



ST MICHAEL'S CE MIDDLE SCHOOL

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Newsletter No.2

Wednesday 17th September
2020

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Thank you so much for your help in making a safe return to school for all our pupils. This is a time of high anxiety for everyone and for some this can be overwhelming. The recent increase of cases across Dorset, albeit still relatively low, serves to remind us of the importance of taking care. In a classroom we are now asking staff to wear visors where the 2m rule can't be observed between staff and pupil. Obviously, it is not possible to keep pupils apart but we have fixed seating plans to reduce movement and no year group is sharing a room with another year group or in the rare occasions this does happen (e.g Food tech) we are completing a thorough clean. So far the separation between year groups is working well; one student said 'I haven't even seen my cousin in school yet'.

We have made changes at drop off and pick up time which seem to be helping. Can I please remind you that casual interactions within 1m or longer interactions within 2m need to be avoided- I appreciate the risk is lower in the outside environment but the 1m rule is particularly powerful at reducing risk even in this context.

I am attaching to this newsletter guidance from Public Health Dorset on how to respond if you think your child or someone in your 'bubble' has Covid symptoms.

Please follow this guidance before phoning school because we are not able to give advice other than what it says on the document.

Face Masks

Following guidance issued by Public Health England to QE School and updated guidance from the Government for all schools, please note that pupils are now required to wear masks on school transport (bus or shared taxi). The mask should be unbranded. The guidance relates to pupils at Secondary schools and as we are Middle deemed Secondary we will follow the same system of control. It is also the case that whilst Dorset Transport have isolated transport to each school there are of course siblings across schools and so this control measure is an added protection for our most vulnerable students and family members.

PNBS

A reminder parents need to sign the home-school agreement on page 6 and the acceptable use policy on page 100 of PNBS.

Reporting an Absence

If your child is unable to attend school due to illness or a medical appointment, you must contact the school daily before 9am.

You can report your child's absence through Parentmail, emailing the school office or leaving a message on the absence line (open 8am to 4pm) by phoning 01202 883433 press option 0.

If your child has a medical or dental appointment the school office will need to see an appointment card or medical evidence.

Collective Worship:

One of the big changes this year is not being able to meet together as a whole school. That said we are making great use of the technology and will be posting a sample of our Collective Worship on our website from time to time. Please go to our Collective Worship page in the About Us section of our website to see the latest offerings: <https://www.stmichaelsmiddle.org/page/?title=Watch+Collective+Worship+Videos&pid=147>

Clubs:

We are beginning to organise a programme of clubs and activities. Sadly, the amount will be much reduced but there will be quality opportunities for pupils. We will keep the year groups separate and almost all will be run on the same day pupils are wearing PE kit in order to avoid the use of the changing rooms. If there is a need to use a changing room it will be restricted to one year group and sanitised afterwards.

Boys Football Club and Girls Netball Club will be starting week commencing 28th September apart from Year 8 Boys Football which will be starting back on 22nd September.

Tuesday - Year 7 Football & Netball

Wednesday - Year 6 Football & Netball

Thursday - Year 8 Football & Netball

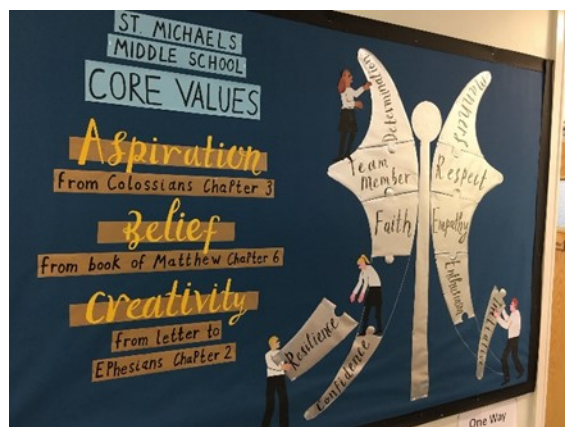
Friday - Year 5 Football & Netball

From Friday 2nd October Cross Country will run for all Year Groups on Fridays

To book your child on these clubs please log into Parentmail, go to Accounts and select the club and book the slots. If your child is going to be absent for one of the booked sessions please let the office know so we can inform the club leader. **All places must be booked in advance as we have to track attendance.** Any pupils turning up will not be admitted to the club and we will contact you to collect them.

Values:

At times like this values help to build strong foundations. Our new reception display would normally be on view to all but as that isn't possible I am sharing a picture here showing how our values are building St Michael. Our core values of Aspiration, Belief and Creativity seem to be coming to the fore as pupils have been so brave and determined in their learning already this term.



Breakfast Club & After School Club

If you would like to book a place on the Breakfast Club or After School Club you will need to complete a booking form which you can request via email from the school office.

Breakfast Club runs from 7.50am to 8.30am daily at a cost of £3 a session.

After School club will run from 3.15pm to 4.15pm daily at a cost of £5 a session, if attendance numbers increase this cost maybe reduced in the future.

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

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"> - Do not come to school - Contact school to inform us - Self-isolate the whole household - <u>Get a COVID-19 test</u> - Inform school immediately about the test result 	...the test comes back negative
...my child tests positive for COVID-19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Do not come to school - Contact school to inform us - Agree an earliest date for possible return. (Min 10 Days) - Self-isolate the whole household 	<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"> - Contact school to inform us - Discuss when your child can come back (same/next day) 	...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>