



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 to extend a very warm welcome to all of our families as the children return for the new academic year. Despite particularly wet weather we have enjoyed a very positive start to the new term with children looking very smart in their uniforms and ready to embrace the excitement and challenges that a new school year brings.

In this first newsletter we will share news, important updates and reminders, celebrate some of the events that took place as the last school ended, whilst also providing links to a number of other important letters and documents in our **'One stop guide to the new school year' section** that 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 and class timetables** for each year that have been produced **in response to parent feedback** last year requesting a little more detail about what children learn each year.

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 Mrs Burley to our Senior Leadership Team**. Mrs Burley is **our new Special Educational Needs Lead**. Details of **coffee mornings**, providing opportunities for the **families of pupils on our SEND register to meet Mrs Burley** can be found in the key dates section and invites will be sent shortly.

Dorset Council - Footway Improvements

I am pleased to be able to provide a update on the footway improvements for our pupils

who travel across the **Allendale Car Park** as they travel to and from school each day. The footway improvement that will **provide a safe pedestrian path** across the car park is **confirmed** and we are currently waiting for a construction date from the Council. Whilst we hope that we will not have too long to wait for this much needed improvement, we have been informed that the work must be **completed before March 2025**.

AMS - A Silver - Rights Respecting School

You will remember that we completed our assessment to become a Silver Rights Respecting School in July. I am **delighted to share the news that we were successful in receiving this award** with assessors commenting that, **"rights are embedded at AMS"**. Our children report that, **"there are strong relationships between children and adults in our school"** and they also explained that **discrimination is addressed** and our shared approach, **"gets people talking and is definitely better than before"**.



Parent Evenings

We will be holding Parent Evenings on **Wednesday 23rd October** and **Thursday 7th 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.

Open Evening

You are invited to join us for our **Open Evening on Thursday 3rd October**. Please share this date with families and friends, encouraging them to visit to learn more about our school.

I am very much looking forward to working with families throughout the new academic year.

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



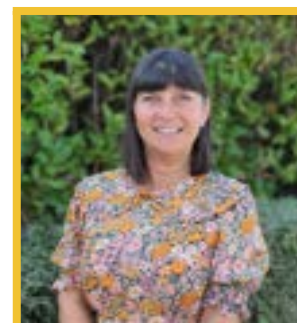
Child Protection

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: **Mr L. Smith** (Sept 2024).

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

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

Our Local School Committee

Mr P. Smith - Chair
Mrs J. Welsby
Mr Graham

Mrs V. Gregg - Vice Chair
Mr M. Legge
Parent Vacancy

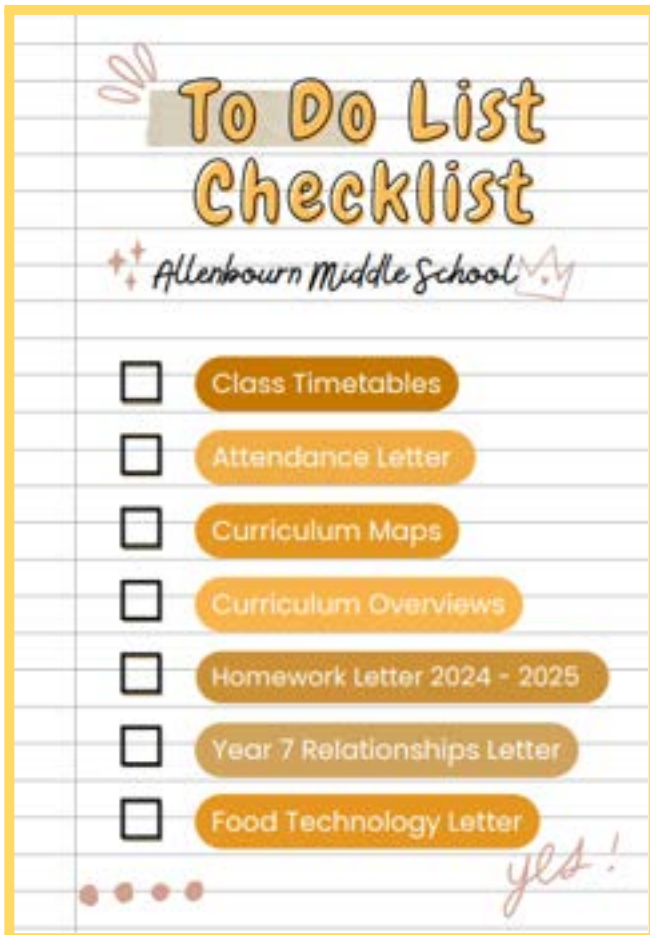
Mrs C. Mason
Mrs C. Diment
Mrs R. Farrow - Clerk

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



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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. We have also attached each of these to the ParentMail accompanying this Newsletter.

Don't forget that you have already received our club's offer for the Autumn term earlier this week in a separate Parent Mail.

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.

- Class Timetables 2024 - 2025
- Homework Letter 2024 - 2025
- Curriculum Overviews - Autumn Term
- Curriculum Maps 2024 - 2025
- Whole School Attendance Letter
- ClassCharts Login Letter

- Food Technology Reminder Letter
- Year 7 RSE Letter

[AMS Class Timetables 2024 - 2025](#)

[AMS Homework Letter 2024-2025](#)

[AMS Curriculum Overviews 2024-2025](#)

[AMS Curriculum Maps 2024 - 2025](#)

[AMS School Attendance Letter 2024](#)

[AMS Class Charts Information 2024](#)

Separate individual login letters to follow

[AMS Food Technology Letter 2024](#)

[AMS Year 7 RSE Letter 2024](#)



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Our Summer Production 2024

Many thanks to all the families who supported this wonderful event. Congratulations to all involved.



Launceston Farm Report – by Madeleine Morris

On Wednesday 26th of June, 25 Year 7 Allenbourn pupils spent a lovely sunny day at Launceston Farm, just outside Blandford in the Tarrant Valley, to make connections between food, farming and nature.

We were shown into the workshop, where we learnt all about what it means to be an organic farm and what they do to help the environment. Then we set off into the beautiful fields. We swept

for bugs, finding some of the first ladybirds of the year - which was really important as they are used instead of pesticides. We also spotted some shimmering blue weevils and intricate orb spiders.

After identifying our finds, we went to visit the 'Super Cows'. The beef suckler herd has been specifically bred to be a perfect size and lovely temperament.



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Everyone loved seeing all the animals on the farm but the cows were a particular favourite, closely followed by the pigs and the horses.

Next, we walked back to the workshop for lunch. We learnt about how the farm's wheat is turned into flour by the mill, and how we would be using some to make pizzas! Whilst they were in the oven, we fussed around the adorable dogs and listened, with interest, to how the farm was run. Once the pizzas were ready, we took them to a sunny field to eat – they were delicious!

It was a fabulous day, and we are all really grateful to Mrs Mason, Mrs Prout and Mr Daw for giving us this opportunity.

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.

*Remember your **child can purchase essential equipment packs** from the school office for £3.50*



These have been very popular since they were introduced in July.

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.



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.**

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Pupil Parliament - Our General Election

Many **congratulations to our new Pupil Parliament members**. Indigo, Jakob, Madeleine, Milo, Georgia, Noah and Joy who were appointed following interviews in July. **Noah will be our Prime Minister for 2024 - 2025** after the whole school went to the polls on 4th July to vote for the change that they would like to see at AMS. Noah was **successful in securing 5 minutes of laughter each week at AMS**. Further details of this initiative will be shared later in the academic year. **The children's priorities for 2024 - 2025 are:** sign language for all pupils, book buddies, a buddy system for year 5, gardening club, 5 minutes of laughter and to continue to improve our playground activities.



Children in each class will be making **presentations in the next week** explaining why they should **represent their class on our School Council**. Our Pupil Parliament and School Council will begin their work for this year shortly and we look forward to sharing their achievements with you.

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](#) - Updated May 2024

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

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Allenbourn Middle School Newsletter

September 2024

Autumn Term - Issue Number 13



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Out and About in 2024 - 2025

We are proud of the **personal development opportunities** that we are able to offer the children. In the coming weeks we will share further details of some of the events planned for this year. Our **Year 5 children will complete a three day residential visit to Bristol** in the Summer term. We are busy **seeking to secure dates for our Year 6 children to visit Nothe Forte**. On **15th October children in Year 7 will visit the Mayflower to see War Horse** and **Year 8 children will receive information about our Enrichment week** that will take place in **March** and includes details about our **London Residential Visit**.

Local School Committee Member

Vacancy

We are currently seeking to appoint a parent/carer representative on our Local School Committee. This role provides an excellent opportunity to contribute to our school and share your expertise to help our school to grow and thrive. Further details can be found in the letter below.

[LSC Parent Election Letter](#)

Did you Know? Our children complete a weekly P.S.H.E. lesson with their class teacher and all children in years 7 and 8 have a careers lesson each week.

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.**
-

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**.

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**.

Did you Know? **Term Dates for 2025 - 2026 can now be viewed on our school website** These are located underneath our current term dates. [AMS Term Dates](#)

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IMPORTANT: Essential uniform reminders

[School Uniform at AMS](#)

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

Attendance Matters and reporting your child's absence



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

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 improve further. It is vitally important that children are in school as often as possible.

We ask for your support ensuring that your child attends school everyday unless there is a very clear reason for absence. Please review the link on our school website on how to report your child's absence. [Reporting Absence @AMS](#)

Communication with Home

We continue to work hard to develop strong links with our families ensuring 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.

You can also follow news of our children's successes by following us on X and Facebook pages last year, please do consider following our school.

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

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 very shortly**.

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

Open Evening Please take the time to join us on **Thursday 3rd October 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.

Class Charts - Reward Shop - Coming soon!

We will be sharing details of reward trips and prizes for our Class Charts rewards shop. Don't forget to encourage your child to use their House Points to enter prize draws for non uniform days, Costa trips or Mountain biking at Moors Valley. We are working with the children to improve our offer for 2024 - 2025.



Did you know? Caterlink our school kitchen provider have notified us that they have increased the price of a main meal to £2.85

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Key Dates

Autumn Term 2024

Open Evening
SEND Coffee Morning - 9.30-10.30am
School Photographs
Parents Evening - 3.45-6.45pm
Last day of Half Term
Staff Training Day
Pupils Return to School
Parents Evening - 3.45-6.45pm
SEND Coffee Morning - 9.30-10.30am
Last Day of Term
Staff Training Day

Thursday 3rd October 2024
Tuesday 8th October 2024
Monday 21st October 2024
Wednesday 23rd October 2024
Friday 25th October 2024
Monday 4th November 2024
Tuesday 5th November 2024
Thursday 7th November 2024
Tuesday 3rd December 2024
Thursday 19th December 2024
Friday 20th December 2024

Spring Term 2025

Staff Training Day
Pupils Return to School
Last Day of Half Term
Staff Training Day
Pupils Return to School
Last Day of Term
Staff Training Day
Pupils Return to School

Monday 6th January 2025
Tuesday 7th January 2025
Friday 14th February 2025
Monday 24th February 2025
Tuesday 25th February 2025
Friday 4th April 2025
Tuesday 22nd April 2025
Wednesday 23rd April 2025

Summer Term 2025

May Day Bank Holiday
Year 6 Key Stage 2 SATs Week
Last Day of Half Term
Pupils Return to School
Staff Training Day
Last Day of Term

Monday 5th May 2025
w/b Monday 12th May 2025
Friday 23rd May 2025
Monday 2nd June 2025
Friday 4th July 2025
Wednesday 23rd July 2025

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