



Headteacher Update

Dear Parents/Carers

We have very much enjoyed welcoming the children back to school this week for the Spring term. A very Happy New Year to all of our families ahead of what proves to be an exciting and indeed busy 2026. Our first newsletter of the new year includes news from the last half term, celebrating the children's achievements along with important updates and reminders. Please take the time to share this newsletter as a family and to discuss life at AMS with your child.

Staffing update - We are delighted to have **welcomed Mr Williams** to the teaching team at AMS this week. Mr Williams will teach **Physical Education across the school** whilst being the class teacher for 7L. It certainly has been a busy first week for Mr Williams who has led **competitive fixtures** as **swimming lessons also begin for the children in Year 5**. With our **clubs programme beginning next week** Mr Williams will work alongside Mrs Darragh to maintain our fantastic sports and clubs provision. Please do take a moment to introduce yourself to Mr Williams this term.

Improving Attendance - Thank you for your support throughout the Autumn Term to **improve attendance across our school**. We finished the term with a **much improved whole school attendance figure of 94.8%** as you can see on the graph below that shows attendance across each week of the term. **Attendance at school fell in the week prior to October half term and in the final weeks of term**. It is important that we quickly re-establish strong routines and expectations around attendance in 2026 particularly in the final Winter months. Your ongoing support and partnership with this will impact positively upon the achievement of our children.

The AMS Shoe Shop - Opening January 2026

The vast majority of our families work very hard to **support our uniform expectations** throughout the academic year. However some children persist in wearing branded trainers to school. Therefore we will be launching our shoe shop this month. Children who attend school in

inappropriate footwear such as Nike Air Force ones will be required to borrow a pair of shoes from the shoe shop each morning, returning them in good condition each day. We remain committed to **teaching our children the importance of maintaining high standards in everything that they do** and our school uniform requirements are an essential part of this.



School improvement work - We continue to make every effort to care for and maintain our school facilities. I am delighted to report that **our school fire alarm system was replaced early in December**. The **PTA** also have a number of projects that they hope to support following our **successful Christmas raffle and school disco** last term. We hope that this will include the purchase of **new athletics vests** later this term.

Save the date - This term we will be hosting our **Year 6 SATs information evening, parent evenings** and our **London residential information evening**. In addition to this, **Year 5 will visit the Ancient Technology Centre** in July, **Year 6 will visit Marwell Zoo** in May and **Year 7 visit Paultons Park** in March to learn about forces and will also **visit Queen Elizabeth's School** in February to watch the production of Legally Blonde. Details for these events has either already been sent to you or will be sent shortly.

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 school year 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

ALLENBOURN MIDDLE SCHOOL -
- SEPTEMBER 2026 ADMISSIONS

PLACES FILLING FAST

SEPTEMBER
2026



APPLICATION DEADLINE:
15TH JANUARY 2026

Don't miss out! Apply now!



We have been delighted to receive such a high number of applications for places in Year 5 for September 2026.

A reminder that the deadline for applications is 15th January 2026.

Please contact the school office if you would like to tour and learn more about our school.



Aspire@AMS

Contact us: 01202 886738

office@allenbournmiddle.org



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? Parent Evenings – We will be holding Parent Evenings on **Tuesday 10th**, **Thursday 12th** and **Wednesday 25th February**, providing a valuable opportunity to meet with subject teachers. We very much look forward to welcoming you to school. Details for booking appointments will be shared nearer to the time.



Christmas Jumper Day 2025

Thank you for Supporting our Christmas jumper day. In addition to the £570 raised via our Just Giving page a further £124 was raised during our Christmas Concert at Wimborne Minster ensuring that **we raised an impressive £694 for Save the Children.**



Special Recognition Award

Our Special Recognition award is given each week in our whole school assembly to recognise achievements across our school community both inside and outside of school. Please keep sending your recommendations to the school office. We love to hear about the children's successes!

Eliza in **Year 7** won the U13 South West Indoor Regional Athletics High Jump in Cardiff. She broke her PB three times in the process! She managed to jump 1.32m to win the competition then continued on her own to jump 1.35m and finished at 1.37m.



Carter in **Year 5** recently went to London for a futsal indoor football tournament and was a proud winners beating the likes of Reading, Charlton Athletic, Fulham and Brighton. He is off to London again for another futsal tournament with a change to go through to play at St George's park. Carter also completed filming for a growing goalkeeper glove brand over the half term.



Year 6 PEDSSA Tournament – At QE for the Bee Netball tournament. The team played in a pool of six teams and had five matches. An amazing result – six wins out of six, this must put us top of the group! A huge well done to the whole team.

Year 5 Panathlon competitors at Emmanuel Middle School

The AMS Choir at the Christmas Light Switch on. Very well done to all involved.

Charlotte in **Year 5** raising money for the Royal British Legion.



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.



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 Learn your space tidy and clean 	<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 **99% 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.

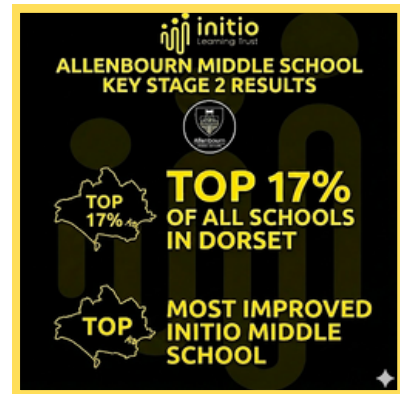
Please review the link on our school website on how to report your child's absence.



Key Stage 2 League Tables published

In December the final performance tables for last year's Year 6 SATs were published by the DfE.

It was fantastic to see AMS in the **top 17% of all schools in Dorset** and the **2nd highest performing Middle School** in the County supporting our significant improvement journey and supporting our 2025 Ofsted inspection outcome.



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](#)





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 click on the following link [CLICK HERE](#) if you would like more details.

Arriving at school each day - Your support is needed.

Allenbourn Middle School opens at 8:30am, 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 - Book now for Spring 2026!

Extra-time @AMS continues to go from strength to strength and it is great to see this additional provision being used by more and more of our families.

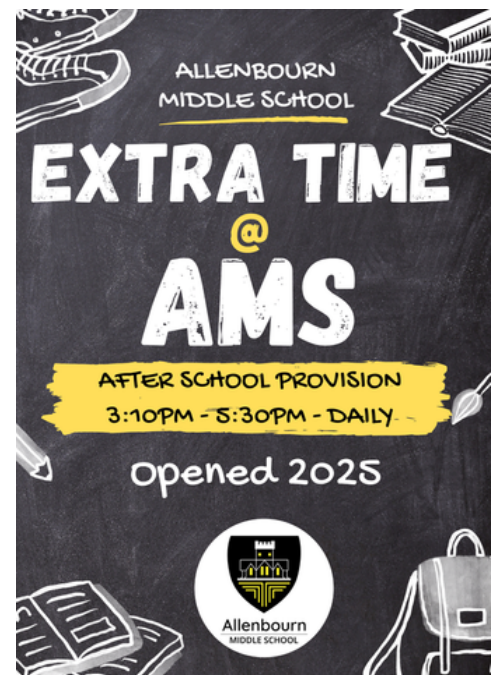
Mrs Fielder leads our programme of activities and we are keen to see more families making use of this provision.

Extra-time@AMS runs between 3:10pm and 5:30pm, 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 arts and crafts until collection. **Places cost £8 per session.**

Places can 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.



E-Praise Reward Shop - It has been fantastic to see our children making such great use of the **E-Praise App to spend their House Points**. Please log in alongside your child (They know how to do this) to chat about the information they can see and to encourage them to use their House Points this term. Last term children used these points to earn non uniform days, to attend workshops or to visit Costa Coffee.



Year 4 visits to Allenbourn Middle School - It was fantastic to welcome children from Merley First, Pamphill First, Wimborne First and Witchampton First School's last term. Children completed a Maths or Art workshop enjoyed refreshments and a min bus trip as they learnt a little more about our school. Above is some of the fantastic art work they completed with us. The pupils were really enthusiastic and a pleasure to teach. They took home their artworks along with a bookmark and a fact sheet about the artist Paul Klee that they could fill in at home or in class.

Year 5 pupils at the Panathlon

In November some of our Year 5 pupils had the opportunity to represent Allenbourn in a Panathlon event at Emmanuel Middle School. They took part in a range of sporting challenges and were absolute stars! They gave it their all, showed amazing teamwork, and thoroughly enjoyed being part of the event. We're so proud of their enthusiasm and brilliant attitudes throughout the day!



Caterlink - The Canteen - Payments now on Arbor

A reminder that we 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





Sports Update



Year 6 PEDSSA Tournament – Part 1

A group of **eight, Year 6 pupils** went to QE for the Bee **Netball tournament**. They played in a pool of six teams with five matches. In Bee Netball, there are only five players on court and everyone must rotate positions at half-time and at the end of each game. Players need to be versatile and able to switch positions quickly.

We played in all weathers and the team coped brilliantly with the changing conditions. We had a fantastic start with two wins, followed by a very close game against St Joseph's. A much-needed goal from Immi secured a 3–2 victory. In the final two games, the team stayed focused, chased every ball, and kept scoring, winning 2–0 and an incredible 6–0.

An amazing result with five wins to top the group!

A huge well done to the whole team. There was deft defending from **Blake** and **Maisie**, majestic mid-court play from **Poppy**, **Jazmine** and **Phoebe**, and superb scoring from **Ocean**, **Immi**, and **Rose**. Special mention must also go to our fantastic sports leaders, **Zack** and **Izzy** for their organisation, inspiration and coaching.

Congratulations to everyone, and now it's time to train hard along with the rest of the netball squad for the next round in February!

Year 5 Football Festival

The **Year 5** boys took part in a fantastic football festival. All 32 pupils from the Year 5 football club were invited to attend, giving every child the opportunity to experience competitive match play. The boys showed excellent engagement throughout the afternoon, with some superb football on display. Each team represented Allenbourn brilliantly and achieved an impressive set of results, **winning seven of the eight matches played**.



Spring Term Clubs

A reminder that our Spring term Clubs programme begins on Monday 12th January. Thank you for signing up via Arbor. Please encourage your child to attend clubs regularly as an opportunity to participate and develop valuable skills.



Did you know? E-Praise – Attendance Points – Every week!

Each week children with **100% attendance** will be awarded **25 bonus points** to spend on **E-Praise rewards**. That is an **extra 250 points** for every 10 weeks with **100% attendance** at school. Every lesson the children attend earns them a point to spend on E-Praise.



The Autumn Term @AMS



Our **Year 6** classes had a fantastic time at **Nothe Fort in Weymouth**, stepping into the shoes of WWII evacuees. They explored rationing in the wartime shop, had a go washing clothes the 1940s way, and discovered what a typical kitchen looked like in those days.



We took part in **Odd Sock Day**, in aid of **Anti-Bullying Week**, celebrating individuality and the things that make us all unique. Everyone made a fantastic effort brightening up the school with great sock combinations.



Our Christmas Concert at Wimborne Minster

It was fantastic to fill Wimborne Minster with families and friends for our Christmas concert. More than 150 children took part in this wonderful event as AMS returned to perform at the Minster for the first time since 2019.

3rd PEDSSA Cross-Country Event - **Our biggest cross-country team** yet travelled to Chapel Gate. The **KS2 girls team** had a fantastic afternoon, moving up an incredible six places to **finish 10th overall**. A massive well done to our first four AMS runners back — Matilda, Coral, Tessa and Amaya — all from Year 5. The **KS2 boys** also impressed, moving up two places to **finish 3rd overall**. Special mentions go to Harry, who finished 19th. **Our KS3 pupils** showed the same grit and team spirit.

The **boys** maintained their excellent **2nd place overall**, improving their score again. Strong running from Harry and Osian, holding their 4th and 14th positions, and a fantastic five-place jump for Nathan, now up to 18th. Tyg finished an impressive 11th. The **KS3 girls** pushed hard and **secured 5th place as a team**.



Did You Know? Places for September 2026 in Year 5 are filling fast and we have significantly more applications currently than we have had at this point in recent years.



The Autumn Term @AMS



Textiles at AMS - We are proud to celebrate the outstanding creativity, technical skill, and imagination shown by pupils across all year groups in Textiles. Each year group has worked creatively and with growing confidence to design and make high-quality textile products.



Year 5 textiles at AMS



Year 6 textiles at AMS



Year 7 textiles at AMS



Year 8 textiles at AMS



Remembrance 2025 - We remembered all those whose lives have been affected by conflict since World War 1 by holding a two minute silence. We invited children who are members of organisations such as Air Cadets, Scouts, Guides and Brownies to wear their uniform to school to mark the significance of the date of remembrance and recognise their commitment in being involved in these groups.



A **HUGE thank you** to our two wonderful helpers who assisted with drawing the **PTA raffle**. We were so lucky to have such fantastic raffle prizes **generously donated** by our local community. A massive **thank you to the PTA** for organising the raffle and raising such valuable funds.



The Autumn Term @AMS



The Year 5 Christmas Bazaar 2025

Thank you to Charlotte and Hugo in Year 5 for their reviews of our successful Christmas Bazaar. Thank you to all of our families and friends who supported this event. Proceeds from this event will subsidise the cost of the children's trip to the Ancient Technology Centre.



I think the cafe was a really big success, not just based on what I thought but what I heard the parents saying and how long some of them stayed.

The Pre-loved shop was a massive success especially when they started doing deals and lowering the prices and then everyone started talking about it.

Santa's Grotto was very exciting because you didn't know what you were going to get. Fill a jar was tense because you wanted to win, but at the same time it was really FUN! The games were amazing, but the best game was DEFINITELY the one where you had to try and either knock some cans down or hit a target. The Christmas bazaar was ¹⁰⁰amazing.

By Hugo – Year 5

All the children in Year Five had a great time spending money, winning prizes and getting gifts from Santa at our Christmas Bazaar. I especially loved it because there was a wide range of games, presents and lots of fun food from the cafe that 5W and 5J ran this year. 5B ran the tombola and Santa's grotto, 5M ran the pre-loved gifts and the wonderful 5A made games and people won prizes.

As I'm in 5W, I ran the cafe between 10:30-11:00. Lots of parents came including my mum. It was my mum's day off so I guess it was a bit of luck that Allenbourn's famous bazaar was held on a Thursday. I think every child that took part enjoyed it and had a sack full of fun.

If we added all the money up to a total, I would take a guess that we raised over £700. The teachers though, were very thankful to each and every child for taking part, having fun and raising money.

I think Miss Ashby's class raised the most money due to the fantastic games that they created with that wonderful imagination of theirs. I'm sure that each and every class raised as much money as they could due to their hard work they'd put in. It was the best thing I had ever done in my life, except doing English of course!

By Charlotte – Year 5

Welcome to Mr Williams

Previous job role: AFC Bournemouth

Previous Schools: Poole High School

Hobbies: All Sports, but favourite sports are – Cricket and Rugby

What do you do in your spare time?

I enjoy travelling, going to the theatre with family. Taking my 2 girls to Netball matches and training and eating out.





Key Dates

Spring Term 2026

Year 6 SATs Parent Information Evening
Year 7 Queen Elizabeth's - Legally Blonde Trip
Subject Based Parent Evenings

Half term

Staff Training Day
Children return to School
Year 8 London Residential Visit
Year 7 Paultons Park Trip
Last day of Spring Term

Wednesday 21st January 2026
Wednesday 4th February 2026
Tuesday 10th February 2026
Thursday 12th February 2026
Wednesday 25th February 2026
Monday 16th February 2026
Monday 23rd February 2026
Tuesday 24th February 2026
Monday 16th March 2026
Friday 27th March 2026
Friday 27th March 2026

Summer Term 2026

Staff Training Day
Children return to School
Year 6 Marwell Zoo Trip
Half Term
Sports Days
Transfer Day
Year 5 Ancient Technology Centre Trips
Last day of Summer Term

Monday 13th April 2026
Tuesday 14th April 2026
Friday 15th May 2026
Monday 25th May 2026
Thursday 18th/Friday 19th June 2026
Friday 26th June 2026
8th, 10th, 13th & 14th July 2026
Wednesday 22nd July 2026

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.

