

Milborne

NEWS



SEPTEMBER

2022

Dear Families

What an amazing start to our new school year. We have been so impressed by the attitudes of all of our children who are demonstrating our school values every day. We have been thinking about our values of Respect for Self, Others and our World. The question 'What seeds will you sow today?' has become our way of reflecting on our values in those quiet moments that we share together.

We are looking forward to welcoming you into school later in the term and hope that some of our families may be able to join us for Harvest Festival at St Andrew's Church on Monday 26th at 1.45pm where Year 4 will lead our celebration. With so many people feeling the pinch this year, we would like to look at Harvest Festival a little differently and invite you to consider what gifts you have to share.

You could either:

- donate to the Trussel Trust, a charity helping to feed those who have nothing, please do.
- donate food (non-perishable items only) which we are happy to add to the food collected at St Marys Middle (leave them in the box in reception)
- find other ways of sharing such as helping out a friend, inviting someone for a cuppa, or even taking the bins out for an elderly neighbour.

We all have something to offer. At what feels like a challenging time, let's look for those small ways we can make a difference in our community. Involving your children in this will help to set them up for a strong and happy future.

With warm regards

Michelle Cheeseman

Please send only fruit or a healthy snack for snack time. Keep treats for at home. We usually have spare fruit for those who do not have a healthy snack.

CURRICULUM NEWS

We hope you have been enjoying the wonderful photos of the children's learning on Tapestry. Raccoon Class thoroughly enjoyed their trip to Nothe Fort which brought to life their Word War 2 enquiries. In other news, I read some excellent newspaper reports from Robin Class this week reporting on the fateful story of a certain princess who was made to sleep for 100 years. Rabbit Class continue to explore the sounds around them and some classic nursery rhymes, not to mention 'whole body listening!'

Our wonderful team is always learning too and enjoyed an inspiring start to term examining the notion that we want our children to be invested in their learning, not just engaged, with plenty of food for thought about how to achieve that.

GOVERNOR NEWS

Our first local governing body meeting is this week where we will discuss with governors our priorities for improving our school for this year which are informed by our pupil and parent questionnaires, data from last year and ongoing priorities for our school. We will then share this with our families via the website.

If you are interested in being a school governor or you know someone in our community who might be, please contact Mr Caleb Brown, Chair of Governors.
cbrown@milborne.dorset.sch.uk

ECO NEWS

What a proud moment it was to see our Green Flag up at the front of our school awarded by Eco-Schools. Led by our Eco-crew, we achieved this with Merit last year after a year of commitment to eco-action and having a sustainability thread running through our curriculum.

Our first Eco-club of this year will be next week on Friday 30th until 4pm with Mrs Cheeseman. For now this is open to anyone in Raccoon Class with a wish to get involved. The children will elect a leadership team and begin to consider their priorities for this year.

As we work towards a Harmony Curriculum, we will learn about nature and from nature in order to make all our learning meaningful and to set our children up to know how to look after their world.

FRIENDS OF SCHOOL NEWS

We enjoyed our first meeting of the term, reflecting on last year and making plans for this. We encourage everyone to get involved, even if it is just to help out at events occasionally. Mrs Staddon sent a heartfelt thank you for the generous farewell gift from parents and we would all like to echo a HUGE thank you to FoS for all the hard work you do for our school.

Look out for some wonderful new events coming soon and please contact Marie Chappell.
msa_fos_chair@outlook.com

Dates:

Please keep an eye on our board outside reception for weekly reminders. Key dates have been shared via e-schools but here is another reminder for the month ahead. We will endeavour to share Spring Term dates with you just after half term.

Monday 26th Harvest Festival 1.45pm St Andrew's Church - All Welcome - Led by Year 4

28th September	RACCOON CLASS Trip - Wessex Wild Trip (packed lunch required)
30th September	RABBIT CLASS Harvest Workshop 9am @ School
October	
4th October	Individual School Photos
5th October	RABBIT CLASS ONLY - Parent Consultations
6th October	FoS AGM - 2pm @ School
10th October	FoS - Christmas Card order deadline
11th October	Parent Consultation (1 – Y4) + SEN
13th October	Parent Consultation (1 – Y4) + SEN
20th October	Last day of term (3pm pick-up)
21st October	INSET - School Closed to Children
24th Oct - 28th Oct	October Half Term Break
31st October	INSET - School Closed to Children
For your convenience, the following dates are MSA INSET days for 2022-23 21st and 31st October 16th December 10th February	





DASP Attendance Statement

It is essential that children and young people form good habits of regular attendance at school from an early age and that good attendance is maintained throughout their school career, the schools within the Dorchester Area

School Partnership (DASP) deem attendance of 95%+ to be good.

All DASP Schools are committed to working together to ensure that there is a consistent approach to school attendance and to supporting parents and carers to achieve good attendance for the children and young people in their care. It is a legal requirement that all children should attend their educational provision and it is the parent/carer's responsibility to ensure that their children attend school. To ensure this all schools in DASP have agreed the following:

- It is important that pupils are in school on time. Time keeping is not only important in obtaining maximum benefit from education it is also a key skill for adult life. Lateness is monitored by the school and contributes to absence rates.
- Schools will monitor the attendance of pupils and work closely with Dorset Council's School Attendance Service to support parents and carers, children and young people where attendance levels are causing concern.
- Whilst we understand that children do become ill on occasions, children who lose a lot of time at school can suffer in the long term from significant gaps in their learning. If a child's health continues to affect their education, schools are obliged to make a referral to School Health to ensure that appropriate medical advice and support is provided to support good attendance.
- If a child is ill or absent from school it is the responsibility of the parent/carer to ensure that they inform the school. DASP schools all operate a targeted "First Day Call" system, which means they will contact you to ask why your child is not in school and when they are expected to return. Please be aware that schools have a duty to safeguard pupils, failure to inform school or respond to a call from school, may result in your child being reported as missing to police or Children's Services.
- Leave of Absence should not be granted during term time, except in exceptional circumstances. The definition of exceptional circumstances are where requests are rare, significant and unavoidable.
- It is essential that any requests for leave of absence for holidays, family events or any other reasons are discussed with your child's Head Teacher prior to the request being made as they cannot be approved unless they are deemed as exceptional circumstances. Any absence which has not been authorised by your child's school will be recorded as "unauthorised". In line with Dorset Council policy, if a child has 5 days (or 10 sessions) of unauthorised holiday within a period of 12 weeks, a penalty notice of £60 per parent may be issued by Dorset Council, which if not paid within 21 days will double to £120. If this remains unpaid, parents will be prosecuted in the magistrates' court.

DASP is committed to ensuring that every learner has the opportunity to thrive and achieve and recognises that good attendance is central to this.