday 15th - 19th February	Half Term
Thursday 25th February	Holne Park Meeting @ 6pm
Thursday 24th March	Last day of term
Monday 11th April	First day of Summer term
Wednesday 20th - Thursday 21st April	St Michael's Show at Q.E. - 7pm
Friday 29th April	Year 8 Sandwalk
Monday 9th May - 13th May	Year 7 Residential to Holne Park
w/c Monday 16th May	Year 6 Residential to Heatree
Monday 30th May - 3rd June	Half term
Monday 20th - 23rd June	Year 8 Residential to France
Friday 8th July	Transfer Day
Friday 15th July	Year 8 Celebration Evening
Tuesday 19th July	Last day of term
Monday 5th September	First day for pupils