Autumn Term
Issue Number 25
November 2026

ALLENBOURN MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Headteacher: Mr M. Legge BEd (Hons) NPQH
Deputy Headteacher: Mrs S. Prout BSc (Hons) NPQSL
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Headteacher Update

Dear Parents/Carers

A very warm welcome back to school as we return for the second half of the Autumn term. the academic year set off at a real pace and the children have enjoyed real success taking part in a wide range of clubs and activities as the children have quickly settled into new routines and their studies. It was **wonderful to welcome 600 visitors to school for our recent Open Evening** with more than **150 of our children** supporting this fantastic event where we are able to showcase our school to the wider community. A **reminder to our Year 4 families that places for September 2027 are now available via Dorset and BCP admissions** and families are **encouraged to complete this process as soon as possible**.

Staff Update It was fantastic to share the news of Mrs Prout's appointment as our new Deputy Headteacher shortly before the half term break. Mrs Prout has quickly settled in her new office and I am sure you will join me in congratulating her upon her new position at Allenbourn Middle. We will be placing an advert for a Lead Practitioner to join our Senior Leadership Team in the coming days. Please do reach out to the Senior Leadership Team and Year Leads should you require our support.

SAVE THE DATE

Smartphone Free Childhood Dorset - We are delighted to share the news that we have been **collaborating with SmartPhone Free Childhood Dorset** to organise a **Middle School information evening that will be hosted at Allenbourn Middle School on Tuesday 2nd March 2027**. Guest speakers will including David Sidwick, Dorset's Police and Crime Commissioner, Dr Helen Thomas, a GP, and Andrew Wilmot, a technology expert and host of the Dopamine Slot Machine podcast. Speakers will share their insights into the impact of screen use on our children's mental and physical health, behaviour and safety.



Attendance - I am very grateful to our families for working so proactively with us to improve their child's attendance at school. This alongside rewards and extra curricular opportunities is supporting our children's sense of belonging and resilience. I would like to remind our families of your responsibility to ensure that your child attends school regularly. Now that we have completed the first half term of the academic year letters will be sent home for all children with an attendance figure below 95%, our minimum expectation for secure attendance. Please be aware that any absence below this figure is likely to be unauthorised without clear medical evidence being provided. Our aim is to ensure that all of our children maintain strong attendance at school and that you are well informed. **Your child's Year Lead will be in contact with you if your child's attendance at school is not of an acceptable level**.

We are very grateful for your support and engagement across our two recent parent evenings. Looking forward, **children are invite to wear the uniforms for organisations outside of school such as Scouts and Guides to mark remembrance on Wednesday 11th November**. Please join us as **we perform at the Christmas Light switch on in Wimborne on Saturday 28th November** ahead of **our Christmas Concert at Wimborne Minster on 30th November**. We will then be holding our **Christmas Discos** (with inflatables) **on Thursday 3rd December**. I am very much looking forward to seeing you throughout this half term.



Kind regards
Mr M. Legge - Headteacher

New Local School Committee members - We are delighted to welcome Mrs Hobson, Mrs Barrett and Mrs Walker to our Local School Committee this half term.

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

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Our School Values - Apsire@AMS

Our school's values underpin much of the work that we do in school and we regularly discuss 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 of: **Academic Excellence**, **All Inclusive** and **Responsible Individuals** as we **aspire together @AMS**.



2026 – 2029
Rights Respecting Schools
UNITED KINGDOM
unicef
Gold
Rights Respecting

Did you know?
We achieved Gold RRS status in July 2026

Child Protection



Our **Designated Safeguarding Lead** with responsibility for Child Protection is:
Mr M. Legge (pictured right)

The Academy Committee member with responsibility for Child Protection is:
Mr K. Jess.



Our Designated Teacher with responsibility for Looked after Children is:
Mrs L. Burley.

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

Mrs Skipp (pictured right), **Mr Wright**, **Mr Stroud**, **Mr Daw**, **Mr Hickson** and **Mrs Burley.**

Did you know?

This academic year ends for children on Friday 16th July 2027

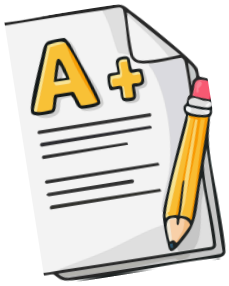
Term dates and training days for 2027 - 2028 are also now available to view on our school website.

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DON'T FORGET

The first of three report cards for this academic year will be shared via Arbor on Friday 11th December 2026.

APPLICATION REMINDER 2027

September

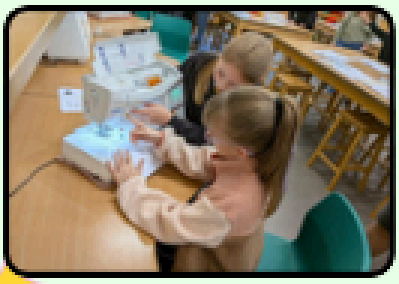
ALLENBOURN MIDDLE SCHOOL

Academic Excellence All Inclusive Responsible individuals

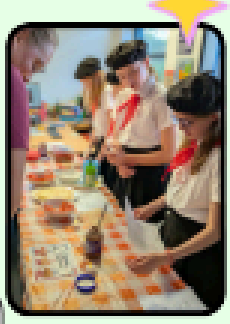
Inspectors report that pupils have **"exceptionally positive attitudes towards their learning"**.

Judged to be **"outstanding" for personal development** and for **behaviour and attitudes**

OFSTED 2025







If you live in BCP, applications for a place with us for September 2027 - Open on 2nd November 2026
We expect places to fill quickly, please make a note of this important date.
Applications for Dorset residents are already open.

ASPIRE @AMS

more info: office@allenbournmiddle.org

odd socks day

We will be **encouraging all children to celebrate difference** on **Monday 16th November** by **wearing odd socks to school** to mark the **start of Anti-Bullying Week**.

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In the News

Year 7 Football - English Schools National Cup Round 1

On a blustery afternoon in Weymouth, the Y7 team led by new Captain Harry G returned home victorious in Round 1 of the National Cup after a nail biting encounter with Budmouth Academy. Taking an early lead against the wind through Jacob H, Allenbourn felt they were in control. Unfortunately due to the strong wind against us, the home team equalised on the stroke of half time. After a few tactical tweaks, Mr Williams sent the team back out with the wind behind them and Allenbourn regained the lead halfway through the half. Goalkeeper George M launched a kick from his hands, the ball bouncing over everyone and hitting the crossbar before Jacob H followed in to tap home. Changes were aplenty with legs becoming tired and Mason D, Joel P and James P all putting in an excellent shift and Tommy D earning the PoM award. With the clock ticking down, Jacob H completed his hat-trick (but he wasn't allowed to keep the match ball) and the game was nicely wrapped up with debutant Melik A finishing the game with another tap in to end the game 4 - 1 Allenbourn and send us into the hat for Round 2.





Year 7 AFC Bournemouth Premier League Inspires Festival

A wonderful squad of pupils attended the annual Premier League Inspires Festival at Ringwood Community Hub hosted by AFC Bournemouth this half term. The group played three games during the day as the "Allenbourn Allstars" where they won 4-1 and 3-0 vs The Bourne Academy before narrowly losing to a very strong Priestlands School. The group then received a No Room For Racism Campaign Workshop from AFC Bournemouth Community Coaches A fantastic experience for all and some notable performances during the day from Harley D, Caleb H, Nazeeh K, Dougie C, Oscar R and Joel F.



We will **mark remembrance on Wednesday 11th November** as a school prior to our whole school assembly in the afternoon. We will also be **joining the community to mark this event on Sunday 8th November**

Did you know? Allenbourn Middle School currently holds the highest level of School Games Award. We are a Platinum Award school, This status is awarded to schools who have consistently maintained the Gold Award status for four consecutive years.

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Year 8 Football Allenbourn visited Dorchester Middle School in the County Cup A

After their exit in the English Schools cup the previous week. With some tight defending in the early stages and some good goalkeeping from Jackson T the game remained goalless halfway through the first half. That was until Dan D hit a post from the edge of the area. This sighter was followed up with a cool finish from a similar range to give Allenbourn a 1-0 lead. This was to be the only goal of a tense encounter as both teams cancelled each other out for the remainder of the game. Notable performances came from Ryley M, Jacob T and Bailey F.



We are a Gold Rights Respecting School

Following our assessment in July, we have been awarded Gold Rights Respecting Schools status by UNICEF UK. This prestigious award is currently held by just one other school in Dorset and celebrates the hard work of our whole school family - pupils, staff, and parents.

This award celebrates our whole-school commitment to putting children's rights at the heart of everything we do. It recognises how our pupils understand their rights, respect the rights of others, and actively contribute to creating a safe, inclusive, and supportive environment for everyone. We feel so proud of our school.



Our Harvest Food Bank Collection



Thank you to our wonderful school community for your overwhelming generosity with donations for Wimborne Food Bank!

Your donations will make a real difference to those in our local community who need a little extra help.

Queen Elizabeth's School

Many congratulations to the following children who have secured a place in **Queen Elizabeth's School Production of Les Miserables** in the Spring term. We are very grateful to our colleagues at QES for this oppprtunity. **Agnes, Caspian, Marlie, Polly, Annabel, Arabella, Beatrix, Cici, Darcey, Heidi, Imogen, Leila, Poppy, Robbie** and **Ronnie**.



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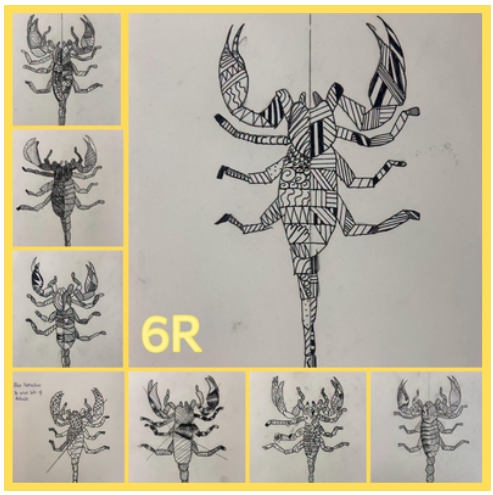
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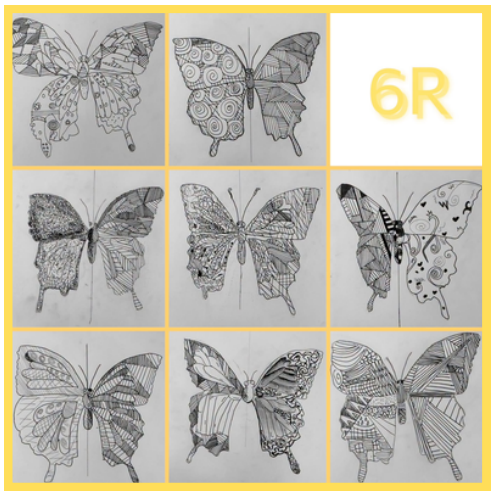
ALLENBOURN MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

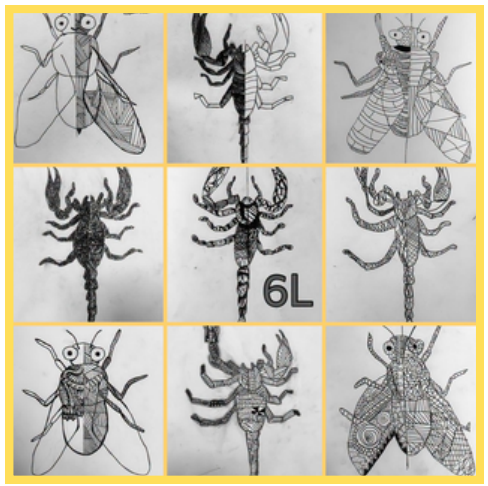
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This half term, **our Year 6 pupils have been exploring pattern** to create their own **intricate insect** drawings. **Inspired by the work of artists Allison Kunath Design and Alex Konahin**, pupils have experimented with line, detail and pattern to produce these wonderful outcomes. We're so impressed with their creativity and the detail they've captured in their work. **Well done, Year 6!**



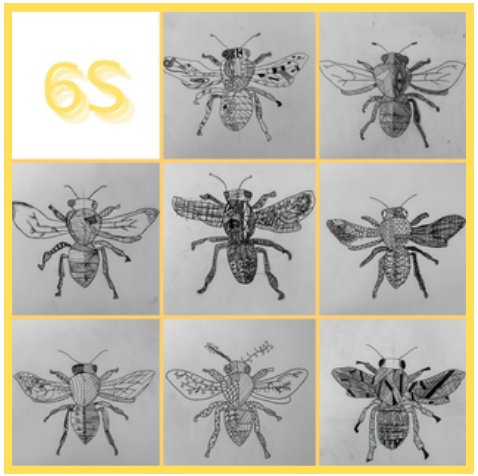




Year 7 have been creating these striking **Notan-inspired compositions** in Art this half term! Pupils have shown **great imagination and creativity**, with many choosing to give their designs a spooky Halloween theme.







Our Local School Committee

Mrs J. Perrett - Chair	Mr Graham - Vice Chair	Mr K. Jess
Mrs S. Hobson	Mr M. Legge	Mrs H Walker
Mrs Barrett	Mrs Diment	Mrs Serkis - Clerk

Did you know? Year 8 will take part in their **enrichment week in the week of 26th April 2027. Places on our London residential are now filled** with **places still available on our in school enrichment offer**.

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ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY

OUR STAFF ARE HERE TO SUPPORT YOU.
THEY MUST FEEL SAFE, RESPECTED AND SUPPORTED TOO.
DISCRIMINATION, HARASSMENT AND ABUSE WILL NOT BE TOLERATED.

1. Treat all members of our community with respect and politeness.
2. Listen to others and address concerns through appropriate channels.
3. Act as positive role models for all children and young people.

WE DO NOT TOLERATE:



VIOLENCE



DISCRIMINATION



HARASSMENT



ABUSE

WE APPRECIATE YOUR COOPERATION IN MAKING OUR SCHOOL A SAFE, POSITIVE AND INCLUSIVE ENVIRONMENT FOR EVERYONE.

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Our Curriculum Maps and Overviews 2026 -2027

Please take the opportunity to review our Curriculum Maps and Overviews for each year group on our school website using the links below.

Curriculum Maps 2026 - 2027

Did you know?
You can view your child's timetable on the Arbor App



We are pleased to announce that our new Pavilion steps are nearing completion to enable the children to make use of these facilities during this half term.

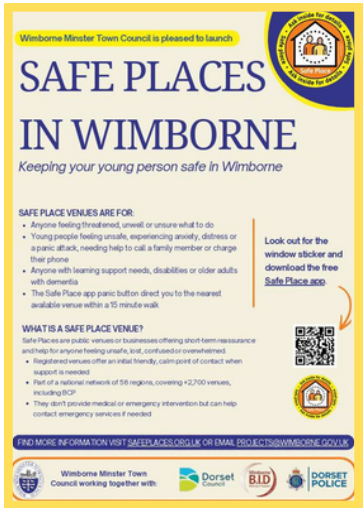
Wimborne Minster Town Council has launched the Safe Places National Network scheme to provide safe, welcoming places for anyone who feels vulnerable, unwell or needs help.

Safe Places can support:

💚 Young people feeling unsafe or anxious
💚 Anyone needing to contact family or charge their phone
💚 People with learning support needs, disabilities or dementia.

Look out for the Safe Places sticker in participating venues.

For more information, visit safeplaces.org.uk or email: projects@wimborne.gov.uk.



The Essential AMS Pupil Equipment List - Get set for September 2026

Please ensure that your child attends school with the correct equipment each day.

Below is a quick reminder of the items that they need for each day:

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 and a highlighter.



You can purchase essential equipment packs via the Arbor shop for £4.00

Did you know? Children in Year 4 from each of our local First School's will be visiting AMS this half term to take part in textiles and food workshops.

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The Children are really enjoying active play at lunchtime with the support of our Year 8 leaders. Over the summer we installed a new games shed for the children to use at lunchtime to support this new initiative.

Attendance Matters and reporting your child's absence

Allenbourn Middle School - Website Attendance page link



Our whole school attendance figures continue to improve steadily and pupils' attendance at Allenbourn Middle is above the National averages. Thank you to all of our families for your ongoing support. We remain keen to see further required improvement. It is **vitally important that children are in school as often as possible**.

We ask for your support **ensuring that your child attends school everyday** unless there is a very clear reason for absence. Please review the link on our school website on how to report your child's absence.

IMPORTANT: Essential uniform reminders School Uniform at AMS

- **Children are not permitted to wear branded trainers to school.** This change was made for September 2023.
- Skirts must be pleated and should be no more than two or three centimetres above the knee.
- Children are not permitted to wear make-up or jewellery to school.

Our Shoe Shop - Shoes borrowed by 9:00am - Leave your trainers in the numbered shoe box - Returned at 3:10pm - Clean and cared for - 20p per day after 2 week loan - **Compulsory**



ACTION REQUIRED - From 1st Sept 2026, the Government has expanded access to Free School Meals to all children and young people from households receiving Universal Credit. **Click here to apply .** More information can be found on our school website by clicking **here**.



Did you know? E-Praise - Attendance Points - Every week!

Each week children with 100% attendance will be awarded 25 bonus points to spend on E-Praise rewards. That is an extra 250 points for every 10 weeks with 100% attendance at school. Every lesson the children attend earns them a point to spend on E-Praise.

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Did you Know?

Children can use our **Pupil Worry Button** that can be found on our school website (see above). This provides all of our children with the opportunity to share a concern with a Designated Safeguarding Lead to enable staff to best support your child. Children in Years 5 and 6 also have a Worry Monster in their classroom that they can add notes to for their teacher. The children are regularly reminded about this in our whole school assemblies.

Important Mobile phone reminder:

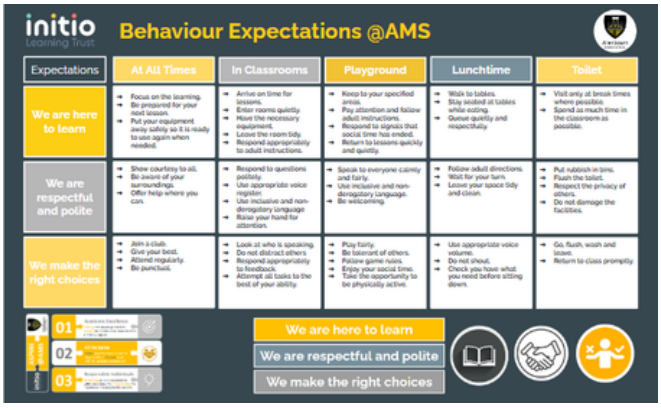
Pupils are required to **turn their mobile phone off as they enter our school each day** and these **must be handed in** and **secured in their class phone box** for the day. Any pupil found with their mobile phone turned on or in their possession during the school day will be issued with an after school detention.

Behaviour Expectations @AMS

We continue to **teach our children how to conduct themselves** as they grow to be articulate and responsible young people. We value our partnership with home and all of our families' support to ensure that we work together to reinforce our behaviour expectations. This will ensure that our school is the very best environment for our children to learn and grow in. Please take time to review these expectations with your child from time to time. A link to our behaviour procedures is available below (and on our school website) for you to review together.

[AMS Behaviour Guidance]
[Trust Behaviour Policy]





Did you know?

You can now make a voluntary donation to school funds when you visit the shop in the Arbor App. There is no expectation or any family to make a donation. All contributions will be used to support trips and visits across the school year.

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look



Did You Know?

We have been recognised for our overall Key Stage 2 attendance improvement from 2024/25 to 2025/26 which was in the top 25% of all FFT primary schools nationally.



Open Evening 2026





Did you know? Year 6 SATs information evening is being held at 6:00pm on Wednesday 11th November 2026

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IMPORTANT: Please ensure that children do not bring nut or sesame seed based products into school. This includes Nutella spread. Please also ensure that children have a healthy snack for break time each day and remind them of the importance of reducing packaging and keeping our school tidy.

Pupil Safety and Conduct in our Community

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**.

E-Praise Reward Shop - It has been fantastic to see our children making such great use of the **E-Praise App to spend their House Point**s. Please log in alongside your child (They know how to do this) to chat about the information they can see and to encourage them to use their House Points this term. Last term children used these points to earn non uniform days, to attend workshops or to visit Costa Coffee.

epraise.co.uk
The award winning school rewards system

Communication with Home

Don't forget to sign up to the Arbor App! We continue to work hard to develop strong links with our families ensuring that you receive regular and timely information about school life. We have also started to use In App Messaging to communicate home.

Currently more than **97% of families have signed up**. If you have not completed this process or are yet to receive a link, please email the school office to be set up.

Use of our school car park

Please can parents ensure that they drive with real care and park responsibly in designated bays when using our school car park. Cars must not obstruct the bus parking area at the start or end of each day. Our car park operates a one way system and we expect all families to support this at all times.

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Peripatetic Music lessons Many children benefit from peripatetic music lessons through the school year. These are offered to all children across a variety of instruments. Please speak with Mrs Moskova or click on the following link **CLICK HERE** if you would like more details.

Arriving at school each day - Your support is needed.

Allenbourn Middle School opens at 8:30am, with registration taking place for all pupils at 8:40am. Whilst we are keen to encourage excellent punctuality, can we please ask for your support in ensuring your child **does not arrive at school too early in the morning**. Duty staff are not in place until 8:30am when the school officially opens. **Prior to 8:30am the playground and other external facilities are not monitored by staff.** Should you require morning child care, our breakfast club provision starts from 7.45am and is currently able to be booked on Arbor 24 hours in advance.

Extra Time @ AMS - Book now for Autumn 2026!

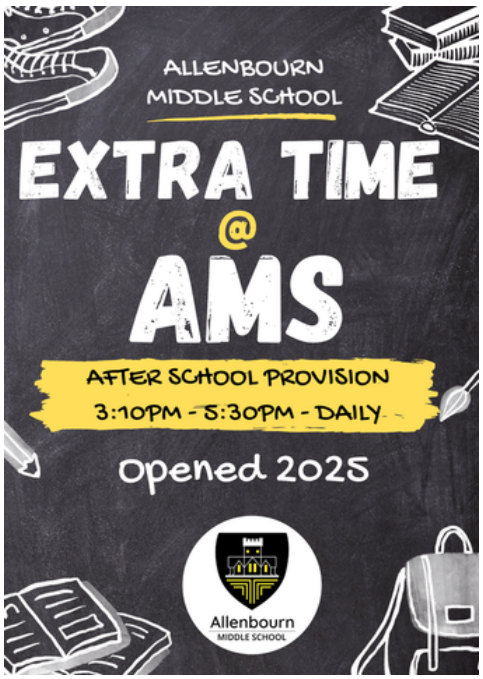
Extra-time @AMS continues to go from strength to strength and it is great to see this additional provision being used by more and more of our our families.

Mrs Fielder leads our programme of activities and we are keen to see more families making use of this provision.

Extra-time@AMS now has two sessions:
Homework club runs between 3:10pm - 4pm and a full session runs from 3.10pm - 5:30pm. The club operates Monday to Friday during term time, excluding training days.
Children do not have to attend every evening and families may wish to attend for one or two evenings each week.

Each evening children will have the opportunity to complete homework and learning tasks, complete games and arts and crafts whilst also attending other school clubs and interventions.

Places can be booked on Arbor 24 hours in advance or by contacting the school office for last minute bookings.
Please click here for full information: Wraparound Care



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Key Dates

Autumn Term 2026

Children return to school	Tuesday 3rd November
Parent Evening 2	Thursday 5th November
AMS Online Safety Day	Friday 27th November
PTA Christmas Disco	Thursday 3rd December
Report Card 1 sent home	Friday 11th December
Last day of Autumn Term	Friday 18th December

Spring Term 2027

Staff Training Day	Monday 4th January
Children return to school	Tuesday 5th January
Last day of half term	Friday 12th February
Children return to school	Monday 22nd February
Smartphone Free Childhood - Dorset Event	Tuesday 2nd March
Staff Training Day	Thursday 25th March
Easter Holidays	Friday 26th March
Children return to school	Monday 12th April

Summer Term 2027

Year 8 Enrichment Week	W/b 26th April
Bank Holiday	Monday 3rd May
Year 6 SATs Week	W/b 10th May
Last day of half term	Friday 28th May
Children return to school	Monday 7th June
Sports Day	17th and 18th June
Transfer Day 2027	Friday 25th June
Matilda the Musical	W/b 28th June
Year 6 Buddens Residential Week	W/b 5th July



You can find our term dates for 2027 - 2028 on our school website by following this link: Term Dates



Careers @ AMS

If you feel that you could spare 20 minutes to come and talk to Year 7 & 8 about your career, please could you contact Mr Pressling at **mpressling@allenbournmiddle.org** in the first instance. It doesn't matter what you do for a living, you could inspire a child to consider a career they have never thought of.

A **big thank you to Mrs Lopes** for talking to the children about their role as a CBT nurser for the **NHS**. We are looking forward to **Mrs Munnings** visiting to talk to us about **engineering!**

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