

Allenbourn Middle School Newsletter

January 2024

Spring Term - Issue Number 9



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

Headteacher Update

Dear Parents/Carers,

It has been fantastic to welcome the children back to school following the Christmas and new year break. I very much hope that you enjoyed the time with family and friends. We have quickly settled into the new term and are excited about 2024 at AMS. Please take the time to read our January Newsletter, we hope that it contains a number of useful updates, links to further reading and updates on life at Allenbourn Middle.

School Improvement Works

I am excited to share the news that over the Christmas break we have been able to make **further improvements to our school facilities**. It has been really **exciting to open our new Year 8 toilet facilities this week**. Pictures of these that provide the template for the rest of the site can be seen later in this newsletter. Toilet refurbishment is planned to continue throughout this term with the **refurbishment of the Year 6 toilets already underway**. We have **replaced all upstairs lighting** to ensure that energy efficient, improved LED lighting has now been put in place across school since the Summer. We also painted a further three classrooms in year 6 and we hope to continue with this during this year.

Staffing Update

We will shortly be **saying goodbye to Mrs Dave**, a member of our TA team and **Mrs Westbrook**. I would like to take this opportunity to wish both of these colleagues all the very best for the future and thank them for their dedication and hard work in their roles at AMS.

We currently have **a number of support staff vacancies at AMS**. Further details are included later in this newsletter. We would be very happy to talk to members of the community about these roles and would be grateful if you could share details with

families and friends if you think that they may be suitable to join our team.

Attendance

Thank you for your continued support to ensure that your child maintains good attendance across the school year. Please **ensure that your child arrives on time for school each day** and arrives with the **necessary equipment wearing the correct school uniform**. It is essential that we support our children to maintain good habits around attendance and engagement with their learning to ensure their future success.

Parent Evenings

We will be hosting parent evenings later this term on the following dates:

Tuesday 20th February, Thursday 22nd February and Wednesday 28th February.

These parent evenings will **provide you with the opportunity to meet with all of your child's subject teachers** and I would encourage you to make appointments for these evenings when **further details are shared later in the half term**.

Parent/Carer Questionnaire Spring 2024

It has been a year since we gathered your views on our school to guide us on how we can continue to improve. Indeed **our ongoing toilet improvement work was instigated as a result of your feedback and the views of our children last year**. Please follow the link below to share your views.

[Questionnaire 2024](#)

Last year 175 families took the time to respond and it would be wonderful to improve upon that this year. I will feedback on your views in a future newsletter.

And finally, many thanks to our **School Association who raised a fantastic £1,500 through their Christmas raffle**. Further details of school association events can be found later in this newsletter.

Kind regards

Mr M. Legge - Headteacher

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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 above: **Academic Excellence**, **All Inclusive** and **Responsible Individuals** as we **aspire together @ AMS**.



Our newly refurbished toilets

As previously mentioned all of our year group toilets are currently being refurbished. **Below are pictures of our new Year 8 toilets that we have opened this week. Following pupil feedback all of these facilities will have automatic lighting and we will be fitting free to use sanitary dispensers** to ensure that this resource is readily available to pupils.



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Vacancies at Allenbourn Middle School

It is a really **exciting time to join the staff team at Allenbourn Middle**. We have seen much change across our team and colleagues applying for a position with us will have the **opportunity to work alongside a team that share a clear vision** for our school and are **enjoying the challenge of taking our school forward together**.



Experience working in a school setting is always beneficial but is certainly **not essential** as **we are looking for people with the right qualities and attributes to work with children** and who are **keen to grow and learn** in our **rewarding school environment**. If you would like to discuss any of the vacancies below **please do not hesitate to contact us**. Please also **share details of these roles with friends and family**. We are very keen to find the right person for each of these roles.

All vacancies can be applied for using the links below to the "Dorset for You" website.

Science Technician Part-time - [Click here](#)

Cover Supervisor - [Click here](#)

Teaching Assistants - [Click here](#)

Vacancy for parent member of our Local School Committee

You will shortly receive a letter **inviting parents to express interest in becoming a parent member of our Local School Committee**. Further details of this role will be included in this letter. This is an important role providing the opportunity to contribute to the ethos and future success of our school. **We would welcome applications from parents and carers who have an understanding of educational standards and performance**.

Did you Know? Allenbourn Middle School is 50 years old this academic year. To celebrate this we are busy preparing to host an end of year school production that we hope to host in the week beginning 8th July 2024. Further details along with ticket details will be shared nearer the time.

Our Reading Newsletter - We hope that you found our **First Reading Newsletter** useful. This was shared shortly before the end of term and contained details of texts read in school and **recommended texts to consider reading alongside your child**. Many **thanks to Ms Chadwick** for preparing this. If you missed it the first time you can read this by following the link below.

[AMS Reading Newsletter - December 2023](#)

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Meet the Teaching Team - This year we have been introducing you to and telling you a little more about our staff team. In this newsletter we asked some of our subject Leads to tell us a little more about themselves.

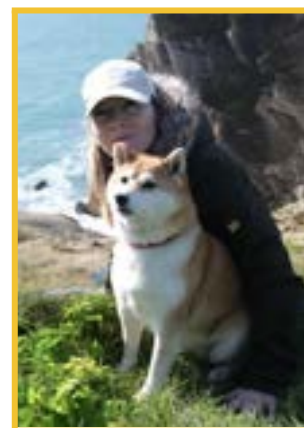
Mr Pressling - Trust Middle School Science Lead

- **What did you do before you joined AMS?** I was Head of Year and Head of Science at Lockyer's Middle School and before that I worked for twelve years at Cranborne Middle School. Before that I worked in stock control at Radio Rentals, was a section manager at Sainsburys and was a semi professional juggler whilst at University.
- **What did you want to do when you were younger?** When I was younger I was inspired by Willard Price's adventure books to be a zookeeper working with tigers or sharks! Maybe when I have paid off my mortgage...
- **What do you enjoy doing in your spare time?** In my spare time I juggle my time between my family, skateboarding and running a radio station / DJing. I also love going to see live music. My last gigs were Madness and Slade and I am going to see Bring Me The Horizon next week.
- **What did you do during the Christmas break?** Over Christmas I got to spend quality time with my family, watched lots of Christmas films, read Aftermath which continues the Star Wars story after the destruction of the second Death Star, I only got to skate once as it rained so much and ate far too much cheese.
- **What are you looking forward to at AMS in 2024?** I am very much looking forward to seeing a full year of our Careers programme being completed. I hope I get to go on the London Trip and look forward to skating with more pupils in the spring.



Madame Diment - French Lead

- **What did you do before you joined AMS?** I have previously taught French at Ferndown Middle School and I taught English in Tokyo JPN
- **What did you want to do when you were younger?** I have always wanted to be a teacher and enjoyed setting up a classroom with all my toys 😊
- **What do you enjoy doing in your spare time?** I enjoy walking my dog; cooking new recipes especially Moroccan themed dishes and dancing Cuban salsa
- **What did you do during the Christmas break?** This year was especially busy with significant family birthdays as well as the Christmas excitement! I will be back at school to have a 'rest'!
- **What are you looking forward to at AMS in 2024?** I'm looking forward to setting up a link with a French speaking school outside Europe



Mr Hazell - Design Technology Lead

- **What did you do before you joined AMS?** I studied product design at university. I worked as a freelance designer. I worked on organising charity bike rides across the south of England. I worked in an office. I was a Teaching Assistant at St Michael's Middle School before I started teacher training.
- **What did you want to do when you were younger?** I wanted to be a racing driver - I would still love to do this!
- **What do you enjoy doing in your spare time?** I enjoy spending time



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with my family. I am trying to improve my golf game. I enjoy computer games, listening to music and podcasts, and watching films. I love being outdoors.

→ **What did you do during the Christmas break?** *I celebrated my son's fifth birthday. Took a day trip to London to see family and friends. I went bowling with my family. Took a walk along the beach and around local green areas. We took our children to see Father Christmas at Kingston Lacy.*

→ **What are you looking forward to at AMS in 2024?** *I am looking forward to working with every pupil in the school to make a successful product in product design! I'm also looking forward to helping with educational visits and taking year 8 pupils to London. I most enjoy the off topic chats that really allow you to get to know pupils.*

Year 6 Nothe Fort Visit

In November, Year 6 went on a school trip to Nothe Fort in Weymouth. We went to the fort because we wanted to find out what it was like to be an evacuee in World War 2 and to help us with our learning in English and Humanities.

In preparation for this trip we made gas mask boxes, identity cards and we created evacuee outfits, which all looked amazing! I

did some research at home about how people wore their hair and I learnt that girls usually wore their hair in two plaits.



One of my favourite parts of the day was the Anderson shelter. We were all hustled up inside and I could feel myself shivering with the cold. The Air Raid Warden (the man who sounded the siren) threw stones at the shelter to imitate falling rubble. I found it scary, even though I knew it wasn't for real so I can't imagine what it must have felt like in the 1940s.

Over the course of the day we learnt about how the children were billeted, rationing in shops and how the cooking and laundry would have been done. We really enjoyed the day and we now have a much better understanding of how hard life was during World War II.



Written by Flo Waker and Annabelle Stickland in 6H



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Special Recognition Award Winners

Last half term we celebrated the achievements of members of our school community in our whole school assembly each week. Below are the winners of this award for the final weeks of the Autumn Term.

- **Tommy Y 7P - Our first Tassomai Titan for 2023 - 2024** - 5038 correct responses!
- The pupils and staff who produced and performed at our **Christmas Concert 2023**

Our Pupil Parliament 2023 - 2024

Our Pupil Parliament has been busy ensuring that they shape decisions and have an impact across our school. Both **Madi F and Elliott T** have **attended Local School Committee meetings** to provide us with feedback on our school. You may also have seen their **excellent video on Social Media** reminding Year 4 families to make Middle School applications for September 2024. In addition to this **our Pupil Parliament raised approximately £800 for Children in Need** through their Pudsey Art Challenge and by running an obstacle course at lunch times. They have **also led a whole school assembly** and **pick our weekly Rights Respecting Schools Article of the week** and **our word of the week** in assembly. **Our Parliament continues to meet weekly** with the support of Mr Stroud.



Can you Help? Guest speakers wanted for assembly presentations

A big thank you to those parents who have volunteered to visit school to share what they do and their journey to their career. The children are learning so much about the world of work as well as the various routes to finding a way to a career.

If any further parent or employer would like the opportunity to come and share their experiences with the children, we would warmly welcome them **contacting Mr Pressling directly** at: mpressling@allenbournmiddle.org

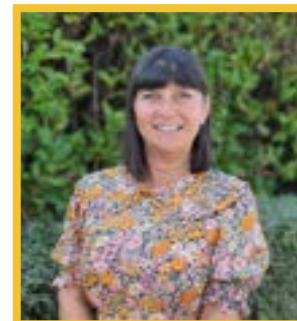
Child Protection

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

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

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

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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	All All Times	In Classrooms	Playground	Lunchtime	Other
We are here to learn	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Focus on the learning for yourself and your group. Put your equipment away when it is not in use. Be on time. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Arrive on time for lessons. Enter rooms quietly. Be ready to start the lesson. Listen to the teacher. Follow the instructions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stick to your agreed rules. Be ready to start the lesson. Follow the instructions. Be ready to start the lesson. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Be on time. Be ready to start the lesson. Follow the instructions. Be ready to start the lesson. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stick to your agreed rules. Be ready to start the lesson. Follow the instructions. Be ready to start the lesson.
We are respectful and polite	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Be respectful to all. Use polite language. Use your voice. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Respect the opinions of others. Use your voice. Use your voice. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Respect the opinions of others. Use your voice. Use your voice. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Respect the opinions of others. Use your voice. Use your voice. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Respect the opinions of others. Use your voice. Use your voice.
We make the right choices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use your voice. Use your voice. Use your voice. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use your voice. Use your voice. Use your voice. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use your voice. Use your voice. Use your voice. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use your voice. Use your voice. Use your voice. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use your voice. Use your voice. Use your voice.

expectations with your child from time to time. **A link to our behaviour procedures is also available below** (and on our school website) for you to review together.

[Allenbourn Middle School Behaviour Guidance](#)



SPARX Maths - Did you know?

Last term our children in Years 7 and 8 made excellent progress with their use of Sparx Maths for homework.

All children in Year 7 and 8 complete their weekly mathematics homework on Sparx.

As the **Autumn term ended our 6 week rolling completion figure for Sparx was 82%**. This ranked our school as 290th nationally against more than 2,100 other schools many of which are considered top performing secondary schools. **In the final week of term we were ranked 34th in the county with a completion rate of 91%. This ranked AMS in the top 1.6% of schools nationally.** This is a fantastic achievement. Well done Year 7 and 8. **Keep up the great work.**

Weekly homework expectations at Key Stage 3 Your at a glance reminder

- **At least 5 daily goals on Tassomai** in English, Maths and Science
- **100% completion of their SPARX assignments**
- **5 entries in their Reading Log** and signed by you as parent/carer.

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**.

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Did You know? - All children in year 8 were allocated with their first preference option for their enrichment week that will take place early in the Summer term.

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 we 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.
Please note that children should not attend school with painted or false nails
- 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.

Did you Know? Our School Association will be hosting two further discos in the coming months. Tickets will go on sale in advance of each event and reminders will be sent nearer to the time.

Spring term disco - Friday 9th February 2024
Summer term disco - Thursday 23rd May 2024

E-Safety Day - A big thank you to Mr Daw who organises and leads our **Trust wide E-Safety Day**. Children at AMS enjoyed a day of activities in November to learn more about this important part of our curriculum.

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Our children have been busy in their art lessons across all year groups during the Autumn term

YEAR 5



Food Collages inspired by Cezanne

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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.

Year 5						
Subject	Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2
English	Poem Power No. 1000 The Emperor By Katherine Rundell		The Emperor's New Clothes by J. Lewis Underwater By Lewis Carroll		Hidden Figures By Margot Lee Shetterly Who set the Club Out? By Moll Fens	
Maths	Place Value Numbers up to 1,000,000	Four-Number Operations Add, subtract, multiply and divide	Fractions, Decimals and Percentages	Fractions, Decimals and Percentages Geometry Properties of shapes	Measurement Converting units of measure Area and Perimeter	Measurement Volume Ratio/Proportion
Science	Properties & Changes of Materials	Properties & Changes of Materials	Living Things and their Habitats	Evolution, Fossils and Extinction	Earth and Space	Animals including Humans
Art	Year 5 draw: introduction to the Elements of Art Observational/contemplative drawing Observational painting inspired by Thomas Gainsborough		Scale: American Artists Observational Drawing & Portrait Investigations Sketch make a portrait using a variety of media		Portraits Observational self-portrait drawing Illustration	
Computing	Introduction to Systems	Systems	Logic	Sequences	Logic	Hardware & Storage

The Essential AMS Pupil Equipment List

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 30m ruler, an eraser, a glue stick, a board pen, a set of colouring pencils, a purple, pink and green biro and a highlighter.

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.**

Twelve Days of Christmas Production

A very big thank you to all of the children and staff who ensured that our Christmas production was such a success. Please take time to review our key dates later in this newsletter to learn more about events taking place later in the academic year.

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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.

Sports Report

It's been another fantastic term for sports club participation and attendance. Well done to all those who continue to show commitment to them.

Football

Our Year 7 and 8 boys managed to start a mini-cup run in both the county and national cups, winning some first and second round games but unfortunately both have been eliminated now. We have some friendly fixtures and PEDSSA league games to come this term so keep your eyes peeled for those. Our Year 7 and 8 girls have been a little more successful and are through to the county semi-finals against local rivals St.Michael's! They will also have some PEDSSA league matches to play this half-term. Our Key Stage 2 teams have had some friendlies in which they have shown great determination to keep going despite the result and our Year 6 girls and boys teams will have some national competitions coming up this term.



Rugby

The rugby revolution at AMS is on! Our Year 7 and 8 boys and girls teams have had some 10-a-side festivals at Bryanston School and Swanage and Wareham RFC. All four teams performed well and showed just how tough they can be with some brutal tackles and well-worked

trys (in some pretty horrendous weather!) There will be more opportunities to show their skills in the same format, this term. Year 5 and 6 have been doing rugby in lessons ready to pick up the baton, this term.



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Netball

It's been a great turn-out at all the netball clubs. Our Year 7 and 8 teams have had one friendly against Magna Academy, in which everyone was able to get a run-out. This prepared them well for the netball leagues and tournaments, this half-term. We took three Year 5 and three Year 6 teams to their respective friendly festivals held at St. Michael's. A good time was had by all and although scores were not kept we know we were undefeated!



X-country

Unfortunately three of the four PEDSSA cross country events were cancelled due to the weather conditions. The only race that took place was at Canford School in September. Six runners from Allenbourn finished in the top ten in their race that day; Jacob B (6th), Harry L (8th) Tyg S (10th), Lucy W (8th), Florence VDF (3rd), Isabelle R (5th). The boys YR 6 team, and girls Yr 7 & 8 team finished in a very commendable third place overall and the girls Yr 6 team and boys YR 7 & 8 teams were both placed fourth. With over or nearly 20 teams in each race this was a promising start to the season.

Other Events

On Tuesday 17th October we took some of our Year 8 Sports Leaders to Bryanston School for a Leadership Academy. They learned what it takes to be a good leader and how important their role is to developing physical education and sport for our younger students.

We rounded off the term with our inter house football competition. Staff were amazed at the sportsmanship, positive attitude and teamwork on display. A particular mention to Year 6 who battled through it all in the pouring rain! Results will be announced in assembly.



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Key Dates 2023 - 2024

Spring Term 2024

Staff Training Day	Tuesday 2nd January
First Day of Term for Pupils	Wednesday 3rd January
Young Voices 02 Trip	Monday 15th January
Year 5 - NSPCC Speak Out, Stay Safe programme visits	Tuesday 16th January
Year 7 pupils QE Performance	Wednesday 24th January
Year 8 - Options drama presentation by Bournemouth University	Friday 26th January
Year 8 Holocaust Memorial Day visit	Wednesday 31st January
Year 5 Greek Day	Thursday 8th February
School Disco	Friday 9th February
Half Term Holiday	Mon 12th - Fri 16th February
Staff Training Day	Monday 19th February
Pupils Return	Tuesday 20th February
Parent Evenings	Tuesday 20th February Thursday 22nd February Wednesday 28th February
Year 5 - Hinduism Drama Workshop	Monday 18th March
Report Card 2 sent home	Friday 22nd March
Last Day of Term for Pupils	Wednesday 27th March
Staff Training Day	Thursday 28th March

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Summer Term 2024

First Day of Term for Pupils	Monday 15th April
Year 8 Enrichment Week Including London Residential	Monday 29th April
May Day Holiday	Monday 6th May
Year 6 SATs Week	Monday 13th - Thursday 16th May
School Disco	Thursday 23rd May
Half Term Holiday	Monday 27th - Friday 31st May
Pupils Return	Monday 3rd June
Transfer Day	Friday 28th June
AMS Summer Production	Week beginning Monday 8th July
Year 5 Bristol Residential Visit	Monday 15th July - Friday 19th July
Last Day of Term	Tuesday 23rd July
