



February Newsletter 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a whirlwind of a term it has been! The children have, once again, worked incredibly hard and there have been lots of exciting learning opportunities made available to them. We are delighted to have welcomed more children to the school, who have been made to feel very welcome by all the children here. Our celebration assemblies, each Friday, have focused on one of our School Values, "Respect". We pride ourselves on treating others how we wish to be treated. Children who have shown consistent respect or have shown moments of extraordinary respect, have been nominated for a certificate. Next term, we will be looking at the British Value of Tolerance and Understanding.

As part of our enrichment curriculum, the Year 5 children have been working with Mrs Hall, this half-term; to develop their outdoor learning skills. They have made a variety of items including bird feeders and dream catchers. They have conducted experiments to filter water and to create parachutes for eggs, using a range of natural materials. They have been treated to s'mores and hot chocolate and have thoroughly enjoyed their afternoons. Next term, Mrs Hall will be working with the children in **Year 4** each Wednesday. Please ensure the children bring in a change of clothes, a waterproof coat and suitable footwear.

Our PFSA (Parent Family Support Advisor), Victoria Gould, came in on 28th January to offer a drop-in session for anyone needing a bit of extra support. If you would like to get in contact with her, please contact the school office and we can refer you to her directly.

We have also been visited by Steve Greenhalgh, Road Safety Officer with Somerset Council, who came in to deliver a 'Road Safety' assembly. The children all received a leaflet and pencil following the talks. Members of Middlezoy Methodist Church have also joined us for alternate Wednesday assemblies, we are grateful to have their support.

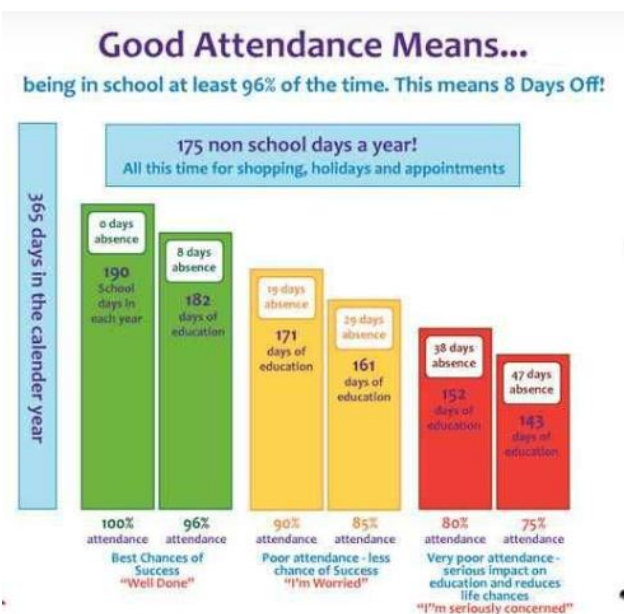
A couple of polite requests:

Each morning, Mrs Silver and I welcome the children into school. We are happy to pass on messages, relevant to your child's day. If you wish to speak to a member of the team regarding any other matter, please arrange this via the office, either by phone or email. Miss Braithwaite is often driving the bus, so will not be in the office until 8:45am. Any letters can come in with your child and be handed to the class Teacher or LSA.



Although there are signs that Spring is on its way, the weather is currently so variable. Please ensure that your child/ren come to school with a named waterproof coat and a jumper. We do ask that children wear school shoes rather than trainers for non-PE days. Please ensure the children are wearing small, plain stud earrings only, no other jewellery (other than a watch) should be worn.

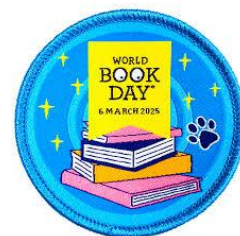
Attendance



Our whole school aim for attendance is 96%.

Our current attendance, for the academic year to date, is 96.6% for children registered to Othery and 96.1% for children registered to Middlezoy.

Parents and carers of children whose attendance is below 96% will receive an attendance letter, at the end of each half-term, notifying them of their child's/ children's current percentage.



Looking ahead.... **World Book Day – Thursday 6th March**

We will be celebrating World Book Day again this year, the children will be set a homework challenge the week before this- all will be revealed in due course. The children are welcome to dress up as their favourite book character and to bring their book into school on the day, as there will be plenty of opportunity to read during the day. Alternatively, children can come to school in their uniform, if they prefer.

School Science Day - 12th March

This year, the children will be working in their School Teams to complete a variety of different experiments and challenges, all linked to science. The children can come to school in their team colours on this day. We will send out a reminder nearer the time!

Parents' Meetings

Our next parent meetings will be on 18th and 19th March. You will receive an invitation to book slots via email on 28th February. Bookings will close on 17th March. Please let the office know if you are unable to attend on these dates and we will endeavour to find a mutually agreeable time slot.

Easter Service

We will be holding our Easter Service at St Michael's Church, Othery on Thursday 3rd April. The service will start at 10:30am. The children in Phoenix and Dragons class will lead the service, Unicorns Class will be parading their Easter Bonnets.

VE Day Celebrations

We are currently organising a whole school afternoon celebration at Othery Village Hall, which will also be open to the local community. More details will follow but if you can, please save the date and we would love to see you there. Thursday 8th May- time to be confirmed.

E-safety Guidance and Advice

Under the **Parental E-safety Guide**, on our website, you will find a wealth of information and support to help keep your child/children safe online. There are links to a few sites who will help to support you further. The link for the webpage is:

<https://www.middlezoyandotheryschools.co.uk/parental-e-safety-guide/>

Wrap-around Care.

We continue to offer Breakfast Club, daily, from 7:45am. After-School Care is currently available until 5pm on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. If you wish to use either of these provisions please speak to Miss Braithwaite, in the School Office, who will be able to set the booking option up for you on ParentPay. The cost remains at £4 per session for Breakfast Club and £7 for After-School Care. Bookings need to be made by 4pm on Thursday for the following week.

School Lunches

Our Lunch supplier, Lavender Kitchen, offer a range of hot and cold lunches on rotation. Orders for School Lunches need to be made a week in advance via ParentPay. The ordering window closes by midnight on Monday, for the following week. Unfortunately, we are unable to accept bookings after this time.

PTA and Donations

The PTA continue to work hard to support the school. Thank you for supporting their 'Be Yourself Day' and cake sale today and for your on-going support with the fundraising efforts. Your donations help to enhance the enrichment and learning opportunities available to all the children.



This term, money raised has been used to part-fund Unicorn Class's upcoming trip to Noah's Ark Zoo Farm. In addition, the money raised from the PTA's Christmas fundraising, has been put towards the cost of science workshops, complete with VR headset opportunities for all the children. These will be happening in May. Thank you to local company, Bella Tela, for supporting with additional funding, to enable the visit to go ahead without any cost to our parents and carers.

Please keep an eye on the PTA Facebook Page for upcoming events and meetings. Your help with events and planning would be warmly welcomed.

Wishing you all a safe and fun-filled half-term.

We look forward to seeing you all on Monday 24th February.

Mrs Hayward and the Middlezoy and Othery Team

Dates for your Diary

Spring Term 2

- ❖ Monday 24th February - Term Starts. Gates open @ 8:30a.m.
- ❖ Tuesday 4th March – No After-school Clubs or After-school Provision
- ❖ Thursday 6th March – World Book Day
Dragon Class Swimming continues
- ❖ Wednesday 12th March – Science Day with House Team activities
- ❖ Tuesday 18th March – Parent(s) Meetings
- ❖ Wednesday 19th March – Parent(s) Meetings
- ❖ Wednesday 26th March – Reception and Year 6 Height and Weight Measurement Checks
- ❖ Thursday 27th March – Year 6 Bikeability (Day 1)
Unicorn Class – Mother’s Day Assembly
- ❖ Friday 28th March – Year 6 Bikeability (Day 2)
- ❖ Thursday 3rd April – Easter Assembly at Othery Church - 10:30 a.m.
- ❖ Friday 4th April – Last Day of Term

Summer Term 1

- ❖ Tuesday 22nd April – Inset Day
- ❖ Wednesday 23rd April – Term Starts – Gates open @ 8:30 a.m.
- ❖ Wednesday 23rd April - Unicorn Class Trip to Dunster Castle
- ❖ Thursday 24th April – Phoenix Class Swimming commences
- ❖ Thursday 8th May – VE Day Celebrations (Details to follow)
- ❖ Wednesday 14th May – Class Photos and Year 6 Leaver’s Photos
- ❖ Thursday 22nd May – Unicorn Class Trip to Noah’s Ark Zoo Farm
- ❖ Monday 26th May – Friday 30th May (Half-Term break)
- ❖ Monday 2nd June – Inset Day
- ❖ Wednesday 3rd June – All children back to school for Summer Term 2

Details for Sports Afternoon and the KS2 Production will follow once confirmed.