

Allenbourn Middle School Newsletter

September 2022

Autumn Term - Issue Number 1



Headteacher: Mr M. Legge BEd (Hons) NPQH
Deputy Headteacher: Mr L Smith BA (Hons)

Headteacher Update

Dear Parents/Carers,

It is with real excitement that I write to you for the first time as a new academic year gets underway. It has been **wonderful to welcome all 575 children back to school** and I am **enjoying meeting them**. Children have returned to school looking **smart and ready for the challenges ahead**. After two disrupted school years, we look forward to **delivering a full curriculum** and seeing our children taking part in clubs and visits throughout the academic year. I am **very keen to meet families and build strong partnerships with you** in the coming weeks and months. We have many plans for the coming year as we **take our school forward**. In this first newsletter, we have much to share with you so please do take a few moments to share it together as a family.

Staffing Update



Mr M. Legge - Headteacher

As you may be aware, we start the academic year with **a new Senior Leadership Team**. I have been fortunate to have the opportunity to work

alongside **Mr Smith** in his role as **Deputy Headteacher** and **Mrs Prout, Lead Practitioner for Curriculum** since my appointment. We have now been joined by **Mr Lonnern** in the role of **Lead Practitioner for Achievement** and **Mrs Wheeler** has also joined our Leadership Team as part of her role as **Special Educational Needs Lead**.

I am also delighted to **welcome Mr Pressling** who has joined our teaching team and **Mrs Sydenham** who has joined us from Wimborne First School as our **Office Manager**.

Open Evening and Parent Evenings

We will be holding an **Open Evening for current and prospective parents on Wednesday 28th September**. Further details are available later in this newsletter. Please take the opportunity to visit us with your children and to share news of this event with families who have children in local First Schools.

We will also be holding **face to face Parent Evenings in the two weeks following the October half term**. On these evenings, you will have the chance to meet each of your child's subject teachers. Arrangements for these evenings and details for booking appointments will be sent home later this half term.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if we can support you in the coming weeks and months. We very much look forward to working with you throughout this academic year.

Kind regards

Mr M. Legge - Headteacher

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Our Visions and Values



We have **started the new academic year by reviewing our school's visions and values.** These will underpin much of the work that we do in school and we will regularly review these with the children making **links to their learning journey with us at Allenbourn Middle.** Our aim is to focus upon the three key areas above: **Academic Excellence, All Inclusive** and **Responsible Individuals** as we **aspire together @ AMS.**

Child Protection

Our Designated Safeguarding Lead with responsibility for Child Protection is: **Mr L Smith.**

The Academy Committee member with responsibility for Child Protection is: **Mr R. Dent.**

Our Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads with responsibility for Child Protection are:

Mr M. Legge, Mrs P. Skipp, Mr R. Wright, Mr C. Daw, Mr J. Fisk and Mr Hickson.

Our designated Teacher with responsibility for Looked after Children is: **Mrs P. Wheeler.**

IMPORTANT: Please ensure that **children do not bring nut based products into school.** Please also ensure that **children have a healthy snack for break time each day.**

Article 3: All organisations concerned with children should work towards what is best for each child.

Uniform Reminders

- All children are expected to come to school neatly dressed in school uniform.
- **Black shoes should be worn. No trainers, slip on or high heeled shoes should be worn.**
- Black or grey ankle/knee length socks or black or grey tights can be worn. No trainer socks should be worn.
- Children should **not wear a hoodie to school.** Instead they should wear a school sweatshirt and coat.
- Children are **not permitted to wear make-up or have any piercings** other than a single ear stud in each ear. Jewellery should not be worn to school.
- Children should **not wear expensive smart watches or Fitbit type devices** to school due to the costs associated with these items.
- Extremes of fashion of hair or clothing are neither acceptable nor appropriate during school time.

Uniform is considered to be a very important aspect of school life and is an indicator of a desire to set and meet high standards. Our uniform has been chosen with consideration of cost and accessibility for our families and we will continue to review this.

Parents who are in receipt of free school meals may apply for a school clothing allowance. Parents wishing to claim this grant should contact the school office.

Our School Uniform requirements:

- Plain charcoal grey or black regulation long school trousers, classic style below the ankle length or grey or black smart (school) shorts.
- Grey or black school skirt of knee length - tight skirts or skirts with slits are not suitable for school nor are ankle length skirts or short skirts. Fabric for skirts and trousers must be of polyester mix, a non-fade fabric, and not denim, cord or lycra.
- White plain cotton/polycotton school shirt with long or short sleeves – not polo shirts.
- School tie.
- Grey or black cardigan, V neck black jumper or Allenbourn sweatshirt.
- White, grey or black socks or black tights.
- Low heeled black, sensible shoes - not boots or trainers.

Please ensure that all of your child's school belongings are named.

Breakfast Club

Breakfast club runs from 7.45-8.40am, Monday - Friday in the school kitchen which is situated outside the main entrance to the school. **Bookings can be made directly on your ParentMail account** by logging in and navigating to accounts - breakfast club.

Bookings must be made at least 7 days in advance and sessions must be paid for at the point of booking. However, if you require a last minute booking, please call the school office and we will do our best to accommodate your request.

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IMPORTANT: We have been informed by **Caterlink, our meals provider**, that the cost of school meals has **increased to £2.60 from 8th September**.

Arriving at School Each Day

- **Children are now permitted to enter school via either of our two gates regardless of the year group that they are in.**
- Please can we remind you that **children should not arrive at school before 8:30am when our school opens**. Staff are on duty each day from this time. All children should go to the playground if they arrive at school before this time.
- When bringing children to school, please ensure that your child comes straight into school.
- Children walking to school should avoid crossing the Allendale Car Park where possible.

Improving Communication with Home

We are very keen to develop stronger links with our families and to ensure that you receive regular and timely information about school life.

We will **begin to update our website in the next week**, working to ensure that this contains useful information and news for our families. We will also **relaunch our Twitter and Facebook pages shortly**. Details on how to use class charts can be found below.

A newsletter will be sent home each half term. All messages, letters and newsletters will be sent home using ParentMail.

If you do not currently have a ParentMail account, please email the school office who will be happy to help you set one up.

Class Charts

In order to maintain regular communication with you about your child's progress, **we use Class Charts**. This is an online system used by teachers and support staff to track achievement and behaviour throughout the school day.

One of the key benefits of using Class Charts is that **we are able to securely share your child(s) accomplishments with you and to keep you up to date in real-time**.

Each child has a **unique Class Charts access code**. These, **alongside activation instructions, are being produced for all of our children in Year 5** and will be handed to pupils in letter form to share with you.

If you are a current Year 6, 7 or 8 parent/carer and have not yet activated your Class Charts account, please do not worry: simply contact your child's class tutor who will be able to send you your child's bespoke code and the set up instructions.

If you have any questions regarding the information reported to you via Class Charts, please do get in touch with your child's class tutor.

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Autumn Term Clubs

At Allenbourn Middle School, we are passionate about offering an exciting and diverse range of extra curricular activities. **Keep your eyes peeled for the Autumn term club list which will be published shortly via Parent Mail.** After school clubs will **commence in the week beginning 19th September.** Please encourage your child to sign up, get active and learn new skills!

The Essential AMS Pupil Equipment List

Please ensure that your child attends school with the correct equipment each day. Sometimes children miss out on valuable learning opportunities at the start of lessons as they arrive without the necessary resources for learning. We will always endeavour to support pupils who occasionally arrive without a piece of equipment for learning. As pupils progress through their Middle School years, the ability to organise themselves effectively for learning is an essential skill.

- A handwriting pen with blue ink (including a spare)
- A pencil case
- A pencil
- A pencil sharpener.
- A clear plastic 30cm ruler
- An eraser
- A glue stick
- A board pen
- A set of colouring pencils
- A purple, pink and green biro
- A highlighter



Open Evening

Please take the time to join us on **Wednesday 28th September between 5:30pm and 7:30pm.** Headteacher presentations will take place in the **school hall at 5:40pm and 6:40pm** You will have the opportunity to tour our school and to meet staff and pupils.

**Allenbourn Middle School
Open Evening**

Wednesday 28th September 2022



5.30pm - 7.30pm

Headteacher presentations at 5:40pm and 6:40pm

- Tour our school and meet our pupils and staff
- Visit subject departments, enjoy activities from across the curriculum and view a wide range of pupils' work
- There will also be an opportunity to arrange a tour during a school day
- Places currently available

Academic Excellence * All-inclusive * Responsible Individuals

For more information, please contact the school office on 01202 886728 or email office@allenbournmiddle.org

Allenbourn Middle School, East Borough, Wimborne Minster, Dorset BH23 1PS

WIMBORNE Academy Trust **ASPIRE @AMS** 

New Outdoor Gym Equipment

We are keenly anticipating the installation of new outdoor gym equipment for all children to use in lessons and during break and lunchtimes. Further details will be shared shortly. We also plan to work alongside the children to improve current resources for use at break and lunch each day.

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Did you Know? Curriculum @ AMS

You will shortly be able to view the Curriculum Overview for each Year group on our school website. Children will continue to participate in **whole class reading** and we will **refresh our use of Accelerated Reader, Tassomai and Hegarty Maths**. Children will complete STAR testing and **DEAR** (Drop Everything and Read) **sessions will be timetabled across the school week** for all children.

Allenbourn Middle School Curriculum Map 2022-2023						
Year 5						
Subject	Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2
English	Rain Player by David Wisniewski	The Explorer by Katherine Rundell	The Magician's Nephew by C.S Lewis	Jabberwocky by Lewis Carroll	Hidden Figures by Margot Lee Shetterly	Who Let the Gods Out? by Maz Evans
Maths	Place Value: Numbers to 1,000,000	Four Number Operations: Add, subtract, multiply and divide	Fractions, Decimals and Percentages	Geometry: Properties of shape	Measurement: Converting units of measure Area and Perimeter	Measurement: Volume Roman Numerals
Science	Properties & Changes of Materials	Properties & Changes of Materials	Living Things and their Habitats	Forces: Friction and resistance	Earth and Space	Animals including Humans
Art	Food & drink: Introduction to the Elements of Art Observational compositional drawing Observational painting inspired by chosen artist		South American Animals Observational drawing & material investigations Mixed-media animal piece and clay animal sculpture		Portraiture Observational self-portrait drawing Printmaking	
Computing	Introduction to Systems	Scratch	Spike	Spreadsheets	Logo	Hardware & History
Design Technology	Food Technology: Introduction to cooking Basic hygiene and safety		Tomes: 'Save the oceans' Zero-waste bag		Product Design: Basic practical skills and tools Wooden toys	

Please can you ensure that you continue to encourage and promote regular reading and engagement with Accelerated Reader from home.

The School Day

We will be **changing the timings of lessons across the school day from Monday 19th September**. This will mean that **children will have four lessons in the morning and only one afternoon lesson**. We will **start each day with whole class reading** and the school day will end with a tutor group session when assemblies, homework review and Accelerated Reader sessions will take place. Full details will be shared with children in assembly next week. **These changes do not affect the start and finish times of our school day.**

Maintaining Good Attendance at School

Our office staff will call home if a child is marked as absent in the register without a reason. This system is in place to ensure our pupils' safety and to give you peace of mind that they have arrived safely at school each day. It is obviously of paramount importance that we can account for the whereabouts of all pupils each day. Our answer phone is checked before calls are made each morning. Can I also remind you of the need to write a note in advance of any appointments that your child may have that require them to leave school during the teaching day. **Please contact the school on each day of your child's absence.**

It is vital that pupils attend school regularly throughout the school year. Good attendance at school is proven to impact significantly upon a pupil's progress. We will check our attendance figures regularly and write home to parents whose children are falling below an acceptable level. Please do not hesitate to contact your child's Class Tutor, Year

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Leader or Mrs Rose-Oldham, our designated Attendance Officer, if you are concerned about your child's attendance record. We are keen to recognise those individual pupils who maintain excellent attendance.

Please review the attendance information below.

This information is aimed at helping you to understand our whole school approach to ensuring regular attendance. We hope this will answer some frequently asked questions and reassure you of the importance of working with us to support children in maintaining good attendance.

Step 1 We will write to you when your child's attendance falls below 95%.

Step 2 If attendance does not improve, we will ask you to meet with your child's Year Lead and the Attendance Officer. This meeting is to enable us to work with you to plan for how we will support you to improve your child's attendance. A review period will be agreed with you and you will receive notes from this meeting.

Step 3 If your child's attendance still does not improve, you will then be invited to a Panel Meeting with the Deputy Headteacher and LA Attendance Officer where any decision to take action will be made.

Please maintain regular contact with school about any absence from school so we can support you and keep accurate records across your child's time at school. Statutory guidance states:

- Each school day contains two sessions and an attendance mark is awarded for each.
- Once your child's attendance figure is **below 90% they become a persistent absentee.**
- If your child is **absent due to holiday, a Penalty Notice may be issued.**
Note: A fine of £60 per pupil, per parent will be issued.

Pupil Safety

We regularly talk with the children about the importance of travelling to and from school safely. Please discuss the following with your children regularly to ensure their safety.

- **Behaviour should be of a high standard at all times.**
- Pupils should not use mobile phones whilst walking to school, particularly when crossing roads.
- Pupils must remain on pavements at all times and walk with care and consideration for others.
- Pupils using scooters or bikes should take care around other road users and those on pavements.
- Helmets should be worn on bicycles and scooters.

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Term Dates 2022 - 2023

Autumn Term 2022

Staff Training Day	Thursday 1st September
Staff Training Day	Friday 2nd September
First Day of Term for Pupils	Monday 5th September
Open Evening	Wednesday 28th September
Half Term Holiday	Monday 24th October - Friday 28th October
Parent Evenings	Tuesday 1st November
	Thursday 3rd November
	Wednesday 9th November
Staff Training Day	Monday 31st October
Pupils Return	Tuesday 1st November
Last Day of Term for Pupils	Thursday 15th December
Staff Training Day	Friday 16th December

Spring Term 2023

Staff Training Day	Tuesday 3rd January
First Day of Term for Pupils	Wednesday 4th January
Half Term Holiday	Monday 13th February - Friday 17th February
Staff Training Day	Monday 20th February
Pupils Return	Tuesday 21st February
Last Day of Term for Pupils	Thursday 30th March
Staff Training Day	Friday 31st March

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Summer Term 2023

First Day of Term for Pupils	Monday 17th April
May Day Holiday	Monday 1st May
Year 6 SATs Week	w/c Monday 8th May
Half Term Holiday	Monday 29th May - Friday 2nd June
Staff Training Day	Monday 5th June
Pupils Return	Tuesday 6th June
Last Day of Term	Friday 21st July