



St Michael's Middle School Newsletter

December 2022



**Each person, uniquely made in God's image, merits the best we can give.
*Aspiration, Belief and Creativity***

Dear Parents/Carers,

I want to use my newsletter space this month to highlight a couple of events where our pupils have been out in the community representing the school.

It was lovely for St. Michael's Middle to be represented at the Colehill remembrance parade and service and for our pupils to have the chance to lay our version of a wreath at the war memorial. The giant poppies were made by our DT department and were constructed by bringing together a small, handmade poppy from each pupil in the school. Each poppy had either a prayer or a personal message on. We were represented at the service by a mixture of pupils from years 5 and 6. Thanks also to the two pupils who accompanied me to the service at the Minster with dignitaries from Wimborne.



I want to thank the pupils who took time to sing and perform at the St. Michael's Church Christmas fair and tree lighting at the weekend. A selection of the choir, led by Mrs. Martin-Papp, sang a selection of Christmas music at the event, including some pupils who took on duets and solos. Mr. Johnston led the school hand-bell group in performances of some well known Christmas songs. Thanks to Miss. Atkins and Mrs. Soper who run this club in school. Both performances went very well and the local community were very impressed by the performances.

We are very excited by the arrival of our three new music pods that have been installed next to the music room. These have been made possible by a grant from the local Talbot Heath Charity Group and were secured through the hard work of Mr. Jenkinson last term. They will be used to give small rehearsal spaces for various music groups, both in lessons and in after school clubs. We are also very grateful that the funding has covered the purchase of a number of new instruments. We look forward to seeing what our excellent music department will do with this fantastic new resource.





Lastly, I want to say a big thank you for your continued support in our efforts to support those in our local and global community who may need a little extra help at this time of year and especially in the current time of increasing bills. We have been so humbled by the amount of food brought in for Harvest, the Shoeboxes for Bulgaria or the astonishing response to the reverse advent calendar appeal. We have donated over 1,000 items.



All of the above shows what a great community St. Middle's Middle School is, something that has been clear since I came to the school, and I look forward to what is coming in the New Year. There will be one more short newsletter at the end of term where we will highlight the pupils who have been selected to receive one of our end of term awards. Until then, have a lovely last couple of weeks of term.

Mr. Darren Ayling
Headteacher

Staffing Update

We will be very sorry to say a goodbye to 3 of our members of staff at the end of this term.

Mr. Wellman is leaving St. Michael's after 18 years in the school, most of which has been spent as the Head of PE. During his time at the school, we have had much success in various sporting events including 4 National Year 6 Cricket Finals, 2 Year 8 National Football Semi Finalists and 1 Year 7 National Football Runners-up with Mr Wallis. We have also had several pupils go onto successful careers as professional sports players including Ben White, Tino Anjorin and Tom Prest. He has developed a thriving PE department and the school has a massively positive reputation in the local area for the sporting opportunities on offer. It is a great legacy to leave behind. We have appointed a person to replace Mr. Wellman as the Head of PE and I am delighted with the person we have secured. I will let you know more details once the news of him leaving has been shared at his current school. To help with the transition period before the new person can take up his post, we are grateful to Mr. Wellman for agreeing to come back and share his teaching timetable with Mrs. Cole on a temporary basis. He will be much missed by his colleagues and pupils and we all want to wish Mr. Wellman the very best for the future.

Mrs. Glenny has also taken the decision to move on from St. Michael's at the end of this term. She has taught at the school for 12 years and during this time has been the schools head of RE. This is an important and vital post in a Church school and our successes in recent SIAMS inspections show how strong the RE teaching is in the school. She has been an excellent tutor (including to one of my children when they were at the school). We know that she will be missed by the staff, pupils and parents and we want to wish her the very best for the future. We are delighted to have appointed a teacher until the end of the school year and will send out more details next week.

Mr. Ross, who has worked for 5 years as a cover supervisor at the school, has secured a teaching position in a Bournemouth school and we want to wish him the very best for his future teaching career. Cover supervisors play a vital part in schools by ensuring that a familiar and friendly face takes lessons when members of staff are unfortunately absent. It is not an easy job and we want to thank him for keeping the lessons running smoothly during his time at St. Michael's. Mr Ross has also been key in supporting our school productions over his 5 years at St Michaels. We will miss you Mr. Ross!

If you would like to send any message of thanks or best wishes to any of these staff, please send them to the school office and we will ensure they receive them before they leave.

Dorset Health Care Message

New confidential text messaging service for Parents of 5-19 year olds - provided by the School Nursing team

We are delighted to now also be able to provide a confidential text messaging service to the Parents and Carers of children and young people aged between 5 and 19. This text messaging service will be called ParentLine 5-19. Parents will also be able to gain advice from a member of the School Nursing team via text message for topics such as Development, Healthy eating, Weight management, Behaviour management, Emotional health and wellbeing, Toileting, Sleep and more.

How it will work:

- Parent/carer sends a text message to the ParentLine 5-19 number – 07312263131
- An automated reply confirms the message has been received.
- A trained healthcare professional from the School Nursing team will respond to the message between 9am and 4pm Monday to Friday (Excluding weekends, bank holidays and School Holidays) within 24 working hours.

Please note that ParentLine 5-19 will initially only be available during School Term times and will be closed during School Holidays and this should not be used as an emergency service - urgent help should be sought from an NHS walk-in centre or call NHS 111, or in an emergency, dial 999 or go to A&E.

Collective Worship

As we head towards the end of term, I wanted to let all parents know of the arrangements for collective worship for the Christmas period.

- Thursday 8th December - 1pm - **Open final rehearsal for the Christmas Service at Wimborne Minster.** We are opening up our final rehearsal for our evening Christmas Service to allow more parents and family members to join us in our worship at the Minster. Year 6 will be joining the performers in the church for this event. It will be identical in format to the evening performance (although it is also the last chance to iron out the final wrinkles as well). Seats are on a first come, first served basis. We ask that you not come to both the afternoon rehearsal and the evening service to maximise the opportunity for parents to see their child perform.
- Thursday 8th December - 7pm - **Annual St. Michael's Christmas Service at Wimborne Minster.** We invite all members of the St. Michael's community to join us in the Minster for our annual Christmas service. Please join Year 5, selected performers from Year 6, 7 and 8 and the staff of the school in coming together to worship in the wonderful setting of the Minster. Seating will be allocated on a first come, first served basis and we will do our best to fit in all those who want to join us.
- Thursday 15th December - 9.30am - **Optional Key Stage 3 Service in St. Michael's Church.** We are giving Key Stage 3 pupils the chance to come over to St. Michael's Church for a shortened version of the lessons and carols service. We are limited on the numbers that the church can hold so this will be on a first come, first served reply to a Parentmail coming out later this week.

These services will be in addition to the normal in school cycle of collective worship in the school hall. We hope that all pupils will enjoy worshipping together as we move towards the festive period.

Shoebox Appeal

A huge thank you to everyone who made or contributed towards a Christmas Shoebox. The Trussell Trust have just completed the process of sorting them and will be delivering them to Bulgaria on 10th December where they will be very gratefully received. You can see a little more about the appeal by looking at the video below. The school collected over 100 shoeboxes.

[Christmas Box Appeal - FSCI](http://www.fscinet.org)



www.fscinet.org

By supporting FSCI's Christmas box appeal you can help to spread joy to thousands of people, fight poverty and prevent modern slavery...



Sports News



Rugby

Congratulations to the Y7 and Y8 rugby teams for their admirable performances in the Dorset schools rugby festivals at Bryanston school.

Football

Our Yr 6 Girls football team have reached the 7-a-side County Finals in January defeating West Moors, Allenbourn, Ferndown and St Ives schools in the East Dorset qualifying tournament. As East Dorset champions they have a great chance of repeating the success and qualifying for the South West Regional Finals.



Footballs on the Playground

If you are purchasing a football as a Christmas present for your child and they want to bring it to school, please can you make sure that the ball is no bigger than a size 3 ball. We have limited and busy playground space and to keep everyone safe, we need to use these size balls. If they do bring a ball into school, please can we also ask that it is named.





SLIDE FRIDAYS

Mr Glover (Director of Music, QE School) would like to say a massive well done to his 6 new St Michael's student trombone players - Mpho, Evelyn, Olivia, Bethany, Harry and Elijah - who are making some great sounds after only 1 or 2 lessons! Each of them have their own p-Bone to practise with and it shows. Looking forward to more Slide Fridays in 2023.

After-school clubs

Due to the popularity of after school sports clubs, if your child does not attend a club after 3 sessions they will be removed from the list to allow other pupils to sign up.

Christmas Dinner

Due to high demand, we will be splitting the serving of our Christmas Dinner into two different days.

- Pupils in Year 5 and Year 8 will have their Christmas dinner on Tuesday 13th December.
- Pupils in Year 6 and Year 7 will have their Christmas dinner on Wednesday 14th December.

Please note that there will be no lunchtime service for food other than Christmas Dinners on these two days. On both days, there will be a breaktime snack service for any pupil NOT having Christmas dinner on that day. Any pupils who have free school meals (and are not having a Christmas dinner) can use their funding to purchase a breaktime snack.



Pupils in Years 5 and 8, regardless of whether they are having a Christmas dinner or not, will be allowed to wear a Christmas jumper on Tuesday 13th. Pupils in Year 6 and 7 have the chance to wear their jumpers on Wednesday. We look forward to finding the most inventive jumper designs!

Caterlink Cards



A reminder for pupils to bring in their Caterlink cards if they wish to purchase a snack or lunch, pupils with cards will be prioritised in the queue as this makes the running of the kitchen more efficient. Until the end of term, pupils who have lost their card can get a free replacement by emailing the school office. After the Christmas break, pupils will be charged a small fee for a replacement card.

Attendance

Please see below our attendance for this half term. St Michaels are committed to ensuring our pupils achieve the best possible outcomes and good school attendance of a minimum of 97% is key to achieving this aim.

YEAR GROUP	PERCENTAGE ATTENDANCE
YEAR 5	96.5%
YEAR 6	94.3%
YEAR 7	94.1%
YEAR 8	95.2%
OVERALL	95.1%

Medicines

If your child requires a top up of Calpol/Paracetamol during the school day, please ensure you provide the medication and complete a form from the school office or send a written consent via email to office@stmichaelsmiddle.org. A reminder that no student should be administering medicine to themselves whilst at school.



Pupils of the Week

Each week, I ask a small selection of pupils from each year group to be sent to see me for a positive reason. Any pupil that is sent to me will receive a letter home, a special sticker and a rewards pencil. Should your child come home from school with a letter from me, please make a big deal of this with them as it is a special privilege to be selected.

Congratulations to the following pupils for this half term, great job!

Year 8	Year 7	Year 6	Year 5
Cameron P	Ethan S	Archie C	Ruby W
Thomas E	Archie S	Noah S	William D
Jake A	Ellen H	Jennifer D	Lana J
Thea B	Maisie T	Lara J	Beau W
Annabel McC	Samuel S	Harry H	Caitlin J
Genesis M	Lizzie H	Theo G – A	Isabella G
Freddie C	Ethan H	Chloe H	Jamie T
Bryony R	Lucy P	Eddie D	Oscar W
Olivia C-W	Ashleigh B	James R	Thomas A
Ruby D	George C	Layla S	Iris D
	Charlotte M	Ava F	Zach J
		Joshua S	

And finally....

We are so lucky with the grounds and surroundings of the school and over many years, staff have encountered many different types of wildlife within the school grounds. However, we have a new creature to add to our list when we found a bat hiding in one of the outside store areas whilst we were having a clear out to use the space as a meeting area. It gave Skittles quite a shock, especially with the noise that it made. It has now been rehomed following advice and care from specialist bat experts.



Ron Martin Management & Born2Perform
Presents

We are back with a brand new ADVENTURE
A fun PANTOMIME for all the family

*Toby
George-Waters*

*Isabelle
White*

BEST EVER

Christmas SHOW

10th-24th December 2022

The Minster Theatre, Allendale Centre
Wimborne



Sponsored by

TONY HOLT DESIGN.
BESPOKE PROPERTY DESIGN



TERMS DATES 2022-2023

Autumn Term 2022

Carol Service at Wimborne Minster – Thursday 8th December – 7pm

Years 5 & 8 Christmas Lunch

Years 6 & 7 Christmas Lunch

Last Day of Term Thursday 15th December

Staff Training Day Friday 16th December

Spring Term 2023

Staff Training Day - Tuesday 3rd January

First Day of Term - Wednesday 4th January

Year 7 Parents Evening (via School Cloud) - Monday 16th January 3.30pm – 6.30pm

Year 7 Parents Evening (via School Cloud) – Wednesday 25th January 3.30pm – 6.30pm

Half Term - Monday 13th - Friday 17th February

Staff Training Day – Monday 20th February

First Day of Term – Tuesday 21st February

Last Day of Term – Thursday 30th March

Staff Training Day - 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