



Newsletter April 2025

# St. Michael's Middle School

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



Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back and I hope that you had a lovely Easter break. As we move in to the Summer Term, we look forward to the better weather and longer days. The picture above was captured just before the holiday break at Sunset over the school field, showing the change of seasons is imminent.

In this newsletter, we will look back at events from the last half term and look ahead to the term ahead. Year 6 pupils will be sitting their SATS tests in the coming half term. The dates of the tests are from Monday 12th May to Thursday 15th May and we ask that parents make sure that pupils are in school for these statutory assessments.

We come to the last term for our Year 8 pupils before they move onto their next school. We have a mixture of rewards, events and reflective time planned. We hope that they all enjoy their final term with us.

We are very excited for the upcoming Year 7/8 Girls National Football Cup Final in a few weeks time. This is the first time a girls team from the school has reached the final and we all wish them the best of luck.

We also look forward to the Middle Schools music concert at QE school in July, details in this newsletter. Please check out the dates at the end of the newsletter for a full list of everything happening this term.

Mr. Ayling



As we move towards more school processes transferring to the Arbor parents app, it is essential that all parents can access this platform. Currently 1 in 5 parents have not logged in. Please make this a priority to ensure that you are kept up to date with important information about your child. Click [here](#) to access the letter sent to all parents regarding the app.

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## In this issue:

**Easter  
Bake-Off**



**Sporting  
News**



**Battle of  
the Bands**



**End of Term  
Awards**



**World Book  
Day**



**Upcoming  
Dates**

**initio**  
Learning Trust

# SPORTS NEWS

## National Football Finalists



We are delighted to report that our Year 7/8 girl's football team has progressed to the national final of the PlayStation Small Schools FA Football competition. This the first time in the school's history that a girl's team has reached the final. They won their home semi-final match against Dunnobar School (from Surrey) with an impressive 8-1 scoreline. The final will be held at The Hawthorns Stadium, home of West Bromwich Albion, on Tuesday 20th May. The whole school is very proud of their achievement and we wish them the very best for their match against the other finalists, Repton Prep School from Derby.

## Ten-Pin Bowling Champions



We were delighted to take a team of pupils to participate in our first inter-school ten-pin bowling event. Our team of pupils from across the school did amazingly well and came away with overall first place. A few of the pupils also picked up individual awards for the highest scores. A great effort from the entire team!



## Netball Success

It has been an excellent year for our netball teams. Our Year 7 team progressed to the county finals and achieved an impressive third place finish overall. Our year 5/6 team are also through to county finals to be played on Friday 2nd May. Well done to all involved!



**Year 7/8** — Friday 13th  
June (am and pm)

**Year 5** - Tuesday 8th July  
(pm)

**Year 6** - Tuesday 15th July  
(pm)



In another first for St. Michael's Middle, both boys and girls teams have qualified for the regional finals. Handball is a growing sport in the UK and we are delighted to see this developing in our school.

# BU Books and Stories Event

Bournemouth University

10 of our Y6 children were selected to take part in a 10 week course written by BU and delivered by Mrs Prest and Mrs Turner of SMMS. This focussed on the book, *The Night Speakers* by Ali Sparkes and helped pupils to perfect their reading and comprehension skills. At the end of the 10 weeks, the pupils went along to Bournemouth University for a fabulous graduation event where they met the author of their book. Ali spoke about her experiences as a writer and gave them a creative writing task to work on as a group. There were several other local schools there for the day as well. At the end of the day, after a generous lunch of pizza and chips, pupils were dressed in gowns and caps and experienced their own graduation ceremony in which they were given Ali's new book and a goodie bag.



## 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.

**Hanham**

**Bankes**

**Gulliver**

**Paget**

**30,728**

**29,360**

**30,371**

**30,236**



You can check your child's ePraise points total by going to [www.epraise.co.uk](http://www.epraise.co.uk) and logging into the parents page.

These are the five students with the most house points in each house - well done!

Amy M (349)  
Sebastian G (326)  
Rowan S (322)  
Lily S (322)  
Beatrice C (310)

Rose W (355)  
Sean G (342)  
Clemmie B (333)  
Isabella O (324)  
Isaac N (315)

Teddy G (370)  
Oliver S (331)  
Felix A (327)  
Joseph V (323)  
Ella N (316)

Bethany P (392)  
Sophia H (347)  
Lily W (337)  
Sophia C (331)  
Samuel C (318)



## Parents Guide to Adolescence—recommended reading

Many of you may have seen the recent Netflix drama series, 'Adolescence.' This series portrays the troubling influence of online content, particularly ideologies surrounding masculinity, on a young boy. It's a difficult but crucial watch, highlighting the readily available material that can impact our children.

To support parents in navigating these complex issues and ensuring their child's online safety, the Digital Parent Group charity has created a comprehensive guide addressing the themes presented in 'Adolescence.' This guide is now available on the school website's safeguarding section and can be accessed directly through this link: [Parents Guide to Understanding 'Adolescence'](#).

## "Does Music Help You Feel Closer to God?" - Church of England Youth Survey



THE SALISBURY DIOCESAN BOARD OF EDUCATION

Working for children, young people, schools and parishes



The Church of England is actively seeking the perspectives of young people on faith and religion in today's world. They've launched an exciting initiative called "Question for the Half Term," and this half term's question is: **"Does music help you feel closer to God?"**

Your insights are valuable and will contribute to a national report, directly influencing the Church of England's youth work in the future. Considering the significant role music plays in our worship at St. Michael's Middle School, your participation is particularly encouraged.

It's quick and easy to share your thoughts through this link: [Church of England Youth Survey](#). We'd love to see a strong representation from our school in this important survey.



We are delighted to have formed a partnership with volunteers from the Wimborne Community Garden to redevelop our old school allotment area into a new garden for our pupils. There has been several sessions so far to clear the area and establish some new growing beds. Miss Owen, Mr Rosier and Mr Spurling and our allotment group had a chance to visit the community garden to help plan out what we will be growing this year. Pupils have really enjoyed getting to work and we will look forward to seeing what they can produce.

## St. Michael's and All Angels Church Spring Fair





The roads around the school are always very busy at drop-off and pick-up times. The roads are not designed for the volume of traffic and this results in queues and longer waiting times. In recent weeks we have seen an increase in drivers mounting pavements or entering areas where children are pedestrians to try and cut the queues. Please do not act in a way that puts the safety of pupils at risk—a few minutes longer wait is never worth risking the safety of pupils over.

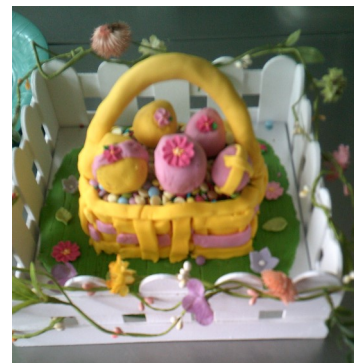
# EASTER CAKE COMPETITION



We were once again hugely impressed by the creativity and quality of the entries into our Easter Cake Competition. The theme this year was Easter Eggs and the competition was organised by our house captains.



Ava H in 5O won the award for the best tasting cake (judged by Mr. Ayling). The creativity award was won by Nancy S in 5H and the most well executed idea was by Mason R in 6J (judged by the pupils). The overall winner was Hope S-C in 7HS. Thank you to all those who entered the competition and congratulations to Hanham for being the winning house.



# BATTLE OF THE BANDS 2025



One of the most highly anticipated days of the year for pupils in Key Stage 3 is the annual Battle of the Bands competition. This year was another amazing competition with an incredibly high standard of music on display, witnessed by a large crowd of parents and grandparents. The rules for the year 7 competition are that groups use chord sequences to blend together popular songs into a single performance. In year 8, pupils need to write their own songs and perform them in their music lessons. The best bands from each class then come together to compete in a final event in the hall. Congratulations to all of the top bands (shown below) for winning a very tough and competitive event. A big thank you to all of the music department (Mr Johnston, Mrs Yarrow and Mrs Martin-Papp) for all their work behind the scenes to help put this competition together.



**Year 7 Winners**  
**Galfornia**



**Year 8 Best Song**  
**The Recycling Bins**



**Year 8 Best Crowd Pleaser**  
**Bacon, Eggs and Cheese**

**WIMBORNE**  
**FOOD BANK** PLUS

**APPEAL**

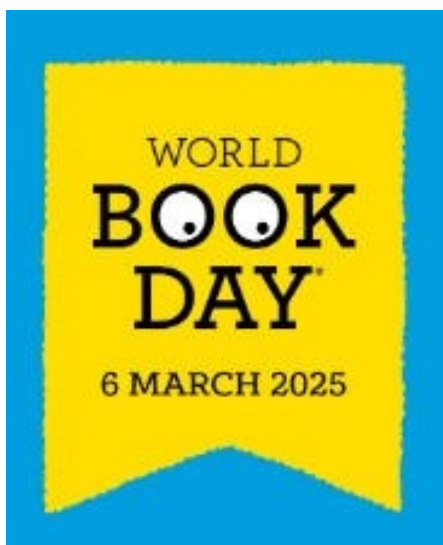
You may be aware from local news coverage, the Wimborne Foodbank was broken into over the Easter weekend and as a result they are not able to provide the vital help to the local community they usually do. They have asked us to request an emergency collection of basic food such as pasta, rice, pasta sauce, baked beans, soup, hot dogs, squash, toilet rolls, long life milk or any other long-life foods. If you are able to support this request for help, please bring your donations into the school office area and we will make sure that they get to the foodbank to help restock this important resource.

# End of Term Award Winners

Congratulations to all of the pupils who won an award in our celebration assembly at the end of the term.

	Jean Watts Award for excellent approach to learning	Jackie Belvoir Ward for excellent progress in learning
Year 5	Hatti W (5H)	Isla C (5O)
Year 6	Elsa J (6OM)	Cian N (6TL)
Year 7	Nancy J (7HS)	Anthony H (7HS)
Year 8	Layla S (8P)	Molly B(8S)

Year 5 Accelerated Reader Most Words Read	Year 6 Accelerated Reader Most Words Read	SPARX Reader Year 7 Highest SRP	SPARX Reader Year 8 Highest SRP
Joseph V 3,984,153	Oscar M 5,878,485	Alice R 16383	Jack K 18,252



The school once again came together to celebrate all things reading as part of World Book Day 2025. Many pupils (and staff) came to school in a range of very inventive costumes and some of the finalists from each class are shown in the pictures above. We held a special assembly and launched the Read-a-thon to raise money for school library books. By the end of term we had raised around £300 towards our overall target of £1000. Thanks to all involved in making the costumes at home!

## SPORTS NEWS EXTRA

Our Year 6 Boys Football team have just been victorious over Haymoor School to progress to the County Cup Final. Another great achievement for all those involved!

# UPCOMING IMPORTANT DATES

Tuesday 22nd April	INSET Day (School Closed)
Wednesday 23rd April	First day of Summer Term for Pupils
Friday 25th April	Year 6 Judaism Talk
Saturday 26th April— Wednesday 30th April	Year 8 Tall Ships Residential Trip
Tuesday 29th April	Year 4 Mini-Sports Festival at SMMS
Monday 5th May	Bank Holiday Monday (School Closed)
Thursday 8th May	Year 8 Paulton's Park Trip
Monday 12th May— Thursday 15th May	Year 6 SATS Tests
Monday 12th May— Friday 16th May	Year 7 Holne Park Residential
Thursday 15th May	Year 8 Mayflower Theatre Trip
Monday 26th May— Friday 30th May	Half Term Break
Tuesday 3rd June	Summer Term Academy Committee Meeting
Wednesday 4th June	Ferndown Upper School Year 8 Transfer Assembly
Thursday 5th June	QE Upper School Year 8 Transfer Assembly
Friday 13th June	Year 7 and 8 Sports Day
Monday 16th June— Friday 20th June	Year 8 French Trip
Wednesday 25th June	Michael James Music Concert
Friday 27th June	Transfer Day for all pupils
Monday 30th June— Wednesday 2nd July	Year 6 Activities Week
Thursday 3rd July	Middle Schools Combined Music Concert at QE
Thursday 3rd July	Year 8 BU Trip
Friday 4th July	INSET Day (School Closed)

# UPCOMING IMPORTANT DATES

Tuesday 8th July	Year 5 Sports Day (pm)
Friday 11th July	ePraise points Non-Uniform Day
Tuesday 15th July	Year 6 Sports Day (pm)
Tuesday 15th July	Summer Term Parents Evening
Tuesday 15th July	Summer Term 2 Academy Committee Meeting
Friday 18th July	Year 8 Leavers Reflection Collective Worship
Monday 21st July	Year 8 Dorset Adventure Park Trip
Tuesday 21st July	Year 8 Leavers Award Assembly (pm)
Tuesday 21st July	Year 8 Leavers Celebration (6pm)
Wednesday 23rd July	Last Day of Summer Term
Thursday 24th July—	Summer Holidays (School Closed)
Tuesday 2nd September	
Wednesday 3rd September	INSET Day (School Closed)
Thursday 4th September	INSET Day (School Closed)
Friday 5th September	INSET Day (School Closed)

