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St Michaels Middle School Newsletter No.9

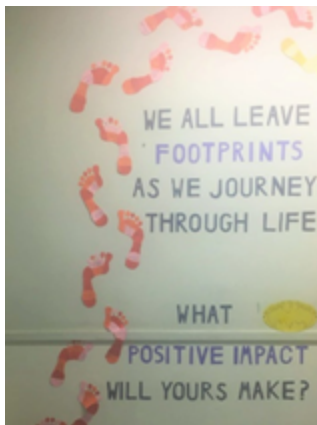
28th May 2021

Dear Parents,

Thank you for your help in maintaining COVID secure practices. We didn't know when we wrote our timetable this year what would follow but I'd like to thank Mr Wallis for his work on that and, indeed, all the curriculum team under Mr Andrews. I believe the decisions that were made, as complicated as it has been for teachers to re-plan and sequence content, have allowed us to keep the specialist opportunities running all year and we are seeing the fruit of that in some fantastic work in school.

Today we posted on Facebook a snippet of a song written by some Year 7 girls which captures a wonderful message to carry forward. It's different for everyone coming out of lockdown, and for some it's really hard, but we are glad to celebrate these girls' ideas and creativity as they can say 'It's a big world but we got this. I can get up with confidence'. Well done to Sophia Shaw, Leah Meade, Willow Hartley and Tia Ramswell.

Collective Worship



As well as maintaining our core curriculum, we are keeping our focus on helping young people establish themselves as impactful citizens of the world. Picking up the idea of the footprints, we leave behind, whether these are environmental, anti-racist, kindness in all its forms, and so much more, we have created this footprint display. On each of these feet, pupils have written ambitions for what they want to stand up for in their lives- these young people continue to inspire us.

Attention!

Do you use this word? At Badbury Rings yesterday I saw a parent trying to get the attention of their toddler... the toddler won! We have found recently that we need to work again with our students about this word.

On page 5 of our school addendum to the Trust behaviour policy (<https://www.stmichaelsmiddle.org/attachments/download.asp?file=376&type=pdf>) we talk about the prosocial behaviours we expect. We start by focusing on the positives and you will know from our recent communication about Epraise, we focus most on rewarding characteristics and values that align with our ABC (Aspiration Belief and Creativity). That said, we need to be consistent about the expectations we have and the consequences if pupils' behaviour is not in

keeping with our expectations.

Recently, we have noticed too many pupils talking for too long after they have asked for silence and/or concentration- typically about the work but just taking time away from the flow of the lesson. For that reason staff are going to use a common phrase: 'I would like your attention please' and at that point we will expect pupils to stop whatever they are doing and listen i.e. they put pens down and look towards the teacher. We think by using this common language pupils will be clearer about what is required.

Please can you help by reinforcing this language at home as we will be insisting on a perfect response to this including from pupils who otherwise are excellent in their work ethic but can be far to chatty.

Equipment

Also in the section on prosocial behaviours are details of uniform and equipment and it would be worth refreshing your knowledge of these. Specifically, our teaching practice of using mini whiteboards to check pupils' knowledge has been enhanced during lockdown so we will be continuing the practice going forward: we need pupils to always have a working **whiteboard pen**. Children without such pens take up valuable minutes each lesson asking to borrow one. Whilst I know for some families any cost is a concern, these allow us to immediately check pupils' understanding and misconceptions. They can be bought at most stores or online. If you group together with another family, buying in bulk is the most effective way. I would imagine across a year pupils are going to need at least 6 of these pens to cover for losses and wearing out. Some makes are refillable which is more environmentally friendly but these obviously cost more at the start (e.g. Pilot V Board Master Pens).

Uniform

We have been relaxed about uniform in the cold weather but that has, mercifully, come to an end. From now on:

- No coats need to be worn in classrooms.
- No hoodies/sweats in lessons- only school jumpers
- On PE days, only *unmarked* and *black* PE Kit will be allowed i.e. no more grey hoodies or fashion wear. If you find on the morning of PE your child does not have a school PE top, a plain white T-shirt will be acceptable but not football shirts or other branded sports wear.

Pupils wearing clothing with big logos or in colours other than black will be asked to remove or cover the items that don't fit. Our uniform details can be found here:

<https://www.stmichaelsmiddle.org/page/?title=School+Uniform&pid=23>

Finally, I wish you all a restful half term.

Mr Jenkinson

TERM DATES 2020-21

Summer Term 2021

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

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

Transfer Day (Year 4 & 8 to new schools) Friday July 2nd

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

TERM DATES 2021-22

Autumn Term 2021

Staff Training Days Thursday 2nd & Friday 3rd September (All Schools)

First Day of Term Monday 6th September

Half Term Holiday Monday 25th October – Friday 29th October

Staff Training Day Monday 1st November (All Schools)

Pupils Return Tuesday 2nd November Last Day of Term

Last Day of Term Friday 17th December (First and Middle Schools Only)

Spring Term 2022

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

First Day of Term Wednesday 5th January (First and Middle Schools Only)

Half Term Holiday Monday 21st – Friday 25th February

Pupils Return Monday 28th February

Last Day of Term Friday 8th April

Summer Term 2022

First Day of Term Monday 25th April

May Day Holiday Monday 2nd May

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)

Last Day of Term Friday 22nd July