

Lockyer's Middle School

October 2025 - Autumn Term 1b - Issue Number 94
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Headteacher Update

The first half-term is drawing to a close, and I'm delighted to share this Newsletter, highlighting all the fantastic news, learning, and activities our pupils have been involved in.

What is my child learning?

Last summer's parent questionnaire indicated that only 63% of parents felt well-informed about their child's learning. We've listened to this feedback and are committed to improving how we share key information, ensuring you feel like a strong partner in your child's education.

Here's how we're keeping you up-to-date this year:

- **Website Resources:** Our [curriculum overviews](#) for all year groups and detailed [curriculum subject](#) information remain available on the school website.
- **Newsletter Updates:** Look out for our 'What is happening at Lockyer's?' section later in this newsletter, which will now feature specific teaching updates from a range of subjects.
- **Video Overviews:** We've introduced new curriculum overview videos for [Year 6](#) and [Key stage 3](#), which have been shared with relevant parents.
- **Yr 5 Curriculum Evening:** Thank you to all the Year 5 parents who joined us for our Curriculum Evening, including English and Maths workshops on Wednesday 8th October. You can find all the resources from that event [here](#).
- **Upcoming:** Year 6 parents we will be invited to a SATs Information Evening on Tuesday 4th November.

Meet the Tutor Evenings

This half term, we held our 'Meet the Tutor' evenings, which were a great success with an attendance of **87%** of parents. Teachers thoroughly enjoyed meeting parents and carers of the pupils in their tutor groups. Thank you for joining us on these evenings and all your positive feedback. Next term, we'll be holding **Subject Parent Evenings on Thursday 5th March** and **Tuesday 10th March**. Further information will follow next term. Please mark these dates in your diary.

Arbor

We are delighted to share that **99%** of our **parents** are **actively using Arbor!** Arbor is designed to be your one-stop app for staying connected to school life. Through it, you can quickly check your child's timetable, monitor their attendance, view reports, and receive important updates.

I hope you enjoy reading through the following pages, which celebrate the wonderful activities and achievements of our students this half-term. Have a wonderful half-term, and we look forward to seeing everyone back at school on **Tuesday 4th November**.

Best wishes,

A. Dufek, Headteacher

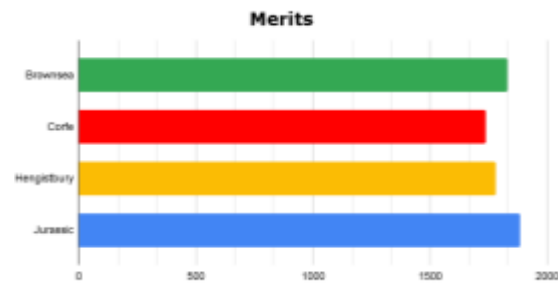


Celebrating Success - Earn Merits



Our students are doing a fantastic job accumulating merits for demonstrating our school values and striving for excellence in their learning. As parents, you can celebrate these successes at home by checking the Arbor app, where you can see the reason behind every merit your child earns.

Congratulations to Jurassic House, who are currently leading the school with the most merits earned!

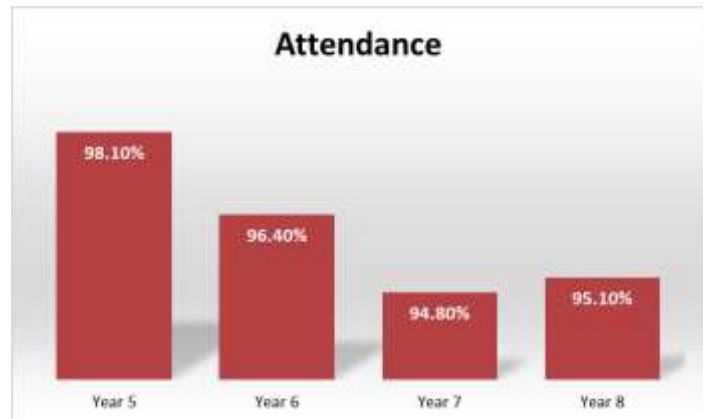


Attendance

As we settle into the new school year, we want to remind everyone about the vital importance of school attendance. When children are consistently in school, they don't miss out on key lessons, classroom discussions, or important social time, which all contribute to a successful learning journey.

Our collective aim is for every child to maintain an attendance rate of **96% or above**. This level ensures they are maximising their time in the classroom and keep their learning journey on track without major disruption.

We are thrilled to celebrate our Year 5 students and families, who have demonstrated excellent commitment to this goal by achieving the highest attendance percentage so far this term! **Well done, Year 5—what a brilliant start to the year!**



What's been happening at Lockyer's?

Year 5

English

Year 5 has had a wonderful start to Lockyer's Middle School and we are so proud of how well they have settled. In English, we have focused our learning on 'The True Story of the Three Little Pigs' which is from the perspective of the wolf. Using this stimulus, the children have written a recount from the wolf using apostrophes for possession and contraction, as well as a focus on homophones and then wrote some brilliant persuasive speeches regarding whether they think the wolf should or should not be arrested for the crime. In this piece of writing, they focused on modal verbs to display degrees of possibility, as well as our 'At LMS' skills.

History

In history, we have been learning about Ancient Maya. The children have enjoyed exploring the daily lives of the people living in that time, the foods they ate and Pok-A-Toc (an Ancient Mayan game).

Celebration Party

Our fantastic Year 5's had a party to celebrate their first few weeks here at Lockyer's. The students went out onto the field, playing games with their friends and teachers! We are so proud of all of our Year 5's for settling in so well!



Fire Safety Workshops



This half term, we welcomed Karen from the Dorset and Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service to deliver fire safety workshops with our Year 5 pupils. They took on the role of fire safety officers, looking at a fire which had taken place and deciding what errors may have taken place for this fire to occur. They also learnt how to keep their own homes safe and what to do if they face a fire.

We are so grateful for our outside visitors who come in to deliver information to our pupils. If anyone is able to offer or support with extra learning opportunities, please do contact us.



Dorset Urban Heath Partnership Visit

On Thursday 16th October, each Year 5 class had a wonderful session, led by Dorset Heaths Partnership, down in our very own nature area. Students had a great time using classification keys for some reptile identification and also enjoyed collecting some beautiful autumn leaves, which were then used for leaf rubbings onto bunting. We were also lucky to have the sun make a very welcomed appearance too!



Year 6

English

Our Year 6 students are making powerful connections between subjects. In English, they're reading *Once* and using expanded noun phrases to write vivid, descriptive pieces about the challenging treatment of Jews during WWII. This directly links to their History unit, where they've been unpicking key WWII events, including life in Britain and evacuation (enhanced by our recent Treehouse Theatre visit!). Meanwhile, in Computing, the class is building on their coding skills to design and produce their own Maths quiz using Scratch!



Treehouse Theatre Visit

Year 6 enjoyed a fun day with the Treehouse theatre company on Tuesday, building on their History learning about World War Two. With some brilliant outfits, children embraced their varying roles during the play performance. Children spent the morning in theatre workshops learning more about life as an evacuee and the challenges of living in Britain during the war. In classes, children developed their understanding of how it felt to be an evacuee along with the role women played. Every child had a role during the performance and performed well; it was an enjoyable experience for all and we are grateful to Friends of Lockyer's for funding it.



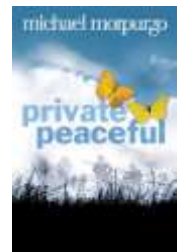
"I enjoyed my role where I chose an evacuee child to live with me."

"My favourite part of the play was seeing the evacuee children get chosen."

"I liked having a role to stand up and say in front of the other children."

Year 7

It has been a thrilling start to the year for Year 7 with many new and exciting topics in their lessons as they move on to the next key stage. Within English lessons, we have been exploring the novel 'Private Peaceful' by Michael Morpurgo and delving further into the language and literature aspects of the subjects. We have also had the opportunity to practise our skills from last year and embark on new reading journeys using Sparx Reader.



The history curriculum has begun fiercely with discussions on the tactics of the Battle of Hastings and the merits (or not!) of William I's reign over England - exploring how it influenced the next 400 years of history!

Year 8

In English, we've been analysing the novel 'Long Way Down'. Students are learning to use contextual information to deepen their analysis while practicing essential analytical and creative writing skills.

This half term in maths, we've focused heavily on ratio, understanding how it compares to fractions when representing sharing. The students are also becoming skilled at using ratio tables to efficiently solve more complex problems.



In computing, students have further developed their ability to write formulae in spreadsheets to create efficient documents. In addition, we have begun to investigate the use of more advanced functions, such as conditional formatting, IF statements and vlookup.



STEM Science Club

Year 8 Girls STEM Challenge Club - Soroptimist Competition

Our Year 8 girls' teams have their projects well on the way for the Soroptimist Competition next year. The girls have to come up with an idea to help people in the developing world using all of their STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) skills. All three teams have impressive and diverse ideas and are currently in the early stages of the design and testing process.



In the Spring Term, all KS3 students are welcome to attend the KS3 Science club to tackle independent projects for their CREST Bronze Award.

KS2 Science Club

Our Year 5 and 6s have had lots of fun as well as learning a lot with their 'kitchen chemistry' experiments. Their favourites so far have been their beautiful cartoon chromatography and the exciting vinegar and baking soda mini-rockets, some of which managed to hit the lab ceiling!



PE news from Mr. Joyce

There have been lots of sporting activities taking place in and out of school this half term. Mr Joyce and the PE Department have been keeping everyone on their toes with lots of home and away fixtures.



Year 7 Boys V Allenbourn
7-1 win!

Cross Country at Canford School



Girls Football v Parkstone Grammar



KS2 Handball Tournament
11/12 wins!

KS2 Girls Football Tournament
3rd out 10 teams!



Year 7 Boys Football County Cup
1st Round



More Cross Country!



KS2 Boys Football



Harvest Collection for Corfe Mullen Foodbank

We want to say a MASSIVE thank you to everyone who donated items for our [Corfe Mullen FoodBank](#) Harvest appeal over the last couple of weeks! We had an incredible amount of donations, which was then sorted and boxed by our wonderful new School Captains, Cat, Bay and Dougie and delivered by Mr Wilson. Thank you so much.



Peer Mentors



Our Peer Mentors have done a great job this half term, helping our new Year 5's settle in. They've also helped Mrs McEnnerney deliver an assembly all about respect. They will continue to work alongside our AntiBullying Ambassadors to support our school community.

Coming Soon...

Odd Socks Day - Monday 10th November

To mark Anti-bullying Week, we shall all be taking part in Odd Socks Day. We ask all pupils to come in wearing odd socks. Click [here](#) to find out more.



School Discos - Thursday 4th December

Our Friends of Lockyer's are, once again, organising our Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 3 School Discos. More information will follow after half term.

Christmas Concert - Tuesday 9th December

This year, our Christmas Concert will be held on Tuesday 9th December at St. Nicholas' Church.



Dates for your Diary

Monday 3rd November -	Inset Day
Tuesday 4th November -	Pupils Return to School
Tuesday 4th November -	Year 6 SAT's Information Evening 6pm-7pm
Wednesday 5th November -	Year 5 Parents and Carers Coffee Morning 8.50am
Monday 10th November -	Odd Socks Day - £1.50 Donation here
Wednesday 12th November -	Bake Sale - bring cakes and cash!
Friday 14th November -	Actionwork Antibullying Workshops
Friday 14th November -	Children in Need - students can wear Pudsey accessories. Donate here
Friday 14th November -	Report Cards home
Friday 27th November -	Flu Immunisations
Thursday 4th December -	School Disco book here
Tuesday 9th December -	Christmas Concert at St Nicholas' Church
Thursday 18th December -	Last Day of Term - Christmas Jumper Day, Christmas Dinner Day
Friday 19th December -	Inset Day
Monday 4th January 2026 -	Inset Day
Tuesday 5th January 2026 -	Pupils Return to School
Monday 16th - Friday 20th February 2026 -	Half Term Break



School term and holiday dates 2025/2026

Autumn 2 2025

Monday 3rd November -	Inset Day
Tuesday 4th November -	Pupils Return to School
Thursday 18th December -	Last Day of Term
Friday 19th December -	Inset Day

Spring 1 2026

Monday 4th January 2026 -	Inset Day
Tuesday 5th January 2026 -	Pupils Return to School
Monday 16th - Friday 20th February 2026 -	Half Term Break
Monday 23rd February -	Inset Day
Monday 24th February -	Pupils Return to School
Friday 27th March -	Last Day of Term
Monday 30th March - Friday 10th April 2026 -	Easter Holidays

Spring 2 2026

Monday 13th April -	Inset Day
Tuesday 14th April -	Pupils Return to School

For a full list of term dates for 2025/2026 click [here](#)

Kit Shop



Don't forget, students are able to purchase stationery equipment from our Kit Shop.

PLEASE NOTE: YOU DO NOT HAVE TO BUY FROM OUR KIT SHOP; WE ACTIVELY ENCOURAGE STUDENTS TO HAVE EVERYTHING THEY NEED WHEN THEY ARRIVE AT SCHOOL EVERY DAY.

Children should take ownership of their belongings. We ask that you regularly check to ensure that they have everything they need for every school day.

Personal Labelling/ Lost Property

Please could we once again stress the importance of labelling every item of clothing, lunchboxes, water bottles and any other items that are potentially going to get lost. The amount of unlabelled lost property in school is extremely high and it is important that children take responsibility for their belongings.

School Dinners - Cut-Off Dates



Deadline to place order

Sunday 20th October
Sunday 27th October
Sunday 3rd November
Sunday 10th November
Sunday 17th November
Sunday 24th November
Sunday 1st December

For Week Commencing

Monday 4th November
Monday 11th November
Monday 18th November
Monday 25th November
Monday 2nd December
Monday 9th December
Monday 16th December

Click [here](#) for the Autumn/Winter Menu



Achievement Badges



All children at Lockyer's Middle School can work towards becoming a Maths Master, Millionaire Reader and Tassomai Titan (*Key Stage 3 pupils only*).



To be a **Maths Master** you need to have achieved 10,000 XP on the Sparx Maths platform, **"Read through the Rainbow"** and collect certificates for every 3 successful book quizzes. To be a **Millionaire Reader** you need to have collected a million words from successfully-completed quizzes.

How many badges can you collect this academic year?

Social Media

Please follow us on



Facebook Lockyers Middle School

X (Formerly Twitter) @Lockyers_Middle

We aim to provide regular updates.

You can also use our **school website to learn more about our school**. Visit

<https://www.lockyersmiddle.org>

Extra-Curricular Achievements



Congratulations to Finlay, Louis,

Samuel, Bea, Bella-Rose, Oliver, Archer, Isaac, Ruben, Addison and Billy on their fabulous achievements this half term.

Thank you so much to everyone who has sent in their extra-curricular achievements. We LOVE sharing them within the school community.

Please keep them coming in next half term!

Have a wonderful half term break!

