



# Newsletter 9

10 November 2023



Growing together to build our future

## Message from the Headteacher

The Broadstone British Legion branch made contact with us during the summer term about coming to visit Merley. Thank you to Julie, David and Ronnie for joining us for our Monday school assembly to share why people choose to wear poppies at this time of year. David was wearing his military dress and Ronnie brought the standard, which was lowered while we held a minute's silence.



We shared with the children a BBC video that can be found [here](#) and spoke about how we can show our British values of respect and tolerance to celebrate peace and kindness. Julie has arranged for a Tommy soldier to be gifted to the school as a mark of remembrance, which we are placing near the pathway as you walk into school. Thank you to Rosa for being out every morning this week with her mum to sell poppies. If you are involved in any of the Remembrance parades over the weekend, thank you for your contribution.

Last week Helen and Anita, from Outdoor adventurers shared their recent Ofsted report. This is a wonderful report and we are incredibly proud that the inspector recognised the hard work that has been put in place for our children to learn and thrive in such a special outdoor environment. Congratulations Helen and Anita! Please have a read. [Ofsted final report 2023.pdf](#).

Thank you for coming into school this week to meet your child's teacher for the first parent consultation meetings for this year. There was a wonderful buzz in the school with lots of families delighted to see the work that is achieved in school. Our children are incredibly hard working and we are all very proud of the progress they are making. If you were unable to attend this week, please contact the class teacher to make another time after school.

Have a great weekend,

**Katharine Anstey**  
Headteacher

**This is a school for everyone. Everyone is welcome.**



### Safeguarding and Online Safety

Through partnership working with BCP Council, Dorset Police and the Dorset Clinical Commissioning Group the Partnership has put together a briefing document with key information for parents/carers with more information about risks linked to county lines and exploitation.

If you have any serious concerns about a child, particularly if you think they may be suffering or at risk of suffering harm, please share this information promptly with the Designated Safeguarding Lead Team. If you are unable to contact a member of the school team and you wish to pass on serious concern, please call the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) on 01202 735046 We are an Operation Encompass school, to find out more please follow the link [here](#).

Open conversation is best when negotiating online safety with children and young people. Find guidance on these conversations here from the NSPCC <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/talking-child-online-safety/>

## Privacy Notice

Initio Learning Trust is committed to protecting the privacy and security of personal information. The privacy notice describes how we collect and use personal information about pupils, in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), section 537A of the Education Act 1996 and section 83 of the Children Act 1989. Please find the document [here](#) on the school website.

## Attendance

Thank you for your support in ensuring your child's attendance in school and being on time every day. Good attendance in school is a top priority and our expectation is that pupils attend school every day for every session. We believe that regular, uninterrupted attendance secures the best possible learning achievement for all our children and we are committed to working in partnership with families to achieve this. Schools are expected to monitor all pupils' attendance records closely and to pass these on to the receiving school when pupils transfer.

### This week's attendance

Whole School	95.63%
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## When will absences not be authorised?

The school will not authorise absence for any of the following reasons: holidays, shopping, looking after other members of the family, minding the house, birthdays or similar events.

Children will be marked in as late after 8.55 am and children arriving after 9.15 am are recorded as an unauthorised absence. We carefully monitor pupils who arrive late for school and work with parents and carers to improve punctuality.

## Do you have a comment, thought or question you would like to share with the school?

Please use the link [here](#) to access our communication form.

## Is your child eligible for Pupil Premium funding?

You may be entitled to financial support towards uniform, trips, an extracurricular activity, milk and school meals. Use the link [here](#) to check.

## Winter Coughs

Please see [here](#) for some advice for parents about winter coughs for children.

## Forthcoming Diary Dates AUTUMN TERM 2023



### November 2023

Wednesday 15th November Open Morning for new prospective parents September 2024 - Booking required  
Friday 17th November Children in Need - Sports theme

### December 2023

Friday 1st December - Merley PTA Elfridges event

