



Manor Park

CE (VC) First School



Love for God ~ Love for Each Other ~ Love for Learning

Weekly Newsletter

Monday 3rd November 2025

Save the Date

Dear families

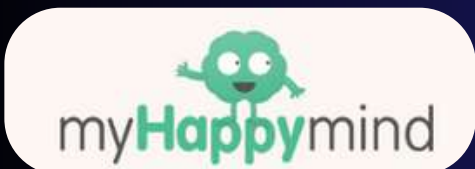
Welcome back and we can not wait for the children to see all the changes we have made over the half term. The staff have been busy tidying and preparing for the next term.

This term we are diving into our DT topic. Our children will learn how to saw, stitch, create, evaluate and reflect on their designs. I can not wait for you all to see what they are creating.

It is getting colder so please can you ensure that all children have their coats with them.

I hope you all had a great holiday and we are looking forward to seeing you all.

Manor Park First School



**Further detailed information will be sent out via Arbor for specific events closer to the time.*

November	'Cut Your Carbon' Month
3 rd November	Start of Autumn 2
6 th November	Speech and language meetings
6 th November	Prospective Reception Open Day (10:30am)
10 th November	SENDCo meetings
10 th November	Odd Socks Day
10 th November	Remembrance Assembly
Wc 10 th November	Antibullying week
27 th November	EYFS coffee morning (9am-10am)
28 th November	Signature House Christmas Bazaar
1 st December	Happiness Heroes visit Corn Exchange
2 nd December	SENDCo meetings
4 th December	Yr 4 Journey to the stable
5 th December	Yr 3 Journey to the stable (am)
12 th December	Open Afternoon
15 th December	Yr 1 and 2 Nativity Performance @ 10:30am-11:30am
16 th December	Yr 1 and 2 Nativity Performance @1:45pm - 2:45pm
16 th December	Signature House residents invited to watch the Nativity
17 th December	Christmas Carols at Signature House
17 th December	Christmas Jumper Day
17 th December	Christmas Lunch
18th December	End of term



Eco Warriors

CUT YOUR CARBON
WITH ECO-SCHOOLS

Throughout November, we're challenging everyone to complete 6 small carbon-cutting activities at home with friends and family. Here are some clues about the 6 activities. More information to follow...



These actions will reduce your everyday carbon emissions and benefit our planet.



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NOTICE OF SPORTS DAYS



Manor Park Sports Week Summer Term 2026

22nd June 2026 Year 3 and Year 4 Sports Morning (9:15 - 11am)

23rd June 2026 EYFS Sports Morning (9:00- 10:00am)

23rd June 2026 Year 1 and 2 Sports Morning (10:30 - 12:00pm)

Reserve Days:

24th June 2026 - Yr 3 and 4

25th June 2026 - EYFS and Year 1 and 2



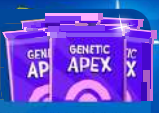
What Parents & Educators Need to Know about POKÉMON TCG POCKET



WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Pokémon TCG Pocket is a mobile version of the hugely popular Pokémon Trading Card Game, downloaded over 100 million times on Android and iOS. Players collect cards, battle others online, and open packs of cards – known as booster packs – to expand their decks. While the core game can be fun and helps develop tactical and numeracy skills, its design encourages spending and can feed addictive behaviours – making it important for adults to understand the risks.

ADDICTIVE PACK OPENING



Booster packs rely on probability to provide rare or powerful cards. The excitement of opening them – and the dopamine rush when finding a sought-after card – can become addictive. Unlike purely cosmetic loot boxes, the cards here are integral to competitive gameplay, adding extra pressure for serious gamers to collect more.

ENDLESS PACK LOOPS



New themed sets of cards are released each month, ranging from around 85 to over 370 cards per expansion. This constant cycle encourages players to keep opening packs in an effort to complete collections or improve their battle decks, potentially promoting unhealthy spending habits. With the introduction of limited-time booster packs, some players may feel increased pressure to collect these cards while they're still available.

QUICK BUT ABSORBING



Card battles last around five to six minutes, making it easy to fit in "just one more game". This quick format, combined with the drive to win, can lead to prolonged play sessions and increased screen time without noticing. With limited-time Ranked Match seasons constantly being refreshed – an opportunity to accumulate points and earn profile emblems – players may find themselves drawn into this game mechanic repeatedly.

COST OF BOOSTER PACKS



Although free to play, with set rewards and two free booster packs given daily, players can exchange Poké Gold if they wish to open more, and a small amount of Poké Gold is rewarded for free as the player levels up. Poké Gold is also sold in bundles that are often just short of what players need to open extra packs, encouraging them to buy additional bundles.

PREMIUM PASS PRESSURE



A monthly subscription gives players access to exclusive missions, rewards, and an extra daily booster pack. Missions and rewards are replaced each month, providing an incentive to stay subscribed. While some premium rewards are exclusive, others are available through free play – making the pass more about faster progression and obtaining cosmetic items than true necessity.

COMPETITIVE ONLINE PLAY



Interactions in Pokémon TCG Pocket are relatively safe – there's no messaging between players, friend requests require player approval, no real names are used, and card trading is restricted to fair trades between friends. On the other hand, the competitive nature of online play can still cause frustration, over-investment, and isolation if children spend too much time focused on the game.

Advice for Parents & Educators

MONITOR SPENDING HABITS



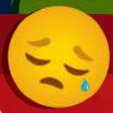
Set clear boundaries around in-game purchases. Treat Poké Gold as an occasional rather than routine reward, helping children develop healthier attitudes towards digital spend.

PLAY TOGETHER



Card battles can help children learn tactics, problem-solving, and rule-following, as well as numeracy skills. Playing alongside them is a great way to share in their enjoyment, while also modelling balanced play and keeping an eye on how much they're investing in the game.

SET REALISTIC EXPECTATIONS



Talk about the unpredictable nature of booster packs and prepare children for disappointment when duplicates appear or rare cards don't surface. Understanding probability can help minimise disappointment – use the game's built-in offering rates guides to find out more about it.

TEACH FAIRNESS



Losing a battle can be discouraging, especially when money has been spent on collecting the cards to build a deck. Support children in recognising the importance of fairness, learning from both wins and losses, and making considered choices when trading cards.

Meet Our Expert

Dan Lipscombe is a videogame journalist and children's book author with over 15 years of experience. Specialising in technology and gaming, he has written extensively on how digital platforms affect young people and has been playing games for more than three decades.





Natural Willow Christmas Wreath workshop
 With Buds of Manor Park & Nadine Shaban



Buds

6pm Thursday
 27th November
 @ Manor Park
 £35 per person



Limited spaces available!

Includes a reusable willow ring, demonstration & ideas from Nadine @ Space to Make, all materials and your completed wreath, plus Christmas nibbles and a glass of prosecco! Additional refreshments available to purchase on the night.

12th December
 Manor Park School

BUD'S OF MANOR PARK
Winter fair
 Stall holders wanted

We would like you to register your interest for a stall at our winter fair
 5pm to 7pm £10 per table



MANOR PARK C OF E SCHOOL DORCHESTER
 DT1 2BH

**Save the date:
 12th December
 Buds Winter Fair**



@Budsofmanorpark

BudsOfManorPark





Open Day!



Are you looking for a school place for your child who is due to join Reception in September 2026?



We are delighted to invite you to our school on **Thursday 6th November** at 10:30am, where you will have the opportunity to: have a tour with Mrs Sterck, our Head of School; meet our enthusiastic Reception team; and see the excellent provision we offer to ensure your child reaches their full potential.

*If you are unable to attend on the above dates, please call the school office to make an appointment at a time to suit you.

To book a tour, please contact the school office on 01305 268741 or email office@manorpark.wessex.ac



@manorparkfirst



ManorParkDorchester

Our best start in life advisor is Claudia, who runs the half termly workshops for our EYFS families. Our next one is Thursday 27th November

BEST START IN LIFE



UK Government

The Best Start in Life campaign aims to increase awareness of the role of the early years in a child's development, increase parental understanding of things you can do in your child's early years and how early education supports child development. From pregnancy to childcare, right through to starting school, get advice and support for your child's development.

Explore Best Start in Life to find trusted resources and information as well as local support.

<https://www.beststartinlife.gov.uk/>



Our new certificate, to include the cash total!

Events

IN THE COMMUNITY



Professional 1-1 football coaching, at the Great Field in Poundbury every Tuesday with a former professional player, who faced giants like RB Leipzig and SG Dynamo Dresden. An active professional football freestyler who brings elite-level expertise to every session. Book your slot at www.about2win.com



Dorchester Lions in conjunction with the Brewers Arms, Martinstown.



BREAKFAST WITH SANTA



at the Brewers Arms
Sunday 7th December 9.00 - 11.00
Dorchester Rock Choir will be performing at 9.00am.
SANTA ARRIVING 9.20AM.



Tickets £15 per child
Limited availability so booking essential

Each child will have Breakfast with Santa and receive a present. A special guest will be arriving during the morning.

Contact **Ben or Leanne at the Brewers Arms** to reserve your place.

All proceeds in aid of Dorchester and District Lions to benefit local charities and organisations.

Dorchester Lions in conjunction with Brewers Arms Martinstown present a



WINTER FAYRE

at the
Brewers Arms
Sunday 7th December
from 1.00pm - 4.00pm
Santa arrives 1.15pm.



£5 to visit Santa and receive a gift.
Entertainment, stalls and attractions, including Annabelles Alpacas
Sit in Santa's sleigh and have your photo taken.



Proceeds to Dorchester and District Lions, supporting local charities and organisations.

