



Headteacher Update

Dear Parents/Carers

I am delighted to write to extend a very warm welcome to all of our families as the children return for the new academic year.

We have enjoyed a very positive start to the new term with **children looking very smart in their uniforms** (please review our key uniform requirements later in this newsletter and be reminded that **branded trainers are not permitted**. Children wearing branded trainers will be expected to use our shoe shop each day until a suitable pair of shoes are provided). The children and our staff team are ready to embrace the excitement and challenges that a new school year brings. In this newsletter you will find important updates and reminders, links to important letters and documents and our **'One stop guide to the new school year'** section can be found later in this newsletter. As always I would encourage you to read this newsletter as a family, talking with your child about opportunities and expectations at AMS. I would particularly like to draw your attention to the **curriculum overviews** for each year that have been produced to provide you with a little more detail about what children learn each term.

Welcome to AMS

We have enjoyed **welcoming our new Year 5 cohort** to school along with a number of children in other year groups as we have returned. It has also been wonderful to **welcome Miss Parkin** who has joined our Year 5 teaching team and **Mr Whitbread** our **new Site Manager**. During this half term we will be completing the recruitment process for our new Deputy Headteacher. **Mrs Prout, Miss Chadwick and Mrs Burley each have additional Senior Leadership capacity this term to support our families alongside our Year Leads**. Please do reach out to us as a team should you require our support.

We are a Gold Rights Respecting School - I am delighted to share the news that following our assessment in July **we have been awarded Gold Rights Respecting Schools status by Unicef**. This prestigious award is currently held by just one other school in Dorset.

Summer School Improvement Work - We have worked really hard over the Summer break to make **further improvements to our school**. Alongside numerous maintenance projects, our **pavilion steps are being replaced**. We have also **installed scooter pods** near our bike shed, **installed a games shed for use at lunchtime** and purchased resources for this along with **new basketball backboards for the playground**. We have **repainted our school hall, library, our main corridor and other key areas** of our site. Some **classroom desks have been replaced** and we have **removed benching in some key classrooms** to provide an **improved learning environment for the children**.

Attendance - We made **clear progress with our whole school attendance figure last year** especially in the Autumn and Spring terms. Unfortunately our Summer term attendance did not sustain the progress we had made together. **Strong attendance at school is vital to your child's future success and growth**. All families will receive a copy of our **attendance letter 1 alongside this newsletter setting our expectations for the new year** and reminding families of our partnership to support all children. Throughout the year, **if your child misses sessions at school and triggers are reached further letters will be sent. These letters will be automated and sent via Arbor**. 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 regular contact with you if your child's attendance at school is not of an acceptable level**.

I am very much looking forward to working with you all to support our children.

Kind regards

Mr M. Legge - Headteacher



Open Evening 2026 - We are looking forward to welcoming families to our Open Evening on **Thursday 1st October**. Please save and share the date with family and friends.

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



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**.



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?

You can view our term dates and training days for 2026 –2027 on our school website. The academic year ends for children on **Friday 16th July 2027**

ALLENBOURN MIDDLE SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

Headteacher: Mr M. Legge BEd (Hons) NPQH
Aspire @AMS



Allenbourn Middle School Year Teams 2026 – 2027



Senior Leadership Team:

M. Legge - Headteacher
Deputy Headteacher - *To be appointed for January 2027*
Mrs S. Prout - Lead Practitioner
Miss S. Chadwick - Lead Practitioner
Mrs L. Burley - SEND Lead

Year 5	
5W	Mr R. Wright (Year Leader)
5J	Mrs J. Judge
5M	Mr C. Miller
5P	Miss C. Parkin
5B	Mr O. Balmer

Year 6	
6S	Mr A. Stroud (Year Leader)
6L	Mr G. Lowry
6R	Mrs C. Randall/Mrs E. Raccagni
6Z	Mrs S. Hazell/Mrs S. Darragh
6G	Mrs E. Giles

Year 7	
7D	Mr C. Daw (Year Leader)
7P	Mr M. Pressling
7J	Mrs C. James/Mrs K. Moskova
7W	Mr G. Williams

Year 8	
8H	Mr C. Hickson (Year Leader)
8T	Mr R. Trim
8Z	Mr M. Hazell
8R	Miss H. Rushent

LSC member vacancy – Our Local School Committee plays a vital role supporting and influencing school improvement, promoting our school distinctiveness and contributing to the success of our school alongside Senior Leaders and Trust colleagues. We currently have a **parent vacancy** as we **seek local expertise to support and guide us**. If this role interests you please **click here** to review the letter and do not hesitate to **contact Mr Legge or Mrs Perrett LSC Chair** for details of this exciting role.



Did you know? Year 8 will take part in their **enrichment week in the week of 26th April 2027**. Children will have the opportunity to take part in our **London residential visit** or to sign up for a number of school based activities. Planning is well underway and we hope to share further details to enable families to secure a place before half term.



ALLENBOURN MIDDLE SCHOOL

OPEN EVENING

Thurs 1st October

Ofsted 2025

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

Judged to be "outstanding" for personal development and for behaviour and attitudes making it one of the strongest Middle Schools regionally and nationally.

**Academic Excellence
Responsible Individuals**

All Inclusive



**5:30pm
-
7:30pm**

Headteacher Presentations

5:35pm and 6:35pm

Tour our school, meet our pupils and staff and discover our exciting curriculum in our inclusive and welcoming environment.

Take the opportunity to arrange a tour during the school day.



Aspire@AMS

Contact us: 01202 886738 office@allenbournmiddle.org



Our one stop guide to the new academic year

As the school year begins we always have a number of important letters and documents to share with our families.

Below are links to a number of documents and letters that are located on our school website.

If you require any support with any of these documents or reminders please do not hesitate to contact the school office.

As always this Newsletter contains links to a number of other documents and policies as part of individual items. Please do take time to review these.

OUR USEFUL ONE STOP GUIDE

[Whole School Attendance Letter](#)

[Homework Letter 2026 – 2027](#)

[Year 7 RSE Letter](#)

[Year 8 Long way down letter](#)

[Curriculum Maps 2026 – 2027](#)

Did you know?

You can view your child's timetable on the Arbor App

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? Caterlink our school kitchen provider have notified us that they have increased the price of a meal deal to **£3.21**. The new price list is on our website.



In the News

A huge congratulations to all of the performers involved in our **Summer Soiree concert in July**. You performed beautifully and confidently, and represented our school so well. We were especially proud of how respectfully you conducted yourselves throughout the evening, especially in the very warm conditions! The concert was a fantastic opportunity for our musicians to showcase the hard work they have undertaken throughout the year. From solos and duets to a diverse range of ensembles, the programme featured a wonderful variety of genres and styles, with something for everyone to enjoy. Thank you to all of our performers for your hard work, dedication, and commitment—you should all be incredibly proud of yourselves.



Celebrating Year 6 Creativity

Inspired by contemporary artists Yellena James and Sarah Jane Gordon, pupils explored organic forms, fine detail, and analogous colour palettes to create their final paintings.

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.





Our **Year 5** children have thoroughly enjoyed their **trips to the Ancient Technology Centre**. Children learned about Anglo Saxons and also Vikings in preparation for Year 6. Throughout the day the children enjoyed a blacksmithing session, had fun working with textiles – natural dying, wool processing and used a rigid heddle loom. Everyone had a fantastic time.



Year 5 Jungle Paintings A huge well done to our Year 5 pupils!

All jungle paintings are **inspired by Henri Rousseau** (who, amazingly, never actually visited a jungle!) Following in his footsteps, the pupils used their imaginations, exploring mixing their own tints, tones, and shades to create their layered jungle plants.



We were incredibly proud of our pupils, Chris, Willow and Immy, who, along with Mrs James, represented Allenbourn at the Global Fair in Wimborne. They were fantastic ambassadors for our school and did a wonderful job throughout the day. It was a brilliant, free, family-friendly event held in the beautiful Walford Mill Crafts courtyard. Thank you to everyone who came along and supported the event!





On a glorious sunny Friday, **our AMS Year 8 Sports Leaders** visited Witchampton CE First School to support their annual Sports Day. The pupils did a fantastic job organising and leading a variety of team and track events, demonstrating excellent leadership, teamwork and enthusiasm throughout the day. It was also a great opportunity to meet some of the Year 4 children who joined AMS in September. To finish the day, our Sports Leaders took part in the sack race before receiving a well-deserved certificate and ice lolly.



Sports Day 2026

This year **we held our Sports Days at both Allenbourn and Queen Elizabeth's School - Wimborne Minster, bringing our whole school community together for a fantastic celebration of sport, teamwork and achievement.**

The days were filled with inspiring moments that reminded us what school sport is all about. From pupils showing courage and determination to take part, to classmates encouraging one another across the finish line, there were **countless examples of resilience, kindness and sportsmanship.**

Alongside the athletics events, pupils enjoyed a range of activities including team relays, capture the flag, rounders, panathlon, DNA Girls Football, Wimborne Boxing Club and the ever-popular tug of war, creating a brilliant festival atmosphere.

Congratulations to every pupil who took part. Your enthusiasm, perseverance, encouragement of others and willingness to challenge yourselves made the event such a success.

A huge thank you to our staff, PTA, site team, pupils and parents for making the days so special. Together, we created an event that truly reflected our core values of Academic Excellence, All Inclusive and Responsible Individuals. What a fantastic celebration of our school community!

The children were delighted to try out **our brand new athletics kit** last term. We are so **very grateful to our School Association for providing the funds** for this fantastic kit. Allenbourn Middle School will certainly look fantastic as they arrive at the first cross country events of 2026 - 2027. **Thank you to Mrs Darragh** for taking the time to design and source the new kit.





Conquer the Gauntlet and Crazy Hair Day

Thank you so much to everyone who donated to **our chosen charity Macmillan Cancer Support** for our fundraising event as term ended. Our children totally embraced the event and came to school with the most amazing crazy hair and definitely Conquered the Gauntlet in magnificent style. Thank you to all the parents, carers, extended family and staff who donated. We raised a fantastic £3800. We are most grateful.



Year 8 Celebration Event

We really enjoyed celebrating our Year 8 children's journey at AMS at their prize giving and celebration event in the final week of term. The children enjoyed a fantastic evening as we recognised their achievements with us. Everybody enjoyed the opportunity to dress up finishing the year in style.



On the final Friday of the school year, pupils from each year groups won a place at our **science reward** session. They experimented with water rockets, some reaching about 30 metres in the air. Although the children were having fun, they were secretly adjusting variables, identifying the most important ones – ensuring that all testing was fair as they really wanted to win. A combined effort including evaluating the perfect pumping rate as well as volume of water produced a spectacular launch.

BBC Radio 4 interviewed our children during their visit to the Ancient Technology Centre in July. This programme was aired on the new series of Open Country during the Summer holiday. It will also be kept online and on BBC Sounds and will be available as a podcast on all the main providers.

The programme will be here: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b006qgft>



Autumn Term Clubs – Full details of our clubs offer for this term have been sent home via Arbor, along with details of how to sign up for these. Please ensure that your child aims to attend a club each term.

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 **vitaly 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.



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](#)

Expectations	At All Times	In Classrooms	Playground	Lunchtime	Toilet
We are here to learn	- Focus on the learning. - Be prepared for your next lesson. - Put your equipment away as it is ready to use again when needed.	- Arrive on time for lessons. - Enter rooms quietly. - Have the necessary equipment. - Leave the room tidy. - Respond appropriately to adult instructions.	- Keep to your specified area. - Play calmly and follow adult instructions. - Respond to signals that social time has ended. - Return to lessons quickly and quietly.	- Walk to tables. - Stay seated at tables while eating. - Share quietly and respectfully.	- Visit only at break times where possible. - Spend as much time in the classroom as possible.
We are respectful and polite	- Show courtesy to all. - Be aware of your surroundings. - Offer help where you can.	- Respond to questions politely. - Use appropriate voice register. - Use inclusive and non-discriminatory language. - Raise your hand for attention.	- Share to everyone safely and fairly. - Use inclusive and non-discriminatory language. - Be welcoming.	- Follow adult directions. - Wait for your turn. - Leave your space tidy and clean.	- Put rubbish in bins. - Push the toilet. - Respect the privacy of others. - Do not damage the facilities.
We make the right choices	- Don't drink. - Don't use food. - Attend regularly to the puncture.	- Look at who is speaking. - Do not distract others. - Respond appropriately to feedback. - Attempt all tasks to the best of your ability.	- Play fairly. - Be tolerant of others. - Follow game rules. - Enjoy your social time. - Take the opportunity to be physically active.	- Use appropriate voice volume. - Do not shout. - Check you have what you need before sitting down.	- Go flush, wash and leave. - Return to class promptly.

At the bottom of the infographic, the three core values are repeated with icons: 'We are here to learn' (book icon), 'We are respectful and polite' (handshake icon), and 'We make the right choices' (person with arms raised icon).

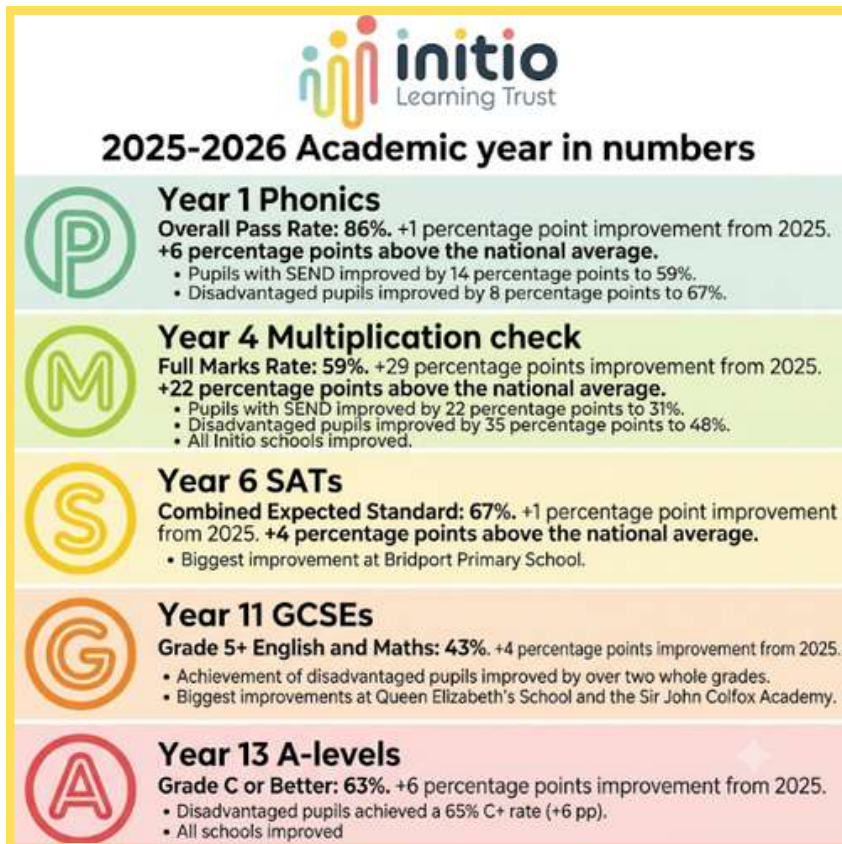
Did you know?

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.



Residential Visit to Buddens Farm

– It is fantastic to see that more than 120 Children in our new **Year 6 cohort** have secured their place on our **residential visit to Buddens Activity Centre in Summer 2027**. **Children will** take part in **outdoor and adventurous activities whilst sleeping under canvas**.



Did You Know?

Children from across Initio Learning Trust made real progress in 2025 – 2026.

This info graphic provides a headline summary of their achievements and hard work.

Our year 6 children achieved excellent outcomes well above National averages in all areas.

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.

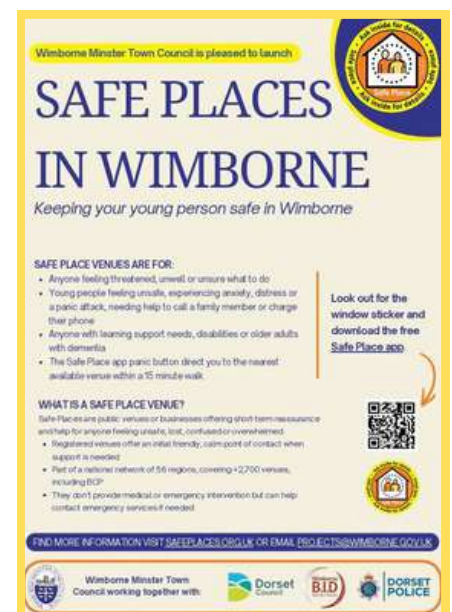
Safe Places can support:

- ♥ 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.



Did you know?

Parent Evenings – We will be holding Parent Evenings on **Wednesday 21st October** and **Thursday 5th November**, providing a valuable opportunity to meet with staff. We very much look forward to welcoming you to school. Details for booking appointments will be shared nearer to the time.



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 Points**. 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.



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.



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 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:

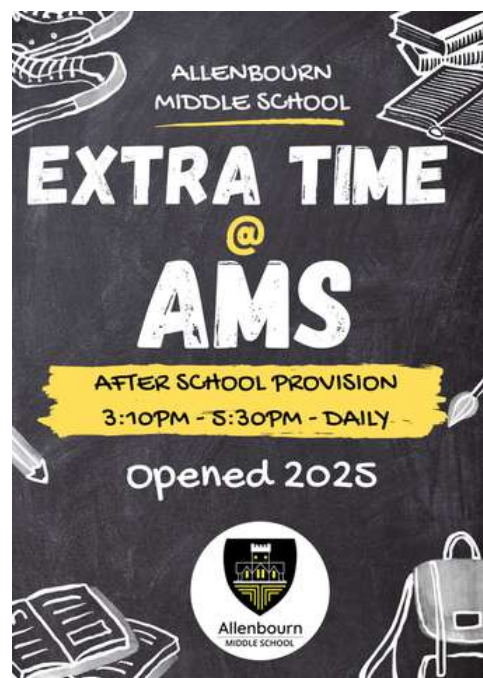
Homework club runs between 3:10pm – 4pm and a full session runs from 3.10pm – 5:30pm. The club operates Monday to Friday during term time, excluding training days.

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 24hours 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
Flu Vaccinations
Open Evening
School Photographs
Year 6 Nothe Fort Visits
Parent Evening 1
Last day of half term
Staff Training day (School closed)
Children return to school
Parent Evening 2
AMS Online Safety Day
PTA Christmas Disco
Report Card 1 sent home
Last day of Autumn Term

Thursday 3rd September
Monday 21st September
Thursday 1st October
Monday 5th October
12th – 21st October
Wednesday 21st October
Friday 23rd October
Monday 2nd November
Tuesday 3rd November
Thursday 5th November
Friday 27th November
Thursday 3rd December
Friday 11th December
Friday 18th December

Spring Term 2027

Staff Training Day
Children Return to school
Last day of half term

Monday 4th January
Tuesday 5th January
Friday 12th February



You can find our term dates for 2026 – 2027 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.