

Milborne

NEWS



Autumn 2023

Dear Families

It has been a wonderful return to school after half term, with the classrooms literally buzzing with activity - from Bee School in Buttercups to beautiful artwork in Honeysuckle and investigating our amazing bodies in Bluebell Class and I even saw a bit of skeleton yoga this afternoon in the hall!

We are also proud of how well our children have understood the flourishing Flower Award. Of course, it is about the hot chocolate with Mrs Cheeseman but most of all it is about focussing on those attitudes that will see our children flourish and feel proud of the effort they are putting in to keep learning. They are visibly proud of themselves and each other when they receive this recognition and every child in our school can give themselves their best chance to succeed.

Looking back over last half term, we loved seeing you all for parent-teacher meetings and getting you into school. Look out for opportunities to come in and celebrate your child's learning when each class holds their Great Works celebrations. Harvest Festival was a wonderful moment where our strong community came together and our children led another fabulous event at Church.

As we head towards the Winter months, I would urge you to come in and talk to us if there is anything we can do to support you and your children. There are times of joy and sadness that can be really deep at this time of year so let's make that effort to really look after each other.

Our family questionnaires are looking very positive and I would ask, if you haven't yet had a chance to have your voice heard, for you to please fill in the questionnaire sent out last Sunday by email. I will contact anyone who has asked for paper communications to make sure we don't miss anyone. (Deadline for online forms Sunday 5th November.)

With warm regards,

Michelle Cheeseman

CURRICULUM NEWS

Look out for which Harmony Principle your child will be exploring this half term. What can we learn from nature about how to live and learn well.

You may have heard that Harold the Giraffe visited before half term? Harold's team at SCARF HQ are supporting us with our new PSHE curriculum to bring to life the important issues that help us grow into happy, healthy citizens. They commented on how articulate and emotionally intelligent our children are. Well done!

Don't forget to check out the Knowledge Organiser for your class to get a good view of what your children are learning in class and for opportunities to support this learning at home.

Find ways to read together and write together at home as often as you can - this love of books and communication is infectious and supports your child's progress.

GOVERNOR NEWS

We are delighted to say that we have two new governors this term. Mrs Hargreaves will be joining us with expertise in Sport, Education and Safeguarding. Mrs Latham-Winning has joined as our new staff governor. We would like to thank Miss Wittman for years of dedication as our out-going staff governor, although she will continue to work closely with governors on many aspects of our school leadership.

If you are interested in becoming a parent governor, please contact Mr Caleb Brown, Chair of Governors.
cbrown@milborne.dorset.sch.uk

PRESCHOOL NEWS

It looks like building works are almost complete in our classroom that will become the preschool as soon as they have the official approval from Ofsted.

The Ladybirds team have worked furiously over half term to prepare as best they can until they are able to move.

We may call on our whole community for help at the point they are ready so watch this space!

We can't wait to welcome them up to join our school community and Mrs Cheeseman is delighted to be joining the preschool trustees for their committee meetings to further strengthen that important link between us.

See you soon
Ladybirds!



PARENT FORUM

We would like to offer parents the chance to be involved in school improvements. We would like to reform a group who can debate and provide a parent view on important school issues.

There will be set agendas for this over the year but, initially, please let Mrs Cheeseman know by email if you might like to be involved.

Please ensure children stick to the paths in the mornings so our car park stays safe.

Why does attendance matter?

Attending school can be a passport to a child's future into adulthood, independence and achieving one's ambition.

If a child has an attendance level of 90%, they will have missed one day a fortnight in school. Over a school year this will represent four weeks of absence.

If this level of absence were maintained for a five-year period it would mean that half a school year would have been missed which can lead to considerable lost learning.

Importantly, attending a school is not just about it being a place to learn, schools are incredible places for children to develop their relationships with friends, take opportunities to try new a different activities and can also be a safe place where children can get the support they need.

The pupils with the highest attainment at the end of Key Stage 2 (KS2) and Key Stage 4 (KS4) have higher rates of attendance over the key stage compared to those with the lowest attainment.

At KS2, pupils not meeting the expected standard in reading, writing and maths had an overall absence rate of 4.7%, compared to 3.5% among those meeting the expected standard.

This national data is also reflected in the outcomes achieved by Dorset's children and young people.

In 2022, 61% of children with 95% or above attendance achieved the Key Stage Two expected standard in reading, writing and maths; compared to:

National Key stage 2 reading, writing and maths. expected standard in 2022:

standard 80% or less: expected - 16%

standard 80 to 84%: expected - 23%

standard 85 to 89.9%: expected - 38%

standard 90 to 94.9%: expected - 47%

standard 95+: expected - 61%



What does this mean for us at Milborne?

Attendance directly affects your child's learning and progress. Whilst we know there are times that children need to be at home, we encourage you to talk to us if you need any support with this. We are proud that, by working closely with you, our families, our attendance overall is good (above 95% for most of our children). We need your help to maintain this and continue to improve where we can, only taking time away from school when it is really needed.

Those who took holiday during term time have reduced in number over the last year thank you. However, lateness has crept up. Please let us know what we can do to help as this is such an important part of attendance - arriving late is not a good start to the day and has an impact on learning too. Lateness after the register closes is considered an absence by the government.

Thank you for your hard work in securing the best future for your children.