

Allenbourn Middle School Newsletter

November 2022

Autumn Term - Issue Number 2



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

Headteacher Update

Dear Parents/Carers,

I am pleased to be able to write to you as the new half term begins to reflect on an **exciting first half of the Autumn term** and to share news and updates from across our school. It was **wonderful to welcome so many families to school for our Open Evening** at the end of September. Our hall was **full for both of our Headteacher presentations and more than 300 visitors completed a quiz** as they toured school. We have also seen **impressive participation in our face to face parents evenings** that are currently taking place. Thank you for your positive support and engagement with our school community since the new academic year began.

First School Visits

We are very excited to continue to engage with the local community when we welcome classes from each of our feeder first schools to AMS to our **Science workshops** during the next half term. This will give **children in Year 4 the opportunity to experience Middle School** whilst taking part in exciting scientific challenges.

Staffing Update

I am pleased to share with you the news that **we have appointed Mrs Farrow as our Senior Admin Assistant** to join Mrs Sydenham and her team for the new half term. In addition to this, I am **delighted to share the news that we have appointed Mrs Henstridge as our new Art Lead** who will **take up the post in January**. As the half term ended, we said **goodbye to Mrs Gould** and I would like to take this opportunity to thank her for her contribution to our school and wish her all the very best. We have also said **farewell to Mrs Hunt and Mrs Moody who have left their role as Teaching**

Assistants. We send them both our best wishes for the future.

Senior Pupils and our School Council

Congratulations to **Irene, Georgina and Nicole in year 8** who, following interviews with Mr Smith and me, have been **appointed as our Senior Pupils for 2022 - 2023**. As well as leading the School Council, these pupils will attend Academy Committee Meetings and carry out a number of other roles. Most recently, they supported the interview process for our new Art Lead. Congratulations to all of our class representatives on our School Council. A full list of members for this academic year can be found later in this newsletter.

Report Cards

The first of your child's three report cards will be **sent home on Friday 9th December** using the current format. We will be making changes to these for the Spring and Summer terms.

Follow us on Facebook

We will be **relaunching our Facebook and Twitter profiles in the coming week**. We plan to use these platforms to celebrate success and news from across our school. Please take the time to follow us and to like and share news stories from AMS.

Children in Need

We will be holding a **(Spotty) Non-Uniform Day on Friday 18th November**. If family members or friends wish to donate to support this charity, we will **share a link via ParentMail to our 'Just Giving' page** closer to the date..

Kind regards

Mr M. Legge - Headteacher

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Our Visions and Values



We have continued to embed the use of our new **school's visions and values since the start of term**. A reminder that our aim is to focus upon the three key areas: **Academic Excellence, All Inclusive** and **Responsible Individuals** as we **aspire together @ AMS**.

Allenview Car Park - Contact made with Dorset LA

I have spoken to a number of families about the Allenview Car Park which many of our pupils cross as they arrive and leave school each day. It has been my pleasure to greet children each morning and to meet family members, if only to share a quick greeting as we go about our busy days. I do share **family concerns that a safe footpath across the carpark is not currently in place for our children**. We have **made initial contact with the Local Authority** who are looking to identify a route forward with this matter. We maintain regular contact with them and I will share news of any update with you.

Pupils with appointments during the school day

Please be aware that any **pupil who needs to leave the school site during the day** for an appointment **MUST be collected by an appropriate adult** (not a sibling of school age) **at reception** and signed out (and back in when returning to school). We also **require a written confirmation or telephone call to confirm arrangements** for these appointments to ensure that our attendance records are accurate and **all children are kept safe at all times**.

Did you Know?

Weekly Teaching and Learning Briefing

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

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Each week our teaching team participates in a **Teaching and Learning Briefing** led by Mrs Prout. We then **trial new strategies in class with students** before reflecting upon and sharing ideas and effective approaches. Last half term, one of the sessions focused on the most effective uses of **'Show me Boards'**, which every student has been supplied with since September, particularly to further develop student retrieval skills.

Our School Council 2022 - 2023

Year 5		Year 6	
5W	Annabelle	6H	Olly
5J	Albert	6Z	Ella
5G	Gabi	6P	Jasmine
5M	Mia	6R	Keyaan
		6C	Niamh
Year 7		Year 8	
7D	Jacob	8T	Max
7F	Harry	8Z	Charlie
7J	Elliott	8W	Alex
7K	Ryan	8D	Amy
7R	Jaya	8G	Darcie

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.**

In the News - A round up of the Autumn Term so far!

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

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The children have enjoyed a wide range of additional curriculum opportunities in the last half term. Here is a round up of some of these activities and we look forward to sharing details of future events shortly.

Year 5 Greek Day 2022 - Monday 17th October

Greek Day was really fun and helped me understand more about the Greeks. It was by far my favourite history day and has left me wanting to learn more. I think that I personally felt like a real Spartan warrior.

Our first lesson was philosophy, and we all learned about debating and how the Greeks came up with lots of our understanding of the world today. Mrs Judge and Mrs Giles did a debate about women's rights in Athens and the lesson was one of the best of the day!

Then, we learned about the Greek Gods and how the Ancient Greeks made sacrifices to them. We found out that each Greek god had animals linked to them. The most popular thing to sacrifice was an animal.

After break, we competed in Olympic sports with Mr Miller. The first sport was the discus. Next, we did the javelin - not a real one. After that, we ran a relay race with full armour. As we didn't have real armour, we had to put bibs on and hold a javelin.

Next, we had drama. We performed a play about the minotaur. First, we had to read the story and understand what it was about. Then, we had to get into groups and decide what character we were going to be. After that, we started rehearsing and getting a good idea of how the play was going to be.

For lunch, my Mum packed me a Greek-style meal with feta cheese, pitta bread and a Greek salad.

Finally, at the end of the day the winners of the Olympics and the best drama class competed and performed.



By Nicholas Braschi (5J)

I enjoyed Greek Day because there was something for everyone. If you are a sporty person, you would enjoy the Olympics. If you enjoy acting and drama, myths would be your thing. If you are a creative person, you would enjoy creating your own Greek God or Goddess. If you like questioning things, you would enjoy philosophy.

By Tilly Pretty (5W)

On Greek Day, it was so much fun! Firstly, we looked at Myths and Drama with Mr Wright and we acted out a play about the Minotaur and the brave Prince Theseus. After that, we did Philosophy with Mrs Judge about Plato. Then, we had a break and after that we went into Mrs Giles's classroom to learn about the Greek Gods & Goddesses. We also learnt that they sacrificed animals as gifts for the Gods & Goddesses. However, it would have to be a male animal for a God and a female animal for a Goddess. After that, there came the fun part. It was the Ancient Greek Olympics with Mr Miller, our own teacher! My favourite part was the relay races which Stour won.

By Alex Saunders Brennan (5M)

Mayflower Theatre Visit - Years 7 and 8 - The Lion King

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Our pupils in Years 7 and 8 enjoyed a **fantastic trip to a matinee performance of the West End Show 'The Lion King' when it visited the Mayflower Theatre** in Southampton. We were delighted to be able to provide this opportunity at a heavily-reduced cost to ensure that all of our pupils could take the opportunity to visit the theatre and enjoy a live performance. It certainly was exciting to welcome all six coaches back to school after this visit.

Year 5 and 6 Author Visit

In late September, we were delighted to **welcome award-winning author Anthony McGowan** to talk to Years 5 & 6 about his new novel, 'Dogs of the Deadlands'. It is set in the years after the Chernobyl disaster in 1986, when the dogs who were abandoned during the evacuation must survive in the wild and fight off a wolf pack. Anthony explained to us what inspired his writing and answered many questions from students who were fascinated by the real-life stories of survival behind the book. Anthony then generously spent a long time **signing books and talking to individual readers**. We are grateful to Gullivers Bookshop, through whom the visit was arranged, and who also supplied copies of the book for sale at a discount.



Yr 8 Careers Fair at Queen Elizabeth's School

Year 8 pupils were offered the **opportunity to visit the Careers Fair at Q.E. School** in October. This was an **excellent opportunity for our pupils to investigate career paths** that may interest them as well as to visit Queen Elizabeth's School. We are very grateful to Q.E. for providing such a high quality offer to our pupils. It was also **rewarding to take a small group of our pupils to Prezzo in Wimborne before visiting the Careers Fair**. Our thanks to Prezzo staff for their welcome and for subsidising our visit.

Year 6 Coding Day

Children from Allenbourn Middle School in Wimborne joined thousands of other Dorset school children for the **county's first ever Coding Day**. Organised by Dorset Council, BCP Council and Barclays Digital Eagles, Dorset Coding Day brought together 43 schools across the county, from Christchurch to Beaminster and from Gillingham to Portland. In addition, 25 local tech companies supported the event by offering their expertise to schools on the day.



The online event invited the children from years five, six and seven to take part in **an interactive 'code-along' session**.

To view the full press release visit:

<https://news.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/2022/09/27/breaking-the-code-to-a-successful-digital-future/>

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

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Wimborne Food Bank Collection - Harvest

Each of our houses made **amazing contributions to our Food Bank collection** by filling a shopping trolley each with donations. Mr Allen then delivered our multitude of items to **Wimborne Food Bank** on the last day of half term.

Year 8 Safer Schools Visit - Our **Year 8** pupils took part in a very valuable workshop on **Teenage Relational, Abuse and Consent Education**. This workshop was led by The **Safer Schools Police Team** and shares very important messages to support our children's learning in school and their P.S.H.E. lessons.

New Outdoor Gym Equipment

The children have really enjoyed our new outdoor gym equipment since it was installed at the start of term. This equipment was purchased using School Sports Funding and all children have been shown how to use this safely in their P.E. lessons. **We will be working with the school council to further improve our playground facilities** during this academic year.

A Night at the Musicals - We are really looking forward to sharing our **end of term Night and the Musicals production** with families and friends.. More than 60 pupils are working hard alongside Mr Smith and Mrs Faulkner-Davies to prepare for this event. Many hours of rehearsals have already taken place as our children gain a real insight into performance and drama ahead of their move to Upper School.

Did you Know? Curriculum @ AMS

You can view the Curriculum Overview for each Year group on our school website along with the Progression map for all curriculum areas.

Curriculum maps can be found in the '**Teaching and Learning**' section under the heading '**Curriculum Overviews**'.

Progression Maps for all subjects can be found in the '**Teaching and Learning**' section under the heading '**Curriculum Subjects**'.

Improving communication - Updating our School Website

We have made a number of improvements to our school website as we update content to ensure that it contains all of the information that you may need whilst ensuring that it meets the DfE requirements for a school website.

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

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IMPORTANT - School rules

We have been **talking with the students about some of our key school rules** in recent assemblies. Please can you discuss these with your children and ensure that you support in reinforcing these rules.

- **Inappropriate language will not be tolerated** and an after-school detention will be issued if used by a pupil.
 - **Chewing gum and any other sweets are not permitted in school.** Pupils chewing gum will be given an after-school detention.
 - **The use of mobile phones is not permitted at any time.** We will be taking steps this half term to collect mobile phones at the start of each day before returning them as the day ends.
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Uniform Reminders

As we return for the new half term, please can we draw your attention to the following uniform reminders.

- All children are expected to come to school neatly dressed in their 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.
 - A school skirt should be no shorter than 2cm above the knee.
 - Children should **not wear expensive smart watches or Fitbit type devices** to school due to the costs associated with these items.
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The Essential AMS Pupil Equipment List

A few reminders below about the equipment that your child should have in school each day. Please help to ensure that your child is ready to learn each day by attending lessons with the correct equipment.

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



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Term Dates 2022 - 2023

Autumn Term 2022

Parent Evenings	Tuesday 1st November
	Thursday 3rd November
	Wednesday 9th November
Report Card 1 sent home	Friday 9th December
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

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