



ST MICHAEL'S CE MIDDLE SCHOOL

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Newsletter No.8

Friday 10th February 2017

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I would like to thank you for your help ensuring pupils are ready for lessons with the correct equipment. We have found that we can make much more progress when pupils are ready and taking an active role in the lessons which is why the whiteboard pens are a great help.

Recently we indicated to pupils that we would be looking to award more Credit Marks for 'Initiative', particularly when they answer questions in class or solve problems without first giving in. In contrast we are also using the Right to Learn Board to call out behaviour which, whilst not overtly disturbing the class, is demanding of teacher time by failing to complete achievable tasks independently. It is encouraging to me that we are able to use the RTLB less and less for disruptive behaviours and instead to encourage all pupils to be brave in their approach to learning.

Overall our records show that our higher expectations of work ethic continue to have a positive effect.

Mr Jenkinson

VISITING THE SCHOOL

At St. Michael's Middle School the safety and wellbeing of pupils and staff are paramount. In the interests of safeguarding **we require that everyone who visits the school goes directly to reception and reports to a member of the reception team.** If you urgently need to speak to a teacher, reception will contact them to see whether they are available. Alternatively you can phone the school and arrange an appointment to see a teacher.

After pupils have gone home teachers frequently have meetings or run clubs and therefore may not be available for a meeting. In this case reception staff will pass a message to them and the teacher will get in touch with you as soon as possible. If a teacher is available you will be asked to sign in and wait in reception until they are able to meet with you.

We ask that you respect and support our safeguarding procedures and **under no circumstances bypass reception and go directly into classrooms.** This procedure is fundamental to keeping our pupils and staff safe and is an expectation of every visitor to the school.

SCHOOL UNIFORM

Recently, there have been a number of children wearing black boots to school, unfortunately this is not part of our school uniform. It is only black school shoes which are sufficiently robust to protect feet that should be worn to school. It is also worth pointing out that typically older girls begin to grow much quicker meaning that skirts bought appropriately in the autumn are no longer the right length. Please see the information in our School Prospectus, if you require clarification about any aspect of uniform. Many thanks with your support in these matters.

Year 8 Astound for a £.

Wednesday 22nd February, 3.30 - 4.30pm in the PAD.

Please come and support our enterprising Year 8 pupils raise funds for their chosen charity; The Salvation Army (Wimborne). There will be lots on sale; cakes and cookies, raffles, name the teddy and plenty more. Please come and support!

Messages for Pupils

To help us avoid interrupting lessons please try and ensure messages for children are left with the Office by lunchtime. Obviously urgent messages will still be relayed to your child in class but if possible we would be grateful if you could plan ahead where possible. Thank you.

Wimborne Academy Trust News

A Governor Training Programme has been organised for governors of all the Wimborne Academy Trust Schools, with courses taking place over the Spring and Summer Terms.

SOCIAL MEDIA

It can be very hard for parents to properly monitor their children's use of social media but we have recently had another example of why this is so important. One of our pupils struck up a conversation online with someone who used information readily available to convince them that they had mutual friends. Having won the confidence of our pupil they then tried to arrange a meeting. Fortunately, the pupil in question thought to tell someone and nothing has come of it. This example comes hot on the heels of another incident which seems to have been a case of a malicious individual inciting pupils to harm themselves.

Can I reiterate advice about regularly checking you child's online presence. You might particularly like to take notice of how many friends they have because if it is more than they can possibly know in person it represents a risk. Can I also remind you that most social media has a minimum age requirement of 13 years.

SPORTS NEWS

FOOTBALL

Year 7 boys football team who beat Carter School to progress to the next round of the PEDSSA cup.

Football

The Yr 8 boys football team have won through to the quarter finals of the PEDSSA trophy defeated Poole Grammar School B in the last round.

CROSS COUNTRY

Our teams continue to excel this term. Fourteen runners competed for the school at the Dorset XC championships at Kings Park. Congratulations to Will Rabjohns (Yr 6) who won the Yr 7 boys race and Will Longhurst who finished 20th. The Yr 7 boys team were narrowly defeated into 2nd place.

Will Rabjohns also won the Yr 6 Canford School Junior XC event last week with the Yr 7 boys team finishing 3rd overall in their race.

'CAN DO' SPORTS FESTIVAL

Twelve students across Yr 6, 7 & 8 were selected to represent the school at the inaugural 'Can Do' Sports Festival at QE school. They took part in a range of events including seated volleyball, table cricket, boccia and indoor rock climbing thoroughly enjoying their afternoon.

Look out for Friday 3rd March - Bike Breakfast

Anyone who cycles to school that day will receive a delicious bacon butty or toast from munchbox.

Mr Wallis

HOLIDAY DATES FOR 2016/2017

Monday 13th - 17th February	Half Term
Tuesday 28th February	Parents Evening 5.30pm - 8pm
Thursday 2nd March	Parents Evening 4pm - 6.30pm
Friday 7th April	Last Day of Term
Monday 24th April	First Day of Term
Monday 1st May	Bank Holiday
Monday 8th - 12th May	Holne Park Residential
W/c 15th May	Heatree Residential
Monday 29th May - Friday 2nd June	Half Term
Monday 5th June	Staff Training - School Closed
Tuesday 6th June	Children Return to School
Wednesday 19th July	Leavers Service @ 9.45am
Thursday 20th July	Party Night for Year 8 7pm - 9.30pm
Friday 21st July	Last Day of Term