

Milborne NEWS



OCTOBER

2022

Dear Families

It was such a highlight of this term when we confidently handed over visiting parents at our prospective parents open day to our very capable Year 4 Ambassadors. They gave a very proud and comprehensive tour of our wonderful school and were able to articulate our values of Respect for Self, Others and our World. The question 'What seeds will you sow today?' was answered beautifully through the behaviour of our Ambassadors and of all children seen throughout the school on a normal school day at Milborne! Well done everyone - we had very positive feedback from all our visitors.

We really loved seeing lots of our families in school this half term at Rabbits' Harvest Workshop which included phonics with children and grown ups on the carpet - a lovely moment to catch! Raccoon Class also welcomed families into their classroom to celebrate their Great Works art, writing and a seasonal soup all inspired by the learning they have been doing about World War II. So wonderful to feel the buzz in class from grown ups and children - and the teachers too! Not to mention fantastic attendance at our Eco Book Swap - thank you for supporting these events.

We look forward to Robin Class holding their first Great Works celebration next half term. Our Great Works are all part of a new way of enriching our curriculum through the Harmony Approach. If you are interested in learning about the journey we are on to further develop our curriculum, check out the Harmony website on this link <https://www.theharmonyproject.org.uk/> We will invite you in to share more about Harmony later in the year.

In the meantime, don't forget to take a moment each day to notice the stunning colours all around as we move through Autumn and towards what I am certain will be a sparkling half term in school.

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

Rabbit Class have begun to explore 'Brilliant Bees' this half term and even tried honey from a honeycomb! I was very curious to find out why Robin Class came in to find a giant pair of glasses in their classroom recently. Following some top-class investigating, Robins wrote some fantastic stories! Listening to our World War II experts at the Great Works celebration, it was clear to see the depth of learning from Raccoon Class over this half term.

Following a lot of excellent work done by our team to ensure our children have a clear progression to their learning throughout their time at Milborne, we will be working with colleagues from the Middle and Upper Schools to ensure this joins up the whole journey for our children. We are also exploring using enquiry questions and the Harmony principles of nature to really bring out the best of what we do at Milborne - learning in nature and from nature.

GOVERNOR NEWS

We have recruited some excellent new governors to strengthen our committed team of governors. We will introduce our governors to you later this term and give you an idea of their role in supporting the strategic leadership of our wonderful school.

We will be holding a parent governor election this half term so do consider the chance to stand for election and also remember to vote once nominees are released. For more info, please contact Mr Caleb Brown, Chair of Governors.

cbrown@milborne.dorset.sch.uk

ECO NEWS

Well done to our new Eco-Leaders, Dominic (Chair) and Eadie and Keira (Vice-chairs) as voted in by our new, very vibrant Eco-crew!

Look out for Eco-events throughout the year as we develop and act on our action plan. The Eco-crew decided their first priority was to hold their first ever Eco Assembly to share with the rest of the school ways in which we can all make a difference.

If you or your children have an idea you would like our Eco-crew to explore, please do write to them - I know they will be thrilled to hear your thoughts.

Thank you to Friends of School who always have their Eco-hats on and will be running re-loved events over the year including an up-coming Christmas Jumper event so we can minimise the need to always buy new.

COMMUNICATION

It looks like we have succeeded in making some improvement in this area with positive feedback about the info board at the front of school, the new-look newsletter, dates well in advance where possible and choice over whether you prefer printed or electronic letters as well as opportunities to be in school to see your children's learning.

We know there is always work to do and we are investigating our schoolcomms system with collaboration from colleagues at the Wessex MAT to find the best available. Thank you for your patience while we do a thorough job of this and in the meantime, please do talk to us about any questions, concerns or joys you would like to share.

Dates:

Please keep an eye on our board outside reception for weekly reminders. Here is an updated list for this half term. We will share Spring Term dates with you shortly.



Wednesday 14th December Christmas Carol Service 2pm St Andrew's Church - All Welcome - Led by Year 4

November	
1st November	School reopens
8th November	Robins Trip to Pizza Express (AM)
9th November	Rabbits Great Works 'Bee School' 2pm to 3pm
14th - 18th November	Anti-Bullying Week (Children to Wear ODD Socks Friday 18th)
18th November	Children in Need Day
22nd November	Flu Vaccinations (All Year groups)
25th November	FOS Jumper Swap at The Royal Oak (3:30pm onwards)
December	
2nd December	FoS Christmas Market 3-5pm All welcome
7th December	Milborne Strictly Christmas Special (children only)
8th December	R, Y1 & Y2 Christmas Performance rehearsal (9:30am)
9th December	Christmas Lunch / Party – (Friends of School hosting)
9th December	Christmas Jumper Day
12th December	R, Y1 & Y2 Christmas Performance (2:00pm)
14th December	R, Y1 & Y2 Christmas Performance (9:15am)
14th December	Hot School Meal - Christmas Lunch Day
14th December	Carol Service Rehearsal @ Church 9:30am (RACCOONS only)
14th December	Carol Service – 2:00 pm @ Church All welcome (Led by Yr 4)
15th December	Celebration Assembly @ 9am (Invite only)
15th December	Last day School closes at 1:15pm
16th December - 2nd January (Back in school 3/1)	CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS



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.