



ST MICHAEL'S CE MIDDLE SCHOOL

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

Newsletter No. 1

Monday 11th September 2017

Dear Parents and Guardians,

"Welcome" or indeed "welcome back". It has been a very positive and productive start to term and I am grateful that you have ensured your child has the correct equipment and uniform. We will let you know if your child doesn't come prepared to lessons as we see this as an essential part of the support parents offer.

I am please to say that numbers are up in all year groups too which is all very encouraging. In fact we only have a couple of places left in Years 5, 6 and 8 so if you know of anyone still looking for school places then please do encourage them to get in touch as soon as possible. If you have friends who are considering a place with us next year our open evening is on the 4th October where we will have a range of activities to give parents a feel for the school. We also have two open days on the 7th at 9am and 8th November at 2pm. The good news is there are still a relatively low number of children in our catchment area leaving plenty of places for those who want to choose us as their preferred school.

Clubs

One of our key targets for all our children is to experience success as St Michael's and I am delighted that the feedback from a very large sample of parents showed this is happening. I believe this is partly due to the extensive range of clubs and activities we undertake as a school. I am attaching the Autumn list to this newsletter and I hope you are able to sit down with your child and identify at least one club for them to attend. There will also be some more invitation only clubs to support pupils in their learning e.g. groups for pupils who need extra support with gross or fine motor skills. If you child has an area of need that you think is not being supported do write and let me know.

Purple Pens

Thank you for helping to make the start of term very smooth. Pupils seem smartly presented and very equipped for the day. You may have noticed the addition of a purple pen to our kit list and the reason for this is the Trust marking policy. Teachers spend large amounts of time marking work only for the fruit of their efforts to go ignored at times! The purple pen is for pupils to use when responding to teacher feedback. Notice the subtle change of terms there because research has shown that extensive marking is not the best way of helping pupils improve and so teachers are being encourage to focus comments in books to a minimum and allow more time in lessons for verbal feedback. Sometimes the only way you will know a book has been marked is because pupils have switched to a purple pen or perhaps the teacher will have highlighted the learning objectives with a green or pink highlighter: pink means they have been successful in demonstrating that objective and green means there is room for more development (apparently the colour choice started with 'tickled pink' and 'green for growth').

Locked gates

Just to make you aware that in order to encourage prompt attendance the pedestrian gates (near Wimborne Rd) will be locked on the second bell at 8.40am and anyone who arrives after the final registration bell will need to come in via reception. Thank you for your assistance with prompt arrivals.

Mr Jenkinson

PROSPECTIVE PARENTS OPEN DAYS AND EVENING

Prospective parents of pupils who are moving up to middle school in September 2018 are warmly invited to our Open Evening on Wednesday 4th October from 5.30pm to 7.30pm. There will also be open days on 7th and 8th November at 9am and 2pm respectively..

QUEEN ELIZABETH SCHOOL OPEN EVENING

All parents are invited to Queen Elizabeth School's Open Evening on Thursday 28th September 2017.

Tours of the school commence at 5.30pm and presentations by the headteacher are at 6.15pm and 7pm.

MEDICAL INFORMATION

A reminder to all pupils and parents that we aim to be 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 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.

Uniform

We use our school uniform to build a sense of belonging and to ensure an appropriate clothing choice for school based activities. From time to time clothing manufacturers attempt to appeal to pupils sense of fashion ahead of what is sensible or matching the school policy. I ask that you remain vigilant before you spend money that will have to be wasted when the choice is rejected by school.

The biggest risks at the moment are hair styles, footwear and skirt length. Please be aware that school shoes (not boots) must be black and sturdy: some shoes are of a canvas type with a high moulding and these are fine as long as they are completely black but if the top is too flimsy they can not protect feet in technology workshop. In relation to skirt length, the problem is more prominent towards the end of the academic year: if you buy in September something that is borderline, by April it will be too short.

Finally, we try and be sensible about hair so long as it is safe but there is an increasing trend for hair dyes and braids. Braids which are tied back, with no beading on the end and are not long enough to cause a risk in PE lessons are usually allowed to pass. In relation to hair colour the use of non standard hair colours is pushing the boundaries of what is acceptable. Please do not put us in the difficult position of having to ask you to re-do your child's hair colour.

We believe that each child is unique and we understand the value of individual expression, however, the risk with fashion is that it feeds trends which in turn can become a pressure to conform; we are about learning and anything which we believe distracts pupils from being the best they can be in the classroom will be rejected by the school.

DATES FOR 2017/2018

Wednesday 4th October	Open Evening for Prospective Parents - 5.30pm - 7.30pm
W/c 9th October	Year 5 Activity Week
Thursday 19th October	Parents Evening for Year 5 only 4pm - 6pm
Half-term Holiday:	Monday 23 – Friday 27 October

Staff Training Day:	Monday 30 October
Pupils Return:	Tuesday 31 October
Tuesday 7th November	Open Morning for Prospective Parents - 9am - 10am
Wednesday 8th November	Open Afternoon for Prospective Parents - 2pm - 3pm
Tuesday 21st November	Parents Evening for Years 6, 7, & 8 - 5.30pm –7.30pm
Tuesday 28th November	Parents Evening for Years 6, 7, & 8 - 4pm – 6pm
Thursday 30th November	Carol Service at Wimborne Minster - 7pm
Thursday 14th December	Christmas Lunch
Last day of Term:	Friday 15 December

SPRING TERM 2018

Staff Training Day:	Tuesday 2 January
First day of Term:	Wednesday 3 January
Half-term Holiday:	Monday 12 - Friday 16 February, incl.