



ST MICHAEL'S CE MIDDLE SCHOOL

Tel: 01202 883433 Fax: 01202 840145
Website: www.stmichaelscolehill.dorset.sch.uk

Newsletter No.1

Wednesday 7th September

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Welcome or indeed welcome back to St Michael's. We have had a very positive first couple of days and I am delighted to have seen so many smiley faces. It's not just Year 5 where there have been new faces either because not only did very few leave us for Grammar school we have also have had over 17 pupils join in other year groups making school a very busy place!

One of our most important tools for communication are the Personal Notebooks (PNB's) and we have introduced some more pages this year. As well as signing your child's homework and checking how they are getting on with their credit marks (p9) please checkout pages 100-105 as there is additional information regarding Maths and English. You will be aware that the Government has made passing the maths tests harder at all ages up to GCSE and so if your child does not have homework there is always the opportunity to use mymaths.co.uk and all the login information is on p100.

ABC- Aspiration, Belief and Creativity are the core values at this school and I ask for your support in helping children to allow these attributes to flourish. A key part of this is attending clubs. The old adage that 'the more you put in the more you get out' is so true in school and so please look down the clubs list and encourage your child to participate in at least one club at St Michael's.

I am delighted that we are able to invest in the school playgrounds this year. You may be aware that we have had the diggers in the Quiet Zone (QZ) as we have begun work moving Sophie's Garden into the QZ and we are also going to be building a themed 'values' garden to celebrate and promote the core values of our school. I am grateful to the school PTA who have raised considerable funds towards turning the area that was Sophie's Garden into a much more active play area.

NB Level of work: Please can I ask you to bear with us if your child is saying the work is not hard enough. On the one hand I don't want children to get demoralised but one of the effects of the new expectations in the Government assessments is that basic skills need to be applied with a much greater degree of accuracy. Consequently, for example, spellings, such as the homophones on pages 104 & 105 in the PNB have to be 100% accurate. This means that some lessons will have as part of their objectives things that your child might think of as 'easy'. That said the whole lesson should not feel simple and boring and all teachers should be setting 'challenge objectives' as well as the core

PROSPECTIVE PARENTS OPEN DAYS AND EVENING

Prospective parents of pupils who are moving up to Middle school in September 2017 are warmly invited to our Open Evening on Wednesday 5th October from 6.00pm to 8pm. There will also be open days on 8th (9am) and 9th November (2pm).

PARENTAL VOLUNTEERS

We are always grateful for help from parents, particularly when this can be on a regular basis. If you would be interested in supporting pupils with reading or helping with the food technology or textiles department please fill in your availability on the reply slip overleaf.

Parental Help

I am willing to help: support reading/food technology/textiles* onday(s)(times)

Signed: (parent./carer) tel.no.

Parent ofClass

MEDICAL INFORMATION

A reminder to all pupils and parents that we are 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 nurofen/ibuprofen based medicines, or aspirin, unless on prescription from you 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.

STAFF VACANCIES

Term time only Kitchen Assistant needed in Munchbox , Wednesday , Thursday , Friday, 5hrs per day @ £7.25 per hour.

To assist the Catering Manager with the general food preparation and have an interest in cake making.

Contact Mrs Alison Scott in the School Kitchen or telephone 01202 881871 .

Midday Supervisor required, every day - please contact Mrs Wellman in the school office for more details - 01202 883433

Traffic Outside school:

As you will all be aware the traffic outside school can be very dangerous. I encourage you all to consider dropping off and collecting pupils further away from school. It would be good exercise for them and safer all round. The following roads all have pavements and would not involve pupils having to cross a road without a Crossing Patrol: Lonnen Rd on the Co-op side, New Merrifield, Cobbs Rd and the top of Beaucroft Lane (there is a cut through to Wimborne Road). There also the following roads where you can drop pupils off and they would only have to cross residential roads which don't have through traffic: outside Colehill Library and to the south of school at Greenhill Lane. Finally, you could go slightly further to Giddy Lake, Onslow Gardens or even Lacy Drive where there is a cut through to the steep but healthy Onslow Gardens; with these locations there would be one road to cross along side the Colehill Cricket Club.

One parent has spoken to me with the idea of trying to encourage a voluntary one way system along Colehill Lane at school collecting time. As parents last year will know I have met with both the Parish Council and Dorset Council road safety and not had much success. **Please contact me if you feel a voluntary one way system would not work**

Wildlife Pond - Mrs Atkins

To mark the fact that I have been working in this wonderful school for twenty years next year I would like to celebrate by making a wildlife pond (not the usual I know). This will enhance the school grounds and provide an opportunity for pond and wildlife studies for the pupils.

School has already bought, with the generous help of the school association, a pond liner and fencing.

I have the enthusiasm so all that is left is the muscle power! If there are any families that would be willing to help with digging or have a small mechanical digger I would love to hear from you. I shall starting work on Fridays and some Saturday mornings in the near future. I can be contacted at s.atkins@stmichaelsmiddle.org if you can be of any assistance..

HOLIDAY DATES FOR 2016/2017

Monday 26th September	School Association AGM
Wednesday 5th October	<u>Prospective Parents Open Evening - 6.00pm - 8.00pm</u>
W/c 17th October	Year 5 Activity Week
Thursday 20th October	Year 5 Parents Consultation Evening 4pm - 6pm
Monday 24th – 28th October	Half Term
Monday 31st October	Staff Training Day – School closed
Wednesday 2nd November	Year 6 SATs Information Evening tbc
Saturday 5th November	Firework Display
Tuesday 8th November	<u>Prospective Parents Open Day 9.00am - 10.00am</u>
Wednesday 9th November	<u>Prospective Parents Open Day 2.00pm - 3.00pm</u>
Tuesday 15th November	Parent Consultation Evening 6pm - 7.30pm
Thursday 17th November	Parent Consultation Evening 4pm - 5.30pm
Friday 9th December	Christmas Fair
Wednesday 14th December	Carol Service @ Wimborne Minster - 7pm
Friday 16th December	Last Day of term