



# MERLEY FIRST SCHOOL

## Newsletter 7 - 24th October 2025

And just like that, we've reached the end of a very busy term! I'm sure you'll agree that the children are all in need of a well-deserved half-term break to rest, reset and recharge their batteries.

It was wonderful to end the term on such a high note with our Celebration of Learning event this week. It is always a complete joy to see the children so proudly sharing their fantastic work with their families. Thank you to everyone who was able to join us and make it such a special occasion.

Please pop a note in your diary: the first day back after the half-term break, Fraser Portraits will be in school to take the children's annual photographs.

Before I wish you all a happy break, I have a crucial reminder regarding our Early Birds morning provision. After half-term, the morning provision will be staffed by 360°. It is essential that all pupils are booked into Early Birds in advance. We may not be able to accept pupils on the door without a prior booking, so please ensure your sessions are confirmed to avoid any disappointment. Have a wonderful break, everyone!

*Rebecca Baldwin*

### This Week

**Reception** have enjoyed listening to lots of visitors this week - people who help us in our community.

**Year 1** have painted self-portraits.

**Year 2** enjoyed a data collection walk and avoided the rain!

**Year 3** have produced lovely cave drawings.

**Year 4** enjoyed making pizza at Broadstone.

### Staffing Update

This week we have said goodbye to Miss Snape who has supported pupils across the school with their learning. Miss Snape is starting a new full-time position at Witchampton First School.

Mrs Crocker, our early bird assistant, is retiring and looking forward to spending time with her family.

I know you will join me in wishing Miss Snape and Mrs Crocker thanks and best wishes.

### Know Wonder Art Community Project

This year, the children will be involved in a community project which will see Merley First school children design and decorate new Buddy Benches for the playgrounds. The project has been funded by BCP and run by Know Wander Art Club to provide a range of creative opportunities for the children throughout the academic year. Your child should have brought home a bench design form this week.

*thank you*

## Meredith's Amazing Mission

The whole school joined together on Thursday to watch lovely Meredith in Year 2, live on This Morning!

The hall was buzzing with excited and proud children and staff as we watched Meredith talk about childhood cancer and her mission to raise money to support families who are facing this challenge.

Meredith, you were amazing and represented yourself, your family and our school wonderfully! Well done!

Click [here](#) to find out more about Meredith's Mission. The whole school has decided to hold a fundraising day next half term to support Meredith's quest!



**m**eredith's  
mission

## Attendance

Whole School	96.9%
Reception	95%
Year 1	97.5%
Year 2	97.1%
Year 3	97%
Year 4	97.7%

## Safeguarding

Every child has a right to protection from harm. If you have any safeguarding concerns but are unable to contact one of the school safeguarding team, please contact the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) to report your concerns [here](#).

## Dates for the Diary

- 27<sup>th</sup> - 31<sup>st</sup> October - Half Term - school closed
- 3<sup>rd</sup> November - INSET Day - school closed to pupils
- 4<sup>th</sup> November - Pupils return to school
- 4<sup>th</sup> November - Individual and sibling photographs - all pupils in school uniform please
- 4<sup>th</sup> November - Parent consultations 3:40 - 6:40pm - school hall
- 11<sup>th</sup> November - Parent Consultations 3:40 - 6.40pm - school hall
- **NEW** - 18<sup>th</sup> November - Fox Class Bikeability
- 19<sup>th</sup> 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.
- **NEW** - 19<sup>th</sup> November - Badger Class to Allenbourn Middle - afternoon
- **NEW** - 20<sup>th</sup> November - Fox Class to Allenbourn Middle - afternoon
- **NEW** - 20<sup>th</sup> November - Badger Class Bikeability

## Reception have been visited by 'people who help us'

This week our Reception children have been learning about 'People who help us'.

The children have loved meeting a range of special visitors who shared how they help people in our community.

We were lucky to welcome a social worker, a pharmacist, a chiropractor, two police officers and a fire officer. The children all listened carefully and asked some amazing questions.

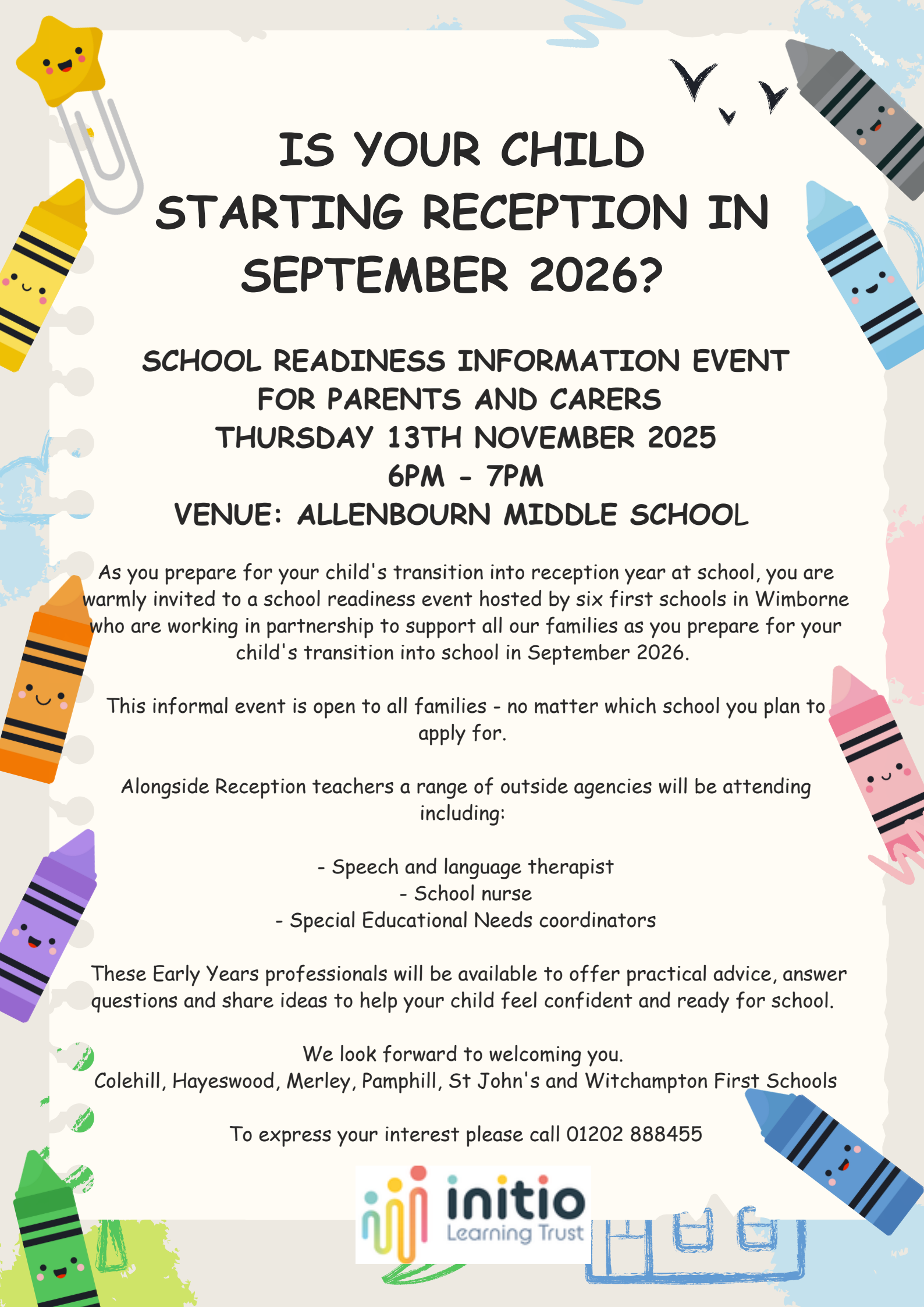
It's been lovely to meet all the different people who work hard to keep us happy, healthy and safe.



## Disco Fun!

The PTA disco was a huge success yesterday evening. I would like to thank the PTA for organising this for the children.





# 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