



Milldown CE Academy
Inspire – Believe – Achieve
I am the way and the truth and the life. John 14:6

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Milldown CE Academy Newsletter 1 September 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

A very warm welcome to the new academic year at Milldown CE Academy and thank you all for the wonderful welcome I have received since joining the school community. It has been wonderful to welcome our children and families back to school and to see such a positive start. A special welcome goes to those families joining our community for the first time, particularly our new Reception children and their families. Starting school is a significant milestone and we are delighted that you have joined the Milldown family.

Welcome to New Staff

We are delighted to welcome several new members of staff to the Milldown family this year:

Amy Shiner -Reception Teacher
Rosie Hoiles,- Year 3 Teacher
Jamie Wood - Higher Level Teaching Assistant (HLTA)
Jess Walker – Teaching Assistant in Year 2
Lindsey - Chaplain

We are thrilled to have them join our team and know they will make a valuable contribution to our school community. I am sure you will join me in giving them a warm Milldown welcome.

At Milldown CE Academy, our vision is to foster a thriving community built around our Christian Vision to **Inspire, Believe and Achieve**. Guided by our Christian values of **Peace, Love, Patience, Joy, Self-Control and Kindness**, we want every child to flourish, develop a love of learning and achieve their very best.

Our programme of Collective Worship is already helping children reflect on our values and come together as a school community. We have also been delighted to welcome our new School Chaplain and visitors from **Open the Book**, a storytelling project where Bible stories are shared with children in a way that is fun, interactive and memorable.

Parents are invited to join our open the book worships every Tuesday from 9:00 to 9:15am.

Over the past week, I have spent time visiting classrooms across the school and have been incredibly impressed by what I have seen. There has been a calm, smart and purposeful atmosphere throughout the school. The children have settled quickly into their new classes and routines and have returned ready to learn. It has been a fantastic start to the year.

Attendance Matters

Good attendance is vital if children are to make the most of every learning opportunity.

We ask all families to support us by ensuring that children are in school **every day and on time**. Establishing positive habits from the very beginning of the year gives children the best possible chance of success.

Every day counts. Every lesson matters.



Peace



Love



Patience



Joy



Self-control



Kindness

Reminders

Uniform

Please ensure your child is wearing the correct school uniform each day. Full details of our uniform expectations can be found on our website: www.milldown.dsat.org.uk/uniform

- Long hair should be tied back for both safety and practicality.
- Earrings should be small stud earrings only.
- No nail polish should be worn in school.
- Children should not wear jewellery other than permitted stud earrings and any approved religious items.
- Please ensure that all items of clothing are clearly named.

If you need any support with uniform, please let myself or your child's class teacher know.

Smartphone-Free School

Thank you for supporting our **Smartphone-Free School** initiative. We would also like to thank parents and carers for avoiding the use of mobile devices on the school site unless absolutely necessary. Your support helps create a calm and welcoming environment for everyone at the beginning and end of the school day.

Nut-Free School

Please remember that **Milldown CE Academy is a nut-free school** and we politely request that no items containing nuts are brought into school. This includes products such as **peanut butter, nut-based snack bars, chocolate bars containing nuts, and chocolate or flavoured spreads containing hazelnuts or other nuts**. Thank you for helping us keep all children safe, particularly those with severe allergies.

Changes to Free School Meal Eligibility

From September 2026, eligibility for Free School Meals (FSM) is expanding. Parents and carers are encouraged to apply or reapply to ensure their child receives their entitlement for the 2026/27 academic year.

To check eligibility and apply, please visit Dorset Council's Free School Meals webpage: www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/w/free-school-meals

If you require any support with your application, please let myself or your child's class teacher know.

Rotary Shoebox Scheme

We are pleased to be supporting the **Rotary Shoebox Scheme** this year.

If you would like to support this wonderful cause, shoeboxes and information leaflets are available from the school office. This is a fantastic opportunity to help children and families in need while demonstrating our values of love, kindness and joy.

Thank you in advance for your support and generosity.

Thank you for your continued support. We are looking forward to a year filled with learning, friendship and opportunities for **every child to flourish**.

Open Mornings Every Friday



Peace



Love



Patience



Joy



Self-control



Kindness

Diary Dates 2026 - 2027	
September 2026	
Wednesday 16 th September	National Fitness Day 2026 – All children are invited to wear PE kit for the day and take part in fitness related activities
Friday 18 th September	Individual School Photos – All children to wear full school uniform for photos
Monday 21 st and Tuesday 22 nd September	Class visits to Blandford Forum Parish Church
October 2026	
Monday 5 th October	INSET Day – no school for pupils
Wednesday 14 th October and Thursday 15 th October 3:30pm – 6:30pm	Parent Teacher Consultation Evenings – Booking will be via Arbor closer to the dates
Monday 26 th to Friday 30 th October	Autumn Half Term Break
Monday 2 nd November 2026	First day back for pupils

With very best wishes,

Luke Ronayne
Headteacher
Milldown CE Academy



Peace



Love



Patience



Joy



Self-control



Kindness