



Manor Park CE (VC) First School

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

Weekly Newsletter

Monday 9th February 2026

Dear Families,

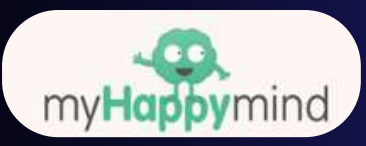
Another wonderful week at Manor Park has come to an end. The children fully immersed themselves in their art topic, and we are sure you are just as excited as we are to see their final pieces on Friday.

This week, we also raised an unbelievable amount of money for our link school in Kenya. Thank you all for providing cakes and for showing such kindness and support to one another — it truly reflects the spirit of our school community.

As the term comes to an end, we take time to reflect on everything we have shared: the learning we have enjoyed, the friendships we have made, and the strong sense of gratitude we feel for our school and community.

We wish you all a happy and restful half term and look forward to welcoming you back for Spring 2 — hopefully with lots and lots of sunshine!

Manor Park First School



Save the Date

9th-15th February	Children's Mental Health Week
9 th February	SEND parent meetings
10th February	Safer Internet Day
10th February	Police car visiting EYFS
10th February	SEND parent meetings
13th February	Open afternoon @ 2:45pm - 3:15pm
16th -20th	Half Term
February	
23rd February	Diversity Mel parent workshop
25 th February	Parents' Evening
25 th February	Diversity Mel assembly and workshops
26 th February	Parents' Evening
26th February	Diversity Mel assembly and workshops
5th March	World Book Day
6th - 15 th March	British Science Week
9 th March	SEND parent meetings
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.*



Manor Park

CE (VC) First School

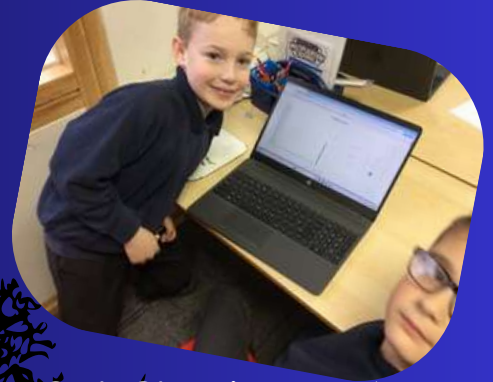


Love for God ~ Love for Each Other ~ Love for Learning

Cedar Class in Year 4 have been continuing building their netball skills by marking, looking for spaces and working as a team in PE - great work!!



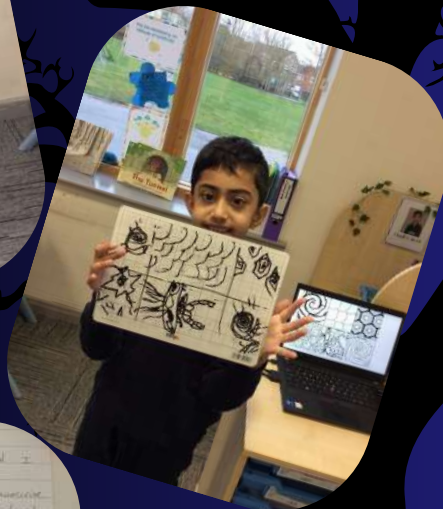
HIGHLIGHTS of the WEEK



This week in computing Oak Class in Year 4 were using Turtle Academy to program the turtle to make their initials. Their work on angles in maths really helped them with this.

🍰 Cake sale 🍰

A huge THANK YOU to everyone for their generosity in support of our cake sale! We are so grateful for the time put into making cakes with your little ones and also for buying cakes. There were so many to choose from!!

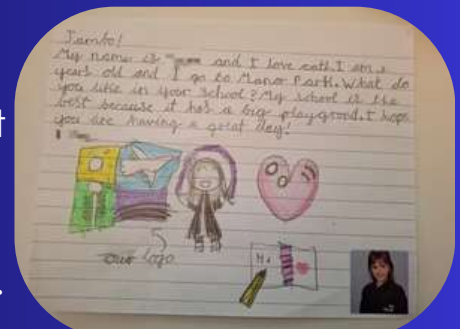


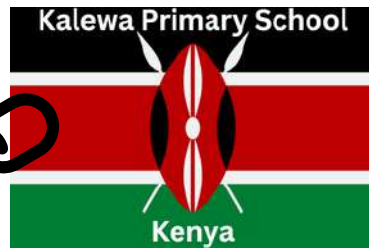
Ash class in Year 2 have been exploring the life of Edward Tingatinga, an artist that lived in Tanzania, Africa. His art style used vibrant colours and patterns and we have been experimenting with this over the last few lessons. Well done

Ash class!



Here are some of the letters that Year 3 have written to the children in Kalewa Primary School, our Link School in Kenya.





CAKE SALE SUCCESS!

You helped us raise a massive £476! This will buy Kalewa Primary School 4 computers!





Manor Park First School supports Children's Mental Health Week - raising awareness of the importance of our mental health. The theme this year is **'This is My Place'**, which is based around belonging and how we can feel a sense of belonging and help others feel like they belong.

A few Top Tips from PLACE2BE:

- Be your true self: Belonging comes from being accepted for who you are.
- Do the things you love: sport, video games, music, crafts, these are great ways to connect each other.
- Be kind to yourself when you make a mistake, you don't need to be perfect.
- Listen to your feelings and try to think about what you need.
- Talk to someone you trust, you are not alone.



Helping other children feel they belong

- 'If you see someone left out then you can ask them to play'
- 'Be kind'
- 'By asking people how they are and if they are okay.'
- 'Make sure everyone has friends and feels included'
- 'Put yourself in other's shoes'



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](#)





Free book Every month!



Do you live in or near Dorchester and have a baby, or a child under five? **Imagination Dorchester** offers a free book every month!

All children enrolled in **Imagination Dorchester** receive a book in the post every month until their 5th birthday. Every book is personally addressed to each individual child. All book titles are published by the Penguin Random House group and are carefully selected by a panel of experts in early childhood literacy and reading.

Enrol online today by completing a short form.

<https://imaginationdorchester.net>



****If the form says "your postcode is not eligible", please tell a member of the Early Years team and they will contact Imagination Dorchester to get your postcode added to list, so that you can try again.****

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about GENERATIVE AI SAFETY

Generative AI tools – such as ChatGPT – are now commonly used by children. In fact, 3 in 4 pupils in the 2024 Annual Literacy Survey reported using generative AI, up from just 2 in 5 the previous year. While these tools can boost learning and creativity, they also raise concerns around misinformation, privacy and overuse. This guide explores the key risks and how to support safe use.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

MISINFORMATION AND ACCURACY



Generative AI can sometimes produce false or misleading content. Children – and even adults – may assume the information is accurate and trustworthy. This can affect learning and understanding of important topics. It's vital to teach children to critically assess all information, even when it comes from AI.

EXPOSURE TO INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Because generative AI is trained on vast datasets from across the internet, there is a chance it may occasionally generate harmful or inappropriate content. Without supervision, children could encounter disturbing or unsuitable material. Active monitoring and clear usage boundaries can help reduce this risk.

PRIVACY AND DATA SECURITY

Some AI tools ask for personal details or store users' interactions. If privacy settings are not correctly configured, children's personal data could be exposed or misused. Teaching good digital hygiene and setting strong privacy controls is essential for protecting children online.

REDUCED CRITICAL THINKING



Relying too heavily on AI-generated responses may reduce children's willingness to think independently. If they consistently use AI to solve problems or complete tasks, it could impact their ability to reason, analyse and form their own ideas. Encouraging thoughtful reflection is key.

DIGITAL DEPENDENCY



Regular use of generative AI can contribute to increased screen time and less real-world interaction. If left unmanaged, it may affect physical activity levels, sleep, and social development. Striking a healthy balance between online and offline activities is important for wellbeing.

UNCLEAR ETHICAL BOUNDARIES



Children may not fully understand the ethical implications of using AI to complete homework or creative tasks. This can lead to unintentional plagiarism or dishonest academic practices. Conversations around responsible use and academic honesty are crucial.

IDEAS

Advice for Parents & Educators

ESTABLISH CLEAR GUIDELINES

Set clear, age-appropriate rules for when and how generative AI can be used. Reinforce these regularly to help children develop a healthy, respectful and informed relationship with the technology.



ENCOURAGE CRITICAL EVALUATION

Help children to question the accuracy of AI-generated information and seek out additional trusted sources. This builds essential digital literacy skills and supports better decision-making.



PROMOTE ACTIVE SUPERVISION

Keep an eye on how the children in your care use AI tools. Check in regularly to ensure they're using them appropriately and be ready to step in if something doesn't feel right.



ENHANCE PRIVACY AWARENESS

Talk to children about the importance of keeping personal information private. Make sure privacy settings are in place and explain how data shared with AI tools could be used.



Meet Our Expert

Brendan O'Keefe, Deputy Headmaster and Director of Digital Strategy at Eaton House Schools, has extensive expertise in digital safety, safeguarding, and generative AI in education. As an author and speaker on digital literacy and online safety for institutions such as The National College, Brendan guides parents and educators in creating safe digital learning environments.





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



PREMIER HOLIDAY CLUBS

MORE fun, MORE friendships, MORE smiles
during the **FEBRUARY HALF-TERM!**

YOUR NEAREST MULTI-ACTIVITY CLUB

Venue: Manor Park First School, Dorchester, Dorset, DT1 2BH

Dates: Monday 16th Feb until Thursday 19th Feb (4 days)

Times: 9am-3.30pm whole day (4 year olds 9am-1pm) £10.76

Price: 9-3.30pm £17.49 9-1pm £10.76

Ages: 4-11

Additional info: **30% discount available until 1st of February*



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

Join us this February 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 this half-term!

Book now for a holiday full of excitement!

CLUBS 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.



PLEASE BRING

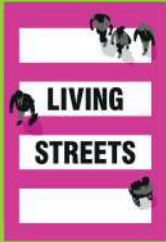
- A packed lunch
- Plenty of water
- Suitable clothing
- Loads of energy!



Excellent



Trustpilot

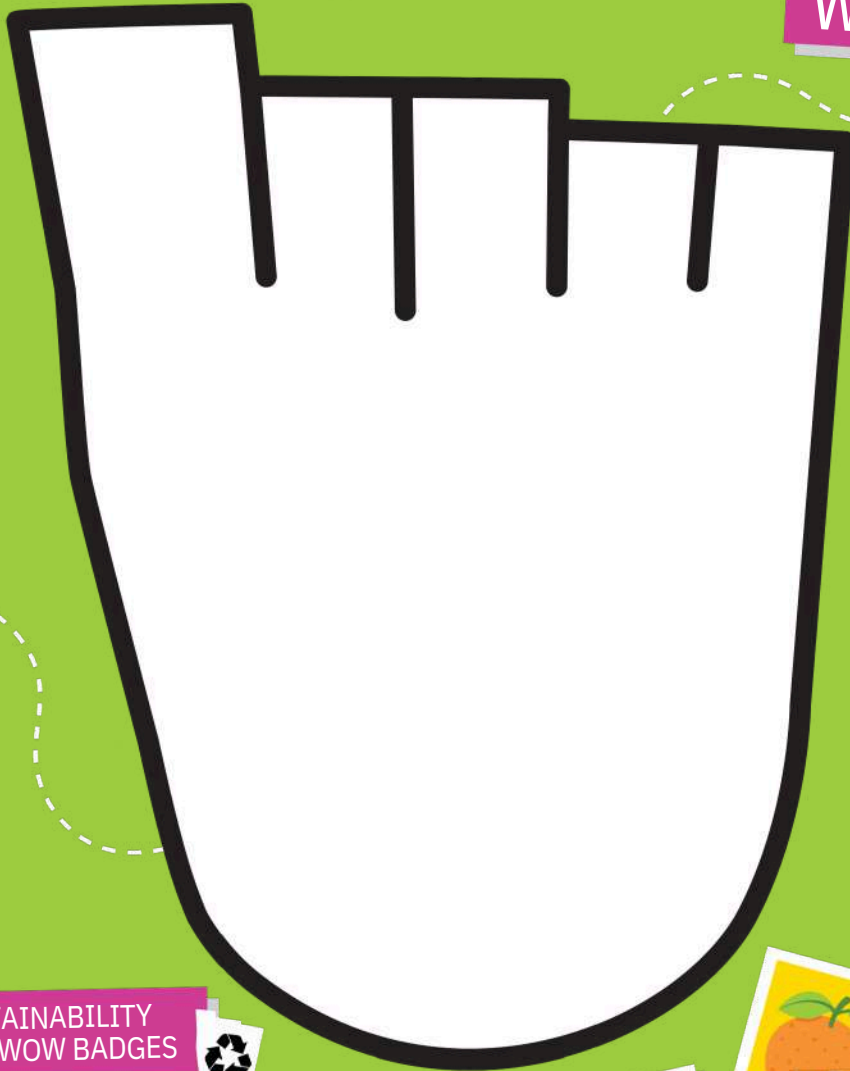


LET'S WALK TO SCHOOL

Badge design competition 2026

WOW the walk to school challenge

WALK the SENSES

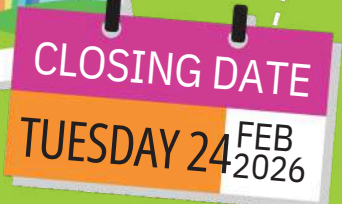


WHAT SHOULD YOU DRAW?
What do you see, hear, smell, taste or feel as you walk or wheel to school? Have you spotted a fluffy cloud in the sky or a cute dog passing by? Maybe you like the sound of feet walking. Or do you like the smell of flowers or wild garlic on the journey to school? Maybe it's the taste of your favourite yummy snack or it could be feeling the rain on your skin.

EXAMPLES MAY INCLUDE:

- Seeing a tree, a rainbow or wildlife
- The sound of birds singing or people talking
- The smell of flowers or food from a shop
- Tasting your favourite snack on the journey to school
- Feeling sun or snow on your skin

WHATEVER WAKES UP YOUR SENSES, DRAW IT!



SUSTAINABILITY AND WOW BADGES



Our WOW badges are made in the UK from repurposed plastic material, including old fridge trays, plastic plates and off-cuts of yoghurt pot material. WOW badges can also be recycled. Find out more: livingstreets.org.uk/recycling



PUPILS

Pupil name:

Age:

What did you draw? How does your picture use one of your senses?

TEACHERS

School email:

School name and address:

Local authority:



LET'S WALK TO SCHOOL



WOW the walk to school challenge

Badge design competition 2026

WALK the SENSES

WIN FREE RESOURCES for your school*



Get involved in one of the UK's biggest design competitions for children

Encourage your pupils to think about what evokes the senses. We'll turn each winning entry into more than 300,000 badges to be awarded to WOW pupils who walk, wheel, scoot, cycle or Park and Stride to school across the UK next academic year.

WHAT IS WOW?

WOW is Living Streets' walk to school challenge. Pupils log their daily journeys to school on the WOW Travel Tracker. Those who walk, wheel, cycle or scoot to school at least once a week for a month earn a WOW badge, with a new one to collect each month across the year. It's as easy as that. WOW successfully reduces congestion outside schools, helping to tackle road danger and air pollution - all whilst children benefit mentally and physically from being more active. livingstreets.org.uk/WOW

TOP TIPS FOR WINNING DESIGNS

- Be big, bold and colourful!
- Diversity and originality are key to standing out from the crowd!
- WOW badges are only 3cm, so simple designs without small details work best!
- Trademarks, logos and images of Strider will not qualify for the competition. Winning designs will be digitally recreated, so pupils can use pencil, crayons or pens.



The WOW badge design competition is for everyone

We support pupils with special educational needs and disabilities to enter the badge design competition. Head to livingstreets.org.uk/badgecompetition2026 and find out more.



CLOSING DATE

Friday 13th FEB 2026

For full details about the WOW badge design competition, visit: livingstreets.org.uk/badgecompetition2026

We are Living Streets, the UK charity for everyday walking.

#WALKTOSCHOOL LIVINGSTREETS.ORG.UK/WOW LIVINGSTREETSUK @LIVINGSTREETS

Events

IN THE COMMUNITY



- Tuesday 17 February
- Corn Exchange
- 11am, doors open 10.30am
- £10/£30 family ticket

2026 Bug Trail!

AT THE WALLED GARDEN MORETON

Follow your map.
Explore the gardens.
Complete the quiz.
Find the ladybirds.
Claim your prize!

On every day from
Saturday 7th Feb - Sunday 22nd Feb

Maps £3



No booking required! 1 prize per map. Find out more on our website and social media | walledgardenmoreton.co.uk



ARIEL & MOANNA BRUNCH

14 THE FEB

10AM-12PM
£15 PER CHILD

INCLUDES KIDS BRUNCH AND HOT CHOCOLATE
BRUNCH MENU AVAILABLE FOR ADULTS
PAYMENT IN FULL REQUIRED ON BOOKING

BOOK EARLY TO AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT
01305 814 470

A town-wide dinosaur takeover

Saturday 14th February

The day begins at 10.00am, when three large animatronic dinosaurs, including a T-Rex, Raptor and Allosaurus, arrive in the town centre outside the White Hart on New Bond Street.

The dinosaurs will roam the streets, creating surprise moments for visitors and shoppers.

At 12.30pm, the dinosaurs head to the beach ahead of the Dino Run warm-up, where hundreds of runners, many in fancy dress, will gather at the Pavilion end of the beach. From 2.00pm to 4.00pm, the dinosaurs will continue to make appearances along St Thomas Street and New Bond Street.





Weymouth junior parkrun

Sundays at 9:00 am

Ages 4-14 Years

Free weekly **2k** run for kids!

Weymouth Seafront



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



Attendance
Reception – Year 4:
94.6%

*Attendance Winners
this week are...*

EYFS
Hazel Class: 97.0%

K.S.1
Ash Class: 95.3%

K.S.2
Beech 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



ManorParkDorchester

