



Manor Park

CE (VC) First School

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

Weekly Newsletter

Tuesday 11th May 2026

Dear Families,

We have had another very exciting week of learning at Manor Park School. Cedar Class enjoyed a rail safety trip to Weymouth Beach, while Year 2 had a wonderful visit to Poole Lighthouse to see The Enormous Crocodile. As a whole school, we also enjoyed celebrating the 100th birthday of Sir David Attenborough.

This week, our collective worship focuses on the story of Saul and his conversion on the road to Damascus. The children will be reflecting on how they can show love and kindness to others by making good choices.

As the weather is getting warmer, please ensure your child comes to school with a water bottle, a hat, and sunscreen applied before the school day.

Attendance this week was 94.1%, which is below our target. Let's work together to raise this to 95% next week.

Finally, a reminder that term-time holidays cannot be authorised. Dorset Council may issue a fine for absences of more than five days.

Thank you for your continued support.

Kind regards,

Manor Park School



12th May	SEND Parent Meetings
18th -22 nd May	National Walk to school week
19th May	Y3 Explore the Orchestra Bournemouth
19 th May	Lucky Locks
20 th May	Eco-Warriors Chesil beech litter pick
21st May	Lucky Locks
22nd May	'Ride on the Wild Side' bike event
22nd May	Parent Open Afternoon 2:45pm - 3:15pm
22 nd May	Buds Disco
25th -29th May	Half Term Week
1st -12 th June	Y4 Multiplication Times Tables Check
3rd -8 th June	Scholastic Book Fair
5th June	Dorset Council Food Waste Campaign visit
8th June	Phonics Screening Check
8th June	SEND Parent Meetings
8th June	EYFS Bugfest
10th June	Royal Institution of Science Workshops
11th June	Y4 Bikeability
12th June	RNLI water safety workshops (YR – Y4)
22nd -26 th June	Health and Fitness Week
22nd June	Y3 and Y4 Sports Morning (9:15am - 11am)
23 rd June	EYFS Sports Morning (9:00am - 10:00am)
23 rd June	Y1 and Y2 Sports Morning (10:30- 12:00pm)
6th July	SEND Parent Meetings



**Christian Aid Week
Ecumenical Service**

Sunday 10th May 2026 | 4pm
St George's Church, Fordington

Guest Speaker: Charlotte Scott
National Church Relations Christian Aid



Manor Park

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HIGHLIGHTS of the WEEK



We received a lovely message from our Link School in Kenya (Kalewa Primary School) this week!

"We are very appreciative. The computers were installed on Monday. Our learners interacted with them yesterday."

Cedar Class in Year 4 went on a train ride to Weymouth, putting their Rail Safety knowledge into practice.



A group of Year 3 and Year 4 children represented Manor Park at today's football festival. We all had an amazing day out.

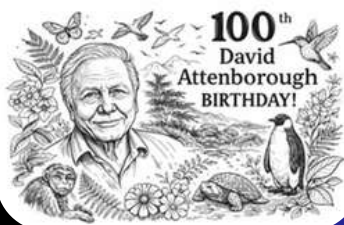


Chestnut Class in Year 3 have been having a go at weaving in Outdoor learning this week. They also enjoyed their "zip line for an insect" task!



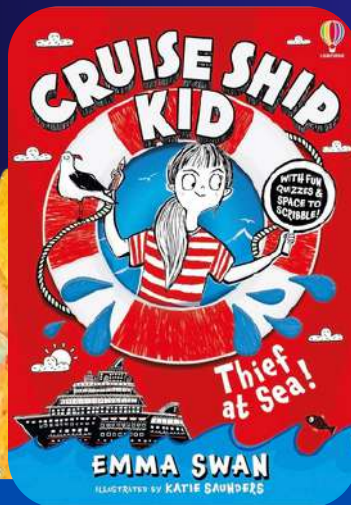
Sir David Attenborough is 100!

Sir David aims to help people understand how the planet works, showing the beauty of nature and explaining why it's important to protect the environment.



Happy 100th Birthday, Sir David Attenborough love from Manor Park First School

Book of the Week



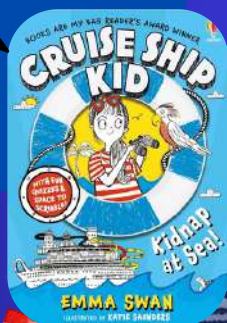
"**Cruise Ship Kid: Thief At Sea!**" is an engaging, humorous, and heart-warming children's adventure that combines mystery, friendship, and life aboard a cruise ship.

Jump on board with Silver, the Cruise Ship Kid, in the hilarious detective adventure series from author Emma Swan. This is an interactive and funny chapter book, where Silver often talks directly to the reader, asking our thoughts or running a quiz (jelly hat or mash potato socks?). There's 4 things you should know about me:

1. I live on a cruise ship;
2. My name is Silver. Yes, really;
3. I've never had a best friend my own age;
4. I'm definitely not a detective.

Somehow, though, I'm now investigating the case of the missing mega-expensive watches. But, I've got a plan. If I can solve the crime, then surely the kids on board will want to be friends with me. Right?

If you read this and love it, the second in the series has just been released:
Cruise Ship Kid, Kidnap at Sea! Join Silver for even more adventures!





Buds Disco Night



With Encore Entertainment

Friday 22nd May 2026

Preschool and Reception* - 5:00pm - 5:45pm

***Parent required to stay**

Years 1 & 2 - 6:00pm - 6.45pm**

Years 3 & 4 - 7.00pm - 7.45pm**

****Parent to drop off and collect at the end**



**Scan here
for tickets**



£4 per ticket

Free community session: 'An Introduction to Autism'



What is the session about?

The session was co-developed with parents of autistic children, a SENCo, Dorset Parent Carer Council and Specialist Teachers and Educational Psychologists from Dorset Council.

It will help you to:

- Understand what autism is and how it may impact young people and families
- Learn some practical strategies to support an autistic child/young person

Please note, this is a general information session, so we won't be able to discuss individual children or schools.

The session will be delivered by either an Educational Psychologist or a Specialist Teacher from Dorset Council

Who can attend?

Anyone from the community, this could include people:

- with an autistic child
- with a child undergoing an assessment for autism
- who are interested in learning more about autism

Where and when?

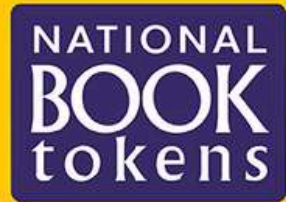
Bridport Family Hub, Skilling Hill Road, Bridport, Dorset, DT6 5LA - Tuesday the 19th of May 2026 at 10:00am until 12:00pm

To Book a place, please click on this [Link](#) or scan the QR code below:

Bridport - An Introduction to Autism - Community Training Session - Summer Term



HELP US WIN
£1,000
FOR OUR SCHOOL'S LIBRARY



In association with



**GO
ALL
IN.**

#rebuildthelibrary

National
Year of
Reading
2026

It's time to #rebuildthelibrary!

National Book Tokens, in association with Read For Good, have opened their annual prize draw to give five schools across the UK the chance to win £1,000 in National Book Tokens and fill their shelves with new and inspiring books.

<https://www.nationalbooktokens.com/schools-prize#form>

Nominate **Manor Park First School** using the link above, and if yours is one of the five winning entries, you'll also win a £100 National Book Token to spend in your favourite bookshop.

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

HELPING NEURODIVERGENT CHILDREN NAVIGATE THE ONLINE WORLD

Neurodivergent people tend to be early adopters of technology, and many influential innovators in this space are neurodivergent themselves. It's therefore likely that a neurodivergent child or young person may be drawn to the online world from an early age. This isn't a concern in itself, but understanding both the benefits and potential risks is essential. Here are ten key considerations to support safe and positive online experiences for neurodivergent children.

1 TREAT ONLINE LIKE THE REAL WORLD

You wouldn't allow a child to cross a road without guidance – you'd hold their hand, use a pedestrian crossing, and model safe behaviour. In the same way, a neurodivergent child's first experiences online should be supported by an adult who can guide and explain safe and responsible digital behaviour to them from the outset.

2 MODEL RESPONSIBLE USE

Children learn from what they see. Show all children, regardless of neurotype, what responsible internet use looks like. Reflect on your own use of social media and AI. Consider how often you use them and your own understanding of these platforms. Talk openly about when and why you use these tools, helping all children develop a balanced and informed approach.

3 KNOW YOUR LIMITS

Current government guidance suggests no solo screen use below the age of two, with a maximum of one hour per day for two- to five-year-olds. Screen time can support communication and connection when shared with an adult. However, passive watching can affect neurodivergent children's attention and language skills. Focus on the type of content they watch, encouraging slower-paced and meaningful material rather than fast-paced, overstimulating content.

4 CONSIDER AGES AND STAGES

For older children and teenagers, agreed limits are important. Screen time can be beneficial, but it should form part of a balanced lifestyle. Neurodivergent children may find online communication easier than real-world conversation, supporting their social interaction. However, it shouldn't be their only option. Encourage a range of activities, including creative play, physical exercise, and opportunities for real-world connections.

5 KEEP CONVERSATIONS OPEN

Discussions about online safety should begin early and continue as children grow. However, neurodivergent children may worry about getting things wrong or being misunderstood, meaning these kinds of conversations should feel open and fair, rather than like a lecture. If a child encounters a problem – such as a scam or inappropriate content – they need to feel able to speak to a trusted adult without fear of judgement or embarrassment.

6 BUILD YOUR KNOWLEDGE

You aren't expected to be an expert, but it's important to stay informed about the platforms, games, or apps neurodivergent children use in order to provide practical support. Social media platforms have age limits, and many apps and games offer parental settings that can control access. Schools and families should work together to understand these tools, helping neurodivergent children use them safely while keeping up to date with new features and changes.

7 SET CLEAR BOUNDARIES

Children and young people often know more about current technology than adults, meaning it's important to recognise that controls may be bypassed. Clear, predictable boundaries should be used, based on trust and consistency. Involving children in discussions that affect them helps them feel heard. This is particularly important for neurodivergent children, who may respond strongly to perceived unfairness.

8 UNDERSTAND AI CONTENT

The internet now includes large amounts of AI-generated content, including images, videos, and stories. These can be difficult to identify. Children should be encouraged to question what they see and check the information using trusted sources. Neurodivergent children may interpret content literally, meaning adult guidance is important in helping them recognise what's real and reliable – and what isn't.

9 EXPLAIN AI LIMITATIONS

AI isn't the same as a search engine. It generates responses based on prompts and patterns, and its accuracy depends on how it's used. Sometimes, it produces incorrect or unrealistic information, known as 'hallucinations'. Both adults and children need to understand this and learn how to check information carefully using reliable and trusted sources.

10 CLARIFY AI RELATIONSHIPS

AI can feel conversational and personal, but it's not capable of real relationships. It learns from patterns in user input rather than human understanding. Some neurodivergent children may experience a sense of connection with AI chatbots, particularly if they find social situations challenging. It's therefore important to explain that these are simulated conversations and aren't a substitute for real, human relationships.

Meet Our Expert

Catrina Lowri is a neurodivergent former SENCO and Advisory Teacher who works with nurseries, schools, colleges, and businesses to improve inclusion for neurodivergent people. She is the Founder and Director of Neuroteachers and the author of "The Other 29 – How Supporting Your Neurodivergent Learner Can Improve Teaching and Learning for the Whole Class".



#WakeUpWednesday®

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See full reference list on our website

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Decorate your
bike/ scooter to
join in a parade
in the
afternoon.



Ride on the Wildside on Friday 22nd May and save endangered animals.



**Make sure your brakes
work, your wheels turn
and you can steer.
Wear a helmet.**



Eco Warriors'

May

Top Tips



Biodiversity

We can look after plants and trees



Healthy Living

We can spend time outdoors.



Global Citizenship

We can care for the planet together.



Energy

We can close doors to keep heat in.



Water

We can collect rainwater for plants.



Litter

We can use reusable bottles and lunchboxes.



Marine

We can choose reusable items.



Waste

We can use both sides of paper .



Transport

We can share lifts to reduce car use.



Events

IN THE COMMUNITY

FAMILY FOREST SCHOOL SESSION

Sunday 31st May
10.30am - 12.30pm

Nature crafts

Fire lighting

Den building

Bring a picnic!

Booking is essential!



Portland Museum

May Mammoth Madness
At Portland Museum

Saturday 23 May
10:30am - 3:30pm
Portland Museum, Wakeham

Standard: £3.50 child
• £2.50 adult
Islanders: £2.50 child
• £1 adult

What's Happening:

Meet the Experts - Fossil Identification
Bring your own finds for ID.

Book Reading & Signing with Sally Poyton
author of *Mammoth Rider*

Build-a-Mammoth Skeleton
Reconstruct a mammoth piece by piece

Mammoth Colouring & Activity Pages
Creative fun for all ages

Hoopla: Mammoth Garden Game
A silly, skill-testing outdoor challenge

Paint-Your-Own Fossils
Take home your own fossil creation

"Game of Bones"
Can you identify the mammoth bone?

Pop-Up Fossil & Dino Stall / Tombola
100% of proceeds support Portland Museum.

Refreshments
Yummy treats!

MGU Presents

MAGIC GARETH

★★★★★
BRITISH THEATRE GUIDE
★★★★★
EDINBURGH FESTIVALS FOR KIDS
★★★★★
THEATRE WEEKLY
★★★★★
BROADWAY WORLD
★★★★★
THE LIST

'CHILDREN'S MAGIC DOESN'T GET MUCH BETTER THAN THIS!'
WORLD PAGE REVIEW

'TAKES YOU BACK TO BELIEVING MAGIC EXISTS'
BBC RADIO WM

BALLOONATIC

DorchesterArts
Wednesday 27 May 11am
Dorchester Corn Exchange
dorchesterarts.org.uk
Box Office: 01305 266926

Fire Fighters Charity

Dorchester Fire Station OPEN DAY
Saturday 30th of May 10am-4pm

- Fire crew displays
- A family fun day out
- Charity raffle
- Heritage fire engines
- Food and drink

Raising money for The Fire Fighters Charity
See you there!

Fire Fighters Charity

Ofsted
Registered

PRIMARY

FOREST SCHOOL &
OUTDOOR EDUCATION

MAY HALF TERM HOLIDAY CLUBS

BRIDPORT • CHRISTCHURCH • TAUNTON • WEYMOUTH

Bushcraft
Mud Kitchens
Nature Crafts
Firelighting
Campfires
And so much more!

TUESDAY
WEDNESDAY
THURSDAY
9.00 - 15.30
8.30 - 15.30
8.30 - 17.30
FROM £29.90
PER DAY



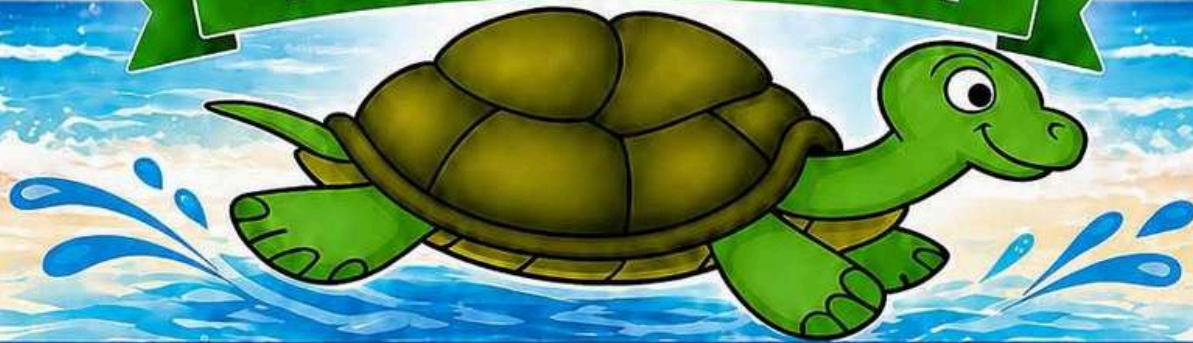
BOOK HERE!



www.primary-forest-school.co.uk

TURTLEBACKS INTENSIVE SWIM SCHOOL

MAY HALF TERM



Is your child beach safe this summer,
can they swim in the sea and out of their depth?
Now is the time to get them beach ready!!!!



TUESDAY 26TH,
WEDNESDAY 27TH
& FRIDAY 29TH
MAY 2026



TIMES:
9.30, 10.00 AM
& 10.30 AM



ADVANCE
EARLY BOOKING
ESSENTIAL



VENUE: Wyvern Hydrotherapy Pool,
Dorchester Rd, Weymouth DT3 5AL



PRICE: £26 PER CHILD PER WEEK

CONTACT:
SARAH HEWITT



MOBILE: 07964 189287



E-MAIL: hheewiitt@aol.com

★ BUILDING CONFIDENCE ★ DEVELOPING SKILLS ★ STAYING SAFE ★



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



Attendance Reception – Year 4: **94.6%**

Attendance Winners this week are...

EYES
Hazel Class: 97.8%

K.S.1
Ash Class: **100%**

K.S.2
Sycamore Class: 99.5%

A big thank you to all our families who brought their children into school on time this week. Every minute truly counts, and as a community you truly show your **“Love for Learning.”**

A massive congratulations to Ash Class in Year 1 for achieving 100% attendance this week!



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