

October Newsletter 2024



Dear Parents and Carers,



Our MacMillan Coffee afternoon

We are delighted to report that our Coffee Afternoon raised a wonderful £52.50 for MacMillan Cancer Support. It was lovely to welcome parents, carers and some older students for the afternoon. Thank you to all who donated such amazing cakes and supported the event by coming for the open afternoon or buying cakes at the end of day sale.



Parents' Meetings and Surveys

Thank you to all who attended our recent, very positive parents' meetings, if you were unable to attend and would like to speak with your child's teacher, please call Miss Braithwaite to arrange an appointment. Our Parent Survey was sent out via email, thank you to those of you who completed it. We are grateful to receive your feedback as the survey offers the Governors and I the opportunity to review our provision and is an invaluable tool. We are always keen to know what is working well and areas we can develop.

Examples of the feedback we have received are below. Full results can be found on our website: <https://www.middlezoandotheryschools.co.uk/school-survey-results-autumn-2024/>

"My children are so completely happy, content and overjoyed with Othery School and what it presents to them. It supports them and gives them the best opportunity they can have".

"My son absolutely loves his school and is thriving in his learning journey. Each day, he comes home excited to share what he has learned, from new facts and skills to the projects he's proud of. His teachers have been incredibly supportive, fostering an environment where he feels confident to ask questions, explore and challenge himself. We have noticed a remarkable boost in his self-confidence and he is more engaged and enthusiastic about his studies than ever before. It's heart-warming to see him grow and excel in a place that he genuinely enjoys".

"The school staff are always approachable and happy. The fact that the school bus still provides transport and the added benefits of breakfast club and after-school club provision is excellent".

"My child is extremely happy here and the move to Othery School has been more positive than I expected".

Visits and Visitors

Our enrichment opportunities have already started, with Phoenix Class enjoying a fabulous day at the East Somerset Railway. The children had the opportunity to go on the trains, control the signals and take a ride on the miniature railway. This has supplemented their learning about Brunel and the railways.

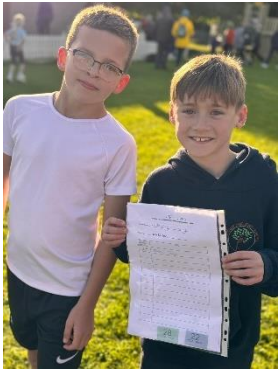


The children in Dragons Class have been enjoying weekly Tag Rugby sessions with Helen Sheerman from Somerton RFC. Somerton RFC also hosted a Tag Rugby Festival this week which some of our children attended. If you would like more information about Tag Rugby for your child, contact details for the club can be found at <https://www.somertonrfc.co.uk>.



Cross-Country Success

Two of our boys attended the recent local schools' cross-country events after school. They both ran brilliantly on both occasions. Congratulations to Jason and Zach on achieving a commendable 22nd and 28th position in their races.



Unicorn Harvest Assembly

Unicorn Class hosted another lovely assembly, it is always such a treat to see the children perform with such confidence. Their retelling of the Little Red Hen was superb and full of action! They shared their Autumn poetry and their beautiful singing too. Thank you to all who attended the assembly and supported with donations for the Langport Foodbank. The school received a lovely message from the foodbank saying how grateful they were for the donations.



As the weather is currently so variable (rain this morning and then glorious sun as I type) 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. There are still some rather extravagant earrings coming into school too- please ensure the children are wearing small, plain stud earrings only.

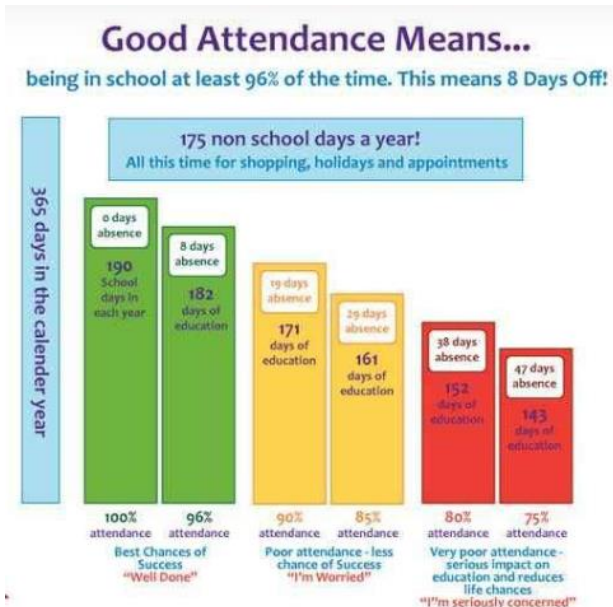
New Starters September 2025

If you have a child or know of someone whose child is due to start school in September 2025, the window for online applications is open and the closing date is January 15th 2025. Please use the link below to apply or kindly forward it to anyone you know who is looking to apply for their child's school place.

<https://www.somerset.gov.uk/children-families-and-education/applying-for-school/apply-to-start-school-for-the-first-time/>

Please be advised that visits to our wonderful school are welcomed and encouraged prior to applying. This can be booked by calling Miss Braithwaite on 01823 698464.

Attendance



Our whole school aim for attendance is 96%.

Our current attendance is for Othery is 95.67% and 97.57% for Middlezoy. Combined this is 96.62%

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.

E-safety Guidance and Advice

Under the **Parental E-safety Guide** 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.



PTA

Following the PTA AGM, I would like to say thank you to our returning Committee of PTA members. This year, they have already supported coach travel for trips, including the up-coming trip to Wells Cathedral and the Panto in December. They have also bought several items for role play and outdoor learning items for Unicorns Class including balance bikes and a space station set.



Today's dressing-up event has been very well supported, there are lots of fantastic costumes and some amazing special effects and make-up! The staff also turned out in full Halloween force too!

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

We look forward to seeing you all on Monday 4th November.

Mrs Hayward and the Middlezoy and Othery Team



Dates for your Diary

Autumn Term 2

- ❖ Monday 4th November - Term Starts. Gates open @ 8:30am
- ❖ Tuesday 5th November – Rugby for Phoenix
- ❖ Thursday 7th November – Railway Safety talks
-Swimming starts again for Dragons Class
- ❖ Friday 8th November - Darrell Wakelam working with KS2
- ❖ Monday 11th November- Darrell Wakelam working with Unicorns
- ❖ Tuesday 19th November – KS2 Trip to Wells Cathedral
- ❖ Wednesday 20th November – World Horse Welfare Assembly
- ❖ Tuesday 10th December – Unicorn Class Nativity at Othery Village Hall- 1:30pm
- ❖ Thursday 12th December – Whole School Trip to the Panto!
- ❖ Monday 16th December – Unicorns Class singing at Middlezoy Chapel Christmas Coffee Morning- further details to follow.
- ❖ Thursday 19th December – Open afternoon in school from 1:30pm
- ❖ PTA Christmas Meal for children and staff (date to be confirmed)
- ❖ Friday 20th December - End of Autumn Term 2