



# Cranborne Middle School

A Specialist School

Headteacher: Mr R Stevens  
Assistant Headteacher: Mrs R Cain, Mr S Gillott



Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2021

Dear parents and carers,

Having today welcomed the entire school back from the summer break, I would like to extend this very warm welcome to you all for the new academic year. It has been a real pleasure to meet our new intake of year 5's, who have now had their delayed 'transfer day' and it is a particular pleasure to welcome parents and carers new to Cranborne Middle School. I sincerely hope that everyone is healthy and well and have managed to have an enjoyable summer break whether it has been a staycation or if you were fortunate enough to travel further afield.

Having had a very challenging 18 months, it is pleasing to be able to write this letter with an understanding that the government's latest guidance is to return schools to a sense of pre-covid 'normality'. There will continue to be a number of measures in place to ensure everyone is as safe as can be, which we have shared with the children today, and we will continue to make this our number one priority. We do however want to make everyone's educational experience as positive and as enjoyable as it can be and we are very excited to be able to return to routines such as holding whole school assemblies, offer more extracurricular opportunities and to be able to work in classrooms with fewer limits in place.

Throughout the last two academic years, I have been incredibly impressed with the maturity, patience and resilience shown by all of our students and for the unwavering support of the staff, parents and carers. We are now very excited to be able to work even closer again with the entire CMS community and to be able to look to plan for many of the added extras that the school offers that have been put on hold for the last couple of years. We will look to provide everyone with an update of these events in due course.

As well as welcoming the whole school back and our new year 5's, we are also happy to introduce a new member of staff to the team this year. Mrs Simmons has joined our teaching assistant team and we look forward to working closely with her and drawing upon her many years of experience working in a local Wimborne school.

As with every year, our focus will be to ensure everyone is settled into school and that everyone is supported with their learning. We will continue to have our high expectations and to look to push all children to achieve their full potential, both academically and as a citizen as part of the CMS community.

Every pupil has been given a new diary. Please take the time to familiarise yourself with its contents, some of which have changed this year. It contains lots of information and can therefore be a very useful tool if your child uses it fully. Don't forget that you can use it to write notes to the tutors or subject teachers. They can also be contacted by email via the 'contact us' page on our website – [www.cranbornemid.dorset.sch.uk](http://www.cranbornemid.dorset.sch.uk).

Communicating and working with parents and carers is a crucial part of what we do, making sure you get the correct information about activities, events and things that really matter. We encourage all parents to sign up for our ParentMail service as this is the most efficient way to receive information in a timely fashion, but we have printed letters for those unable to register. ParentMail will be beneficial to you because messages will be sent by email and, when needed, we can also send text messages directly to mums, dads and other carers to communicate important or occasionally last-minute information. We will endeavour not to bombard you with too many and will include most in our 'Friday Roundup'.

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Your child's education is always our priority, and we very much want to work with parents and carers collaboratively to help the children achieve their absolute best and to provide for them the best experience we can. Working in a school is not always an easy job, but please be assured that all staff will only ever do what they feel is best for any given situation. Staff will always willingly discuss any concerns or problems you may have, or will clarify anything you are unsure about, but will always be making a professional judgement on a situation in line with the schools' policies. Careful consideration will always be carried out before any decision is made.

Having had so much disruption over the last couple of years, attendance has never been so key to any child's success in school. Whilst it will of course be very tempting, like all schools and in line with legislation and Dorset Council guidelines, we are not able to authorise the majority of holidays undertaken during term times. There is a form that will still need to be completed if you do intend to go on a holiday during the school year and this can be found on the school website. We are again aiming as a school to hit our target of 96.9% attendance. There is a lot of research which has shown that children can drop an entire GCSE grade for every 10% of absence lost in their education. We appreciate illness can occur and whilst we don't want to make others unwell if it can be avoided, do please try and promote to your child the importance of regular attendance.

Thank you for sending your child into school looking so smart in our school uniform. Appearance is very important to a child's self-esteem and in helping them to feel a valued member of our well-respected community. It is important that this is maintained throughout the year and whilst we like to celebrate everyone's individuality, there is also a great importance of uniformity and looking smart. A guide to our school uniform is within your child's school diary. To assist in relocating lost items with their rightful owners, please could you ensure that all of your child's clothing is named.

There has again been a number of changes to the school over the summer break. As part of a drive to be a greener school and part of the national decarbonisation scheme, there has been considerable work undertaken to support this. LED lighting is now throughout the entire school, large aspects of our insulation has been improved throughout the school and there will be continued work in the autumn term regarding improvements to the heating and the installation of PV (photovoltaic) solar panels.

I would like to finish by thanking you in anticipation of your support as we work together to ensure your child has a great year at Cranborne Middle School. We will be welcoming you all to our 'Meet the Tutor' evening. This will take place at the end of September/early October, and we will update everyone in due course.

We really look forward to welcoming you all back into the school and to share each other's company and celebrate the successes of our children.

Yours sincerely,

Mr R. Stevens and all of the staff at Cranborne Middle School

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