

Milborne NEWS



Spring 2023

Dear Families

Thank you all for returning to school with a spring in your step, despite the slightly rainy Easter holidays! As the dandelions begin to brighten up our green spaces, the sun has started to remind us how wonderful it feels to have it warming our faces as we spend as much time as possible outside.

School is full of the buzz that comes with our final term together as we all enjoy what feels so familiar, with half an eye on the exciting changes that lie ahead for all. There are lots of wonderful things to look forward to this term with many transition activities, some fabulous learning linked to our Harmony principles and wonderful opportunities for our curriculum to be enriched from music to history, not to mention our very own coronation celebrations to mark this historic time in our country.

Looking back over last term, so much to be proud of including these examples of our children shining...one of our talented artists in Y3, Benji, won the runner-up prize in the Hanson Box art wildlife competition and a £50 voucher for Raccoons...we celebrated so many brilliant pieces of writing with a real sense of excitement about the progress each child can see in their work...some of our Year 4 children acted as superb ambassadors for our school as they assisted in the interview process that resulted in my permanent post at our wonderful school...we are running out of values badges as our children are all on track to scoop all 3 badges with exemplary displays of our school values of respect for self, others and world.

We are sadly saying goodbye to Mrs Hosford this term who has served our school so well for so many years. We wish her well in her next endeavours and will always be grateful for the dedication she showed to our school.

I have met with so many of you over the spring term and am delighted to report that the feeling seems to be that you are feeling welcome in school and well-supported. We are here when things go wrong but it is also lovely to hear when we are getting it right so thank you. Our staff work tirelessly to ensure your child has the very best opportunities for success and working together with you certainly makes us stronger. Please feel able to arrange to come and speak with your child's teacher or me at any time or catch me at the gate.

With warm regards,

Michelle Cheeseman

CURRICULUM NEWS

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

With nature's beauty and geometry running through everything, there are six principles that we explore through our curriculum, developing a deep connection with nature and our world. They are The Cycle, Oneness, Diversity, Interdependence, Health and Adaptation. You will start to hear (if you haven't already), the children linking their experiences with the world around them and this meaningful blueprint for a happy future.

Learning in nature and from nature with our school values underpinning everything we do is bringing our children and adults a strong sense of purpose and fulfilment.

GOVERNOR NEWS

We have recruited some excellent new governors to strengthen our committed team of governors. We would like to thank all our governors for their time and dedication and in particular David French who has stayed with us an extra year to support us through a time of huge change and also Wendy Britton, who has been a long-standing committed and appreciated governor, both of whom are coming towards the end of their terms.

For more info about becoming a parent governor, please contact Mr Caleb Brown, Chair of Governors.
cbrown@milborne.dorset.sch.uk

ECO NEWS

Well done for excellent eco-action with the beloved book and uniform events - fabulous! We have been recycling items including crisp packets, batteries and printer cartridges.

We will be stepping up our efforts this term to add some world-changing aspects to our school with our eco-crew at the helm.

It is wonderful to see so many families walking to school with slightly finer weather - good for your health and well-being as well as our planet!

Thank you to Friends of School who continue to support our eco ethos with their fundraising ideas and attention to detail.

Village litter pick this weekend - bring the family 10am village hall - Mrs Latham Winning will be there with her family to meet you!

COMMUNICATION

It looks like we are continuing to make improvements in this area with much positive feedback about how welcoming the school feels and about opportunities to come into school and see what your children are learning.

We will continue to work on our communication and hope that you feel able to come in and talk with us about anything you need our support with.

Please ensure children have the correct uniform for PE - navy tracksuits and a white t-shirt. Water bottles are a must every day so we can keep well-hydrated.



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.