



# ST MICHAEL'S CE MIDDLE SCHOOL

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Newsletter No.5

Tuesday 11th February 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

Another busy half term! I'd like to thank my team for all their hard work pulling together so many exciting elements. In this newsletter you will hear about our fundraising (over £5000), the visit to hear a Holocaust survivor, the preparations for our musical- Mary Poppins- which pupils having been rehearsing well for, as well as staffing and sports updates. It remains a very exciting time to be a pupil at St Michael's!

## eSafety Blog

I know what it's like with regular emails- there's often just not enough time to read them. That said, can I encourage you to go back through your inbox and check any unopened St Michael's eSafety Blogs. More and more research is confirming what you already know: the pressure on young people from online activity is so overwhelming it has contributed to a mental health crisis in our nation. There is so much positivity to be had from the internet that helping our children use it well cannot just be a job for schools. Hopefully, the blogs are helping you be the parent to your child online.

## Staffing

By now many pupils will have come across Miss Sivyver and Mrs Luxton in Textiles and Food Nutrition. They have settled in so quickly and it is exciting to see how pupils are responding to their teacher's enthusiasm for their subject. I am delighted to say that Mr Smart will begin returning to work after Half Term. I am so grateful to Mrs Warren and Mrs Odger for covering extra lessons over the last few weeks.

## Is it racist?

Whilst not a common event we do from time to time have a situation in school where a pupil references skin colour when insulting or making what they think to be a humorous comment about another pupil. Invariably they will say in defence that they are not racist. Whilst I understand the desire not to be thought of as racist it is important that we all 'own' what we say as the first step to learning how to change. When we use racial differences to make a point we are invariably showing ignorance which is at the root of racism. For most of us we will never know what it is like to be in the minority group although at St Michael's we do celebrate uniqueness and difference as something common to us all. It may start small but we know from all sorts of other analysis that casual racism and racism embedded in organisations causes incalculable harm not just to individuals of colour but to our national identity as we lose out on talent which is thwarted. If we ever have cause to speak to you about your child using racist language please don't be defensive; the goal must be for them to learn quickly why their language is offensive to us all and why they need to change how they look at their peers so they don't make the same mistake again.

Mr Jenkinson

## Year 8 Holocaust Memorial Day visit

On 29th January, Year 8 had the opportunity to be part of the 9th Annual commemorative event for secondary school students in Dorset at the Holocaust Memorial day at Parkstone Grammar School.

We were humbled to hear how a Holocaust survivor – Henry Schacter (who was born in 1939) only survived because he became a "Hidden Child". He told us his story of how he was separated from his parents who later went to a Concentration Camp and sadly died there. In order for him to be saved from the Nazi's treatment of Jews, his parents arranged for him to change his name and hide with a Christian family until the war was over.

His message highlighted the need for young people to carry on this message of the Holocaust to come together and learn more and do more. Linked with the 2020 theme STAND TOGETHER – it sent a message to empower us to stand up for freedom from hatred, prejudice and discrimination and to make our society a better place today

## Press Release: Piam Brown Fundraising- Hey Jude – we're dancing for you

School pupils and staff staged a tremendous show of support when they assembled together for their talented friend who is battling cancer.

The children, teachers and support staff of St Michael's CE School in Wimborne put on a mammoth dance show for Year 8 pupil and World Tap Dance gold medalist, Jude Feltham.

They gathered in their hundreds at the school for a danceathon to raise £5,000 for the Piam Brown children's cancer unit at Southampton General Hospital. Headteacher, Ron Jenkinson, said: "We couldn't think of a better way of showing our support for Jude than by embracing the thing he loves most and excels at – dancing.



"Jude is an incredible talent and won a gold and bronze in the World Tap Dancing Championships just one month before he was diagnosed with Leukaemia. It is amazing that he achieved this level of success with the Leukaemia present his blood system. He is responding well to treatment which is, of course, challenging and painful but he has shown exceptional courage. Jude and his family are embedded into many aspects of Wimborne life and he has touched so many hearts."

The danceathon was led by staff and sixth formers from Queen Elizabeth's School who taught everyone a 60 second dance routine in the school hall in less than 30mins.

It was then performed by all 595 students plus staff in the school playground.

Jude's mum Boo, said: "Jude has been so encouraged by the level of support the pupils, staff and families of St Michaels have given to raise money for Piam Brown. Last year Jude was helping the school to raise money for the ward, and now he is a patient himself. We understand just how important these fundraising events are in helping Piam Brown to continue providing outstanding care to children with cancer, and their families."

On the same day as the danceathon, and in another show of support for children who have cancer, four pupils - Chloe Luther, Evie Prianes, Emily Lamb and Trinity Cooper - had a minimum of 21cm cut off their hair and donated to the Little Princess Trust and also raised an amazing £700.

Their lopped locks will now be made into real wigs for cancer sufferers who have lost their hair in treatment.



## SPORTS NEWS

Well done to the Yrs 5 & 6 Girls Indoor Cricket team who were unbeaten in their Poole & East Dorset tournament. This is a fantastic achievement given that only one of the squad had played competitive cricket previously.

Congratulations to Y7 Football team who won their match 5 - 1 against Royal Russell School, Croydon and are now through to the semi finals of the ESFA National Cup .

Girls Football Yrs 5 – 8 (most of whom are new to football) continue to enjoy Girls' Football Club, training each week and participating in a variety of both competitive and friendly matches. All three of our teams have been playing some very experienced sides. Despite mixed results (and driving rain, on occasions!), our girls have shown resilience and good team spirit and their determination and hard work have led to fantastic improvements in their playing skills. A number of the girls have now joined local football clubs having discovered a sport that they love! Our thanks go to Wimborne Town Football Club for their support for our Girls' Football.

## SAVE THE DATE - MARY POPPINS

Following on from previous successes with Alice in Wonderland and The Wizard of Oz we are excited to invite you to our next production of Mary Poppins. Over 60 of our KS3 pupils have chosen to get involved in this production by either performing on the stage or working behind the scenes with set design, technical support or as backstage crew.

We are excited to again be able to use The Layard Theatre at Canford School for all three of our performances. Please save the following dates:

Wednesday 25th March - 7pm

Thursday 26th March - 7pm

Friday 27th March - 7pm

Tickets will be on sale online after half term - we will let you know by parent mail as soon as they go live.

We hugely encourage friends of the cast and crew to come along and support their peers but also invite our Year 5 and 6 pupils to come with their families. It will be their turn to get involved in two years time so it is great for them to see in advance what an amazing experience they can be part of.

See you there!

The Mary Poppins Production Team

## HOLIDAY DATES FOR 2019/2020

### **SPRING TERM 2020**

Year 5 Parents Evening  
Year 5 Greek Day  
Year 8 Winchester Science Centre

#### **Half Term Holiday**

Year 6 Parents Evening  
Year 6 SATS Information Evening  
Year 8 Parents Evening  
Last day of Term:

Tuesday 11th February 4pm - 7pm  
Wednesday 12th February  
Thursday 13th February  
**Monday 17th- Friday 21st February, incl.**  
Thursday 5th March 4pm - 7pm  
Tuesday 17th March - 6.30pm - 7.30pm  
Thursday 19th March 4pm - 7pm  
Friday 3rd April

### **SUMMER TERM 2020**

First day of Term:  
Year 7 Parents Evening  
**Bank Holiday:**  
Year 7 Holne Park Residential  
SATs Week

#### **Half Term Holiday:**

Pupil's Return:  
Year 8 French Residential  
Transfer Day  
Year 6 Heatree Residential

#### **Last day of Term:**

Monday 20th April  
Tuesday 28th April 4pm - 7pm  
**Friday 8th May**  
w/c 11th May  
w/c 11th May  
**Monday 25th May – Friday 29th May, incl.**  
Monday 1st June  
w/c 22nd June  
Friday 3rd July  
w/c 13th July  
**Friday 17th July school finishes 12.45pm**

## TERM DATES 2020-21

### **Autumn Term 2020**

#### **Staff Training Days**

First Day of Term

#### **Half Term Holiday**

#### **Staff Training Day**

Pupils Return

Last Day of Term

**Thursday 3rd September & Friday 4th September**

Monday 7th September

**Monday 26th October – Friday 30th October**

**Monday 2nd November (All Schools)**

Tuesday 3rd November

Friday 18th December (First and Middle Schools Only)

### **Spring Term 2021**

#### **Staff Training Day**

First Day of Term

#### **Half Term Holiday**

Pupils Return

Last Day of Term

**Monday 4th January (First and Middle Schools Only)**

Tuesday 5th January (First and Middle Schools Only)

**Monday 15th – Friday 19th February**

Monday 22nd February

Thursday 1st April

### **Summer Term 2021**

First Day of Term

May Day Holiday

#### **Half Term Holiday**

#### **Staff Training Day**

Pupils Return

Last Day of Term

Monday 19th April

Monday 3rd May

**Monday 31st May – Friday 4th June**

**Monday 7th June (First and Middle Schools Only)**

Tuesday 8th June (First and Middle Schools Only)

Friday 23rd July