



ST MICHAEL'S CE MIDDLE SCHOOL

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Newsletter No.5

Wednesday 30th November

Dear Parents and Guardians,

One of the things raised in the parental and pupils' questionnaires was that some people did not feel they understood the schools policy on bullying that well and it was also the case that people were less likely, in general, to say that they 'strongly agreed' that we had this area sorted compared to other aspects of school life. For that reason we are making this a major focus this year and are working hand in hand with the Wimborne Academy Trust; in fact it is our very own Mrs Richardson leading the Trust work on this and Miss Armstrong is working with our school council in school. We have given pupils and the council a first draft of a possible definition of bullying which, when developed and agreed will become the definition used throughout school. I thought I would share this early definition with you too so, if you had an opinion, you could influence our discussions at this early stage:

When someone uses words, spoken or written, and/or physical force to make you feel bad on several occasions. They probably have some power over you and may also use that to influence peers to act negatively towards you.

To be bullying it usually:

- Happens more than once or twice
- Upsets or hurts you and causes you to worry
- Means your bully *appears* to have the power to keep doing it- often using others too but without grown ups really knowing about it

NB Bullying can also be discrimination. If the person is being unkind about your race, gender, sexuality, faith or your different abilities...but...not all discrimination is bullying.

Please do email in to school if you have any observations although we are giving the school council much responsibility in this matter. So far they have been great at collecting information about times of the day and places that need more consideration which is why we have changed arrangements for arriving in 'Munchbox' at breaktime. In this case the concern wasn't bullying but clearly pupils had become concerned that some children just pushed in.

Can I say a big thank you to all those who responded about Lunch Hour Supervision. We have a new employee starting shortly for all the week and we will be looking at trying to fill one more post. If you contacted us you should have heard back from me with an initial response but if not please get back in touch so we know which days people are willing to cover.

We are working our way through the backlog of Achievement Awards (AA) and our new system looks like it will run more smoothly so we will avoid any delays that have been experienced in the past between the AA being awarded and then actually presented. In order to get fully up to date approximately 150 AA will be handed out in registers tomorrow and Friday. In future, AA will be presented in Assembly.

YEAR 5 ACTIVITY WEEK

Thank you to all the Year 5 parents who met at St Michael's Church during our Activities Week to see some of the things that the children had been doing, as well as getting an opportunity to meet other parents. We also raised £74.28 to donate to the Children's Charity DreamFlight, so special thanks to those of you who made cakes and attended the event.

SPORTS NEWS

FOOTBALL

The Year 6 Boys Football team have started the season in imperious form, so far winning three out of four league matches and drawing the other. This means they go into this Thursday's fixture with a chance to win their regional league. A hard fought defeat to Ferndown in the County Cup has been their only defeat to date, which is especially impressive when you consider that they also played in a 7-a-side tournament; winning all 5 games to qualify for the County competition on the 2nd December. It has been a tremendous squad effort so far with approximately 25 players representing the team to a very high standard. Credit goes to all the players who have worn the black and white of St. Michael's- long may this rich vein of form continue!

Fireworks

A big thank you to all the people planning and working with this very successful event. It was an amazing night: Sarah Navin and Lynda White did an amazing job bringing everyone together. We are all very grateful because at this difficult economic time for St Michael's these funds will be spent directly on young people which is very reassuring.

We also thank:

Radio Wimborne team; Deputy Town Crier; Dorset & Wilts Fire Service for safety advise and for the 3 off duty fire officers who helped out on the night:

Steve Ruscoe, Nigel Foxall and Ken Davis.; Rotary Club of Wimborne; Streetlight Project at the Skatepark Stone Lane; Lantern Church; Good News Church; Dorset Party Hire; Adrienne Thicket for stepping into the treasure role despite retiring from the committee! we offer special thanks to Martin Piper Tree Care. Ken Fanner - Ironwork of Distinction. Naked Flame Entertainment ; last but in no means least Geoff Beck and support team from Anytime Fireworks who set up and fired the fireworks on the night.

SCHOOL VACANCIES

The school has the following vacancies:-

Midday Supervisor 12.30pm - 1.45pm. Hourly rate £7.25 per hour

Cleaner 3.30pm - 5.30pm. Hourly rate £7.25 per hour

Assistant Caretaker - 20 hours per week. Hourly rate of £8.54 per hour

SEN Administrator- 10 - 15 hours per week. Hourly rate £8.39 per hour

If you require any further information or an application form please contact Mrs Wellman in the school office.

Wildlife Pond Update

Thank you to the two families that have offered help. I have put the digging of the pond on hold until the spring when it will be more suitable for working and planting. If there are any families with mini diggers or access to one please do get in touch, we have a small budget now as we were successful in getting an award from Nikwax but the further we can make this spread the better.

I can be contacted at s.atkins@stmichaelsmiddle.org if you can be of any assistance.

Thank you Mrs Atkins - School Librarian

ROOKIE LIFEGUARDS

Rookie lifeguards runs 3.30pm - 4.30pm on Thursdays after school at St Michaels School pool . It is a programme that teaches 8 to 16 year olds all about life saving and first aid and stamina in a fun environment you can run through the whole programme from bronze silver and gold challenges please contact Wimborne Swim School - 07823443853.

Art and Design

This term the Art department would like to congratulate two very committed students. Finley Kennedy 7H and Arron Kennedy 6B took both first and second prize respectively, in the Junior Poole Open drawing competition. Inspired by a school visit to the world touring 'Lines of Thought' exhibition, both students submitted outstanding pieces based on the theme 'Natural History'. These works will be displayed in Poole Museum and Gallery space until 27th November.



RING PULLS OF DRINKS CANS

Mrs Nicholson is collecting the 'ring pulls' off drinks cans, they are a small size and are used by a charity group in the Philippines to make jewellery and purses. If you send them into school there will be a box in reception for you to put them in. The box isn't very big so please don't send the cans! The ring pull on bean cans are, apparently, too big so this is just for drinks cans.

SHOEBOX APPEAL

Thank you so much to those families who have contributed to or gave a shoebox for Operation Christmas Child, this year. They will make some very underprivileged children very happy this year. We sent over 120 boxes again this year which is a great effort from all concerned.

HOLIDAY DATES FOR 2016/2017

Friday 9th December	Christmas Fair - 6.00pm
Wednesday 14th December	Carol Service @ Wimborne Minster - 7pm
Thursday 15th December	School Christmas Lunch - ticket required
Friday 16th December	Last Day of Term
Tuesday 3rd January	Staff Training Day - School Closed
Wednesday 4th January	Children Return to school
Monday 13th - 17th February	Half Term
Friday 7th April	Last Day of Term
Monday 24th April	First Day of Term
Monday 1st May	Bank Holiday
Monday 8th - 12th May	Holne Park Residential
W/c 15th May	Heatree Residential
Monday 29th May - Friday 2nd June	Half Term
Monday 5th June	Staff Training - School Closed
Tuesday 6th June	Children Return to School
Friday 21st July	Last Day of Term