



# ST MICHAEL'S CE MIDDLE SCHOOL

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Newsletter No.10

Friday 24th March 2017

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I would like to thank you for all your support this term. Pupils have worked hard and their progress in work is excellent to see. You will know from the news that, like many other sectors of society, education is facing its toughest time with rising costs, static budgets and significantly increased expectations from Ofsted. In such a toxic mixture I would just like to publicly thank the staff at St Michael's for their commitment and determination in doing what is best for your children. We calculated recently that over 94% of our pupils attend a club or activity every week which is quite remarkable given that these are all run voluntarily.

I will shortly be writing to you with our new Anti-Bullying Policy and procedures. I am delighted that our new Buddy+ system is in place, as is the letter box for pupils to self refer so pupils have every opportunity to share if they are feeling anxious in school. In addition a group of our Year 8 students have started a letter club where pupils can write to 'Dear Charlie' about any concerns and they will reply. We have trained students and they have a direct line of report to our Welfare Team. The policy is currently being reviewed by the School Council who are also producing a pamphlet to make the policy more accessible to younger minds.

Can I take this opportunity to apologise to those of you who received Attendance Letters that weren't in confidential envelopes—that was a mistake on our part. School attendance is now a major stream within Ofsted inspections and any pupil who drops below 96%, which is equivalent to one day every two weeks or one weeks holiday in a half term, will receive a letter as per the guidance documents. If the attendance does not improve within three weeks of that first letter then you will be asked to come to school for a Review Meeting with the Dorset Attendance Officer. The reason for this is that there is a correlation between good attendance and attainment and I thank you for your support in ensuring your children are in school.

Mr Jenkinson

## ECO-MATTERS

The Eco Club has recently entered a recycling competition and lots has been happening. We are currently collecting empty 2 litre plastic bottles, please can these be brought in to Mrs Paton in Room 10.

We will be shortly starting to the recycle food waste at school, but in the meantime, could I please ask all pupils to take their food waste home, where hopefully it can be recycled, by our local collection service. Our bin analysis showed that 68% of our waste is food!

A 12A film called "A plastic ocean" is going to be shown at QE school on Friday 5th May at 6pm. This is a new feature-length adventure documentary that brings to light the consequence of our global disposable lifestyle. If you are interested in purchasing tickets book them online on-[www.creativedynamo.net/tickets](http://www.creativedynamo.net/tickets). Please see Mrs Paton if you would like extra information.

## School Opening

Unfortunately because approx. 50 pupils are coming on to site too early in the morning we will be closing the gates until gone 8.20 in the morning. This won't affect the vast majority of you and I remind you that there is a breakfast club every morning from 7.55am for those that need to get to work. I can not accept responsibility for pupils unsupervised on site so early. If you feel that this is going to present you with a difficulty due to service bus times or financial constraints please contact the school office.

## Monday 27th March - Bike Breakfast

Anyone who cycles to school will receive a delicious bacon butty or toast from Munchbox.

Mr Wallis

Valuing the breadth of culture in Britain

## Non Uniform Day 31st March

As part of our work to recognise British values within the curriculum we are having a non uniform day. Pupils can wear a piece of clothing or a costume that reflects the diversity of their family heritage. For example, your child's family line might be rooted in Dorset and so wearing a Dorset Flag or a item of clothing with a Dorset place name would work well or it maybe someone in your family has roots outside of Britain and can wear an item of clothing that reflects that heritage; in my case I have parents who were born in the Netherlands and Chile so I can wear some orange or maybe a warm chamanto. Our society is so diverse and respecting difference is one of the key British values along with the rule of law, democracy and individual liberty. Please talk through these at home as they are important values in our society.

## CLUBS NEWS

### ORCHESTRA

Well done to the school orchestra who performed in the Jazz Festival recently at an extremely high level. Their age was irrelevant as you had to be good enough not old enough but that said it was stunning to the audience that ,at their age, they were good enough!

### FOOTBALL

Good luck to the Year 6 Boys Football Team who are going to the regionals this Saturday in Bristol.

### SWIMMING

On Friday 3rd March we took a squad of 16, Years 7 and 8 swimmers to represent St Michael's at QE School. We competed against Allenbourn, Ferndown and Lockyers in mixed relay gala. Being a relay gala all of our swimmers had to work exceptionally well as a team and we were fortunate enough to have some fantastic team performances resulting in St Michael's coming away victorious, winning some of the relay races by a clear 2 lengths!



### TRIP TO THE THEATRE

A group of Year 8s visited The Lighthouse Theatre on Tuesday to see a performance of Frankenstein which was linked to their recent study of Gothic Horror. The children enjoyed the performance and benefited from the cultural experience. Look out for future theatre visits to the Lighthouse - such a brilliant resource. Gangsta Granny is on in the holidays which should be a fun performance of this well-known book. See you there!

Mrs Wall

## Forest School Gardening Day

**Tuesday 11th April -8.45am - 3.15pm**

There are 16 places available for small tree planting, woodland clearing, courtyard & allotment maintenance and fence building. If you are interested please come to the office and pick up an information leaflet. If there are any mums and or dads who would also like to come along and take part would they please e-mail Mr Lovering directly [a.lovering@stmichaelsmiddle.org](mailto:a.lovering@stmichaelsmiddle.org)

## HOLIDAY DATES FOR 2016/2017

**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

Tuesday 13th June

Parents Evening 5.30pm - 8.00pm

Thursday 15th June

Parents Evening 4.00pm - 6.30pm

Thursday 22nd June

Summer Concert 7pm - 8.30pm

Tuesday 27th June

Sports Day Years 7 & 8

Wednesday 28th June

Sports Days Years 5 & 6

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

**Monday 4th & Tuesday 5th September**

**Staff Training Days**

**Wednesday 6th September**

**First Day of Term**