



# MERLEY FIRST SCHOOL

## Newsletter 8 - 7th November 2025

It has been a great first week back after the break. We want to extend a huge thank you to our entire school community for your incredible support with the Tesco Blue Tokens scheme. We are thrilled to announce that we finished in second place, securing a fantastic £1000! This funding will be used to purchase brilliant new resources for our EPIC play, and we can't wait to see the children enjoying them. In other great news, you may have spotted the brilliant new track on the green playground. This too will support playtime and our plan is to open the 'wheels zone' in the Spring. Our sincere thanks go to CALA Homes for their generous funding of this superb new facility. Finally, looking ahead, we will be marking Remembrance Day as a whole school next Monday. Children are invited to wear their poppies to school as a mark of respect. On another note, SEND services across the BCP Area Partnership are being inspected and, as part of the inspection process, inspectors are seeking feedback from children and young people with SEND and their families. Please click the link to fill in the [SEND Inspection survey](#) and share your views.

Have a restful weekend everyone.

*Rebecca Baldwin*

### This Week

**Reception** have made splatter firework paintings.

**Year 1** received a letter from Professor Klunk in English!

**Year 2** have been having fun reading Paddington Bear.

**Year 3** have been reading a new book all about mountains to help with their geography learning.

**Year 4** have been finding out about teeth!

### Year 2 Drama Day

Before half term, Year 2 enjoyed a drama day learning about life in Victorian England at the time of the Great Fire of London. This experience will help the children this half term as they start their history learning.

Thank you to parents and carers for supporting the event and providing fabulous outfits!



## Children in Need - Meredith's Mission!

This year on Children In Need Day - November 14<sup>th</sup> - children are invited to come to school in uniform with crazy hair. We would like to take the opportunity to fund raise for Meredith's Mission. Please click [here](#) to make a donation and join in with the fun.



## Attendance

Whole School	96.4%
Reception	94.3%
Year 1	96.3%
Year 2	95.8%
Year 3	96.4%
Year 4	98.9%

## Safeguarding

Open conversation is best when negotiating online safety with children and young people. Find guidance on these conversations here from the [NSPCC](#)

The NSPCC logo consists of the letters 'NSPCC' in a bold, green, sans-serif font, centered within a white square that has a subtle drop shadow.

## We Need Our Community's Support!

This is a plea for support from our wonderful Merley community! BCP a currently accepting bids for a community funding scheme which is designed to support infrastructure projects in the community. As headteacher of Merley, I am applying for funding to help the school with the following:

- Improve drainage of back playground
- Replace the Year 1 toilet facilities
- Replace the fencing around the Reception outside space
- Repair walls and secure the railings near the front entrance
- Widen the pathway from Harrier Drive, across the site to the back playground

As part of the application, I will need letters of support from the community for each of the five applications. Letters need to explain why the projects are beneficial for the school, children and the community. Health and safety and wellbeing are great buzz words. If you are able to support, please email letters to the school office, [office@merleyfirstschool.org](mailto:office@merleyfirstschool.org) by Friday 14<sup>th</sup> November. Thank you so much.

## Congratulations

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

**YR:** Lily R, Tommy M, Willow W-J, Izzi H, Layla M & Ida B

**Y1:** Ivy A, Kieran FM, Noah H, Roxy B, Halli S & Nickolay N

**Y2:** Jacob D, Rex P, Esme T, Leo G, Hannah B & Rosie P

**Y3:** Emilia E, Jensen E, Colby M, Arthur P, Caitlin B & Malakai M

**Y4:** Neala B, Isla L, Eden PA, Aurelia K, Molly & Eden PA

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

**YR:** Oscar P & Charlotte B

**Y1:** Harry L & William P

**Y2:** Arthur S & Ada RT

**Y3:** Connie B & Cooper T

**Y4:** Poppy W & Eliana

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

**YR:** Alyssa M & Isabella F

**Y1:** Evie W & Bella W

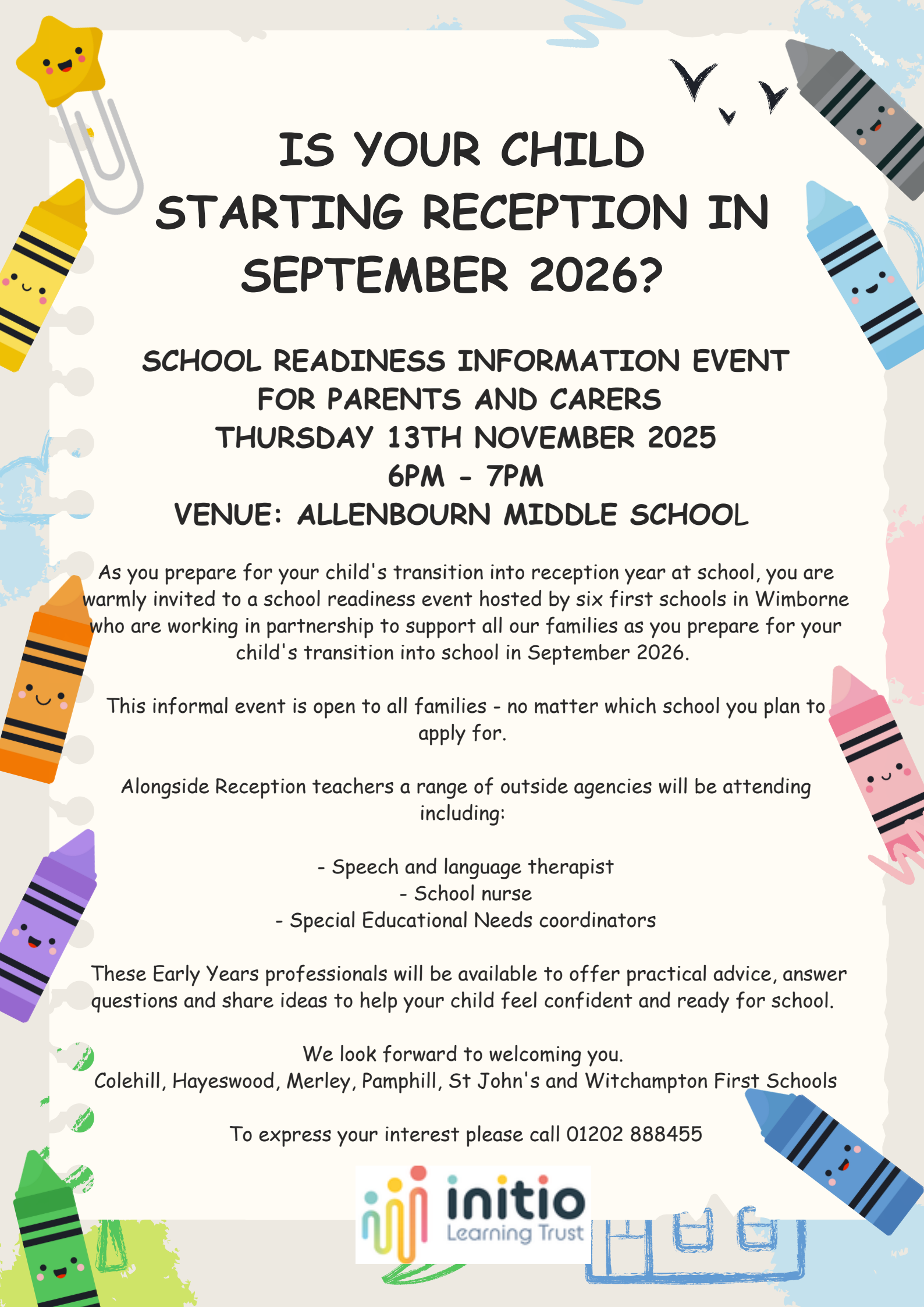
**Y2:** Adelaide W & Drummer HM

**Y3:** Daisy W & Arthur RR

**Y4:** Bella P & Carter J

## Dates for the Diary

- 11<sup>th</sup> November - Parent Consultations 3:40 - 6.40pm - school hall
- **NEW** - 13<sup>th</sup> November - School Readiness event - 6pm - 7pm at Allenbourn Middle
- **NEW** -14th November - Uniform and crazy hair for Meredith's Mission
- 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 the main entrance - parents/carers only.
- 19<sup>th</sup> November - Badger Class to Allenbourn Middle - afternoon
- 20<sup>th</sup> November - Fox Class to Allenbourn Middle - afternoon
- 20<sup>th</sup> November - Badger Class Bikeability



# 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

# CAROLS IN THE PRECINCT

Join us for an evening of carols,  
hot chocolate, mince pies,  
and more!

Refreshments will be served  
from 4:30pm.

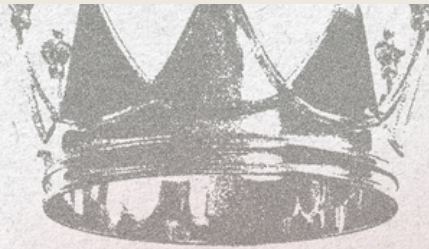
## GINGERBREAD HOUSE COMPETITION



Drop off your completed  
Gingerbread Creations at the Precinct  
by 4:45pm to enter!  
Every entry gets a prize!



Joy to the world the Lord has come  
joy to the earth receive him king of heaven  
hear his angels sing and shout  
and praise him high and low  
and nature sing and heaven  
and nature sing and heaven  
and nature sing joy to the world  
saviour reigns let all their  
employ while fields and floods rock  
hills and plains repeat the sound  
joy repeat the sounding joy repeat  
repeat the sounding joy



# WONDERS *of* HIS LOVE

**Carols in the Precinct**  
*Sunday 7 December 5pm*

**Lantern Carols**  
*Sunday 14 December 7pm*

**Beer & Carols**  
*Saturday 20 December 8pm*

*@ Eight Arch Brewery*

**Nativity Escape Room**  
**(book online)**

*Monday 22*  
*Tuesday 23 December*

**Puppet Musical**  
**(book online)**

*Tuesday 23*  
*Wednesday 24 December*

**Christmas Day**  
*Communion 8:45am*  
*Family Celebration 10am*

