



Manor Park

CE (VC) First School

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

Weekly Newsletter

Monday 1st December 2025

Dear families

Advent is a special season in the Church year — a time of waiting, hope, and preparation for the coming of Jesus.

As we begin Advent at our First School Church of England, we remember our vision: **Love for God, Love for Each Other, and Love for Learning**, and we see how beautifully it connects to this season.

Love for God:

During Advent, we take time to pause and think about God's great love in sending Jesus. As we light our Advent candles, we remember that Jesus is the Light of the World, and we open our hearts to Him with hope and thankfulness.

Love for Each Other:

Advent invites us to show kindness, patience, and generosity. Just as we prepare our homes for Christmas, we also prepare our hearts by caring for one another, helping those in need, and making peace — reflecting the love Jesus brings.

Love for Learning:

This season encourages us to wonder, explore, and learn more about the Christmas story. We learn what hope, peace, joy, and love truly mean, and how we can live them out every day in our school community.

As we journey through Advent, may the growing light of each candle remind us to grow in love—for God, for one another, and for learning—so that we are ready to welcome Jesus with joyful hearts.



Save the Date

1 st December	Advent begins
1 st December	Happiness Heroes visit Corn Exchange
2nd December	SENDCo meetings
4th December	Reception visit Nutley Farm
4th December	St George's Church Christmas Tree Festival
4th December	Yr 4 Journey to the stable
5th December	Preschool Christmas Craft event 2pm-3pm
5th December	Yr 3 Journey to the stable (am)
8th December	Hazel Class Christmas craft event 2:15-3:15
8th December	Year 2 visit St George's Church Christmas Tree Festival
11 th December	Maple Class Christmas craft event 2:15-3:15
12th December	Open Afternoon 'Celebrate'
12th December	Buds Winter Fair
15 th December	Yr 1 and 2 Nativity Performance 10:30-11:30
15th December	Y3/4 St George's Christmas service 1:45pm
16 th December	Yr 1 and 2 Nativity Performance 1:45- 2:45
16th December	Signature House residents invited to watch the Nativity
17th December	Christmas Carols at Signature House
17th December	Christmas Jumper Day
17th December	Christmas Lunch
18th December	End of term

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

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HIGHLIGHTS of the WEEK

Year One have been exploring measurement in maths this week. We first used cubes to find the length/height of different objects. We then explored rulers.



Crazy Christmas Hair Day! (More photos on the Buds page)



Chestnut Class in Year 3 enjoyed making see saws and thinking about the forces at play during outdoor learning.



Beech Class in Year 4 have started their next block subject - SCIENCE: Changes in state. We compared the different states: solids, liquids and gases.



Children in Year 4 have been discovering Oobleck; a mixture of cornflour and water that acts like a liquid and a solid. It's been great fun!



Christmas

CRAFT EVENTS

Preschool and Reception are holding a Christmas craft event, where we are inviting families to come and join us for some Christmas carols and craft activities.



AT MANOR PARK FIRST SCHOOL

Preschool - Friday 5th December 2pm-3pm
Hazel Class Monday 8th December 2:15pm-3:15pm
Maple Class - Thursday 11th December 2:15pm-3:15pm

The Pantry

RAFFLE

Tickets on sale now!



All proceeds are used to replenish stock in The Pantry.

20p a ticket/
£1 a strip.

Here are just some of the prizes up for grabs!

Tickets can be bought at The Pantry or from Tina Hill on the School gate.

To be drawn on the 17th December 2025.



What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

TIKTOK

AGE RESTRICTION
13+

(Certain features are restricted to over-18s only)

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Online videos are often associated with apps such as YouTube, but among teens, TikTok is king. The app provides a potentially addictive, never-ending stream of short clips tailored to users' interests based on their viewing habits. Around half of British children use TikTok, and while most content is benign, Ofcom considers it the app where young people are "most likely to encounter a potential harm".

AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

TikTok's Following Feed shows videos from known creators, while the default For You Feed serves endless clips based on viewing history. Most are harmless, but unsuitable content can still appear, and watching for long enough signals interest to the algorithm. Although TikTok bans illegal or inappropriate uploads, the volume of posts means some slip through, increasing the chance that children encounter age-inappropriate material before it is detected or removed.

BODY IMAGE AND DANGEROUS CHALLENGES

Ofcom reports that most online harms for girls involve body image, while boys more often see dangerous stunts. Both types appear frequently on TikTok and spread quickly through its engagement-driven algorithm. Harmful challenges have included the "blackout" trend, where users held their breath until passing out. Families filed lawsuits after children died linked to the trend, showing how extreme or risky content can rapidly reach young people and negatively influence them.

IN-APP SPENDING

TikTok is free, but children can still spend money. TikTok coins, costing £9.99 to £224.99, let users buy gifts for creators. TikTok Shop adds risk by allowing purchases from influencers or companies, sometimes leading to poor-quality items driven by persuasive marketing. A Canadian investigation found TikTok collected personal data from many children for targeting and advertising despite age limits, meaning young users may lose control over their personal information.

CONTACT WITH STRANGERS

Between 1.6 and 1.9 billion people use TikTok, meaning there's a high risk of unwanted attention from strangers. Accounts created by over-16s (or young people using a fake date of birth) are set to public view by default. This means that not only is someone's profile visible to everyone else on the app, it also suggests their videos to others and allows anyone to download or comment on them.

MISINFORMATION AND RADICALISATION

TikTok's short videos may appear lighthearted, but they can expose young people to harmful ideas. Misinformation is common, and Ofcom reports that nearly one third of 12-15-year-olds use TikTok as a news source, increasing the chance of seeing racist, misogynistic, extremist or conspiracy material. Even brief clips can influence impressionable users and shape their worldview, making discussions about critical thinking, propaganda and online influence especially important for parents and educators.

ADDICTIVE DESIGN

TikTok's fast-paced stream of eye-catching videos can be potentially addictive for young users. In 2024, UK children spent an average of 127 minutes per day on the platform, double the time recorded in 2020. Excessive use can disrupt sleep, increase irritability, and distract from healthier activities. Constantly skipping between short clips may also affect attention span, making it harder to focus on longer tasks such as homework or reading.

Advice for Parents & Educators

ENABLE FAMILY PAIRING

Family Pairing allows parents to link their TikTok account to their child's in order to manage settings remotely. Parents can then turn on Restricted Mode (reducing the chances of a child seeing inappropriate content), set screen time limits, make accounts private and manage whether their child can send messages – and if they can, to whom. Children cannot alter these settings without parental approval.

DISCUSS THE DANGERS

If a child wants to use TikTok and you're happy for them to do so, it's good practice to discuss the potential risks. Ensure they don't share any identifying personal information or respond to dangerous trends, and that they know to talk to a trusted adult if they're worried by interactions on the app. With more teens using TikTok for news, it's important to talk about misinformation and propaganda.

BLOCK IN-APP SPENDING

Parents can restrict in-app purchases on iPhone and Android devices to prevent accidental or impulsive TikTok spending. Young people can easily spend large amounts on TikTok coins or low-quality products promoted through TikTok Shop. If a disappointing purchase occurs, turn it into a discussion about influencer marketing and how online promotions can be misleading.

READ THE SIGNS

If you're concerned that a child is spending too much time on TikTok, or that they've been emotionally affected by something they've seen, it's important to know how to spot the signs. Increased irritability and a lack of concentration are potential red flags, as is failing to complete homework or skipping meals. Remember, the parental controls are there for a reason, and it's never too late to introduce limits.

Meet Our Expert

Alan Martin is an experienced technology journalist who has written for the likes of Wired, TechRadar, Tom's Guide, The Evening Standard and The New Statesman.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

See full reference list on our website

@wake_up_weds

/www.thenationalcollege

@wake.up.wednesday

@wake.up.weds

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Release date: 26.11.2025

Limited Preschool spaces available



Are you looking for a preschool place for your child?

We have a few limited spaces available for our 3 and 4 year old children from January.

If you are interested in joining our wonderful school, please contact the school office. We welcome visits so that you can meet our enthusiastic Preschool team and see the excellent provision we offer to ensure your child reaches their full potential.

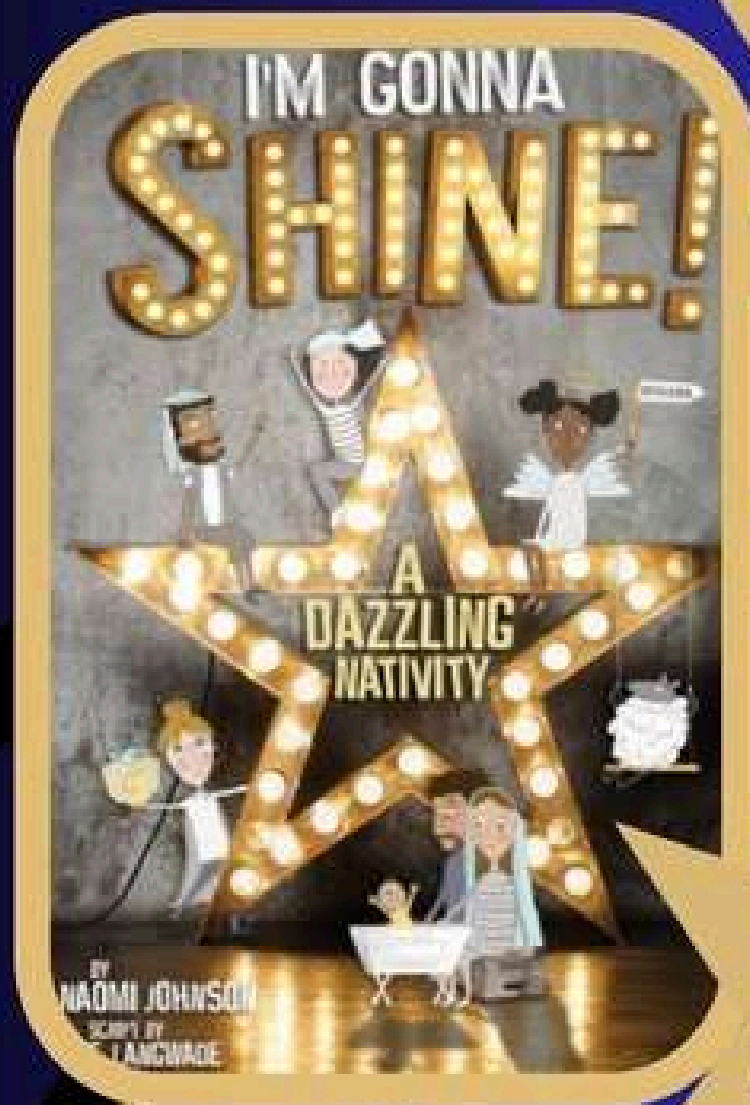
Please contact the school office on 01305 268741 or email office@manorpark.dorset.sch.uk



Check out our social media pages



Manor Park First School presents...



Performed
by Year 1
and Year 2

Monday 15th
December
10:30am -
11:30am

Tuesday 16th
December
1:45pm -
2:45pm

Two tickets available per child

Please contact the school office to
reserve your seat:

in person

email - office@manorpark.wessex.ac

telephone - 01305 268741



Application
Deadline: 15th
January 2026

Is your child starting school in September 2026?



Come and visit us to see for yourself, the fabulous provision we have for our children here at Manor Park First School.

We had two great open mornings recently. If you were unable to attend and would like to see our wonderful provision, please call the school office. We will be able to arrange a tour, where you will have the opportunity to meet our enthusiastic Reception team and see the excellent provision we offer to ensure your child reaches their full potential.

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

Applications for your child's school placement for September 2026 must be made by 15th January 2026 via the Dorset Council website:

<https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/w/starting-school-for-the-first-time> .



@manorparkfirst



ManorParkDorchester



A festive poster for the Buds of Manor Park Winter Fair. The poster has a teal background with a white border. At the top, there is a red bow and a blue balloon. The text is in a teal, serif font. The event is scheduled for Friday, December 12th, from 5 PM to 7 PM. The activities listed include festive games, raffle, tombola, arts & crafts, food & drink, lucky dip, gifts, and sweet treats. There is also a mention of festive shopping with local craft and eco vendors. The poster is decorated with white snowflakes, a white Christmas tree, and a snowman.

BUDS OF MANOR PARK

WINTER FAIR

FRIDAY DECEMBER 12TH
5PM - 7PM

FESTIVE GAMES ~ RAFFLE ~ TOMBOLA
ARTS & CRAFTS ~ FOOD & DRINK
LUCKY DIP ~ GIFTS ~ SWEET TREATS

PLUS FESTIVE SHOPPING WITH
LOCAL CRAFT AND ECO VENDORS



@Budsofmanorpark

BudsOfManorPark

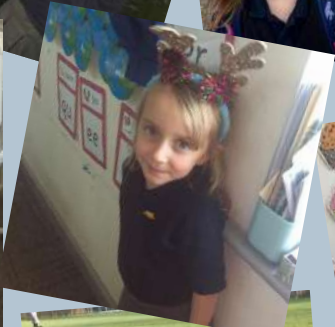




Thank you!

Wow! We are blown away with Friday's efforts for Crazy Christmas Hair Day!! The children have had a great day 🎄🧑‍🎄👶. Thank so much for your support in making this such a successful event.

Thank you so so much for your support with bringing something for the Tombola at our Winter Fair. We are so grateful!



@Budsofmanorpark

BudsOfManorPark



Events

IN THE COMMUNITY

Christmas Tree Festival
 St. George's Church
 Fordington
 5th to the 8th December
Free entry

Christmas Cafe
 Serving Seasonal Refreshments

Fri 05/12	6-8 pm
Sat 06/12	10am-8pm
Sun 07/12	12-4pm
Mon 08/12	10-5pm

Carols in the Gardens

Thursday 18th December, 6.30pm
 The Borough Gardens, Dorchester

Featuring
 Durnovaria Silver Band & Encore Singers
 Carol books provided
 Festive refreshments will be available.

Bring your own homemade lanterns!
 To find out how to make your own lantern from recycled materials scan the QR code.

Friends of the Borough Gardens
 Supported by Dorchester Town Council & Keep 106

PIZZA & Praise

SUNDAY 7TH DECEMBER
 6.30PM - 7.30PM AT ST GEORGE'S
 CHURCH HALL

Dorchester Baptist Church
 Messy Church

6th December 2025
 10:00am - 12:00 noon

Games, craft, singing, talk, cake, fun for all the family.
Free!!

Carols on the Green @ St George's Church, Fordington Saturday 6th December at 6pm

JOIN US FOR A
Tinsel & Twinkle
 SHOPPING EXPERIENCE

THURSDAY 11 DECEMBER
 TWINKLE THROUGH YOUR CHRISTMAS LIST WITH LATE NIGHT SHOPPING & SPECIAL CHILDREN'S CRÛCHE AT
 FREE PROSECCO, EXCLUSIVE GOODIE BAGS AND THE UPLIFTING SOUNDS OF THE ROCK CHOIR PERFORMING FROM 6PM
 WITH LOTS OF FESTIVE FREEBIES TO TAKE HOME, IT'S THE PERFECT WAY TO GET READY FOR CHRISTMAS

SEVENTH SEAL, Vinyl van, LOCO, Side, ROCK CHOIR, RAPID MOBILITY, MIBAH LINGERIE, BREWERY SQUARE, DT1 1GH

Discover our Christmas events programme at brewerysquare.com

ST GEORGE'S CHURCH PRESENTS:

CAROLS
On The Green
 Saturday 6th December 6-7pm
 Fordington Green
 Hot Dogs, Burgers & Mulled Punch served in church

MAGICAL CHRISTMAS FETE!

SATURDAY 13TH DECEMBER, 10AM-4PM, AT OUR DORCHESTER OUTLET, UNIT D2, MARABOUT INDUSTRIAL ESTATE, MILLER'S CLOSE, DORCHESTER, DT1 1YA.

Jewellery stall, cake stall, gift tombola, sweet tombola, children's stall, smelly stall. Father Christmas will also be here between 11am-1pm and 1:30-3pm. Cash only for stalls where possible please.

weldmarhospicecare.org



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YOUR NEAREST MULTI-ACTIVITY CAMP

Venue: Manor Park First school, Dorchester, DT1 2BH

Dates: Mon 22nd & Tue 23rd Dec 2025 & Fri 2nd Jan 2026

Times: 9-4pm (9-1pm for 4 year olds)

Price: £26.62 9-4pm - £2 9-1pm - £13.84 per day

Ages: 4-11

Additional info: **Sibling discount available**



Our Holiday Camps keep children active, safe, and entertained throughout the school holidays.

Join us this Winter as we offer a wide range of fun activities, including sports, performing arts, and games, all at great value. There's something for every child to enjoy as they start 2026!

Book now for a holiday full of excitement!



CAMPS ARE BETTER WITH FRIENDS!



TREAT YOUR FRIENDS TO 20% OFF...AND GET 20% OFF TOO!

*Ts&Cs apply. Refer a Friend discount on new bookings only.



Based on over 20,000 reviews



TEASEL & SKYLARK



🌟🌲 Calling all young poets! 🌲🌟

Here at Teasel and Skylark we are really excited to launch our first ever Children's Poetry Competition — and this year's theme is Christmas Traditions!

Think twinkly lights, singing carols, family rituals, mince pies, or whatever makes your Christmas magical. There are no word limits and the poems can either rhyme or not, it's up to you! ✨

There are two age categories:



Primary School (Year 1 to Year 6)



Secondary School (Year 7 to Year 11)



Prizes:

Each age group will have:



1st prize – £20 Teasel & Skylark gift voucher



2 runners-up – £10 Teasel & Skylark gift vouchers each



How to enter:

Write your poem (handwritten or typed) and pop it in the special post box at Teasel & Skylark Books, Trinity Street, Dorchester together with a completed Entry Form. These can be collected free of charge from Teasel & Skylark or you can download one from our website - teaselandskylark.com

We're sorry, but we cannot accept any entry without a completed form showing permission from a parent or guardian.



Free to enter!

There's no cost to enter and we will be announcing the competition's judges very soon!



Closing date: Wednesday 10 December



Full details and T&Cs can be downloaded from our website.

We can't wait to read your Christmassy creations — so get your pens, pencils, or keyboards ready and let the festive poems begin! 🎁📖🌟



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*Attendance Winners
this week are...*

- EYFS
- Maple Class: 96%
- K.S.1
- Ash Class: 96.5%
- K.S.2
- Sycamore Class: 96.5%

*“Love is a safe place of shelter,
For it never stops believing the best for
others. Love never takes failure as defeat,
for it never gives up. Love never stops
Loving. 1 Corinthians 13: 7-8*

01305 268741

www.manorpark.dorset.sch.uk



@manorparkfirst



ManorParkDorchester

