



Newsletter Late October 2024

St. Michael's Middle School

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

Dear Parents/Carers,

We have come to the end of the first half term and it has certainly been a busy and memorable 7 weeks (and probably one of the wettest starts to term that I can recall!). This edition of the newsletter is packed with highlights of the events our students have participated in.

I'm excited to share that we have some wonderful volunteers who have stepped up to re-establish a PTA for our school. The St. Michael's Association (SMA) will play a crucial role in raising funds to support our initiatives. We'll be inviting students to share their ideas for our first events. If you're interested in getting involved, please contact Mrs Macfie via the school office. Look out for more details on upcoming events in our next newsletter.

We had a fantastic Year 4 open evening, which turned out to be one of the busiest in recent years, thanks to the enthusiastic participation of many past and present students. A special thank you to our guides, including some Year 5 pupils who have only just joined us. We're also hosting an open morning on Thursday 7th November from 11:15am to 12:30pm for Year 4 parents and students who want to see the school in action. If you would like to attend, please contact the school office to reserve your place.

As communicated in a separate letter yesterday, we are sad to say goodbye to four staff members today: Ms Chen, Mr Jeffcott, Mrs Wrixon and Mrs Wellman. We wish them all the best in their future endeavours. We're also looking forward to welcoming back Mrs Luxton after the break.

Thank you for your continued support. Wishing you all a lovely half term break.

Mr Ayling

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The logo for initio Learning Trust features the word 'initio' in a dark blue, lowercase, sans-serif font. Above the letters 'i', 'n', and 'o' are small colored circles in teal, yellow, and red respectively. Below 'initio' is the words 'Learning Trust' in a smaller, light blue, sans-serif font.

Sports News

Developing future leaders!

Year 8 pupils have been engaged in a leadership initiative across the first schools in the Initio Learning Trust. They have visited Colehill and Hayeswood First Schools to enhance their leadership, communication, and social skills. During this initiative, Year 8 students led tag rugby sessions for Year 4 pupils, focusing on developing fundamental throwing, catching, and movement skills. Here's what some of the students had to say about their experience:

At the first school (Colehill) I found teaching the younger years a great experience and felt like I had learnt so much on how to engage younger children. The children were really polite and listened and followed all the instructions. - Matilda P

On the trip to the primary school (Hayeswood) I learnt so many new skills whilst teaching the children tag rugby. It was so much fun to teach the Y4s and I learnt so many skills like how to get their attention and having patience whilst teaching. It was overall a great experience and the children had fun too! - Lillian B

The Year 8 sports leaders also attended the Dorset Leadership Academy Day at Bryanston. During this event, they participated in workshops led by various sports professionals from around the county. The leaders engaged in numerous activities designed to promote teamwork, problem-solving, and initiative. Here's what some of the students shared about their experience:

On our trip to Bryanston, we split off into groups, and I was in the young ambassadors group where we learnt lots of key skills and to build on our communication skills. We had a short talk about how we can encourage younger children, one of these being that when we give them compliments, this will boost their confidence. It was really great fun. - Molly B

On the same trip when we split into different groups, me and someone else were on the dance team. We got to stay on the stage most of the time and all the teachers and staff were really kind and polite. When we were stuck on some moves in the dance we could just ask her to go over it again and she helped us. At the end of the day, we performed the dance we had learnt to everyone there. Even though it seems quite scary, it is not as bad as it looks and we all had a good time! The food was also very nice! - Hetty Y

We were thrilled to welcome over 100 runners to St. Michael's for a special fun run event! Pupils from local schools in Years 3, 4, and 5 raced along a challenging cross-country course that took them through the woods and around the playing fields.

There were some remarkable performances, with several Year 4 pupils even overtaking our Year 8 pace runners toward the end of the course. A big thank you to our sports leader team and Mrs Cole for organising the event, and to all the students who participated with such enthusiasm and effort!



Last Friday, we hosted an afternoon of dodgeball with Parkstone Grammar, Emmanuel, and Lockyer's schools. The first KS3 girls' tournament was filled with intense and competitive matches that kept the referees on their toes! Both Year 7 and Year 8 teams finished in second place, demonstrating fantastic teamwork and determination. We're looking forward to the boys' teams taking the field after half term!



Our sports leaders

COURAGEOUS ADVOCATES GROUP



Our courageous advocates group, led by Mrs Thompson-Brown, is dedicated to supporting individuals in need around the world. Throughout the year, we aim to assist a variety of charities, including local, national, and international organisations. The group is open to Year 7 pupils and meets during lunchtime on Thursdays or Fridays.



The courageous advocates group will be writing Christmas cards to send to members of our local community at the end of term. We would greatly appreciate any donations of good-quality Christmas cards that the group can use.



Thank you for your support!



We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to the entire St. Michael's school community for their generosity during our recent Harvest appeal. Thanks to your contributions, we collected a significant amount of food and other items that we were able to donate to the local Wimborne Food Bank.



house of opportunity

Christmas Box Appeal



We are excited to announce the launch of our Christmas Shoebox Appeal at school! We are once again collecting shoeboxes to support the House of Opportunity's FSCI appeal. If you are not familiar with this initiative, it involves filling a shoebox with various items suitable for a child, wrapping it in Christmas paper (please wrap the box and lid separately), and bringing it to school.

For details on suitable items for the shoeboxes you can download a leaflet at [FSCI Christmas Box Appeal](https://www.fscinet.org) or pick one up from the school office. Please ensure that shoeboxes (or items to be included) are brought to school by Tuesday, November 19th.

Thank you for your support!

Christmas Box Appeal - FSCI

www.fscinet.org



YEAR 5 ACTIVITY WEEK

Year 5 has had an incredible week (and a bit) focused on developing teamwork skills, resilience, and determination. They embraced challenges, from heights to caves, dancing, and even rain!

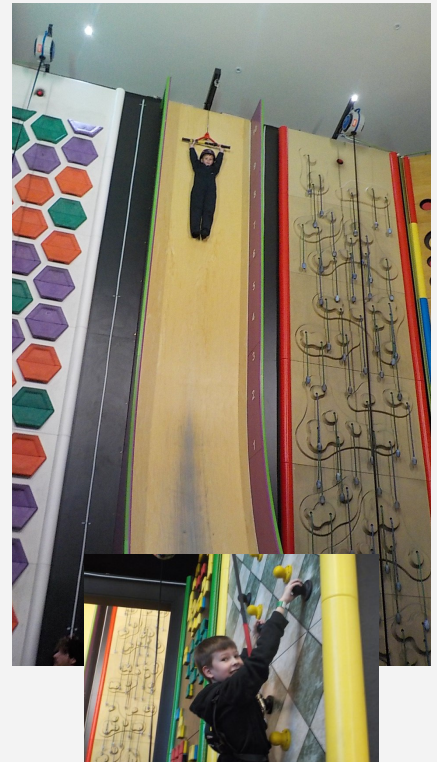
We all had a fantastic day at Rock Reef, where we scaled walls, swung from the ceiling, and explored underwater caves. Many students bravely faced their fear of heights, taking on the giant slide and leap of faith.

Back at school, we enjoyed a variety of activities including art and crafts, dancing, team-building escape rooms, and drama. The children had a great time exploring the topic of the Ancient Mayans.

Finally, despite the rain and clouds, the children ran, laughed, and smiled as they bounced and slid through the mud on our "Your Fun Matters" day. Their resilience and determination shone through, and we are so proud of their positive attitude and community spirit.

Well done, Year 5! You've had an amazing first half-term of middle school.

Mrs Holmes and the Year 5 team.



Experience Church



Our Year 5 pupils have been collaborating with a team of volunteers at St. Michael's Church to learn about the church's role in the local community and how people engage with it throughout their lives. The event, called "Experience Church," is organised by Vicar Suzanne and her team. We are very grateful for this opportunity, which allows our pupils to explore our local church and reflect on its significance to the community.



We are looking for parents and members of the local community to join the Local School Committee (previously the governing body). If you are interested, please read the letters sent out with this newsletter or contact Mr Ayling (Headteacher) through the school office.

Pupils for Praise

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

Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	Year 8
Oliver J	Harry R	Rosie G	Bradley D
Fred T	Fifi K	Ryan T	Isla-Valentina H
Orson D	Reuben S	Eva M	Lara J
Jamie C	Ethan H	Alice J	Jacob S
Jessica A	Jesse R	Claudia E	Mia R
Chloe S	Shane C	Daisy A	Lily L
Joseph V	Oscar M	Ralph C	Isabella A
Teddy G	Betsy C	Harry P	Jack K
Ivy H	Elbie W	Nico T	Chloe H
Luthando M	Jack W	Jack N	Noah S
Freddie D	Daisy H		
	Josh B		

Congratulations!



UKULELE CONCERT

Congratulations to all the Year 6 pupils who showcased their learning by performing a piece on ukuleles and other instruments for a large audience of parents and grandparents just before the half-term break. It was a fantastic effort by everyone!



House Point Totals

Here are the final house point totals for the year. Pupils earn 'ePraise' points and these are added together to make their house point totals. The stars under the house name show how many times they have won the house trophy in the last two years.

Hanham

Bankes

Gulliver

Paget

11,868

11,296

11,619

11,519



You can check your child's ePraise points total by going to www.epraise.co.uk and logging onto the parents' page.

These are the 5 students with the most house points in each house. Well done, a great effort!

Amy M (175)	Sean G (159)	Scarlett W (169)	Freddie H (137)
Rowan S (139)	Chloe S (154)	Ella N (161)	Jamie C (137)
Sebastian G (138)	Ruby C (148)	Teddy G (150)	Angus H (129)
Hattie P (133)	Wills B (146)	Willem S (145)	Lacey-May D (127)
Jasmine B (132)	Isla R (146)	Orson D (137)	Carter T (126)

Wimborne - Valognes Twinning Concert



The Resound school choir was thrilled to be invited back to perform at the recent concert celebrating the Wimborne and Valognes twinning association. They delivered three lively numbers, impressing the audience with their energy and musicality. The concert featured other local musical and dance groups as well, showcasing the talent of many current and former pupils involved in extra-curricular projects. A big thank you to everyone who participated, and to Mr Johnston, Mrs Martin-Papp, and Tim Campbell-Crook for their support in organising this performance.



UPCOMING IMPORTANT DATES

Monday 28th October - Friday 1st November	Half Term Break
Monday 4th November	Staff Training Day (School Closed)
Tuesday 5th November	Year 7 AUB Arts Award (Visit 1)
Wednesday 6th November	Year 7 AUB Arts Award (Visit 2)
Sunday 10th November	Remembrance Service at St. Michael's Church
Monday 11th November - Thursday 14th November	Year 6 Mock SATS (Week 1)
Tuesday 12th November	Year 5-8 Flu Vaccinations
Tuesday 19th November	Subject Based Parents' Evening for all Year Groups (in person)
Wednesday 27th November	Musicians Performing at Mayor's Brunch (10am)
Wednesday 27th November	Subject Based Parents' Evening for all Year Groups (online)
Friday 29th November	Year 6 Author Talk
Monday 2nd December	Christmas Service at Wimborne Minster (7pm)
Tuesday 17th December	Year 7 Steel Drumming Concert (pm)
Thursday 19th December	Last Day of Term
Friday 20th December	INSET Day (School Closed)
Monday 6th January	INSET Day (School Closed)
Tuesday 7th January	First Day of Spring Term for Pupils
Wednesday 22nd January	Year 7 Arts Award Illustration Workshop
Monday 27th January	Year 8 Options and Choices performance
Monday 3rd February - Thursday 6th February	Year 6 Mock SATS (Week 2)
Monday 17th February - Friday 21st February	Spring Half Term Break
Monday 24th February	Staff Training Day (School Closed)
Thursday 27th February	HPV Vaccinations