



Milldown CE Academy

Inspire – Believe – Achieve

I am the way and the truth and the life. John 14:6

Newsletter 3
25th September 2026

Message from the Headteacher

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we come to the end of another wonderful week at Milldown CE Academy, I have been reflecting on how lucky we have been with the September sunshine!

This week, all classes enjoyed visits to **Blandford Forum Parish Church** where they took part in a range of creative activities and learned more about the church building, its history and some of the special objects used during worship and services. We are very grateful to the church team for making the visits so engaging and memorable for our children. Take a look at the bright and inspiring designs! It has also been wonderful to see children with reading books in hand on the way into school! You will find some **top tips for reading with your child** attached to this newsletter.

We have also been delighted to be able to keep the school grounds open after school. To help us maintain a safe and welcoming environment for everyone, please ensure that children show responsibility by **tidying away any bikes, scooters and equipment** before they leave for home.

Attendance

You will have noticed class attendance now features on our weekly newsletter. Behind the scenes, I am looking into rewards for **best class attendance** and **most improved attendance** and will share updates with you very soon!

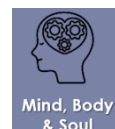
I hope you all enjoy a restful weekend.

Best wishes
Mr Luke Ronayne
Headteacher



Half Term Curriculum Focus

Mind, Body and Soul Tip: As a family, try setting aside 10 minutes each evening for a simple wellbeing check-in. Encourage children to share one thing they enjoyed today (mind), one way they have been active (body) and one thing they are thankful for (soul). Small moments of reflection can help build resilience, gratitude and emotional wellbeing.



For more tips, take a look at Mind UK's 5 ways to wellbeing: <https://www.mind.org.uk/workplace/my-mental-health-at-work/five-ways-to-wellbeing/>

Communication

To help us streamline communication and ensure that any queries are directed to the most appropriate member of staff, we kindly ask parents and carers to contact the school through the main office rather than emailing teachers directly.



If you would like to speak with or arrange a meeting with your child's teacher, please do so by contacting the school office on **01258 452456** or office@milldown.dsaf.org.uk. Teachers are also available for a brief conversation at the end of the school day during collection time.



Peace



Love



Patience



Joy



Self-control



Kindness

Meet our new School Chaplain

Hello! I'm Lyndsey and I'm excited to be your new School Chaplain. I've really enjoyed getting to know everybody over the last few weeks. I'm definitely getting used to familiar faces, but it might take me a little bit longer to remember everybody's names! You'll see me in school and at the gate at the end of the day on Tuesdays. I'm always up for a chat whether you're having a tough day or a great one... even just a chat about the weather or what you had for lunch. That goes for Teachers and Families too!



Some interesting facts about me... I have two dogs, two cats and three guinea pigs. There are some children in there too! I've lived in three different countries. I'll let you guess which ones and you can tell me your guesses on Tuesdays. I'm a chocoholic and I love a bit of U2 and Take That, but please don't hold that against me. I'm looking forward to all this term has in store, including celebrating Harvest and Christmas, which will be here in no time!

Food Bank – Harvest Service

As part of our Harvest celebrations, we will be collecting donations for our local food bank to support individuals and families in our community who may need a helping hand.

We would be grateful for any donations of non-perishable food items such as tinned goods, pasta, rice, cereal, long-life milk, tea, coffee, biscuits and other cupboard essentials. Donations can be brought into school and given to your child's class teacher. Please can we ask that with food donations that they have a best before/ expiry date of at least 6 months.



National Teaching Assistants' Day – Friday 25th September

Today we are celebrating National Teaching Assistants' Day and thanking our amazing Teaching Assistants for the difference they make every day. If you would like to show your appreciation, I would be grateful if you could share a message of thanks via the Microsoft Form by **Friday 2nd October**. Your kind words mean a great deal and help us recognise the invaluable contribution our Teaching Assistants make to our school community.

[Celebrating Teaching Assistants at Milldown – Fill out form](#)



Whole School Attendance

96.7%

★ Well done ★

Squirrels

Class Weekly Attendance

For Week Beginning 21st September 2026

Reception Hedgehogs 	97.7%
Year 1 Squirrels 	100%
Year 2 Foxes 	97.5%
Year 3 Woodpeckers 	97.3%
Year 4 Falcons 	96.9%
Year 5 Kites 	96.4%
Year 6 Owls 	91.3%

Diary Dates

October 2026

Monday 5 October

INSET Day - No school for pupils

Tuesday 6 October

Harvest Service – Blandford Parish Church

Arrive at school at normal time - all children to wear school uniform

Wednesday 14 & Thursday 15 October

3:30–6:30pm - Parent Teacher Consultation Evenings

Booking will be available via Arbor closer to the dates

Friday 16th October

Flu immunisations in school

Monday 26 – Friday 30 October

Autumn Half Term Break

November 2026

Monday 2 November

First Day Back for Pupils



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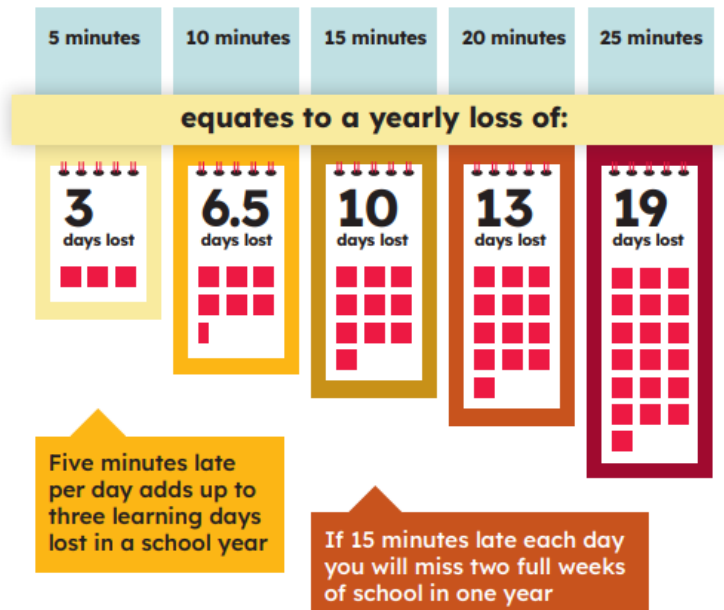


Kindness



Here, every day, ready and on time

Minutes lost per day



Poor timekeeping means less chance of success!



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Kindness



DORSET PARENT CARER COUNCIL **BIG EVENT**

Join us for a relaxed **FREE** information event
for families with children with special
education need and disabilities (SEND).

**There will be lots of organisations
attending that support children with SEND.
such as:**

- education & schools
- health support
- SEND support groups
- activities for children with SEND
- impartial advice and guidance
- and much more

We will also have a special stall at this event where
you can learn more about the Governments
proposed **SEND Reforms** and share your thoughts!

**WEDS
30
SEPT**

**Kingston Maurward
House, DT2 8PY**
🕒 **10am - 1pm**



**Free tea, coffee and
relaxed spaces for a
chat.**

**Meet & talk with local
organisations. Hear their news
and ask them questions**

**NO NEED
TO
BOOK!**

**Meet with other
parents and carers**

**FREE
PARKING
ON SITE**



**Dorset
Council**

**Dorset
SENDIASS**

**NHS
Dorset**



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