



## ST MICHAEL'S CE MIDDLE SCHOOL

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Newsletter No.11

Tuesday 27 June 2017

Dear Parents and Carers,

Firstly can I apologise for missing May's newsletter. Communication is important and I am pleased that more of you 'strongly agree' that we are sending home valuable information according to this years Parents Survey. This has been the first full year of our new reporting system and I am encouraged at the feedback we have received. I did have a parent say to me that it wasn't clear in the report how much better than the expected standard their child was. I explained, and am reiterating it for everyone's benefit, that it is reasonable to have a sense of how well a child is doing relative to their peers and we are happy to discuss such things at Parents Evenings but a child's success is down to how they approach their work and whether they are making progress which is why the written reports prioritise those aspects.

The parent survey has been very helpful again. We have had over 160 responses which is a strong sample and almost all were agreeing that their children are safe and happy at St Michael's. If you were one of the couple who didn't agree to this I would welcome chatting that through with you in order to ensure you don't feel the same way next year. We were encouraged that in the areas addressing academic qualities such as teaching, homework and progress that the percentage of 'strongly agrees' went up by an average of 12% and the number 'strongly agreeing' that bullying is effectively managed went up by 20%.

### Gate closing at 8.40am

We have been raising our expectations of how pupils conduct themselves around school including punctuality and presentation. Those using the pedestrian gate at the Wimborne Road end of school will have noticed that this is now locked at 8.40am when the morning registration has begun (first bell is at 8.35am). Please ensure pupils are on site before 8.40am. There is a difficulty with buses which all too often arrive after 8.40 but we have a system for managing their arrival.

### New Website

Those who browse the internet regularly may have seen that last week our new website went live. The Wimborne Academy Trust have been working with a website designer to harmonise the layout of the Trust websites to make it easier to navigate. There is also a calendar of dates which you may find helpful. Go to the existing [www.stmichaelscolehill.dorset.sch.uk/](http://www.stmichaelscolehill.dorset.sch.uk/) or [www.stmichaelsmiddle.org](http://www.stmichaelsmiddle.org) for more details.

## CLUBS AND ACTIVITIES OVER THE SUMMER HOLIDAYS

### **CYCLE TRAINING - BIKEABILITY LEVELS 1,2&3. COURSE**

Please contact Mr Lovering, Facilities Manager on 01202883433 or e-mail [a.lovering@stmichaelsmiddle.org](mailto:a.lovering@stmichaelsmiddle.org) for the opportunity to complete this excellent training programme.

### **ARCHERY**

The opportunity to take part in a two hour archery session on the school grounds on various dates over the summer holiday. Please collect an application form from the school office.

### **GARDENING CLUB**

To help in the maintenance of the school's allotments and courtyard area. Anyone who would be interested in 2-3 hours each week on a voluntary basis to contact Mr Lovering, Facilities Manager on 01202883433 or e-mail [a.lovering@stmichaelsmiddle.org](mailto:a.lovering@stmichaelsmiddle.org)

## SPORTS NEWS

Congratulations to the Yr 6 boys cricket team who came 3rd in the County Hardball Finals and were crowned County Champions at Kwik Cricket. They now represent Dorset at the regional tournament in Bristol on 13th July.

The Yr 5 & 6 Girls team followed suit after qualifying for their Kwik Cricket County Finals making it a double success.

The Yr 5 boys team have also qualified for their Kwik Cricket County Finals on 5th July.

Well done to our Yr 7 and Yr 8 boys indoor rowing teams who have qualified for the Dorset School Games Finals next week.

Well done to the Year 5/6 Girls Swimming Team who won the County Relay Medley

**Please note that Yrs 5 & 6 Sports day has been moved to Friday 30th June (1-3pm) due to a number of pupils representing the school at the Dorset School Games next Wednesday**

## BOOK FAIR

There will be a book fair in school from 26th -30th June provided by Travelling Books, pupils will have access during the day and it will be available to parents until 4pm Monday - Thursday in the PAD. The school benefits from commission on the sales of books so please support this event.

## SCHOOL VACANCIES FOR SEPTEMBER

1. Cleaner - ideally after school 3.30-5.30pm Monday to Friday or looking for two to job share 2/3 days a week.
2. Cleaner - early mornings 7.00-8.15/8.30pm Monday to Friday or looking for two to job share 2/3 days a week

### Places for September

Due to a small but significant number of pupils leaving the area/going to Grammar Schools at the end of Year 6 we will be reducing to four classes in Year 7. The classes will have 32 pupils in them but as we will be setting for Maths, English and French and we will also be reducing class sizes for Technology and PE many classes will be much smaller. It does mean that we are full in Year 7 in September. It is also looking likely that we will be full in Year 5 & 6 too. If you know anyone who is looking for a place in Year 6 I suggest you let them know as there are only a couple left.

With the recent news coverage about school finance it won't surprise that the decision to have only four classes is related to funding. That said we are in a very fortunate situation to be a growing school (three years ago we had 469 pupils and next year we will have 570) and as a result two new classrooms are being built over the summer. Unfortunately our finance is based on the previous years number so for the last two years I have had to educate approximately 30 more pupils than we are funded for (which is approximately £100,000 less than we should have!). Over the next couple of years we should reach a balance point with our finance which will help us compete more equally in terms of resourcing pupils' learning.

### Message from Hayeswood regarding the Grenfell Tower Disaster

Over the last two years Hayeswood First School has had links with Colville Primary School in London. Last week 44 Year 4 children came from London and visited Hayeswood's Year 4 children. As part of their geography work, they are learning about the Purbeck area and so spent Thursday afternoon at Studland beach. They stayed the night in the school hall and after further activities on Friday, left to return home.

Colville Primary School is situated in the borough of Kensington and Chelsea, just off Portobello Road and very close to Grenfell Tower, which was destroyed by fire the week before last. Thankfully none of the children who visited us lived in the building but some were affected by losing friends and extended family. Although we have not discussed the disaster with our children, we are keen to help raise money to support the survivors who are now homeless and have lost everything. All money collected will be sent to the Kensington and Chelsea Foundation who have set up an appeal. They will ensure that all money raised goes directly to those affected.

If you would like to donate, please write a cheque to the Kensington and Chelsea Foundation. These will be collected and sent off. We feel that with the link to the area, it would be really good to send a big donation from the Wimborne Academy Trust Schools.

## **ECO CLUB**

On Friday 26 May the ECO Club entered a recycling competition. We had to go to County Hall in Dorchester. During the day we gave a presentation about our recycling project to the judges. We were also asked lots of questions by the judges. We are very pleased to say that we are now runners-up in the County recycling competition. Well done ECO Club!

### **DATES FOR 2016/2017**

Tuesday 27th June	New Parents Evening @ 7pm
Tuesday 27th June	Sports Day Years 7 & 8
Friday 30th June	Sports Days Years 5 & 6
<b>Friday 14th July</b>	<b>Summer Vibe (Fair)</b>
Thursday 20th July	Leavers Service @ 9.50am
Thursday 20th July	Party Night for Year 8 from 7pm – 9.30pm
Friday 21st July	Last Day of Term - <b>3.15pm finish</b>

### **HOLIDAY DATES FOR 2017/2018**

#### **AUTUMN TERM 2017**

<b>Staff Training Days:</b>	<b>Monday 4 &amp; Tuesday 5 September</b>
First day of Term:	Wednesday 6 September
Half-term Holiday:	Monday 23 – Friday 27 October
<b>Staff Training Day:</b>	<b>Monday 30 October</b>
Pupils Return:	Tuesday 31 October
Last day of Term:	Friday 15 December

#### **SPRING TERM 2018**

<b>Staff Training Day:</b>	<b>Tuesday 2 January</b>
First day of Term:	Wednesday 3 January
Half-term Holiday:	Monday 12 - Friday 16 February, incl.
Last day of Term:	Thursday 29 March

#### **SUMMER TERM 2018**

First day of Term:	Monday 16 April
<b>Bank Holiday:</b>	<b>Monday 7 May</b>
Half-term Holiday:	Monday 28 May – Friday 1 June, incl.
Pupil's Return:	Monday 4 June
Last day of Term:	Tuesday 24 July