



Newsletter February 2023

# St. Michael's Middle School

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

Dear Parents/Carers,

We have had a very busy time since returning to school after the Christmas holidays. Lots has been happening across the school, both in and out of the classroom.

We held our first off-timetable day of the year with pupils looking at topics such as their own health, looking at careers and learning about the democratic process in the UK. You can find out more about this day later in the newsletter.

I had so much positive feedback from parents and the public about the wonderful Christmas Concert at the end of last term. We are lucky to have such a vibrant music department and we are really excited to have taken delivery of three new music rehearsal pods. These are fully equipped spaces in the school grounds where groups of pupils can work together on musical projects. A lot of work was done by Mr Jenkinson to secure funds from a local charity to get these and we look forward to having a formal opening once the weather gets a little better.

Next week, you will be getting details of a new way that we will manage the high amount of lost property that we seem to collect. Please make sure that all items of uniform are named as we are not able to reunite owners with their property if it remains unnamed.

Finally, please make sure that you have picked up the communication about the change from Wimborne Academy Trust to Initio Learning Trust. You can visit the new Trust website [here](#).

Thank you for your continued support and have a lovely weekend.

Mr Ayling

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**WIMBORNE**  
**Academy Trust**

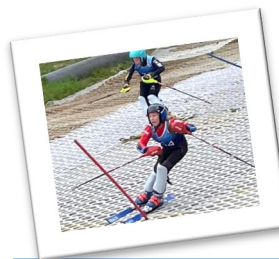
# Sports News

## Year 6 Girl's Football Success

Congratulations to the year 6 girl's football team who secured second place at the East Dorset Competition. Held at the Littledown Centre, there were 10 teams. They played four games in the group stage - winning the group, winning 3-0 in the semis and losing 2-0 in the final. They were lucky to get there at all as they encountered a sheep incident (involving many sheep and the Police) on the way to the tournament. A great effort and well done to the whole team.



Did you know that St. Michael's Middle has at least one person who represents us in Slalom Ski Racing? Ruby H., from year 8, competes at different dry slopes all the across the country for TSN team. In the SASA NSSA racing league, which is a club based competition, she is currently the fastest under-14 female in the competition. She is the third fastest in the Southern League. She is also a junior coach for the ski team and enjoys the competitiveness of the sport.



TSN  
SNOWSPORTS CLUB



## Recent Results

### Year 6 Boys Football County Cup Quarter Final

St. Michael's 4 - Longfleet 1

-

### Year 7 Boys Football County Cup

St. Michael's 3 - Purbeck 3

St. Michael's win 3 - 2 on penalties

-

### Year 8/9 Basketball Tournament

Placed 4th out of 8 teams

-

### PDSA Under 13 Netball Tournament

Great effort from all involved



# Careers News

We are delighted to announce that we now officially have our own Careers Enterprise Advisor.

Following a highly engaging careers talk back in the Autumn term, Samantha Riley (Director of Manta Makes) has agreed to take on this role at St. Michael's.

Samantha will work closely with our Careers Lead to challenge and support us in reviewing our ever-growing careers programme and we hope to develop future projects that will enable some of our older pupils to learn more about her business and experience it in action.

We are hugely grateful to Samantha for taking on this voluntary role. It would be wonderful if you can join us in showing our appreciation by following Manta Makes on social media and sharing her fabulous company with friends and family. Manta makes sells a wide range of wedding gifts, baby gifts, greetings cards and creative items for other special occasions.



**MANTA MAKES**  
- HANDMADE IN THE NEW FOREST -

[www.mantamakes.com](http://www.mantamakes.com)

## Pupils for Praise

**Every Friday, two pupils from each year group are selected to go and see Mr Ayling to receive praise and a reward for their hard work. All the pupils below have been selected since the last newsletter.**

### Year 5

Layla K

Inga B

Ralph C

Nancy J

Sam W

Isla K

Tyler S

Charlie S

Finley W

Edward F

Jack N

Jude T

### Year 6

Narin G

Jake W

Logan W

Darcey C

Neve L

Lillian B

Sidney B

Riley P

Jake B

Lincoln M

### Year 7

Amelie G

George H

Mpho M

Sam E

Liam S

Wilfred H-D

George O'D

Celia D

Amelia N

Samuel D

### Year 8

Faith A

Keziah M

Charley S

Nathan C

Tynan M

Cameron H

Jack W

Leo S

Toby M

Alice H

Lily W

Ben G

## Congratulations!



# Staffing Update

We are sorry to be saying goodbye to two members of staff.

**Mr Phillips** has been our caretaker for the last six years, helping out in a variety of ways around the school. Whether it is painting, mending, litter picking or any other task, he is always cheerful and we will miss his presence around the school. We wish him all the best in his retirement and the best of luck for the future. We are looking for a new caretaker and the details of this vacancy can be found [here](#).

We will say goodbye to **Miss McNamara**, who has been taking Mrs Thompson-Brown's tutor group in her extended absence. She is leaving to travel to Canada and we want to thank her for all of hard work over the last term with class 6T. We are pleased to confirm that Mrs Panagiotidis, who has been working with us in school since the start of this term, will be teaching this class until the end of the academic year.

We also welcome **Mrs Macfie** to the staff. She will be taking over the timetable of Mrs Glenny. She will also co-tutor class 7W.

Class 7G will be tutored for the rest the year by **Miss Owen** and **Madame Doyle**.



YOUNG CARERS

At St Michael's we are working closely with My Time charity to ensure that we get the right support for all our students who find themselves with a responsibility to care for a family member. Staff have received training and we look forward to the My Time team leading assemblies for the whole school. More details to follow but here is their website link if you would like to learn about the amazing work they do in our school.

[www.mytimeyoungcarers.org/](http://www.mytimeyoungcarers.org/)



The game of chess is making a comeback with lots of pupils learning the game and enjoying playing either online or in person. We now have a chess club, run by Mrs Gould, which is proving very popular. We are in need of more chess sets and would be grateful for any that could be donated.



# YOUR HEALTH MATTERS DAY

Our first Health Matters Day this year was a great success. Years 5 and 6 students focused on managing their own wellbeing with workshops on nutrition, sleep, understanding the media, boosting self esteem and so much more!



## Year 7 Careers Day

Year 7 students had a careers day and were visited by professionals from different occupations.

They had a brilliant day and have fed back that their favourite bits of the day were the ICT research sessions (where many discovered jobs that they had not known existed previously). The biggest highlight was the careers speed talks with a chef, an ecologist, a field studies teacher, a firefighter, an IT consultant and an ex-Navy Officer.

Our guests were extremely complimentary of our pupils' engagement, their enthusiasm and the quality of the questions that were asked.

Our year 7 pupils gained a stronger understanding of the wide range of apprenticeships that are on offer, and what a fantastic post-16 option they can be.

This day was part of the wider careers strategy in the school, lead by Mrs Gould, which has included a wide range of visiting speakers and a new unit of work in PSHE.





# PSHE Democracy Day

Year 8 students rose to the occasion as they were challenged to create a political party which culminated in a hustings and a vote.

Congratulations to the Be Together Party who were elected to run the country with a manifesto that included fair pay for all NHS workers, free bus travel for all under 25's, improvement in human rights, free education (including universities) tough on crime and as a thank you to all members of society a 2 for 1 offer on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays on Freddo chocolate bars!

Their opposition were The People's Party, The After Party and the Academic Learning Society Democratic Party.

All the students were impeccable with regard to their behaviour and attitude throughout the day. They threw themselves into each task and the best comment of the day has to be "Can we have more days like this? It was a great day".

Thank you to everyone who supported the day and made it such a rich experience for all students.



THANK  
YOU!

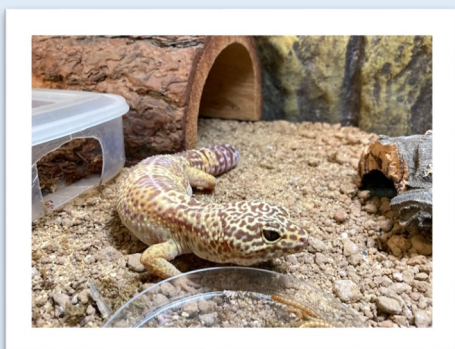
We are really grateful to all of the parents and helpers that came into school this week to support us with the mock SATS week. It really helps the pupils to know that there is support available and it makes a big difference in reducing the stress of tests on the pupils.

## Meet the Gecko

We would like to introduce you to a hidden member of the St.

Michael's team—our science department leopard gecko called Echo (whose nickname is Keith).

He is cared for by a team of pupils and Mr Arthur and lives in the Newton laboratory. He is very popular with the pupils and helps teach pupils about the caring for reptiles.



You may have come across a new drink called Prime. This drink was created by YouTube personalities KSI and Logan Paul. They have been very hard to get hold outside of the UK and are very popular with school pupils due to the influence of YouTube and TikTok videos. We have found that bottles of Prime (and even empty bottles) are being bought and sold outside of school. These drinks, alongside any other brand of energy drink, should not be brought to school. This includes using these bottles as water bottles.



## House Point Totals

Here are the latest house point totals. Pupils earn 'ePraise' points and these are added together to make their house point totals.

**Hanham**

**36,526**

**Bankes**

**38,871**

**Gulliver**

**37,119**

**Paget**

**40,478**

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.

# UPCOMING IMPORTANT DATES

Wednesday 8th February	Internet safety afternoon for all pupils
Monday 13th February - Friday 17th February	Half Term (School Closed)
Monday 20th February	INSET Day (School Closed)
Tuesday 21st February	First day back for all pupils
Thursday 2nd March	Potential Strike Action by members of the NEU
Wednesday 15th March	Potential Strike Action by members of the NEU
Thursday 16th March	Potential Strike Action by members of the NEU
Thursday 30th March	Last day of term for all pupils
Friday 31st March	INSET Day (School Closed)
Monday 3rd April - Friday 14th April	Easter Holiday (School Closed)
Monday 17th April	First day back for all pupils
Monday 1st May	Bank Holiday (School Closed)
Monday 8th May	Bank Holiday for the Coronation of King Charles III (School Closed)
Monday 8th May—Friday 12th May	Holne Park Residential Trip for Year 7 Pupils
Tuesday 9th May - Friday 12th May	Year 6 SATS Week
Friday 26th May	Last day of half term for pupils
Monday 29th May - Friday 2nd June	Half Term (School Closed)
Monday 5th June	INSET Day (School Closed)
Monday 19th June— Friday 23rd June	France Residential Trip for Year 8 Pupils
Friday 21st July	Last day of term for all pupils