



St Michael's Middle School Newsletter

March 2022

Dear Parents/Guardians

Firstly, thank you to all parents who voted for Parent Governors to join our academy Committee. Our new Parent Governors are Aimee Coates (Oscar Year 7 and Harry Year 5) and Jo Walker (Liam in Year 8).

I also want to thank my team as this has been an exceptionally challenging term to maintain continuity. Covid cases have continued throughout the term with bursts of cases amongst staff. Teachers and support staff have been tremendous in stepping up to help each other. Obviously the cost of supply has also put pressure on budgets. In spite of all this SLT daily walks around school and through lessons suggest that so much of school life has been sustained. Year 6 pupils have been phenomenal in their practice SATS and attendance at clubs and activities has continued to be high. You are all amazing!

I am also delighted, as per the previous announcement, to extend my congratulations to Mr Darren Ayling on his appointment to the Headship here from September. He is a proven leader who is well liked by parents, pupils and colleagues alike. I am confident of the school's future in his hands.

Epraise

Sometimes we get comments from parents about access to information which is always helpful to consider how we can improve information. One source of great information is Epraise where we record points and accolades for pupils. At the moment, despite various parentmail reminders, most are not using the epraise app. It's free and will give you another window on how your child is performing in school. Please follow this link to download it:

https://www.epraise.co.uk/index.php?view=guide_parent

Headphones

We traditionally supply headphones for use in ICT lessons but we are increasingly finding that many pupils are carrying their own headphones which are generally better and obviously more hygienic than using school sets. A cheap pair of headphones is perfectly good enough we would recommend adding that to a child's equipment list. We will have spares in school but it does take pressure off our budget to not have to have several class sets available at one time.

Shop for Ukraine



Staff at St Michael's did a very speedy collection in the first week of the war in Ukraine and purchased essential items that were donated to Nicholas O'Hara Funeral Directors who organised a drop off point to support the people of Ukraine.

FUNDRAISING

Our House system is increasingly getting back to full speed and we are delighted that House Captains organised and lead a wonderful Sponsored Walk event on 25th March 2022

Well done to all the pupils who participated and so far we have raised an amazing **£1427.50** which is being split between 2 charities, RSPCA & Ukraine Appeal.

Pupil Absences

A reminder that we do require daily notification if your child is absent from school, the quickest and easiest way to report an absence is through Parentmail. We spend a significant amount of time chasing up absences each day which would have been better spent on other tasks if only more folk remembered to email or leave a message at the start of the day.

Also please do not send your child in with 'just a cold' without first checking whether they have COVID. While the law has changed on COVID isolation the guidance to isolate has not.

After School Sports Clubs

When pupils return after Easter holidays there will be a new summer school sports club list coming out soon and we hope to start the clubs w/c 25th April.

Sports News

Swimming

We've had a term of success in the swimming pool with both our Year 7 & 8 and our Year 5 & 6 swimming teams winning both of the East Dorset Schools Relay Swimming Galas. The team work and the enthusiasm shown by all swimmers was fantastic. A huge well done to all those who took part.

Netball

Our Year 8 Netballers, captained by Suzy Element, have played exceptionally well in the PEDSSA Netball League held at Parkstone Grammar School. The girls haven't lost a game in the league so far and St Michaels are currently second on points total. We are feeling optimistic heading into the finals this Thursday.

Our Year 7 Netballers have made a brilliant start to their PEDSSA Netball League by winning both their matches last week. We are up against some tough teams however the girls are ready to put them through their paces!

Football

Our Year 6 team reached the County Cup semi-final before being beaten by the eventual winners, Longfleet. They bounced back from defeat to beat St. Ive's in the 3rd/4th place play-off.

Our Year 5 & 6 Girls team go from strength to strength. After finishing 3rd in the County 7-a-side finals they have progressed to reach the County 9-a-side final. We await to find out our opponents.

Our Year 7 Boys have reached the semi-finals of the Poole & East Dorset competition whilst our Year 7 Girls have reached the County Finals.

Our Year 8 Girls reached the semi-finals of the County 7-a-side competition before being defeated by Parkstone Grammar. They are also still in the Poole & East Dorset competition which has reached the semi-finals stage.

Although we haven't won any silverware (yet!) the standards and commitment shown by all our teams, including the staff has been outstanding.

Rugby

Well done to our Yr 7 rugby team who won 3, drew 2 and lost one game in the Dorset Rugby festival....a considerable achievement given that this year group have missed so much rugby in the last two years due to lockdowns.

Dorset Wildlife Trust



Dorset Wildlife Trust

14 December 2021 · 🌐

We would like to say a very big thank you to 11-year-old Liam, who decided to raise money for wildlife this Christmas.

When his neighbours had some trees removed, Liam came up with a creative use for the logs and decided to make some 'log reindeer' out of what was left. The first one was such a success that he decided to make more and decided he could probably sell some, and made some log snowmen too.

He even set up a stall at a local event and chose to donate his profits to Dorset Wildlife Trust. He wanted to give back something to nature - and we couldn't be more grateful. He raised a fantastic £150 which will fund conservation work to help wildlife thrive in Dorset. Well done Liam - and thank you again. ~ Alex



TERM DATES 2021-22

Spring Term 2022

Last Day of Term Friday 8th April (3.15pm normal finish time).

Summer Term 2022

First Day of Term Monday 25th April

May Day Holiday Monday 2nd May

w/c 9th May – Year 7 Residential – Holne Park

Half Term Holiday Monday 30th May – Friday 3rd June

Staff Training Day Monday 6th June (First and Middle Schools Only)

Pupils Return Tuesday 7th June (First and Middle Schools only)

7th June - Year 8 Parents Evening

15th June - Year 7 Parents Evening

w/c 20th June – Year 8 Activity Week

1st July – Transfer Day

w/c 11th July - Mary Poppins School Show at Layard Theatre

w/c 18th July – Year 6 Activity Week

Last Day of Term Thursday 21st July finish time 1pm

TERMS DATES 2022-2023

Autumn Term 2022

Staff Training Days Thursday 1st & Friday 2nd September

Pupils Return Monday 5th September

Half Term Holiday Monday 24th October- Friday 28th October

Staff Training Day Monday 31st October

Pupils return Tuesday 1st November

Last Day of Term Friday 16th December

Spring Term 2023

Staff Training Day - Tuesday 3rd January

First Day of Term - Wednesday 4th January

Half Term - Monday 13th - Friday 17th February

Last Day of Term Friday 31st March

Summer Term 2023

First Day of Term Monday 17th April

May Day Holiday Monday 1st May

Half Term Holiday Monday 29th May – Friday 2nd June

Staff Training Day Monday 5th June (First and Middle Schools Only)

Pupils Return Tuesday 6th June (First and Middle Schools only)

Last Day of Term Friday 21st July finish time 1pm