



Manor Park

CE (VC) First School

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

2026

Weekly Newsletter

Monday 12th January 2026

Dear families

It was lovely seeing you all back, and despite the cold, windy and wet weather, the children had a fantastic start to the term. They have learned about the rainforest, continents and how mountains are formed. Reception children are fully immersed in their vehicle topic.

This week the children will continue with their geography learning. Please follow us on social media to see what we have been learning.

Please may I remind all of you to ensure the children have coats as the weather is very cold and wet.

Manor Park First School

Happy
New Year



Save the Date

| | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| 14 th January | SEND parent consultations (am) |
| 16 th January | Fire safety assemblies |
| 19th January | Happiness Heroes visit the Corn Exchange |
| 9th-15th February | Children's Mental Health Week |
| 10 th February | Safer Internet Day |
| 16th -20 th | Half Term |
| February | |
| 5th March | World Book Day |
| 6th - 15 th March | British Science Week |
| 13th - 29 th March | Keep Britain Tidy: Great Big School Clean |
| 17th March | Y4 rehearsal and concert at THS |
| 23rd-25th March | Y4 Hooke Court |
| 26th March | Easter Church Service @ 1:45pm |
| 27th March | End of spring 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



In Outdoor Learning the children in Cedar Class in Year 4 have enjoyed creating buttress roots to try to make a stick stand up. We have learnt that trees in the rainforest have buttress roots to absorb nutrients.

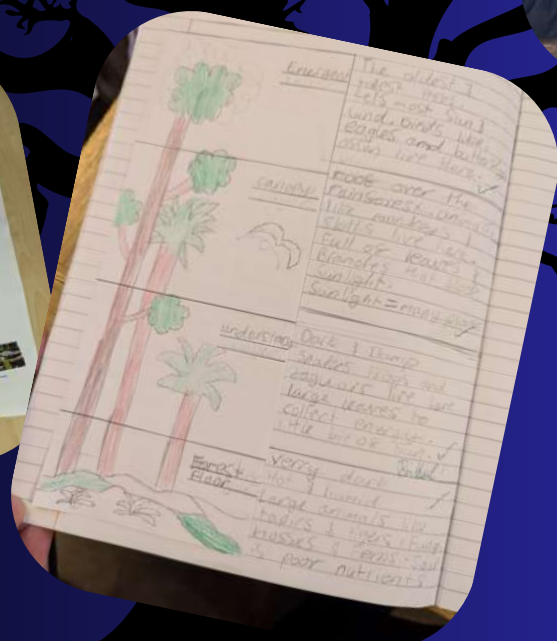
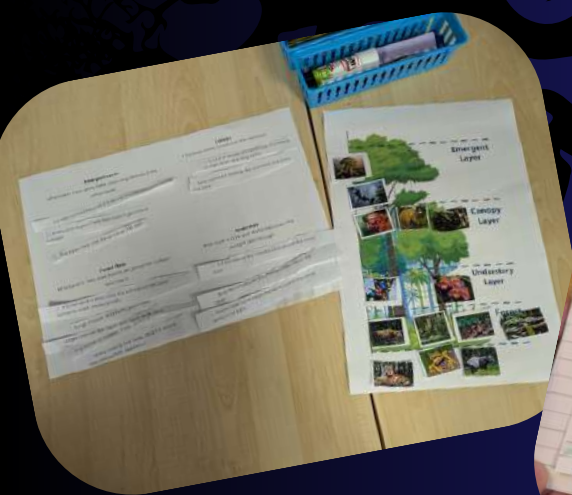
This week, the Preschool children had lots of fun learning outside. We read "How to Catch a Star" and talked about stars and wishes. The children used leaves they found outdoors to make their own star leaf wands.



Year 3 Children in Chestnut Class and Sycamore Class have been making mountain ranges in outdoor learning today. It has been mudtastic!



Year 4 have started our newest block, Geography, by working together to solve the layers of the rainforest. Collaboratively, they accurately identify statements that are correct for each layer before producing their own fact files



10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

ESSENTIAL ONLINE SAFETY

Children and young people use the internet every day to learn, play, and connect, but the online world is not always safe. For adults, it can be hard to keep up with the risks, including harmful content, cyberbullying and scams. These 10 tips provide clear and practical advice to support safer and healthier digital habits, helping young people to make informed, secure choices when using technology.

1 START EARLY CONVERSATIONS

Begin talking about online behaviour from the moment children start using devices. Use age-appropriate language and revisit topics regularly, making it clear they can speak to you about anything that upsets or confuses them. Keeping these chats open helps build trust, so children are more likely to come to you when needed.

2 PROMOTE SAFER SHARING

Children can overshare without understanding the risks. Remind them that photos, locations, or messages can be copied or shared beyond their intended audience. Explain how even private messages or group chats can be saved and/or misused. Talk about what is appropriate to post, message, and who it's safe to share with.

3 ENCOURAGE DIGITAL BALANCE

Many apps and games are designed to keep users engaged through rewards, likes, or constant updates. These features can make it hard for children to switch off. Talk openly about how these systems work and help children recognise when it's time to take a break. Building in tech-free routines supports a healthier balance and awareness of their screen time.

4 CREATE A SAFE SPACE FOR CONCERNS

When children come to you with a concern, respond with interest and care, rather than with alarm. Keeping your reaction measured helps them feel safe and supported. This doesn't mean ignoring serious issues; it means showing that you're there to help. When children trust that they can speak openly, they're more likely to feel supported through unpleasant online experiences, and to ask for help in future.

5 STAY INFORMED AND CURRENT

With emerging technologies like AI moving and changing so quickly, it's important to stay updated on how children are using new platforms, apps and games. Ask them to show you what they use and let them take the lead as you explore together. This opens up valuable conversations and helps you stay ahead of emerging risks and trends.

6 TEACH CRITICAL THINKING

Talk to children about how to recognise unreliable information or scams online. With AI-generated videos, photos, and stories becoming harder to spot, help children question what they see and encourage them to look for evidence, check sources, and ask questions. These skills will help them avoid risks, make smart choices, and develop healthy habits for the future.

7 SET CLEAR BOUNDARIES

Involve children in conversations about device usage so they feel included. Agree on digital rules such as screen-time limits, age-appropriate apps, and no devices in bedrooms overnight. Use parental controls to block or filter harmful content and explain that rules are there to protect and support them, not to spoil their fun.

8 LEAD BY EXAMPLE

Children often copy the behaviour of adults around them. Show them what balanced, respectful, and mindful use of technology looks like, such as avoiding scrolling during family time and speaking kindly in messages. If you expect certain behaviour from them online, make sure your own habits reflect the same standards.

9 EXPLORE PRIVACY SETTINGS TOGETHER

Show children how to use privacy tools on apps, games, and websites. Teach them to use strong passwords, block or report others in response to problems, and avoid sharing personal details. Explore settings together so they feel confident and in control, and explain that these features are there to help them stay safe online.

10 KNOW WHERE TO GET HELP

Familiarise yourself with tools and organisations that support online safety. The National College offers online safety guides and webinars which provide tips on staying safe. Websites like Report Harmful Content and CEOP can be used to report when something goes wrong. Show children how to report or block users, and where to go if they feel unsafe. Make sure they know that asking for help is always the right thing to do, and be prepared to support them.


Meet Our Expert

Home to the world's largest CPD library for educators, The National College has transformed the way education establishments go about developing their workforces and managing compliance. Our three memberships help all phases and types of setting raise standards, save time, reduce risk, and build a culture of improvement.

See full reference list on our website

Events

IN THE COMMUNITY



FREE MARTIAL ARTS SESSIONS FOR JANUARY

Taekwondo, Boxing or Kickboxing

Martial arts empower strength, discipline, self-defense, and confidence, transforming mind and body effectively

[BOOK NOW](#)

07919245562 ForFit Martial Arts Academy

Pavilion in the Park, Poundbury

AFTER SCHOOL ART


Every other Wednesday
14th & 28th January and
11th February


4 - 5pm

*A fun hour of arts and crafts
for 5 - 10 year olds*

An adult must accompany children at these sessions.
Sessions are FREE but places must be reserved in advance

To book please contact
Kerry Smith - kerry@pipsoundbury.com
or call 01305 259 142



 MUSIC AT ST PETER'S
Dorchester

CHORAL EVENSONG

You are warmly invited to our monthly, cathedral-style service of Choral Evensong on Saturday 24th January at 4.30pm in St Peter's Church, Dorchester.



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Attendance
Reception – Year 4:
95.8%

*Attendance Winners
this week are...*

- EYFS
- Maple Class: 98.2%
- K.S.1
- Willow Class: 98.9%
- K.S.2
- Sycamore Class: 100%

*“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*

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