



Headteacher Update

Dear Parents/Carers

I am pleased to write as we begin a new half term and following a very successful start to the new academic year. We have much to celebrate already along with a number of important updates and reminders as we approach the Christmas break. Please take the time to share this newsletter as a family and to discuss life at AMS with your child.

Open Evening and Parent Tours

It was fantastic to welcome so many families to school for our recent open evening. Since this evening I have led **many tours that have been very well attended** and will continue in this new half term. **Places for September 2026 are filling quickly** and we are really **excited to be welcoming Year 4 children to AMS for taster sessions** with Mr Wright and Mrs Henstridge in the next few weeks.

Improving Attendance

Thank you for your support ensuring that our children attend school regularly. We have been **working with the children in assembly and through rewards and competitions to maximise attendance** across all year groups. Indeed **improved attendance at school for all children is a key priority for this academic year**. In the first half term our **Year 6** children have the **best attendance across our four Trust Middle Schools** with an attendance figure of **97.1%** and our **Year 5** sit in second place on attendance **97.5%**. Keep up this fantastic work years 5 and 6. Our Year 7 and 8 attendance sits at 93.5% and 94% respectively. This represents improvement. However we know that maintaining strong attendance throughout Middle school will have a positive impact upon GCSE outcome and your child's future success and therefore it is **imperative that we work together to improve attendance** in these year groups over the next half term to give our children the very best possibility to be successful.

Anti-Bullying Week 2025 and E-Safety Day - Next week is **National Anti-bullying week**. This year's theme is 'Power for Good'. We will begin the week by **encouraging children to take part in Odd Sock Day on Monday 10th November**. Odd Sock Day celebrates individuality and the things that make us all unique. Children can support this event by wearing odd socks with their school uniform. The more unique and colourful the better! The week will end with **children taking part in our annual E-safety day**. Children will work with their tutor throughout the day learning more about this important topic.

Christmas Concert and Wimborne Christmas Lights - We are very much looking forward to welcoming families to our Christmas Concert at Wimborne Minster on Monday 1st December. The children have been working very hard to prepare and many of these children will also sing as part of the Wimborne Christmas light switch on on Saturday 29th November. Please do take the time to come and support our children at this event.

Christmas Jumper Day - We will be supporting Save the Children by taking part in Christmas jumper day on Thursday 11th December. Further details on how you can take part will follow shortly.

Staffing Update As the half term ended we said farewell to Mrs Wathen our Design department technician. Mrs Wathen had been associated with AMS in a number of roles for more than 40 years and she will be missed by staff and children. We wish her every happiness for the future and thank her for her wonderful contribution to our school.

A reminder that **term ends for the children on Thursday 18th December** with **report cards being sent home on Friday 12th December**.

Kind regards

Mr M. Legge - Headteacher



In this newsletter you can find: Key dates and term dates, links to policies along with updates on news and events from the Autumn term so far.



Ofsted 2025

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

Judged to be “outstanding” for personal development and for behaviour and attitudes

Allenbourn Middle School

Academic Excellence

All Inclusive

Responsible Individuals

Application Reminder

If you live in BCP, applications for a place with us for September 2026

Open on 1st November 2025

We expect places to fill quickly, please make a note of this important date.

Applications for Dorset residents are already open.





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**.

01 Academic Excellence
Seeking new knowledge and skills. Learning to problem solve, make decisions and be courageous.

02 All Inclusive
Valuing diversity, tolerance and the views of others. Growing in self belief in a nurturing environment.

03 Responsible Individuals
Developing value and responsibility within our community. Understanding the importance of keeping healthy and safe.



Did you know? We are eligible to be assessed for Gold RRS status in the Summer Term

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:
Mr K. Jess.

Our Designated Teacher with responsibility for Looked after Children is:
Mr L. Smith.



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

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

Did you know? Mrs Joanne Perrett has been elected as Chair of our Local School Committee. Joanne is a parent at AMS and we are delighted that she will lead our committee. Joanne will work closely with the Senior Leadership and committee members as we continue to improve our school.



Allendale Car Park Footway Improvements completed

It has been fantastic to see the children arriving and leaving school safely each day via our new footway. Many thanks to Dorset LA for supporting this improvement.



Special Recognition Award

Many congratulations to **Megan in Year 7 who Walked 27 miles to raise funds for Bournemouth and Poole hospitals** during her Summer Holiday. A fantastic achievement!

Well done to **Elsie and Evie in Year 7** who have both been **selected for the County Netball Team**.



Did you Know?

Our very own **Mrs Hazell** will be running the **London Marathon** in April. She will be **raising funds for Tommy's the baby charity** who raise awareness about baby loss. You can support Mrs Hazell and this valuable charity by following this link: [Mrs Hazell London Marathon Donations](#)



The Essential AMS Pupil Equipment List – Get set for Christmas

Please ensure that your child attends school with the correct equipment each day. Below is a quick reminder of the items that they need for each day:

- A handwriting pen with blue ink (including a spare),
- a pencil case, a pencil, a pencil sharpener,
- a clear plastic 30cm ruler, an eraser, a glue stick,
- a board pen, a set of colouring pencils,
- a purple, pink and green biro and a highlighter.



You can purchase essential equipment packs via the Arbor shop for £4.00



Did you Know?

Children can use our **Pupil Worry Button** that can be found on our school website (see above). This provides all of our children with the opportunity to share a concern with a Designated Safeguarding Lead to enable staff to best support your child. Children in Years 5 and 6 also have a Worry Monster in their classroom that they can add notes to for their teacher. The children are regularly reminded about this in our whole school assemblies.

Important Mobile phone reminder:

Pupils are required to **turn their mobile phone off as they enter our school each day** and these **must be handed in** and **secured in their class phone box** for the day. Any pupil found with their mobile phone turned on or in their possession during the school day will be issued with an after school detention.

Behaviour Expectations @AMS

We continue to **teach our children how to conduct themselves** as they grow to be articulate and responsible young people. We value our partnership with home and all of our families' support to ensure that we work together to reinforce our behaviour expectations. This will ensure that our school is the very best environment for our children to learn and grow in. Please take time to review these expectations with your child from time to time. A link to our behaviour procedures is available below (and on our school website) for you to review together.

[AMS Behaviour Guidance Trust Behaviour Policy](#)

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

Did you know?

You can now make a voluntary donation to school funds when you visit the shop in the Arbor App. There is no expectation or any family to make a donation. However all contributions will be used to support trips and visits across the school year.



IMPORTANT: Please ensure that children do not bring nut or sesame seed based products into school. This includes Nutella spread. Please also ensure that children have a healthy snack for break time each day and remind them of the importance of reducing packaging and keeping our school tidy.

Pupil Safety and Conduct in our Community

We regularly talk with the children about the importance of travelling to and from school safely. Please discuss the following with your children regularly to ensure their safety.

- **Behaviour should be of a high standard at all times.**
- Pupils should not use mobile phones whilst walking to school, particularly when crossing roads.
- Pupils must remain on pavements at all times and walk with care and consideration for others.
- Pupils using scooters or bikes should take care around other road users and those on pavements.
- **Helmets should be worn on bicycles and scooters.**

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.

Communication with Home

Don't forget to sign up to the Arbor App

We continue to work hard to develop strong links with our families ensuring that you receive regular and timely information about school life.

Thank you for signing up to the Arbor App ahead of us making greater use of this over the coming months. Currently more than **98% of families have signed up**. If you have not completed this process yet please email the school office to be sent a link.



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.



BIG REWARDS

Each week throughout the academic year we will be **rewarding children** for reaching attendance milestones or for making real progress to secure improved attendance at school. **Donut Friday has been a real success** and each week in assembly we will explain to the children how our **weekly challenge** will work. We **plan to catch as many children as possible working hard on their attendance** throughout the year.

Attendance Matters and reporting your child's absence

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

Our whole school attendance figures continue to improve steadily and pupils' attendance at Allenbourn Middle is above the National averages.

Thank you to all of our families for your ongoing support. We remain keen to see further required improvement. It is **vitaly important that children are in school as often as possible**.

We ask for your support **ensuring that your child attends school everyday** unless there is a very clear reason for absence.

Please review the link on our school website on how to report your child's absence. Reporting Absence @AMS



Year 7 and 8 pupils are making fantastic progress with their Sparx Learning. Keep up the fantastic work!

On time homework completion rates:

Mathematics:	This year - 95.1%	Last three weeks - 97.8%
Reader:	This Year - 90.8%	Last three weeks - 93%
Science:	This Year - 94.5%	Last three weeks - 97.8%



Peripatetic Music lessons Many children benefit from peripatetic music lessons through the school year. These are offered to all children across a variety of instruments. Please speak with Mrs Moskova or the school office if you would like more details.

Arriving at school each day - Your support is needed.

Allenbourn Middle School opens at 8:30am for pupils, with registration taking place for all pupils at 8:40am. Whilst we are keen to encourage excellent punctuality, can we please ask for your support in ensuring your child **does not arrive at school too early in the morning**. Duty staff are not in place until 8:30am when the school officially opens. **Prior to 8:30am the playground and other external facilities are not monitored by staff**. Should you require morning child care, our breakfast club provision starts from 7.45am and is currently able to be booked on Arbor.

Extra Time @ AMS - Continuing for Autumn 2025 - Book now!

Extra-time @AMS is now back up and running and it is great to see this additional provision being used by our families.

Mrs Fielder will lead our new programme of activities from Monday 17th November and we are keen to see more families making use of this provision in the coming months.

Extra-time@AMS runs between 3:10pm and 5:45pm, Monday to Friday during term time, excluding training days. Children do not have to attend every evening and families may wish to attend for one or two evenings each week.

Each evening children will have the opportunity to complete homework and learning tasks whilst also attending other school clubs and interventions. Children will have a snack and drink break together at approximately 4:15pm.

Children will then complete games and other activities until collection. **Places cost £8 per session.**

Places can currently be booked on Arbor a week in advance or by contacting the school office for last minute bookings.



IMPORTANT: Essential uniform reminders School Uniform at AMS

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



NEW E-Praise – Reward Shop – Launched this week

We have moved to E-Praise to provide our Reward shop facility for children for this academic year. We have sharing details of our new reward trips and prizes along with login details in assembly this week. Don't forget to encourage your child to use their House Points to enter prize draws.



Year 5 Art

Well done Year 5 your art work inspired by Kusama is fantastic and it has been brilliant to see you enjoying your art lessons with Mrs Henstridge this term



We are pleased to be supporting **BBC Children in Need** on **Friday 14th November**. Children can take part by attending school in **non uniform** and making **a donation** via this just giving link by clicking [HERE](#)





Sports Update



PEDSSA Cross-Country

The cross-country season is now well underway with two full minibuses of pupils heading to Canford and Ferndown to compete in the first two events. We have taken competitors from Years 6–8,

At **Canford** it was Jack and Gabriel who led the way for the team, finishing in 16th and 20th place respectively. Our Year 6 girls showed real determination and all finished strongly—returning with smiles on their faces and already planning how they might approach it differently next time.

Next up were our KS3 runners. A huge well done to Year 7 pupils Osian (25th), Eliza (18th), and Abi (29th)—and to all the Year 7 girls who managed to field three full teams between them! Congratulations also to these Year 8 runners: Harry (6th), Maisie (24th), and Rose (28th), Nathan (28th) and Evan (29th) who all ran brilliantly.

At **Ferndown**, our KS2 boys ran superbly to secure an excellent 5th place in the team standings. Jack (15th), Harry (19th), Gabriel (26th) and George (69th) all put in strong performances, while Caleb, Theo and Robbie also ran brilliantly. Rose, Bella, Eloise and Julie ran with great spirit and determination. The first girls' team made a fantastic leap up the leaderboard, moving from 5th to 2nd place, with the next two teams finishing in 10th and 13th. Eliza climbed an impressive eight places to finish 10th, while Maisie and Rose came in 18th and 19th, and Abi finished strongly in 26th.

The boys also improved their team performance, moving up to 2nd and 10th place overall. Harry finished an outstanding 4th, with Osian (14th), Nathan (18th) and Joe (30th).

Caterlink - The Kitchen Payments now on Arbor

As we have returned from the half term break the Trust tech team have completed the switch over of payments for our school kitchen to Arbor. This will now work in the same way as all other Arbor payments



Did you know? Term Dates for 2025 – 2026 and 2026 – 2027 can be viewed on our school website using the link below.

[AMS Term Dates](#)



Year 5 Fun Run at St Michael's

What an excellent turnout from our enthusiastic Year 5 pupils at the Fun Run held at St Michael's! With almost 30 pupils keen to take part, Allenbourn was by far the best-represented school in both the boys' and girls' races.

After being taken around the course and completing a lively warm-up, the event began with the boys leading the way, closely followed by the girls. It was fantastic to see how well our pupils embraced the 1km challenge - some with previous running experience and others taking on their very first race. They set off with a strong start and then settled into a steady pace to complete the course.

A huge well done to all our Year 5 runners for their energy, enthusiasm, and fantastic sportsmanship throughout the event. Special mentions go to Carter, who finished 1st for the boys, closely followed by Jack (3rd), Hugh (4th) and Rex (9th). For the girls, standout performances came from Matilda (2nd), Marli (3rd), Coral (6th), Tessa (7th) and Erin (8th).

Congratulations to all! You should be proud, and you've done Allenbourn proud too!



Careers @ AMS

Careers is fast becoming a driving force in curriculum delivery and an end target for all. At Key Stage 3, the children will have a session each week as detailed in our Careers overview that can be viewed on our website.

Year 7 start by reflecting on why education is important, whilst Year 8 begin to consider who is in their network. Both staff and children agree on one thing that has the most impact on careers and that is parents. The most powerful visitors we have had to our schools in the past few years have been when parents have come to share their career journey and children become aware of the wider working world.

If you feel that you could spare 20 minutes to come and talk to Year 7 & 8 about your career, please could you contact Mr Pressling at mpressling@allenbournmiddle.org in the first instance. It doesn't matter what you do for a living, you could inspire a child to consider a career they have never thought of.



Key Dates

Autumn Term 2025

Children return to school
AMS Online Safety Day
Rescheduled Parent Evening from 6th November 2025
AMS Performing at Christmas Light switch on
Performance at Wimborne Minster
Christmas Jumper Day - Save the Children
Last day of Autumn Term

Tuesday 4th November 2025
Friday 14th November 2025
Thursday 20th November 2025
Saturday 29th November 2025
Monday 1st December 2025
Thursday 11th December 2025
Thursday 18th December 2025

Spring Term 2026

Staff Training Day
Children return to School
Year 6 SATs Parent Information Evening
Subject Based Parent Evenings

Monday 5th January 2026
Tuesday 6th January 2026
Wednesday 21st January 2026
Tuesday 10th February 2026
Thursday 12th February 2026
Monday 16th February 2026
Monday 23rd February 2026
Tuesday 24th February 2026
Wednesday 25th February 2026
Monday 16th March 2026
Friday 27th March 2026

Half term

Staff Training Day
Children return to School
Subject Based Parent Evening
Year 8 London Residential Visit
Last day of Spring Term

Summer Term 2026

Staff Training Day
Children return to School

Monday 13th April 2026
Tuesday 14th April 2026

All of our **Year 5, 6 and 7** pupils took part in the **annual Dorset Coding Week** held from 6-10th October. In their computing lesson they **coded a fun online safety quiz in Scratch**. Not only did this **reinforce key messages of digital safety**, but helped **develop coding skills** and **reflect on future careers**.

Barclays help sponsor the event and provide additional coding opportunities for all pupils at:

<https://digital.wings.uk.barclays/code-playground/>

