



Weekly Newsletter

Monday 26th January 2026

Dear families,

A wonderful week last week. Year 1 learned and discovered the streets of Dorchester and posted letters. Year 2, 3 and 4 also finished their geography topic. This week the children are emerging themselves in their Art topics.

We fully understand that illnesses can not be avoided but please can we ensure that you let the office know before 8.45am. May I also remind you that school starts at 8.45am and the register closes at 9am. We appreciate your help with attendance.

Have a lovely week
Manor Park First School

Save the Date

29th January	EYFS Coffee morning
6th February	Fire engine visiting EYFS
9th-15th February	Children's Mental Health Week
9th February	SEND parent meetings
10th February	Safer Internet Day
10th February	Police car visiting EYFS
10th February	SEND parent meetings
16th -20th	Half Term
February	
23rd February	Mel Lane parent workshop
5th March	World Book Day
6th - 15th March	British Science Week
9th March	SEND parent meetings
13th - 29th 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.*



Manor Park

CE (VC) First School

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

HIGHLIGHTS of the WEEK

Our Preschool children loved meeting real firefighters, learning all about their important job, and asking lots of curious questions. They even got hands-on with the fire hoses and had great fun spraying water — lots of smiles and excitement all around!

Our Happiness Heroes had an amazing visit to The Corn Exchange in Dorchester!



Ash Class in Year 2 have started a new music topic based on West African call and response songs. 🗣️🎵



This week we were proud to host an alternative sports festival with PH sports. Children from 2 neighbouring schools joined selected Year 3 and 4 children for an afternoon of sports and fun.



Year 3 have been writing non chronological reports all about dragons. They have compiled their research and now are putting their finished pieces together and will display them in school.



Sycamore have been loving exploring all about volcanos. We have made a volcano in a bag and designed our own composite volcanoes with real exploding lava.



We are taking part in The Big Schools' Birdwatch 2026!



Every year in January and February, the RSPB asks pupils across the UK to count the birds in their school grounds.

Our Big Schools' Birdwatch results will help the RSPB to learn which birds are doing well and which are in trouble.

The RSPB will then work out what needs to be done to help those in need.



They might suggest actions such as:

- * Increasing the number of suitable places particular birds nest and live (habitats)
- * Growing plants that provide food for these birds
- * Providing habitats for the creatures that some birds eat



You can take part at home too, with the
Big Garden Birdwatch



Over the next few weeks, every class will be participating in the Big Schools' Birdwatch 🐦 🐦
Year 3 and 4 have already prepared some birds feeders during their outdoor learning session and will begin their bird watch this week. Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 will spend some time learning about the Birdwatch and participating.

If you're into it, read into it.



The campaign is called 'Go All In' (goallin.org.uk) Instead of asking people to "find time to read", Go All In brings reading to them, through their passions. Whatever people are into – sport, music, food, gaming, film, fashion, or creativity – is used to draw them into reading.

National Year of Reading!
The National Year of Reading 2026 is a UK-wide campaign designed to help more people rediscover the joy of reading. It's a Department for Education initiative, delivered by a group of literacy charities.



At Manor Park we will be celebrating reading throughout the year, so look out for events and information. We will be getting involved in World Book Day, our Readathon, book fairs and reading competitions - to name just a few things.



We all know the benefits of reading, but fewer of us are doing it. Reading expands minds, builds confidence and fuels creativity. Yet with more distractions and less time, reading for pleasure is in decline across many groups. The National Year of Reading 2026 is here to change that.



Take action now:
Take 10 minutes to share a story with your child
Talk with your child about what book their class are reading in English
Visit [Dorchester Library](#)

Place2Be's

CHILDREN'S
MENTAL HEALTH
WEEK

9-15
FEB
2026

THE MANY PLACES WE BELONG

Belonging isn't just one thing or one place. You might belong in different ways across different parts of your life:

AT HOME:

With family members who know your quirks and support your dreams.

AT SCHOOL:

In classrooms where your ideas are heard, with teachers who believe in you, and among friends.

IN ACTIVITIES:

Music, dance, art or where your passions come alive.

IN COMMUNITIES:

Religious or cultural groups, neighbourhood communities, online spaces, or volunteer organisations where you contribute and connect.

WITH FRIENDS:

Those special people who truly understand you, make you laugh, and stand by you through good times and difficult ones.

WITHIN YOURSELF:

The most important belonging of all – feeling comfortable in your own skin and accepting yourself as you are.

FOSTERING BELONGING IN YOURSELF

TOP TIPS FROM OUR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE:

'Playing games with friends'

'Finding a place where you feel valued and welcome or people that make you feel this way'

'Doing things we enjoy'

'Try and make friends'

'Having an adult to talk to when not happy'

'By being more kind to people try new things and meet more people'

'By talking to people about feelings'

'Being around people you enjoy being with'

A FEW MORE FROM US:

Be authentic.

Rather than trying to "fit in", focus on being your true self. Belonging comes from being accepted for who you are.

Embrace your uniqueness.

Think about your strengths and qualities. Don't be afraid to be different. Feeling comfortable with what makes you unique is key to building self-confidence.

Follow your interests.

Join clubs or groups you enjoy. Whether it's sport, video games, music, or crafts, shared interests is a great way to connect with others.

Listen to yourself.

Pay attention to your feelings and try to understand what you need. For example, if you're feeling lonely, listen to this and think about what might help you feel more connected.

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

Special offer for our upcoming February Dorchester Holiday Club at Manor Park CE First School!





FEBRUARY HOLIDAY CLUBS



BOOK NOW! 



<https://family.premier-education.com/add-course/946551>

For a limited time, you can enjoy 30% OFF your booking, making our holiday childcare incredible value at just £2.70 per hour. Offer available until the 1st of February so take advantage quick!

Our Manor Park Holiday Club includes:

- ⚽ A wide range of fun sports and games
- 🎨 Extra activities added to our programme
- 👋 A safe, supportive, and engaging environment led by experienced staff

This offer is a fantastic opportunity to secure high-quality holiday childcare at an affordable price, while giving your child a fun-filled and active holiday experience.

📍 Location: Manor Park First school, Dorchester, Dorset, DT1 2BH

 Dates: Mon 16th until Thurs 19th of Feb

 Ages: 4–11 years

🕒 Spaces are limited and expected to fill quickly, so we recommend booking as soon as possible to avoid disappointment.

We look forward to welcoming your children to Manor Park for a fun and memorable holiday with Premier Education.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about ROBLOX

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Roblox is an online platform where users can play and create games known as 'experiences' made by other users. Roblox has a large UK audience. ITV News has reported that millions of people in Britain use the platform regularly, with children forming a significant proportion of its users. The sheer scale of it makes it extremely difficult to moderate effectively, creating risks for unsupervised children.

A PLATFORM RATHER THAN A GAME

Roblox differs from traditional video games in that it hosts millions of user-created experiences rather than a fixed set of developer-produced content. Each experience is self-rated by its creator rather than independently age-rated in advance, as is the case with PEGI-rated games. With millions of user-created experiences, moderation is largely automated which means that inappropriate content may reach younger players and have a harmful effect.

MATURE CONTENT

With much of Roblox's moderation automated through AI and creators self-certifying suitability, inappropriate content frequently appears on the platform. Some experiences may include content intended for older players. While Roblox has tools to restrict access based on age settings, these systems are not always perfect. Younger players are likely to encounter content you may deem unsuitable.

IN-GAME SPENDING

Roblox is free to play, but many experiences and cosmetics include optional purchases using Robux, the platform's virtual currency, to get advantages in games. This business model is common across online games, but reporting has highlighted cases where children have spent large amounts of money unintentionally or without understanding the real-world cost.

RISK OF ADDICTION

Roblox encourages repeated and extended play. Many experiences are made of short tasks, rewards, and progression systems that can prompt users to keep playing for longer periods of time. Some games also use reminders, daily rewards, or timed events to encourage frequent logins. These designs can make it difficult to stop playing. Spending long periods online may affect sleep, schoolwork, or other activities if boundaries are not in place.

COMMUNICATION WITH OTHER USERS

Roblox includes text and voice features that allow players to chat in shared game spaces. While the platform uses automated filters and moderation tools, media investigations have found that inappropriate and potentially harmful messages can still get through. There are risks that children could be targeted by groomers. In response, Roblox has announced changes to how chat works. The platform plans to use facial age-estimation technology to restrict chat access between adults and children they do not know.

Advice for Parents & Educators

USE PARENTAL CONTROLS

Roblox's parental controls provide an important starting point. Linking a child's account to an adult account allows parents to apply spending controls, limit communication features, and review recent activity. Regular supervision, use of parental controls, and conversations with children about what they see online can help reduce the risk of exposure to inappropriate content.

CONSIDER LIMITING OR DISABLING CHAT

Although Roblox is introducing tighter age-based chat restrictions, some parents and educators may prefer to disable chat entirely for younger children. Children can still play games while communicating with friends they know through other supervised platforms.

PLAY TOGETHER WHERE POSSIBLE

Playing Roblox with a child can help adults understand the types of experiences available, how monetisation works, and how children interact online. This shared engagement can also make it easier for children to raise concerns if something feels wrong. Parents and educators should monitor all games played on Roblox due to its self-rating nature.

ENCOURAGE OPEN CONVERSATIONS

Many Roblox experiences are creative and age appropriate, and for many children, the platform is an important way to socialise with friends. Rather than banning it outright, parents and educators should talk openly with children about online safety, spending, and how to respond to inappropriate behaviour.

Meet Our Expert

Alan Martin is a technology journalist who has written for publications including Wired, TechRadar, The Telegraph, The Evening Standard, The Guardian and The New Statesman.



See full reference list on our website



Open Day!

Visit us on
Thursday 26th
February or
Tuesday 3rd March
from 10:45am

Are you looking for a preschool place for your child from September 2026?



We are delighted to invite you to our school on **Thursday 26th February** and **Tuesday 3rd March** from 10:45am, where you will have the opportunity to: have a tour with Mrs Sterck, our Head of School; meet our enthusiastic Early Years 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



@manorparkflrst



ManorParkDorchester

Events

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FOR LOCALS

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Book online at
www.monkeyworld.org/book-tickets/

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



Winter Tea

with Dorset Apple Cake and Crumpets

St George's Church Hall, Dorchester
Monday 9th February
2.30-4pm

Tickets £4 (pay at the door)

*To include Dorset Apple Cake and Crumpets,
waitress service and music*

Following last year's success, the Dorchester Committee of The Children's Society is organising another **Winter Tea** at St George's Hall, Fordington on Monday 9th February from 2.30 – 4 pm. Tickets are £4 per person (pay on the door) which includes tea, Dorset Apple Cake and crumpets. There is waitress service and some accompanying background music. The atmosphere is always friendly with everyone welcome. Bring a friend or meet some new ones.



February Half Term 2026

School holiday arts and sports activities
for Dorset children who need additional support



Bookings close
Wednesday 28 January



Artz+ Sportz+ is funded and organised by Dorset Council
[dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/sport-leisure/artz-sportz](https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/sport-leisure/artz-sportz)

SPACE FAMILY DAY



A FREE family day event for Dorset's trans and non-binary young people (including those questioning) and their carers, guardians, parents, siblings, & any other significant relatives.

2026

10:30AM - 14:30PM

24 JAN	WAREHAM	Understanding Identity & Allyship
21 MAR	CHRISTCHURCH	Legal Transition
30 MAY	BOURNEMOUTH	Mental Health & Wellbeing
25 JUL	POOLE	Social Picnic in the Park
26 SEP	WEYMOUTH	Trans+ Healthcare
21 NOV	POOLE	Growing Up Trans

Booking for these sessions are essential!

To book or to request to join the mailing list contact us at hello@spaceyouthproject.co.uk or 01202 205279



www.spaceyouthproject.co.uk/space-family-day



Little Ninjas 3-7 Years



Little Ninjas

Our Little Ninjas Kickboxing program is more than just a class; it's a dynamic adventure for children aged 3 to 7. We blend professional instruction with exhilarating, age-appropriate activities to cultivate not just physical prowess, but also vital life skills. Our mission is to empower your child, building a robust foundation for their confidence, discipline, and overall well-being.

THE KEY BENEFITS:

- Enhanced Motor Skills
- Boosted Confidence & Self-Esteem
- Cultivated Discipline & Respect
- Foundational Self-Defence
- Positive Energy Outlet
- Sharpened Focus & Concentration
- Promotes Physical Fitness
- Develops Social Skills
- Fosters Problem Solving
- Fosters Resilience & Perseverance
- Stranger danger
- Emotional Regulation
- Develops Goal-Setting Habits
- Provides a Structured & Safe Environment
- Drug awareness
- Anti bullying

Juniors 7-13 Years



Juniors

Is your child ready for an activity that's exciting, challenging, and builds lifelong skills? Our Junior Kickboxing program for ages 7-13 is specifically designed to provide a dynamic environment where children thrive, both physically and mentally, while learning invaluable lessons in respect, confidence, and how to stand strong against bullying and essential life skills...

We go beyond just kicks and punches, focusing on comprehensive development that instills positive character traits and practical self-defence.

Adults

Tired of mundane workouts? Ready for a fitness journey that profoundly impacts every facet of your life? Our Adult Kickboxing program for ages 13+ offers an exhilarating, supportive, and transformative experience designed for anyone seeking to build strength, master new skills, and unlock their absolute best self.

THE KEY BENEFITS:

- Explosive Fitness & Energy
- Sharper Focus & Mental Resilience
- Practical Self-Defence Mastery & Awareness
- Unstoppable Confidence & Self-Belief
- Stress Mastery & Emotional Well-being
- A Thriving, Supportive Community
- Goal Achievement

Adults 13+ Years



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Dorset SENDIASS

Join our Tuesday Spring Drop-ins

For Parents/Carers and Young People with SEND.

SENDIASS Case Officers will be available during a drop-in session between 10am and 12pm at Dorchester Family Hub.

An opportunity to meet our IPSEA Level 3 SEND Law trained staff, ask questions and receive free, confidential and impartial information and advice about education, health and social care for children and young people up to the age of 25.

No booking needed.

Tuesday 6th January
Tuesday 3rd February
Tuesday 3rd March

For more information contact us at:

- www.sendiass.org/dorset-sendiass/
- dorset.sendiass@family-action.org.uk
- 01305 595477
- Dorset SENDIASS
- South Walks House, Charles St, Dorchester DT1 1EE
Via Dorchester Library And Learning Centre, the new family room is located on the ground floor.

Parking available in payable public car park in front of Dorchester Library and Learning Centre.



family-action.org.uk



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8.30 - 17.30
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Love for God ~ Love for Each Other ~ Love for Learning



Manor Park School

Attendance
Reception – Year 4:
94.6%

*Attendance Winners
this week are...*

- EYFS
- Hazel Class: 97.8%
- K.S.1
- Ash Class: 99.5%
- K.S.2
- Sycamore Class: 98.4%

*“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



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