



MERLEY FIRST SCHOOL

Newsletter 6 - 17th October 2025

What a brilliant week it has been, filled with moments of immense pride for our school. It was a genuine pleasure to show prospective parents around and our wonderful children were, as always, our very best ambassadors. The week began on a high note with a fantastic assembly on Monday to round off our Harvest celebrations, and we were all thoroughly entertained by our special guest, Farmer John. The opportunities for our pupils continue beyond our own walls and we were delighted that a group of Year 4 pupils have represented us so well at a drama workshop at Castle Court today. A huge well done to everyone for their hard work and enthusiasm! Next week is the last week of this half term. On Tuesday at 1.45pm parents and carers are welcome to come along to our Celebration of Learning event. Please enter through the front gate. On a different note, I have noticed that some children are wearing PE kit that is not compliant with our uniform policy. Please ensure PE clothes are blue or black. Clothes with sports names or logos are not permitted.

Reminder: the School Nursing Team on 19th November. Their focus will be on toileting so please inform the office if you would like to pop along for this support.

Have a super weekend.

Rebecca Baldwin

This Week

Reception were threading beads to match numbers.

Year 1 have read and written about the Three Little Pigs.

Year 2 Ada told me that Year 2 have been adding using methods and showing this with representations.

Year 3 have been writing instructions

Year 4 have been on TTRockstars most days to improve their maths fluency.

Inspiring Young Farmers at Merley

As part of our Pupil Charter: Career and aspirations focus, we enjoyed a special assembly with Farmer John, who streamed live into our whole school assembly, to share with us his work on his dairy farm.



Nunton Farm Dairy

Farmer John gave us a virtual tour of the dairy farm giving us a fascinating insight into the life of a dairy farmer, explaining how he looks after the cows, collects the milk and ensures the animals stay happy and healthy. We even saw some of the cows and calves being fed!

The children were captivated and asked some great questions at the end. He really helped the children to understand that working with animals and in agriculture can be rewarding work.



Growing Together To Build Our Future

PTA Halloween Disco

The PTA are looking forward to hosting their first Disco event of the year on Thursday 23rd October.

Please enter the site through the front entrance where members of the PTA will check pupils in against the booking reference.

When collecting, please wait on the front playground outside Year 2 as children will be dismissed through these classroom doors. To avoid congestion, and allow the next disco to start swiftly, please walk around the school building and exit through the Harrier Drive gate.

Remember to inform a member of staff if your child is being taken home by another parent.

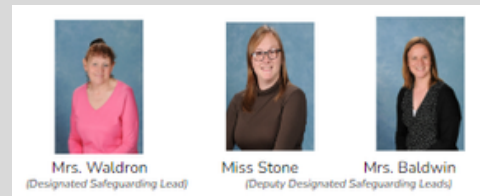


Attendance

Whole School	98.1%
Reception	96.9%
Year 1	97.7%
Year 2	99.6%
Year 3	97.6%
Year 4	98.8%

Safeguarding

If you have any concerns about a child please speak to one of our Designated Safeguarding Leads.



Dates for the Diary

- 21st October - Shoebox appeal donations to the front gate at drop off. Please click [here](#) for details
- 21st October - 2:45pm Celebration of Learning in classrooms - parents/carers to attend
- 23rd October - PTA Halloween disco - please click [here](#) to book tickets
- 23rd October - Reception Vision Screening
- 24th October - Flu Immunisations
- 27th - 31st October - Half Term - school closed
- 3rd November - INSET Day - school closed to pupils
- 4th November - Pupils return to school
- 4th November - Individual and sibling photographs - all pupils in school uniform please
- 4th November - Parent consultations 3:40 - 6:40pm - school hall
- 11th November - Parent Consultations 3:40 - 6.40pm - school hall
- 19th November - 8.45am - 9.30am - NHS Dorset Healthcare School Nursing Team Toileting drop-in session - school hall. Entry at 8.45am via main entrance - parents/carers only.

Congratulations

The following pupils have been awarded Oak Leaves for demonstrating our values: Respectful, Engaged and Ready

YR: Alice C, Alfie H, Thea S, Isla W, Tommy P & Aria B

Y1: Ottie L, Arlo W, Mia S, Austin S, Eddie T & Bella W

Y2: Esme R, Marley S, Adelaide W, Drummer HM, Albie S & Quinn

Y3: Harry A, Isabella VC, Amira L, Jenson D, Frankie - Lee D & Finley G

Y4: Luke, Theo H, Lydia D, Reuben C, Esme W & Niamh G

These children have a Headteacher's Award because they have been recognised for being respectful:

YR: Charlie A & Margaux D

Y1: Ava K & Thea A

Y2: Louis D & Thea BL

Y3: Evie R & Pippa

Y4: John D & Mya E

These pupils have been recognised for fantastic effort in a particular lesson or subject and are Star Learners:

YR: Olivia B & Jessica B

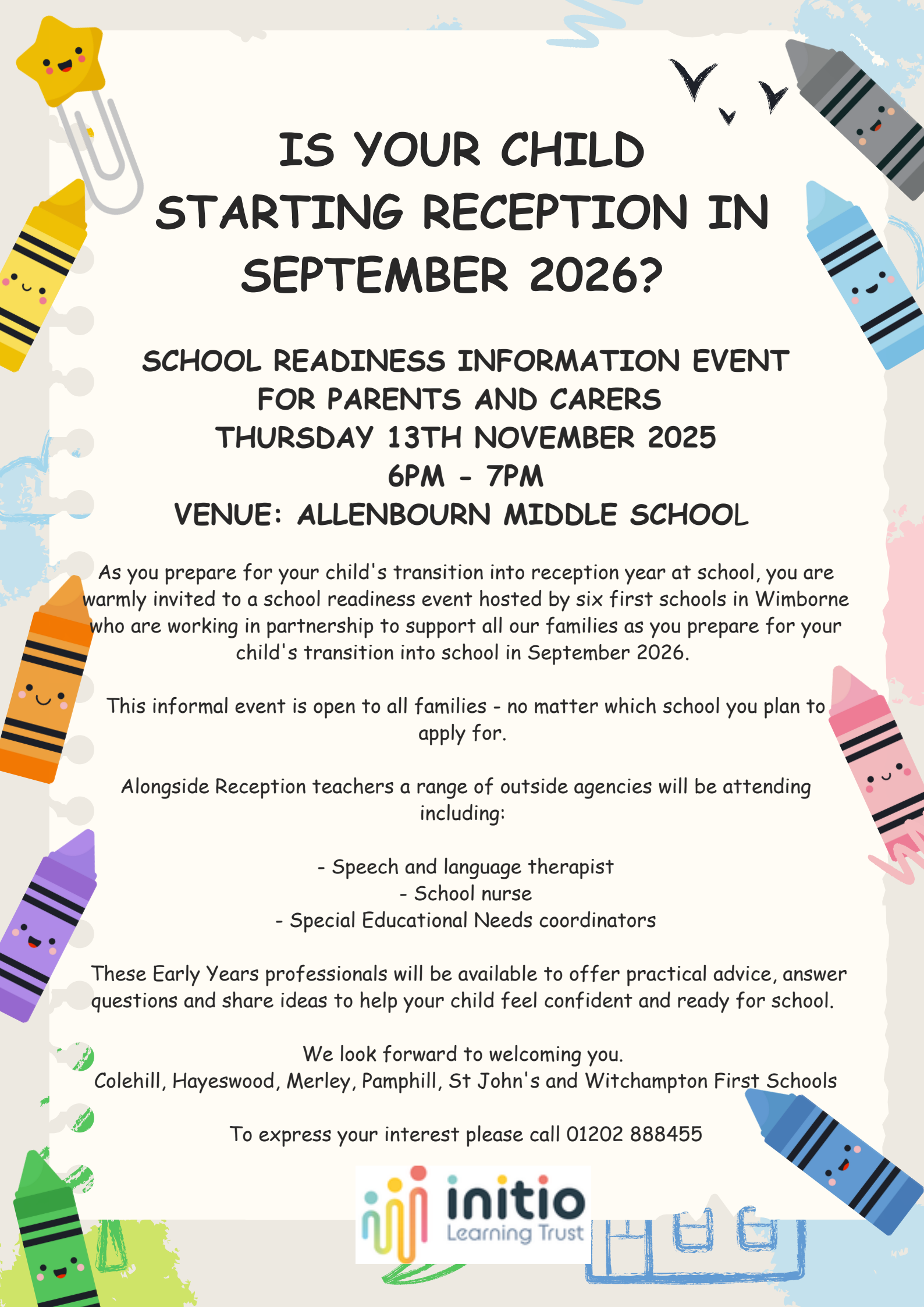
Y1: Imrie P & Cooper D

Y2: Alfie G & Otilie

Y3: Ronnie J & Elliot D

Y4: Ben W & Aurelia K

Miss Parkin was also excited for Times Table Rockstars and Numbots certificates to be awarded today in assembly. Each half term certificates will be awarded for varying reasons including: increased engagement.



IS YOUR CHILD STARTING RECEPTION IN SEPTEMBER 2026?

**SCHOOL READINESS INFORMATION EVENT
FOR PARENTS AND CARERS
THURSDAY 13TH NOVEMBER 2025
6PM - 7PM
VENUE: ALLENBOURN MIDDLE SCHOOL**

As you prepare for your child's transition into reception year at school, you are warmly invited to a school readiness event hosted by six first schools in Wimborne who are working in partnership to support all our families as you prepare for your child's transition into school in September 2026.

This informal event is open to all families - no matter which school you plan to apply for.

Alongside Reception teachers a range of outside agencies will be attending including:

- Speech and language therapist
- School nurse
- Special Educational Needs coordinators

These Early Years professionals will be available to offer practical advice, answer questions and share ideas to help your child feel confident and ready for school.

We look forward to welcoming you.
Colehill, Hayeswood, Merley, Pamphill, St John's and Witchampton First Schools

To express your interest please call 01202 888455