



St Michaels Middle School Newsletter No.2

15th December 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians

THANK YOU! It's not been easy for anyone and although some families have been relatively untouched by COVID, for others the illness or the associated anxiety has made the last 12 months incredibly difficult.

By all metrics I have to judge things (school attendance, club attendance, assessments, behaviour etc) your children have been doing amazingly well. We even had an inspector in school last week to confirm our judgments about the excellence of pupils and staff in school. I recognise that the number of pupils experiencing anxiety or just finding things difficult has increased massively and our support teams in school have been stretched. The fact is, however, that even those students that feel they are struggling are doing well considering *there is a pandemic* affecting all our lives in ways that we have never had to address before.

People talk about 'getting back to' or 'normalising' or 'beating' but actually, as this latest wave of OMICRON is reminding us, sometimes we have to stop pretending or trying to be something and just accept this is the reality at the moment and everyone's best will look different.

So, I do mean THANK YOU to everyone, even those of you who think you're not coping as well, because in so many ways you are doing a great job of supporting your child at this difficult time.

Personal News

It is with a heavy heart that I am able to share with you that I will be leaving St Michael's in August 2022. I have had the privilege of being a headteacher for 23 years across 4 different schools. Whilst never easy, the job has clearly become ever more important so it hasn't been an easy decision for me to step away. That said, it will be the end of a wonderful chapter.

The 50th Anniversary of St Michael's Middle has shown that regardless of who the headteacher is, there is a core strength in the school that values 'each person, uniquely made in God's image' and therefore 'merits the best that we can give'. I am very confident, and time has proven it true, that the staff at the school carry that ethos forward through changes such as this. The Aspiration, Belief and Creativity in the school, all the way through the Academy Committee, Senior Leadership team, throughout the non-teaching and teaching staff and through the pupil population is excellent and makes leaving all the more difficult at this time.

I am encouraged that, as parents, you have the added assurance of the structures and support mechanisms in place within Wimborne Academy Trust. These will allow change to happen with an added security blanket of stability and continued high expectations for pupils' academic success and personal wellbeing.

The Senior Leadership Team at St Michael's firmly has its eyes set beyond the horizon, meaning there will be no let up on our aspirations for pupils and although there will be a recruitment process run by Wimborne Academy Trust in the new year, it is very much business as usual in school!

I am extremely grateful for the parents of St Michael's who have been on this journey with me over the last 9 years. The energy and passion of your children is a regular inspiration and gives me great hope for the future!

As a Christian I am prayerfully trusting God for my next steps. There is much for me still to do in life so I believe that taking a moment now to pause and reflect is both wise and important.

Christmas Service

We hope to send you details of how you can access our much reduced but no less joyous Christmas service soon. We expect this to be available online on Thursday and will send out links via parentmail.

School Closing

Please remember, as shared earlier this term, school will close at 1pm on Friday 17th December.

Tracking cases over Christmas/ Masks

We really want you to have the Christmas you hope for. Critical to this is being rigorous over the final days to ensure “**Hands Face Space**” principles are being followed both in school and outside. 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. Please make it part of YOUR MORNING ROUTINE to check your child has a mask unless your child is not exempt for medical reasons. I remind you of this because although we adopted the measure early, it is again now Government guidance.

The more care we all take the less likely anyone will be required to isolate over Christmas. All tracking and tracing is being done by NHS Track and Trace so if you have a positive case please make sure you follow the guidance they give you.

Christmas Boxes for Trussell Trust

I am delighted to say that we were able to prepare and give over 100 Christmas Shoeboxes this year which is a fantastic effort by all involved. It is absolutely clear from the feedback we get from volunteers at the Trussell Trust that these gifts will make a big difference to the families that receive them. You can find out more about the organisations involved and how the delivery works by following this link below:



https://www.fscinet.org/what-we-do/christmas-box-appeal/?_ga=2.213676948.1276305162.1639485777-265227730.1639485777

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

TERM DATES 2021-22

Spring Term 2022

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

	On site Test	Return to School
Year 5 and 6 Pupils	Tuesday 4 January 2022	Wednesday 5 January 2022
Year 7 and 8 pupils	Wednesday 5 January 2022	Thursday 6 January 2022

w/c 10th January – After school Clubs start

12th January – Year 7 Parents Evening

18th January – Year 7 Parents Evening

26th January – Careers Fair at QE School

Half Term Holiday Monday 21st – Friday 25th February

Pupils Return Monday 28th February

3rd March – KS2 Parents Evening

8th March – KS2 Parents Evening

Last Day of Term Friday 8th April

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)

w/c 20th June – Year 8 Activity Week

w/c 18th July – Year 6 Activity Week

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