



# ST MICHAEL'S CE MIDDLE SCHOOL

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Newsletter No.4

9th December 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians,

What an Autumn term. Unprecedented feels understated but that isn't doing justice to the English language. I think you, your children and my staff deserve a massive congratulation for persevering so well through all the changes and uncertainty.

There have been so many positives this term from how well the pupils have worked and the high attendance rate, the Reverse Advent Calendar fundraising for Routes to Roots and the shortly to be released Christmas Service including the first public release of Mr Johnston's new song, Absence Makes the Heart Grow Fonder- a real Christmas treat. Our Christmas Service will sadly have to be online this year but that does mean you all get to see it! Mr Johnston's song has been sung by everyone and so, as in normal years, there is a great engagement but sadly we won't be able to replicate the amazing rousing sound of 600 hundred voices in the Minster.

## School Closing

Please remember, as shared earlier this term, school will close at 12.40pm for Years 7 & 8 and 12.45pm for Year 5 & 6 on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December.

## Tracking cases over Christmas

We really want you to have the Christmas you hope for and I also want my staff to be able to switch off. Critical to this is being rigorous over the next 10 days to ensure "**Hands Face Space**" principles are being followed both in school and outside. The more care we all take the less likely anyone will be required to isolate over Christmas. There will be more details about any track and trace arrangements over the holidays next week.

Thank you again for all your support and encouragement for the team. Your feedback has been so encouraging and sustained us in the more complex moments for which we are very grateful

Merry Christmas!

Mr Jenkinson

## Year 6 SATS

We were waiting for news from the Government about their intentions relating to Year 6 SATS testing before sharing with parents our plans for May. The Government have stated that tests in Reading and Maths will continue as will the writing assessments. The so called SPaG test on grammar and spelling will not go ahead. We will be in touch early in the new year with more details to help but rest assured that in our recent practice test pupils were on track to do well this year. In the meantime they should keep up to date with their Hegarty Maths and keep reading and quizzing for Accelerated reader as regular practice in these areas will help!

## School Meals

School meals are becoming very popular. A reminder if you would like your child to have a school meal these must be ordered a week in advance using the link sent out. Please ensure your child's account is topped up. A reminder to free school meal pupils to also book in their lunches in advance as food orders need to be placed on the Friday before.

## Masks and hoodies

Definitely a heading for our times. We would like to thank everyone who has helped their child to get into good routines of having a mask in school to wear when moving around the corridors; the majority of pupils are now in the habit of doing so. However, we did have a moment where some were becoming forgetful or choosing not to be rigorous about this new routine and staff were spending time stopping pupils to discuss with them where their masks were and reminding them of the importance of having it with them every day. It is better again this week but please make it part of YOUR MORNING ROUTINE to check your child has a mask if your child is not exempt for medical reasons.

**Uniform** can be a difficult thing to get absolutely right. We are taking a generous view in order to make things easy at this time when access to shops etc is not so straight forward. That said we are concerned about what some pupils are choosing to wear. Therefore, to help you with your forward planning please be aware of the following pointers regarding uniform.

- 1) **Normal uniform rules apply in all situations** although we are saying that **on PE days pupils attend in their PE kit**. Normal rules can be found here: <https://www.stmichaelsmiddle.org/page/?title=School+Uniform&pid=23>
- 2) Our new PE kit is available from <https://starsportswear.co.uk/st-michaels/> We have tried to source a reasonably priced supplier and the new kit has been very popular but we are happy to accept unmarked black leggings/shorts etc from other suppliers. *Branded sports wear with flashy logos are not appropriate in school*. If you can't source unmarked clothing please use our supplier.
- 3) In order to be covid secure we are keeping windows open which is leading to colder temperatures. Whilst we are allowing coats these can be cumbersome in a classroom so we are also allowing hoodies as long as they are being worn **in addition to a jumper**. Hoodies are NOT a jumper replacement. Also, as with PE Kit, hoodies should be black (or at the very least dark) with no messaging or large branding. Small simple logos are acceptable at this time in order to make it easy for you but big branding is not ok. We are really keen to stop our pragmatic flexibility becoming an excuse for a fashion parade which sadly becomes competitive. We will phone you if pupils are wearing hoodies instead of jumpers or clothing which push the boundaries we deem to be acceptable.

## TERM DATES 2020-21

### Autumn Term 2020

Last Day of Term Friday 18th December 12.40pm 7&8; 12.45 5&6  
(First and Middle Schools Only)

### Spring Term 2021

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

**Additional Staff Training Day Tuesday 5th January (First and Middle Schools Only)**

First Day of Term Wednesday 6th January

**Half Term Holiday Monday 15th – Friday 19th February**

Pupils Return Monday 22nd February

Last Day of Term Wednesday 31st March

**Additional Staff Training Day Thursday 1st April**

### Summer Term 2021

First Day of Term Monday 19th April

May Day Holiday Monday 3rd May

**Half Term Holiday Monday 31st May – Friday 4th June**

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

Pupils Return Tuesday 8th June (First and Middle Schools Only)

Last Day of Term Friday 23rd July (Early finish 12.45pm)

## Guidance for schools around illness and school absence

We understand that schools are receiving a lot of calls and questions about the health of their pupils.

With children starting to mix together again, it is likely that they are going to get seasonal colds and coughs but not all illnesses mean they must stay off school or self-isolate.

We want to remind you that COVID-19 symptoms are a **high temperature** (hot to touch on the back or chest), a new **continuous** cough (continuous cough is coughing consistently for a while and not just every now and again), a **loss of or change to your taste or smell**.

More detail of the symptoms can be found: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms/>

Please see below of different types of illness and what action should be taken:

### COVID-19

What to do if...	Action needed...	Return to school when...
...my child has COVID-19 symptoms*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Do not come to school</li> <li>- Contact school to inform us</li> <li>- Self-isolate the whole household</li> <li>- <u>Get a COVID-19 test</u></li> <li>- Inform school immediately about the test result</li> </ul>	...the test comes back negative
...my child tests positive for COVID-19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Do not come to school</li> <li>- Contact school to inform us</li> <li>- Agree an earliest date for possible return. (Min 10 Days)</li> <li>- Self-isolate the whole household</li> </ul>	<p>... they feel better. They can return after 10 days even if they have a cough or loss of taste/smell. These symptoms can last for several weeks</p> <p>All children who test positive must complete the 10-day isolation.</p>
...my child tests negative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Contact school to inform us</li> <li>- Discuss when your child can come back (same/next day)</li> </ul>	...the test comes back negative and your child feels well enough to return

\*COVID-19 symptoms are: a high temperature, a new continuous cough (continuous cough is coughing consistently for a while and not just every now and again), a loss of or change to your taste or smell

### Vomiting and diarrhoea

If a child has sickness and diarrhoea they should not come to school. Parents/carers should contact the school to inform them of a child's absence and ring the school on each day of illness.

A child can return to school 48 hours after the last bout of sickness or diarrhoea. Check the schools' sickness absence policy for more information.

### Colds

If a child is poorly with symptoms of a cold such as a runny nose or sore throat,

- Check temperature and for symptoms of COVID-19
- If no COVID-19 symptoms, come to school if well enough
- If not well enough, ring on each day of illness

The child can come back to school when they feel well enough and are not showing symptoms of COVID-19

For all other advice around schools relating to COVID-19 please visit: <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus/education-and-childcare>

# Special Educational Needs & Disabilities

## NEW! ONLINE DROP IN SESSIONS

Jointly hosted by Dorset SENDIASS & Dorset Parent Carer Council

## EVERY FRIDAY

Do you have concerns about your child or young person?  
Don't know where to turn for help and support!

### JOIN US

Drop in for a chat, a laugh and even a cry. Meet other parents and carers who understand and 'get' what you are going through.

SENDIASS, DPCC & parent volunteers will be on hand to help, or signpost you to services that can support you and your child.

**Drop in and stay for as long as you  
want, choose either  
10am—11am or 11am—12pm  
(\*\*Term Time Only\*\*)**



To receive a copy of the link to join  
either session just drop us a line at  
[sendiass@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:sendiass@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk) or  
[dpcc@dorsetparentcarercouncil.co.uk](mailto:dpcc@dorsetparentcarercouncil.co.uk)  
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