



Newsletter June 2023

St. Michael's Middle School

"Each person, uniquely made in God's image, merits the best we can give"



Dear Parents/Carers,

We are fast approaching the end of my first year at the school and it is a year that seems to have gone very quickly. I can't believe that we are in the last half term before the Year 8 pupils embark on the next stage of their education. Well done to the pupils for making the right first impressions on their recent transfer visits, their positive behaviour was commented on by the QE staff.

I recently received a communication from a national organisation that monitors school attendance to say that we have been ranked in the top 10% of the country for Spring Term attendance in Years 7 and 8. This is a great achievement and I want to thank all of our parents for ensuring that your child is attending school as often as possible. The next award is for the top 5% - let's aim for this for the Summer Term!

I would like to remind you that I am not able to grant any long term leave of absence for holidays except in very exceptional circumstances. We know through research that good school attendance, defined as 97% or higher, is a big factor in overall attainment and would ask that you try as hard as possible to avoid any time out of school.

As this newsletter shows, there is so much going on at the school and so many pupils are taking the chance to engage in something outside the regular curriculum.

We hope that we will get a chance to see you at one of the end of year events, such as the concert or sports day, to see the results of their commitment and hard work for yourselves.

Enjoy the weather,

Mr Ayling



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Deputy Headteacher: Mr P. Andrews BSc (Hons) PGCE



Sports News

Under 11 Cricket Success!

Massive congratulations to Under 11 Hardball Cricket Team. The boys have become Dorset County Cricket Champions.

Well done to our team of Tom, Toby, Henry, Edward, Teddie, Jackson, Max and Jamie, a great performance!

The win means that the team progress to the regional championship round next month at King's College in Taunton where they will be representing Dorset.

The full results were:

- Semi-final—St. Michael's 283
beat Clayesmore 219
- Final — St. Michael's 275
beat Castle Court 235



We all wish the boys the best of luck in the next round. We will let you know the outcome of the matches in the next newsletter.



St. Michael's Ski Team



You may remember from a previous newsletter that we have a number of pupils who participate in slalom ski races under the St. Michael's Middle School team name.

Many congratulations to the team who recently achieved a 3rd place finish in the senior school category racing against a number of other schools. They won the first ever skiing trophy for the school.



The members of our ski team are Ruby H, Ben G, Ella G and Cherry W.

There was individual success in the competition for Cherry who came 2nd in the individual primary category.

Ruby also was awarded 2nd place in the individual senior category. She also came 4th in the country for her age group in her races across this season. Well done!

Sporting Round Up

We had 4 of our pupils representing the district at the county athletics championship at Kings Park. Well done to Esther B, Cameron H, Olivia J and George H for qualifying for the event.



At the championships, Olivia J became the county champion in Javelin and Shot and was runner-up in Discus. Congratulations for such a strong showing.



Our Year 5/6 handball team qualified for the Dorset School Games by performing well at the East Dorset championships.



The under 13 girls cricket team also qualified for the Dorset School Games by finishing runners-up in the district competition at Broadstone Cricket Club.



At a recent Year 5 and 6 swimming gala, St. Michael's finished 2nd out of the four teams competing.



Our Year 5 and 6 athletics team won the East Dorset Athletics event, beating 7 other schools (including all of the other trust middle schools!). Well done, a great performance.

Under 11 Girls Football



Our very talented and determined Year 5 and 6 girl's football team recently won the Dorset Football Champions League. It was a knock-out tournament where the team beat St. Ives in the semi-final 1-0 and Longfleet 4-0 in the final. The goals in the final came from Ava S (3) and Bethany C (1).

Olivia H was the team captain and said 'They team worked really hard to get to that point and we were delighted to win the trophy'. All of girl's also received a gold medal for finishing first.

The team consisted of: Olivia H, Bethany C, Ava S, Holly W, Izzy G, Ruby W, Isla K, Esme L, Molly B, Layla K.

A great achievement for all of the girls and big well done from the school.





Opening of our new music pods

We were blessed with beautiful weather for our concert to officially open our three brand new music pods. We were treated to performances from our Year 7 Battle of the Bands winners, a selection of our Year 8 bands, our school choir and a past pupil, Jack Rideout.

Each pod comes fully equipped for music activities with an electric piano, three keyboards, two electric guitars, a drum kit alongside microphones and amplifiers.

This superb resource has been made possible by through the generous donation of £45,000 made by the Talbot Village Trust charity. This amount was matched by the Initio Learning Trust.

These pods will give pupils a place to form bands and they can now practise whenever they want. A huge thanks to Mr. Jenkinson, the former headteacher of St. Michael's, for all of his work in securing the grant for the school. The pods have been named 'Reggae', 'Drum 'n' Bass' and 'Jazz' after his initials.



With thanks to **initio** Learning Trust and the

talbotvillagetrust
A GRANT GIVING CHARITY



FEE®

St. Michael's is now an Eco-School!

St. Michael's Middle School is delighted to have been awarded the Eco-Schools Green Flag award in recognition of its efforts to become more sustainable. A huge thank you to the Eco-Schools' group led by Madame Paton. The assessors noted that pupils 'are given opportunities to learn about important environmental issues and have a chance to work on these issues'. Further, they noted the efforts made on collecting plastic earlier on during the term and we have confirmed that this plastic will be used to make two benches for the playground which will be delivered in the next few weeks.

Whole School Photo 2023

Those parents who have visited the school will have walked past a series of photos like the one below on the wall near the school office. These photos show everyone in the school but the last one taken was in 2012.

We decided that it was time to have a new photo done and thought that it would be a nice way to make the coronation year. The photo will be taking place on **Monday 3rd July**. We will let you know further details, such as the dress code and how you can purchase a copy, in the next few weeks.



Pupils for Praise

Every Friday, two pupils from each year group are selected to go and see Mr Ayling to receive praise and a reward for their hard work. All the pupils below have been selected since the last newsletter.

Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	Year 8
Alfie P	Beatrix M	Tahlia P	Jasper B
Barney P	Joseph D	Christopher D	Ollie McB
Cherry W	Gracie J	Ellie S	Olivia M
Rowan D	Jackson L	Lucy W	Xavier H
Lauren S	Isabella S	Dylan C	Joel S
Sophie B	Bethany L	Charlie E	Amy M
Poppy C	Sammy A	Luca S	Lainey T
Anthony H	Aliona H	Tommy G	Lillie R
Poppy S-R	Liam J	Sammy S	Isabelle S
Hetty R	Alek A	Lila H	Aina P
Amelia B	Lucy T	Elsie A	Alfie McC
Joe A	Jacob H	Christopher H	Darcey G
Harrison K	Ethan B-R	Eliza A	Archie H
	Albie S	Kara K	Harry S
	Sidney B		Olivia J
	Eloise F		Elsie C
	Roman T		Faith A
	Calvin C		
	Lara J		



Congratulations!

House Point Totals

Hanham

Bankes

Gulliver

Paget

57,725

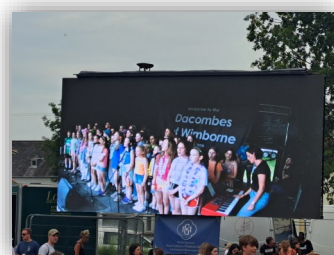
60,722

58,077

63,688



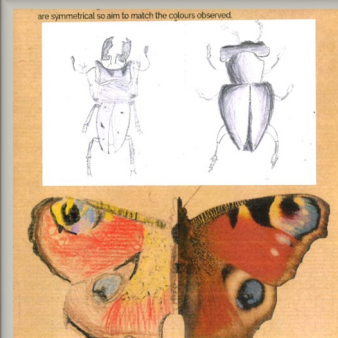
Our school choir, run by Mrs Martin-Papp, gave an excellent performance as part of the children's take over at the Wimborne Folk Festival last week. They performed a number of songs on the Waitrose stage and we able to get several of the audience up and dancing to their singing. A big thank you to all of the children who took part and the staff and volunteers who made it possible.



Kara K—Year 7



Ruby W—Year 7



Esme L—Year 6

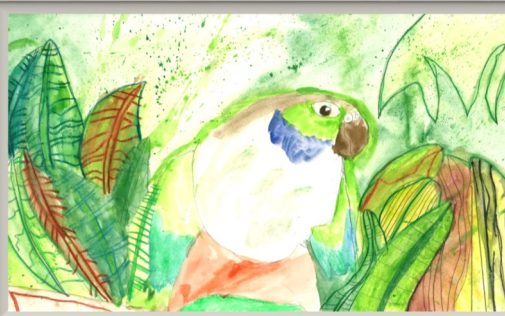
We have an excellent art department at St. Michael's Middle School. We thought you might like to see some of the work created by our talented budding artists across the school.



Tynan McW—Year 8



Dylan C—Year 7



Ella G—Year 5



A big thank you to the amazing team of volunteers that came into school to help our pupils with their Year 6 SATS just before the half term. The children coped very well with their exams and a large part of this was the moral support or reading help delivered by the volunteer teams. I want to thank the staff involved for their efforts to help the pupils succeed, parents for helping calm nerves and especially the pupils who have worked so hard to achieve their best result.

St. Michael's Middle School is delighted to have been invited to take part in a major creative arts event being run by Emerald Ant, National Trust Kingston Lacy and Museum of East Dorset. The event will celebrate the history and locality of the Iron Age hillfort of Badbury Rings. The project, funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund, the National Trust and Dorset Council, involves pupils from a number of local schools working together to create large scale 3D art models and special musical 'soundscape' art installations. The workshops will build towards a performance and exhibition of the work at the Rings in September. It will be an impressive event and we will confirm the dates and where you can view the work created as soon as they are released.



National
Online
Safety

#WakeUpWednesday

Every Wednesday, NOS produce a guide about an app or ICT programme that is popular with children. The guides are free and can be found on Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn. All of the guides can also be found at the [National Online Safety website](#). This is a really good way to keep up to date with all issues relating to ICT use and safety.

School Uniform for 2023/2024

Attached to this newsletter are the uniform requirements for the coming academic year. These have been worked on by all of the middle schools in the Initio Trust with an aim of having a common set of guidelines.

The majority of the uniform remains the same as in previous years. One change will be in the type of shoe/footwear that is suitable for school.

From September, pupils will be allowed to wear trainers or shoes to school providing that they are 100% fully black (including all logos). We understand that, increasingly, it is hard to distinguish between where a shoe stops and a trainer starts. We also value pupils being active during their social time and we feel this is at times restricted by footwear. It may also mean that school shoes are more useful out of school as well.

We wanted to get this change out to parents as soon as possible as we know that people are already trying to get ahead of the game for next year.

To ensure that money is spent on the right kind of footwear, there are a few key points to remember:

- The shoe must be fully black. This includes any logos and stitching. *Shoes such as Doc Martins with yellow stitching and black trainers with a white logo (Nike, Adidas) fall outside this guideline.*
- Shoes need to be leather or simulated leather look to be suitable for working in practical areas of the school (ie. workshops and labs). *Canvas shoes are not suitable as they do not offer the level of protection required .*
- Boots are not part of the uniform for St. Michael's (including ankle boots and Doc Martin boots).



Regarding skirt length, it needs to be suitable for being active in lessons and sitting on the floor in collective worship without compromising a person's privacy. It really supports the school if they are, as stated, at knee length or *just* above.

We understand that a uniform swap is being arranged in the local area for the end of term and we look to alert you to this to help with the recycling of uniform.

UPCOMING IMPORTANT DATES

Monday 12th June—Friday 16th June Year 8 Tall Ships Residential Trip

Thursday 15th June Year 7 Parents' Evening

Monday 19th June Key Stage 3 Parents' Evening

Tuesday 20th June BU Visit for selected Year 8 pupils

Monday 19th June—Friday 23rd June Year 8 French Trip Residential

Monday 26th June Key Stage 3 Parents' Evening

Tuesday 27th June Key Stage 3 Sports Day

Thursday 29th June Rock Concert (5pm)

Friday 30th June Year 6 Sports Day

Friday 30th June Key Stage 2 Reports Home

Monday 3rd July Whole School Photo marking the coronation year

Tuesday 4th July Year 5 Sports Day

Tuesday 4th July Upton Heath Trip for Herpetology Club

Tuesday 4th July New Year 5 Induction Evening

Wednesday 5th July Whole School Summer Concert

Friday 7th July Transfer Day

Wednesday 19th July Year 8 Leavers Service 9.15am-10.45am

Wednesday 19th July Year 8 Celebration Evening 6pm-8.30pm

Friday 21st July Last day of term for all pupils

Tuesday 5th September First day of Autumn Term for Pupils

Monday 23rd October—Friday 27th October Autumn Half term

Monday 30th October Staff Training Day

Thursday 14th December Last day of Autumn Term for Pupils