

# Allenbourn Middle School Newsletter

## September 2023

### Autumn Term - Issue Number 7



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

#### Headteacher Update

Dear Parents/Carers,

I am delighted to write to you as we begin the new academic year. We have **many exciting plans for the year ahead** and we look forward to sharing details of these throughout the year.

A **very warm welcome to all of our new families** as we start the academic year with **547 pupils on roll**. We have thoroughly **enjoyed welcoming the children back** to school this week. This is always an exciting time of the school year and it has been **fantastic to see our children looking incredibly smart** and demonstrating that they are **ready for the challenges ahead**.

As ever we have much to share with you, so please do take a few moments to share our first newsletter of the new year together as a family.

#### Staffing Update

We are **very excited to have welcomed new colleagues to our teaching team** for the new academic year. **Miss Ashby and Mr Balmer join our Year 5 teaching team**, whilst **Mr Stroud will be teaching in Year 6**. We are also **joined by Mr Ledsham as our new P.E. Lead** and **Mrs Rule** who will be **teaching English and History in Years 7 and 8**. We are also pleased to **welcome Mrs Der and Mrs Hammond-Bowell** who will be **joining our French teaching team**.

A reminder that our **Senior Leadership Team** working alongside myself includes; **Mr Smith our Deputy Headteacher** who is our **Designated Safeguarding Lead**, **Mrs Wheeler our SEND Lead**, **Miss Chadwick, Lead Practitioner** with responsibility for **English and Achievement** and **Mrs Prout, Lead Practitioner** with responsibility for **Curriculum, Teaching and Learning**. In addition to this **Mrs**

**Prout is currently our Year 6 Lead**. These colleagues are supported by **Mr Wright, Year 5 Lead**, **Mr Daw, Year 7 Lead** and **Mr Hickson, Year 8 Lead**.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if we can provide support as we continue to build **meaningful connections** to best support our children.

#### Open Evening and Parent Evenings

We will be holding our **Open Evening for current and prospective parents on Thursday 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 weeks before and after the October half term**. On these evenings, you will have the chance to meet your child's class teachers. Arrangements for these evenings and details for booking appointments will be sent home later this half term.

#### Clubs Sign up

We are **delighted to be able to offer a wide range of clubs and extracurricular activities** this term. Please encourage your child to join a club and remember to sign up via ParentMail ahead of clubs commencing on 18th September.

#### Summer Works

Over the Summer break we have **continued to improve our facilities**. **LED lighting** has been fitted to **most of the ground floor**, all of our **Year 5 classes have been painted with new blinds** and pupil chairs. **All children now have new classroom chairs**. We have also **renewed hall and playground sports markings**.

Kind regards

**Mr M. Legge - Headteacher**

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### Our School Values - Aspire@AMS

We started the last **academic year by reviewing our school's values**. These 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 above: **Academic Excellence**, **All Inclusive** and **Responsible Individuals** as we **aspire together @ AMS**.



### Our Senior Pupils 2023 - 2024

I am delighted to announce that following interviews alongside Mr Smith and Mrs Mason, a member of our Academy Committee, we have appointed the following Year 8 children to lead our Senior Pupil group and School Council for 2023 - 2024.

#### Madi F and Elliott T

These pupils demonstrated a superb skill set at their interviews and we are very fortunate that they represent our school and its values.

In addition to this the following Year 8 pupils will form our Senior Pupil Committee to lead pupil voice across our school.

#### Megan C, Adelina R-F, Aidan M, Esme A, Lila H, Jaya M, Poppy D, Harry R, Oscar T

This group of Year 8 pupils will be supported by school council representatives from each class and we look forward to telling you about their work in future newsletters.

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**Meet the new team members** - This year we will introduce you to and tell you a little more about our staff team. In this first newsletter of the new year we asked some of our new team members to tell us a little more about themselves.

#### **Mr Ledsham** Physical Education Lead - Year 7 Class tutor

- *Before I joined AMS, I have worked at two secondary schools in Hampshire, for a total of ten years.*
- *When I was younger I wanted to be a professional sportsman or a forensic scientist!*
- *It's a cliché, but most of my spare time is spent playing sports, particularly football, touch rugby and golf.*
- *It was an exciting summer for me as I got married and then went on honeymoon to Santorini.*
- *I am most looking forward to the opportunity to build a legacy where sport and PE become the pride of the school and where pupils enjoy physical activity as much as I do.*



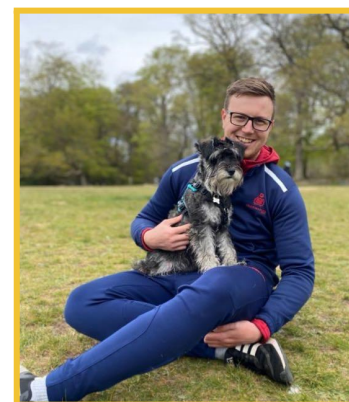
#### **Miss Ashby** Year 5 Class tutor

- *I began my teaching career at a small village First School, near Wimborne. I've thoroughly enjoyed spending the past 2 years in a First School environment. However, I am very excited to further my career at AMS and teach year 5!*
- *When I was younger, I knew I wanted to be a part of a team and make a difference. This started off with me wanting to be a nurse or a paramedic.*
- *In my spare time, you'll find me riding my horse Pebbles and walking my sausage dog Rudy. I love spending time in the countryside or at the beach. I also enjoy water sports and getting out on our family boat when the sun is shining!*
- *I've had a fab summer holiday, where I went to Mallorca with my friends and I moved house.*
- *I am looking forward to joining a fantastic school community, which inspires, motivates and challenges pupils to be as successful as possible!*



#### **Mr Stroud** Year 6 Class tutor

- *I started teaching at a primary school in London and then taught at a school in Surrey. I am excited to come back to Wimborne and support the local community.*
- *When I was younger, I wanted to be a professional sportsman or a firefighter.*
- *In my spare time, I like to be cooking new recipes or walking my dog in the countryside. We recently climbed all the way up Snowdon!*
- *During my summer, I decorated and moved house and I also got engaged to my partner.*
- *I am looking forward to working with all the children and supporting them to achieve their goals.*



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

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**Did you Know?** Staff are busy making plans for a **Spring term production** following the success of 'A Night at the Musicals' last year. **Look out for details** for taking part in this fantastic event.

**Open Evening** Please take the time to join us on **Thursday 28th September between 5:30pm and 7:30pm**. **Headteacher presentations** will take place in the **school hall at 5:35pm and 6:35pm**. You will have the opportunity to tour our school and to meet staff and pupils.

### Breaktime Snacks and litter

**IMPORTANT:** Please ensure that **children do not bring nut or sesame seed based products into school**. 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**.

### Child Protection

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

The Academy Committee member with responsibility for Child Protection is: **Mrs V. Gregg**

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

**Mr M. Legge, Mrs P. Skipp** (*pictured right*), **Mr R. Wright, Mr C. Daw, and Mr C. Hickson**.

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



Details of our **Year 5 residential trip to Bristol** and **Year 8 London residential** will be sent home in the next few weeks.

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## 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** as we begin the new academic year. **A link to our behaviour procedures is also available below** (and on our school website) for you to review together.




Expectations	At All Times	In Classrooms	Playground	Lunchtime	Toilet
<b>We are here to learn</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Focus on the learning.</li> <li>Be prepared for your next lesson.</li> <li>Put your equipment away safely so it is ready to use again when needed.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Arrive on time for lessons.</li> <li>Enter rooms quietly.</li> <li>Have the necessary equipment.</li> <li>Leave the room tidy.</li> <li>Respond appropriately to adult instructions.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Keep to your specified areas.</li> <li>Pay attention and follow adult instructions.</li> <li>Respond to signals that social time has ended.</li> <li>Return to lessons quickly and quietly.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Walk to tables.</li> <li>Stay seated at tables where possible.</li> <li>Queue quietly and respectfully.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Visit only at break times where possible.</li> <li>Spend as much time in the classroom as possible.</li> </ul>
<b>We are respectful and polite</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Show courtesy to all.</li> <li>Be aware of your surroundings.</li> <li>Offer help where you can.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Respond to questions politely.</li> <li>Use appropriate voice register.</li> <li>Use inclusive and non-derogatory language.</li> <li>Raise your hand for attention.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Speak to everyone calmly and fairly.</li> <li>Use inclusive and non-derogatory language.</li> <li>Be welcoming.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Follow adult directions.</li> <li>Wait for your turn.</li> <li>Leave your space tidy and clean.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Put rubbish in bins.</li> <li>Flush the toilet.</li> <li>Respect the privacy of others.</li> <li>Do not damage the facilities.</li> </ul>
<b>We make the right choices</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Join a club.</li> <li>Give your best.</li> <li>Attend regularly.</li> <li>Be punctual.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Look at who is speaking.</li> <li>Do not distract others.</li> <li>Respond appropriately to feedback.</li> <li>Attempt all tasks to the best of your ability.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Play fairly.</li> <li>Be tolerant of others.</li> <li>Follow game rules.</li> <li>Enjoy your social time.</li> <li>Take the opportunity to be physically active.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use appropriate voice volume.</li> <li>Do not shout.</li> <li>Check you have what you need before sitting down.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Go, flush, wash and leave.</li> <li>Return to class promptly.</li> </ul>

**We are here to learn**

**We are respectful and polite**

**We make the right choices**

## [Allenbourn Middle School Behaviour Guidance](#)

## Relationships Education

During this academic year **children in all year groups will be learning about RSE as part of their Personal Social Health Education lessons**.

We would **encourage our families to familiarise themselves with our Trust Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education Policy**. **A link to this policy can be found below**, it is also available on our website.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss this topic with a member of staff, please do not hesitate to contact the school office who will direct your question to the appropriate member of staff.

## [Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education \(RSE\) and Health Education Policy](#)

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## Uniform: A **BIG thank you** and reminders of expectations @AMS

A very big thank you to all of our families for the fantastic improvement in how our children arrive at school each day in their school uniform. This really has had a positive impact across our school. Please can I remind all parents to ensure that the following expectations for school uniform are consistently met by all pupils throughout this year.

- **Black school shoes must be worn. No trainers, slip on or high heeled shoes are permitted. children are not permitted to wear branded black trainers** at Allenbourn Middle School.
- **Skirts MUST be pleated** and should be **no more than two or three centimetres above the knee**. Trousers should not be tight fitting.
- Children can wear black tailored school shorts or trousers.
- Black or grey ankle/knee length socks or black or grey tights should be worn. Traditional school tights only are permitted.
- **White socks, trainer socks, sports leggings** and sheer tights are **not permitted**.
- Children should **not wear a hoodie including their school P.E. hoodie to school** or around our school site. Instead they should wear a school sweatshirt and/or a coat.
- Children are **not permitted to wear make-up or have any piercings** other than a single ear stud in each ear.
- Children should **not wear smart watches or similar devices** to school.
- Children should **not attend school with their hair coloured** or with any other extreme style.

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.

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

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## Arriving at School Each Day

- **Children are 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.
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## Communication with Home

A highlight of the last academic year was continuing to develop strong links with our families as we worked hard to ensure that you receive regular and timely information about school life.

A reminder that our website contains a lot of useful information and news for our families. We also re-launched our **Twitter and Facebook pages last year, please do consider following our school.**

[Allenbourn Facebook Page](#) [Allenbourn Twitter Page](#)

Details on how to use and **register to use ClassCharts 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.***

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## 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 attendance, 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** and will be handed to pupils in letter form to **share with you next week.**

If you have any questions or need assistance please do not hesitate to contact the school office.

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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. **Accompanying this Newsletter is our Autumn Term Clubs offer.** Your child can **sign up for these clubs using ParentMail from 10:00am on Saturday 9th September.** After school clubs will **commence in the week beginning 18th September.** Please encourage your child to sign up, get active and learn new skills!

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## Peripatetic Music Lessons and clubs - COMING SOON!

Mr Magor is busy finalising plans for clubs and extracurricular activities in music along with details of our peripatetic music offer. Please do encourage your child to support the musical life of our school during this academic year.

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## Did you Know? Curriculum @ AMS

You can view our Curriculum Overview for each Year group on our school website by following the link below.

[Allenbourn Middle School Curriculum Maps 2023 - 2024](#)

Children will continue to participate in **whole class reading** and **use Accelerated Reader**. Children will complete STAR testing and **DEAR** (Drop Everything and Read) **sessions will be timetabled across the school week** for all children.

Please can you ensure that you continue to encourage and promote regular reading and engagement with Accelerated Reader from home. In years 7 and 8 children will continue to use **Tassomai and Sparx Maths**.

Allenbourn Middle School Curriculum Map 2023-2024						
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	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

## 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 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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### 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 3 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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### Maintaining Good Attendance at School

We are all very aware of the **importance of attending school regularly** and **arriving on time for school each day**. We believe that **this has never been more important** as we seek to establish **high expectations and good habits to ensure future success** for our children. Your support with this throughout the academic year will benefit your child.

#### Did you know?

1 school year = **195 days**.

**50% attendance** would mean that **your child had a staggering 97.5 days of absence** in a school year.

Research suggests that **on average for every 32.5 days of school missed**, children will **drop a grade in each of their GCSEs**

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### Our attendance procedures and expectations

**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. Illness can be reported on the absence telephone line or on ParentMail. **Please do not email the school office for illness absences.** 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 or Year Leader if you are concerned about your child's attendance record. We are keen to recognise those individual pupils who maintain excellent attendance. **Our initial attendance information letter, with further details, will be sent to all families over the coming week.**

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### 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.**

**Did you know?** Year 6 children will be visiting the Nothe Forte to take part in an Evacuee experience as part of their World War II topic this term.

### Term Dates 2023 - 2024

#### Autumn Term 2023

Staff Training Day	<b>Friday 1st September</b>
Staff Training Day	<b>Monday 4th September</b>
First Day of Term for Pupils	<b>Tuesday 5th September</b>
Open Evening	<b>Thursday 28th September</b>
School Photos	<b>Tuesday 17th October</b>
Half Term Holiday	<b>Monday 23rd October - Friday 27th October</b>
Staff Training Day	<b>Monday 30th October</b>
Pupils Return	<b>Tuesday 31st October</b>
Flu Vaccinations	<b>Tuesday 21st November</b>
Parent Evenings	<b>Thursday 19th October</b> <b>Wednesday 1st November</b>
Last Day of Term for Pupils	<b>Thursday 14th December</b>

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Staff Training Day	<b>Friday 15th December</b>
<b>Spring Term 2024</b>	
Staff Training Day	<b>Tuesday 2nd January</b>
First Day of Term for Pupils	<b>Wednesday 3rd January</b>
Half Term Holiday	<b>Monday 12th February - Friday 16th February</b>
Staff Training Day	<b>Monday 19th February</b>
Pupils Return	<b>Tuesday 20th February</b>
Last Day of Term for Pupils	<b>Wednesday 27th March</b>
Staff Training Day	<b>Thursday 28th March</b>
<b>Summer Term 2024</b>	
First Day of Term for Pupils	<b>Monday 15th April</b>
May Day Holiday	<b>Monday 6th May</b>
Year 6 SATs Week	<b>Monday 13th May - Thursday 16th May</b>
Half Term Holiday	<b>Monday 27th May - Friday 31st May</b>
Pupils Return	<b>Monday 3rd June</b>
Last Day of Term	<b>Tuesday 23rd July</b>

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#### **Did you know?** Class Charts Rewards

We will be **sharing our Autumn Term Rewards** with children in the coming weeks. Last term children enjoyed; **skateboarding, mountain biking, inflatable swim sessions, airpods, wireless speakers, a Costa Coffee trip along with non uniform and baking days.**

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