



Newsletter December 2025

# St. Michael's Middle School

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



Dear Parents/Carers,

As the Autumn Term draws to a close, we reflect on a highly successful and incredibly busy term. We are delighted to share highlights from the many events and achievements of the past few months in this newsletter.

Last week, we were once again treated to a wonderful Christmas Carol Service at Wimborne Minster. This is one of many festive events our talented musicians have been involved in. They have already performed at the recent Mayor's Lunch and we are also looking forward to once again being part of the Save the Children parade through Wimborne next Saturday. We sincerely hope you will be able to come down and support the school. A huge thank you goes to the entire Music Department for their dedication and hard work in preparing for all these local events.

We would also like to thank our wider community for their enthusiastic support of our two Christmas charity campaigns. As you will see in the newsletter, we had a fantastic response to our annual shoebox appeal. Supporting those in need closer to home, we were incredibly impressed by the success of our Reverse Advent Calendar, which collected Christmas-themed food items for the local food bank to create special festive hampers. Thank you to our Courageous Advocates Group for diligently organising this valuable initiative.

Please remember that we return to school after the Christmas break on Tuesday 6th January. From everyone at the school, we wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Mr Ayling

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Learning Trust

# Staffing Update

We are sad to say goodbye to two key members of staff who will be leaving us at the end of this term to move on to new adventures and opportunities.



## Mrs. Gould

Mrs. Gould, a member of the Senior Leadership Team and co-tutor to class 5SG, will be leaving us to take up the position of Head of School at the Livingstone Academy in Bournemouth.

Mrs. Gould has been an invaluable member of the St. Michael's community since 2006, holding many roles. Most recently, she has been responsible for managing our Pupil Premium provision and successfully running the school's careers programme. While she will be very much missed by pupils and colleagues alike, we are absolutely delighted for her on securing this promotion. We will update you on her replacement before the end of term.



## Mr. Best

Secondly, we bid a fond farewell to Mr. Best, who is retiring from his position as the Facilities Manager for the school.

Mr. Best joined us in March 2024, where he has led the site team and been responsible for the safe running of the school site and swimming pool. Many of our pupils know him well from his previous time at Wimborne First School. We are incredibly grateful that he was always willing to lend a hand at school events and adjust his working hours to make things possible. We will all greatly miss him being part of the staff team. We hope he enjoys his well-deserved retirement and the adventures that lie ahead.

Since the last newsletter, we are delighted to welcome Mrs. Hunt, who has joined the school as our new SEND Administration Officer. We look forward to working with her.

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Pupils from St. Michael's proudly represented the school at the recent Remembrance Day service at the war memorial in Colehill. They presented our large, commemorative poppies, which contained messages and prayers from pupils across the school written on individual, handmade mini-poppies. As an additional mark of respect, some pupils attended school on November 11th wearing the uniforms of their external organizations (e.g., Scouts, Cadets), honouring those who gave their lives for our freedom.



# house of opportunity

## Christmas Box Appeal



A huge thank you to all those who donated a shoebox gift for our Christmas appeal on behalf of the 'House of Opportunity' charity. The boxes are taken to various places in Eastern Europe and distributed to vulnerable children and adults. We were able to collect a total of 76 boxes—beating the total from last year—and these are now on planes on their way to where they will be distributed. Your kindness will genuinely brighten their Christmas and provide a much-needed moment of joy.



NICK  
BUTTER

# RUNNING THE WORLD

196 MARATHONS

5,130 MILES

674 DAYS

MY WORLD RECORD  
ADVENTURE TO RUN A  
MARATHON IN EVERY  
COUNTRY ON EARTH



St. Michael's was extremely pleased to welcome Nick Butter, the endurance marathon runner and recent contestant on the BBC show *Destination X*. He held an assembly to talk about his inspirational life story. Nick is best known as the only person to hold the Guinness World Record for completing a marathon in every single country in the world. He told pupils and staff about the logistical challenge of running these races in every type of climate, from very cold to very hot. We also heard about the incredible difficulties he faced, including crossing borders, managing injuries, and losing all of his equipment. He even shared some of the dangers, such as an unforgettable encounter with a cheetah while running in Africa. His powerful message to pupils was simple: **live fully in the moment**, realise that small setbacks and challenges will pass, and **dare to try what seems impossible**. A big thank you to Mrs. Thompson-Brown for organising such a memorable event.



St. Michael's Middle School presents



ROALD DAHL'S  
**Matilda**  
THE MUSICAL JR.

Coming to the Layard Theatre (Canford School) in July 2026

A huge well done to all of the pupils who put themselves forward to audition for a part in our next whole school production. Over 80 pupils auditioned and we have now assigned roles for the show. We will be starting the rehearsals after the Christmas holidays and we look forward to what will undoubtedly be a great show in the summer!

# House Point Totals

Here are the current house point totals for this year. Pupils earn 'ePraise' points and these are added together to make their house point totals.

**Hanham**



**15,081**

**Bankes**



**15,109**

**Gulliver**



**14,847**

**Paget**



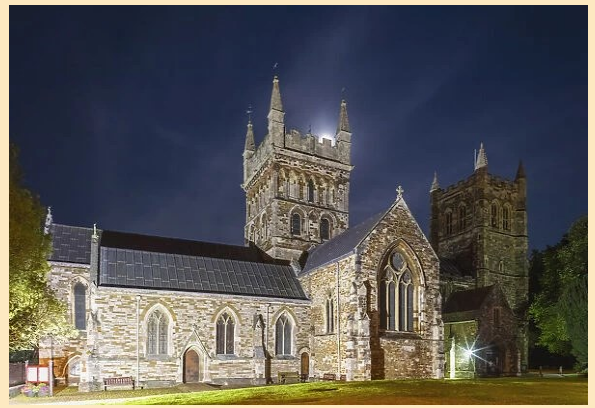
**14,678**

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!

I.Clark (238)	C.Benham (167)	A.Hardyman (183)	S.Hull (175)
R.Struck (206)	S.Gandiwa (166)	J.Vail (166)	I.Porretta (169)
L.Jackson (170)	O.Jeffery (166)	S.Patrick (148)	S.Compton (156)
H.Pope (162)	L.Groves (155)	I.Gul (148)	T.Dunnington (150)
O.Merritt (157)	N.O'Gorman (148)	G.Dmochowski (146)	P.Swift (144)

# *St. Michael's Wimborne Minster Carol Service*



We were thrilled by the extraordinary musical talent on display at our annual Carol Service, held last Thursday evening in the magnificent setting of Wimborne Minster. The theme for this year's service, "Christmas through the lens of light," inspired a truly memorable experience.

Highlights included special performances by dancers illuminated with spectacular wings and the presence of large lanterns crafted by our dedicated Art department. A particular moment of awe occurred when the choir performed a special Christmas rendition of Coldplay's "Viva la Vida," as the congregation lifted their phone lights, creating a breathtaking spectacle that filled the Minster.

A heartfelt thank you goes to everyone involved in organizing the event, and to the Minster team for graciously allowing us to worship in their magnificent surroundings.

Thanks to your incredible generosity, a significant amount of money was raised and will be split between the Minster and our four nominated House charities for the year (NSPCC, Southampton Children's Hospital, Dorset Air Ambulance, and Save the Children). We will announce the final impressive total in the next newsletter.





Just a few brief reminders to help with the smooth running of the school.

Please make sure that your child is equipped with the basic equipment in their pencil case for the return to school.



Pupils need a couple of writing pens, a pencil, a ruler, a glue stick, a whiteboard pen, a purple pen, an eraser and a pair of scissors. If pupils have a small set of colouring pencils, this is also really helpful.



We have observed an increasing number of vehicles parking on the yellow zig-zag lines either side of our main entrance gates. We understand that parking near the school can be challenging and spaces are limited. However, these lines are crucial for maintaining clear sightlines and pupil safety when crossing the road. Parking on these lines is illegal, and traffic wardens will issue fines. Finally, we kindly ask that you be mindful of our local residents by ensuring you do not block their driveways.

We have noticed that a significant number of pupils are coming to the canteen without their payment card to purchase food at breaktime. This results in long queues and some children getting very little breaktime. They are also missing out on their choice of snack. The kitchens will also close at the end of break and pupils who have not made through the queues will not be able to purchase food.

Pupils with cards get priority to go through the queues as we can process them quicker. When all pupils have a card, we can comfortably get pupils through and serve all in time for the end of breaktime.

If your child needs a new card, these can be purchased through Arbor. It would really help the school if these could be ordered before the start of the new year.



All parents should now be aware that Parent Mail has now been withdrawn and all parental communication is through the Arbor app. If you have not logged on, please make this a priority otherwise you will not receive crucial information from the school.

You can also update all of the information for your child through this app including contact details, permissions for trips and visits, photo permissions and medical information. It is parents responsibility to ensure that all of these details are up to date. We would be grateful if these could be checked over the Christmas holidays.

# UPCOMING IMPORTANT DATES

Monday 8th December	Year 5 Space Dome in School
Tuesday 9th December	KS2 Christingle Service (in school)
Wednesday 10th December	KS3 Christingle Service (in school)
Saturday 13th December	Save the Children Parade in Wimborne
Tuesday 16th December	Year 7 Steel Drum Concert
Tuesday 16th December	High Pine Music Concert (1700)
Wednesday 17th December	Christmas Lunch (Years 5 and 7)
Thursday 18th December	Christmas Lunch (Years 6 and 8)
Thursday 18th December	Last Day of Term
Friday 19th December	INSET Day (School Closed)
Christmas Holidays	
Monday 5th January	INSET Day (School Closed)
Tuesday 6th January	First Day back for pupils
Monday 2nd February— Thursday 5th February	Year 6 Mock SATS Week (please avoid absences during this week)
Thursday 5th February	KS3 Visit to QE to watch Legally Blonde
Tuesday 10th February	Year 6 Ukulele Concert
Monday 16th February— Friday 20th February	Half Term
Monday 23rd February	INSET Day (School Closed)
Friday 27th February	Robotics Club Qualifying Tournament
Thursday 5th March	Year 8 Bournemouth University Trip (1st Half)
Tuesday 10th March	Subject Based Parents' Evening (in school)
Wednesday 11th March and Thursday 12th March	Bronze Arts Award visit to Arts University Bournemouth
Friday 13th March	Science Share event (after school)
Wednesday 18th March	Subject Based Parents Evening (online)
Thursday 19th March	Year 8 Bournemouth University Trip (2nd Half)