

Allenbourn Middle School Newsletter

February 2024

Spring Term - Issue Number 10



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

Headteacher Update

Dear Parents/Carers,

Following a very busy start to 2024 at Allenbourn Middle we wanted to share a number of updates and news items with families. We very much hope that your children enjoyed the half term break. We are certainly looking forward to seeing an improvement in the weather and longer days in the coming weeks and months.

Later in this newsletter you will find **feedback from our parent/carer questionnaire that more than 180 of you completed in January**. We have some ideas for our next steps to share and we have been **talking with the children following their feedback** when they completed their questionnaire; **the BigAsk @AMS**.

Thank you to more than **60 of our year 6 families who joined us for our SATs information evening** and to **more than 300 children** who attended our school association **disco** on the final night of the half term. This event **raised an impressive £1415**. We have also enjoyed welcoming families to school for parent evenings this week.

Further School Improvement Works

I am delighted to share the news that we have **now opened our new year 6 toilet facilities** in addition to the year 8 toilets completed shortly after Christmas. **Work is now well underway to update the year 7 toilets** with the **final set in Year 5 due for completion before the Summer term commences**. We have also **Painted two further classrooms** during the half term break, this time in Year 8, and **repainted and improved our meeting room** facility.

Staffing Update

I am pleased to share the news that we have **appointed Mrs Beaumont as our new part-time Science technician**. Mrs

Beaumont has a background in biomedical science. We will also be **joined by Mrs Raccagni and Mrs Tegerdine** who join our **Teaching Assistant team**. Both of these colleagues have qualified teacher status. And finally **Mrs Shelley will be supporting our SEND department** for the remainder of the academic year. **Mrs Shelley has significant experience teaching and leading SEND**. We are delighted to have made such strong appointments to our staff team.

Local School Committee

I am pleased to report that **Mrs Welsby has been elected as a parent member of our Local School Committee** following a request for nominations in our last newsletter. She will bring a valuable skill set to our school as she has a background working in education.

School Events - Spring term

Later in our newsletter you will be able to read about a number of events that have taken place this term. **Highlights have included our year 8 pupils meeting with a Holocaust survivor** to hear his remarkable insights while children also took part in **Young Voices at the O2** in January. **Year 5 have also taken part in Greek Day**, a group of **year 8 children have taken part in a Cyber Investigation Day** at Corfe Hills School and they have also **attended a Careers production led by Bournemouth University**. **Year 7 children also visited Queen Elizabeth's School** to watch their excellent production of **Oliver**.

Did you know?

We are **currently designing a wall art timeline and maps** for our first floor corridors along with **class read book spines** for our stairs. We hope that these will be installed for the Summer term. We are also hopeful that our **long awaited water refill stations will be fitted shortly**.

Kind regards

Mr M. Legge - Headteacher

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



SPARX Maths - Our Year 7 and 8 pupils climb the National League tables

Our Years 7 and 8 children continue to make excellent progress with their use of Sparx Maths. All children in Year 7 and 8 complete their weekly mathematics homework on Sparx. In the week before half term we were **ranked 14th in the county, against over 2,300 schools**, with a **completion rate of 95.1%**. As the Autumn term finished we had managed a weekly completion rate of 91%.

Our 6 week rolling completion figure for Sparx is currently 89% ranking our school as **126th nationally (up from 290th before Christmas)**.

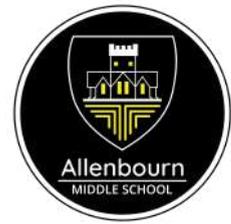
This fantastic effort means that **our Year 7 and 8 pupils are performing well above all other local Middle Schools** and competing on a weekly basis with some of the country's top performing secondary schools.. Well done Year 7 and 8. **Keep up the great work.**



Our Local School Committee

Mr R. Dent - Chair	Mrs V. Gregg - Vice Chair	Mrs C. Mason
Mrs J. Welsby	Mrs J. Millis	Mr M. Legge
Mrs C. Diment	Mrs R. Farrow - Clerk	An LSC Member responsible for SEND

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Parent Questionnaires - Feedback

Below is a link to a summary of your feedback from our recent Parent/Carer Questionnaire. Many thanks to the 182 families who took the time to provide us with this feedback.

A quick summary of the main headlines:

- **94%** of our families reported that **their child felt safe at AMS**
- **8 out of 10** families believe that **we ensure that children are well behaved** at AMS and that we have expectations for your child
- **87%** of families believe that **their child does well** at AMS
- **95%** of you believe that there are a **good range of subjects** on offer and that **your child can take part in clubs and activities**
- **9 out of 10** families would **recommend Allenbourn Middle School**

Our next steps:

We will **continue to work hard to improve in all areas** reviewed as part of this questionnaire. Our key focus area will be to build upon the 77% of you who told us that we let you know how your child is doing at AMS but that **we could improve how we let you know about what your child is learning at AMS.**

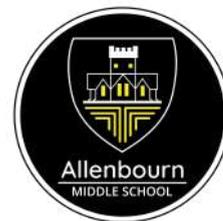
To make progress in this area we will **continue to provide three report cards** each year alongside **two sets of parent evenings. Newsletters** will continue to contain a **link to the curriculum maps for each year group**, which can also be found in the curriculum section of our website. Moving forward we are **hoping to introduce termly curriculum overviews/newsletters for each year group** with more information about children's learning each term, whilst also **continuing to develop the subject curriculum areas on our school website.** In addition to this we hope to have **an improved number of opportunities for families to come into school** to learn about their children's work in school. An example of this was **our recent SATs evening for year 6.**

[Parent Carer Questionnaire Spring Term](#)

Year 8 Cyber Security Workshop at Corfe Hills School

In the week before half term a group of Year 8 pupils visited Corfe Hills School to take part in their first Cyber security day. The children spent the day working with experts and pupils from other local schools learning more about cyber security and decoding information. The children all reported that they enjoyed the event and their behaviour and engagement was excellent. Thank you to Corfe Hills School and Mr Daw for arranging this opportunity.





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Year 8 French Pen Pal letters

All of our year 8 children have had the opportunity to write to a pupil from our partner school in Lessay, Normandy, France. The pupils have enjoyed writing and sending their letters in French and this term they have recently received their individual replies. The pupils could exchange information about their hobbies, family and pets and of course school.

Interestingly, most were very surprised to learn that the school day started at 8:00am and finished around 5:00pm. However, they have also discovered that the children do not wear a uniform and hot lunches are very popular in France.

For our next themed letter, we shall be writing about Easter holiday plans and asking about traditional customs and festivals .



Young Voices perform at the O2 in London

As we returned from the Christmas break a coach full of excited pupils from across years 5 to 8 travelled to London to perform in Young Voices. Many of these children had been practising the songs for many months prior to rehearsals and a final evening performance in the O2. The children did incredibly well as did our staff team who supported this event enjoying the 1:30am return to Wimborne on a school night!



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 production in the week beginning 8th July 2024. Further details along with ticket information will be shared nearer the time.

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.

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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 Wright - Year 5 Lead and Key Stage 2 History and P.S.H.E Lead

- **What did you do before you joined AMS?** *Before joining AMS in 2003, I worked in the holiday industry managing a wide range of departments from bars, restaurants, sporting activities, accommodation and reception. My very first job was working for Barclays - I only lasted three months and knew it wasn't for me.*
- **What did you want to do when you were younger?** *I always wanted to be an architect or teacher from an early age. Being an architect sounded an amazing idea, but I wasn't the greatest at drawing.*
- **What do you enjoy doing in your spare time?** *I enjoy family life, especially walks along the beach with the dog. I need to be kept active to burn off excess energy so the gym, cycling and swimming are great activities. However, I am probably happiest sitting quietly drinking coffee and reading. History is also a big passion of mine.*
- **What are you looking forward to at AMS in 2024?** *Since joining AMS in 2003, every school year has been different and eventful. I enjoy visiting Year 4 pupils in their First Schools in the summer term and arranging a new cohort into their new AMS classes. Residentials are always a big feature each year and I am looking forward to Bristol this July.*



Mrs Randall - Food Teacher

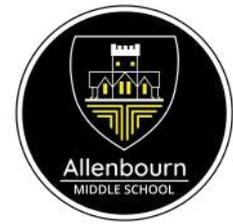
- **What did you do before you joined AMS?** *I worked at a middle/junior school in Parkstone where I had year 4 and year 5 tutor groups.*
- **What did you want to do when you were younger?** *When I was very young I always wanted to be a teacher - I was the child who was playing schools and making registers in my notebooks. As a teenager I looked into being a physiotherapist because I wanted to be the England cricket team physio!*
- **What do you enjoy doing in your spare time?** *I am an avid sports fan - there is nothing better than the atmosphere of a live sport stadium. Rugby, football, cricket; I love it all. I spend a lot of time watching cricket and although I have tried playing, I'm not as good as I would like to be! Netball has been part of my life since I was a pupil at Allenbourn thanks to Mrs Darragh and I am still playing league netball now...injuries allowing! My daughters also keep me busy with all of their sporting and dancing activities.*
- **What are you looking forward to at AMS in 2024?** *I can't wait for the summer production and watching all of the pupils involved showcasing their incredible talents.*



Mrs Sydenham - Office Manager - Headteacher's PA

- **What did you do before you joined AMS?** *I was PA to the Headteacher at Wimborne First School & Nursery and before that I was the Manager of a care home for 54 older people including those with dementia in Poole. I really enjoyed helping my residents' families understand the devastating effects of dementia on their loved ones and supporting their journey through it. I started my working life as a nanny, travelling across the world looking after the children of opera singers, a pilot, an Earl and Lady and a family with a disabled child. I am still in contact with many of the children I have looked after.*

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- **What did you want to do when you were younger?** When I was younger I wanted to work with children and then became a nanny.
 - **What do you enjoy doing in your spare time?** I enjoy organising and getting the best deals for trips away with my family and getting a bargain. I love travelling to new destinations and have just got back from a great trip to Marrakech and an amazing hot air balloon flight over the Atlas mountains. I also love going to live music events with friends, especially Take That! I'm really looking forward to seeing Take That again this year when they tour!
 - **What are you looking forward to at AMS in 2024?** I'm looking forward to being part of the continuation of the school's transformation and working with a really lovely team of people. Improving the environment that our children can learn in and help organise the exciting trips that they can participate in. It's a very busy but exciting time to be part of AMS.



Year 5 Greek Day - Pupil Reviews

In my opinion, Greek Day was great. We created a play around the myth Theseus and the Minotaur. Each class showed their own interpretation of the story and their different views about it. It was fun to see everyone in their outfits, especially the ones made from scratch at home.

We had a lesson designed around the Olympic Games, which originated from Ancient Greece. We all participated in javelin throwing, hula hoop games and relay races competing against Allenbourn Houses.

Later, we learnt about Greek philosophy and Aristotle and how they have had a significant impact on modern society today. Furthermore, we made wreaths by cutting out leaves of card and attaching them to a headband. The final product was pretty good. For lunch, I brought in greek food like olives, tzatziki and other traditional foods.

In the afternoon, we watched all the plays that we prepared in the morning. Each class was a city state (either Athens or Sparta). We were Athenians which I think were the best - educated and intelligent.

Overall, I think Greek Day was a great success and everyone had a brilliant time.

By Jackson T 5W

Greek day was fun and I will say that first we rehearsed for our performance of Theseus and the Minotaur. After the rehearsal, we set off to the hall to participate in our very own Olympic Games. The activities were hard to compete in, but we did it. I enjoyed throwing the javelin, even though it didn't travel very far. Frome won the competition (we were playing in our House teams).

After the Olympics were won, it was time for philosophy. During this time we learnt about Aristotle, a famous Greek philosopher, who invented some of the scientific things we use today like the four elements of nature (minerals, plants, animals and humans) and the science of logic.

During lesson four we were very arty by making wreaths. They consisted of a small paper band and a selection of different colour leaves. These leaves were inserted with glue around the outside of the headband, so as to create a crown shape.

In the afternoon, all classes were able to show their interpretations of the same myth. It was almost like we were watching four different stories. It just goes to show that history is the historians' interpretation of the past.

By Annabel S

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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.

- **E. Brooks - 8T** - Mr Hickson launched a competition for the first pupil to be able to recite the first 100 digits of Pi. The winner would receive a mystery reward. Elliot achieved this in under a week.
- **Mr Joyce, Mr MacDonald and Mr Whitbread** - Our new site team for their fantastic hard work over the Christmas break and as the new year began to make improvements to our school site.
- **Our Millionaire Readers - Year 5** - I. Beaumont, L. Barbosa, A. Shapcott **Year 6** - J. Butler, A. Osei-Akoto, O. Brown, J. Croad, F. Waker, A. Osei-Akoto **Year 7** - L. Watkins, M. Morris, N. Burt **Year 8** - J. Collins, B. Milis, D. Bowerman-Ellis, J. Gardner, J. Morgan, I. Scott
- **J. Triplow and A. Clark 7D** - Who became **Tassomai Titans**

Our Pupil Parliament Our Pupil Parliament **continues to work hard to shape decisions across our school.** They are **currently learning more about our kitchen menu and would like to meet with our contractor to make improvements in this area** to ensure that we increasingly offer healthy options and perhaps introduce a meat free day. They are **also working hard to steer our Right Respecting Schools award application.**

National Youth Elections 2024

Children in Year 7 and 8 are currently taking part in the Dorset and National Youth Elections. They have been **learning about each candidate** and areas of focus in assemblies **watching campaign videos.** Children will then **go to the ballots before March 1st** and then hear more about the winners in the coming weeks.

Name	Job Title
Luke Smith	Deputy Headteacher
<p>What job did you want to do when you were a child?</p> <p>I always wanted to be a professional actor within the theatre industry. I had a dream to perform in some professional theatrical projects and have performed at a range of venues. My favourite role to play was in the school musical production.</p>	
<p>What Qualifications do you have? (Post A-Level)</p> <p>I have a degree in Theatre and Visual Arts. I studied at the University of Exeter. I had also completed an Advanced Technical Certificate in the Theatre and Visual Arts.</p>	
<p>What jobs did you do before leaving? Don't give your last.</p> <p>I worked in my own capacity by being an actor. There were also the opportunity of working in the professional industry in theatre. Actors and crew after their work, working in administration and in the technical side. I completed my degree at Exeter College of Arts and Design which was a professional qualification by the Royal Society of Arts. This was funded by Arts Council England. I subsequently performed in a diverse range of theatre, film, radio and television roles.</p>	
<p>What makes you proud to become a teacher or work in education? Tell us the story!</p> <p>After working as a lead actor I had many opportunities of working with young people through theatre, acting projects, theatre in education projects, and as a director. I was proud that my first position was using drama as a way of engaging with young people and to be able to provide the same for young people in education. I was proud to be able to provide the same for young people in education. I was proud to be able to provide the same for young people in education. I was proud to be able to provide the same for young people in education.</p>	
<p>What hobbies do you have? Please give details.</p> <p>I have many hobbies including reading, acting, and theatre. I have also been involved in the school's drama society and have been a member of the school's drama society. I have also been involved in the school's drama society and have been a member of the school's drama society. I have also been involved in the school's drama society and have been a member of the school's drama society.</p>	

Careers Update Mr Pressling has been busy ensuring that all of **our Year 7 and 8 children have regular careers sessions as part of their timetable.** In addition to this he is **working with external providers** to develop our careers offer **for children in years 5 and 6.** Following the **visit from Bournemouth University** to meet with our year 8 children to support our careers programme **all staff in school have produced their own careers poster** that can be found on their doors to help our children learn more about the skills required for a job and the many roles that adults in their school have previously held.

A reminder that 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

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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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.**

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

Expectations	At All Times	In Classrooms	Playground	Lunchtime	Tuition
We are here to learn	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Be on time for school Be prepared for your lessons Play your equipment safely and responsibly Be ready to learn 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Arrive on time for lessons Enter rooms quietly Have the necessary resources Listen to the teacher Respect the teacher Follow instructions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Arrive on time for lessons Play safely and responsibly Follow the rules of the playground Respect the equipment Follow the instructions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Be on time for lessons Be ready to learn Respect the teacher Follow the instructions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Be on time for lessons Be ready to learn Respect the teacher Follow the instructions
We are respectful and polite	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Be respectful to all Use appropriate language Offer help where you can 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Respect the teacher Respect the equipment Respect the resources Respect the environment Respect the facilities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Respect the equipment Respect the resources Respect the environment Respect the facilities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Respect the teacher Respect the equipment Respect the resources Respect the environment Respect the facilities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Respect the teacher Respect the equipment Respect the resources Respect the environment Respect the facilities
We make the right choices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Be safe Be healthy Be responsible Be respectful 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Follow the rules Respect the equipment Respect the resources Respect the environment Respect the facilities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Follow the rules Respect the equipment Respect the resources Respect the environment Respect the facilities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Follow the rules Respect the equipment Respect the resources Respect the environment Respect the facilities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Follow the rules Respect the equipment Respect the resources Respect the environment Respect the facilities

We are respectful and polite

We are here to learn

We make the right choices

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.

[Allenbourn Middle Behaviour Guidance](#)

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

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Did you Know? We have introduced a **Pupil Worry Button on our school website**. 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. This has been shared with children in the whole school assembly last half term.



We have also been **reminding children of some of the key Unicef articles in assembly** each week. Perhaps you could take time to discuss these as a family. We are **currently focussing on the seven articles** (left) whilst also reminding the children of our whole school approach to anti-bullying.



Whole School Attendance

Our whole school attendance figures are **improving steadily each week** since the start of this academic year. **Pupils' attendance at Allenbourn Middle is above the National averages**. Thank you to all of our families for your ongoing support. We are keen to improve further and to return to pre pandemic levels as soon as possible. It is vitally important that children are in school as often as possible. **We would ask for your support ensuring that your child arrives on time for school each day**. Dorset Local Authority have recently launched a campaign to support families improving their child's attendance at school. Please do contact the school office if you require further details or follow the link below to our school website where useful information can be found.



[Allenbourn Middle School - Website Attendance page](#)

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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	Rain Player by David Almond The Explorer by Katherine Rundell		The Magician's Nephew by CS Lewis Inkberrow by Lewis Carroll		Hidden Figures by Margot Lee Shetterly Who Let the Gods Out? by Moira 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	Splice	Spreadsheets	Logo	Hardware & History

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.**

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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Key Dates 2023 - 2024

Spring Term 2024

Parent Evenings

Tuesday 20th February

Thursday 22nd February

Wednesday 28th February

Year 6 NCMP Height/Weight Checks

Wednesday 6th March

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

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

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