



# Weekly Newsletter

**Monday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2026**

Dear Families,

Learning at Manor Park continues to be engaging and active, with children enjoying the start of our new Science units. Last week, Year 1 looked carefully at real plants to name their parts, Year 2 designed a scientific investigation to answer 'What do plants need to grow best?' and Year 4 grouped and classified plants and animals. Meanwhile, Year 3 investigated shadows using torches as part of their 'Light' unit.

This week, our collective worship focuses on the story of Peter and Cornelius. This story of inclusion and acceptance reflects how we live out our core value of 'Love for each other'. The children will be reflecting on how they can make everyone feel welcome and included.

As part of Walk to School Week: Mission Move, we hope that as many children as possible can travel actively to school and take part in our Lucky Lock and Ride on the Wild Side events.

With the changeable weather, please ensure your child comes to school with a coat, a water bottle, a hat, and sunscreen applied before the school day.

Attendance this week was 94.3%, which is a slight increase on last week – thank you. Let's see if we can raise this to 95% for the final week of term.

Thank you for your continued support,  
Manor Park School

## Save the Date

18th -22 <sup>nd</sup> May	National Walk to school week
19th May	Y3 Explore the Orchestra Bournemouth
19 <sup>th</sup> May	Lucky Locks
20 <sup>th</sup> May	Eco-Warriors Chesil beech litter pick
21st May	Lucky Locks
21st May	Chaplaincy Team visit Signature House
22nd May	'Ride on the Wild Side' bike event
22nd May	Parent Open Afternoon 2:45pm - 3:15pm
22 <sup>nd</sup> May	Buds Disco
<b>25th -29<sup>th</sup> May</b>	<b>Half Term Week</b>
1st -12 <sup>th</sup> June	Y4 Multiplication Times Tables Check
3rd -8 <sup>th</sup> 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)
17th June	Y4 Transition Day
19th June	Music Instrumental Roadshow (9:15am)
22nd -26 <sup>th</sup> June	Health and Fitness Week
22nd June	Y3 and Y4 Sports Morning (9:15am - 11am)
23 <sup>rd</sup> June	Reception and Preschool Sports Morning (9:00am - 10:00am)
23 <sup>rd</sup> June	Y1 and Y2 Sports Morning (10:30- 12:00pm)
23rd/ 24 <sup>th</sup> June	Y4 Orienteering sessions (afternoon)
24th June	New Reception cohort parents evening
26th June	New Reception cohort Teddy Bears picnic
6th July	SEND Parent Meetings

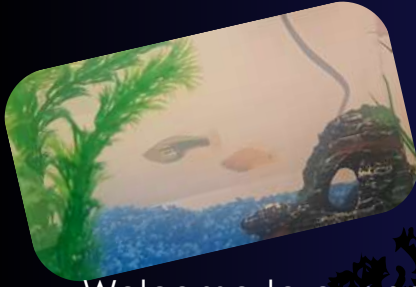


# Manor Park

CE (VC) First School



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



Welcome to our newest #ManorParkSuperStars 🐟🐟 Sunny and Stripe. Thank you for all the name suggestions!

## HIGHLIGHTS of the WEEK



Here are a couple of the wonderful puppets that Ash Class (Year 2) made during their DT topic. They developed their cutting skills, sewing using the running stitch and were able to evaluate their end product against their initial design.



Chestnut Class in Year 3 made their delicious, healthy pizzas in their Design and Technology lesson.



### Restless Development School Triathlon#



We are very proud that 11 #ManorParkSuperStars entered the triathlon!



Cedar Class chaplaincy team leading our Collective Worship - well done! 👍



Year 1 have been busy weighing things this week. We have been working out which one of three items is the heaviest and lightest.



Our whole school enjoyed a visit from a Dorset Council representative who led an assembly about the importance of recycling and the simple actions we can all take: reduce, reuse, recycle.

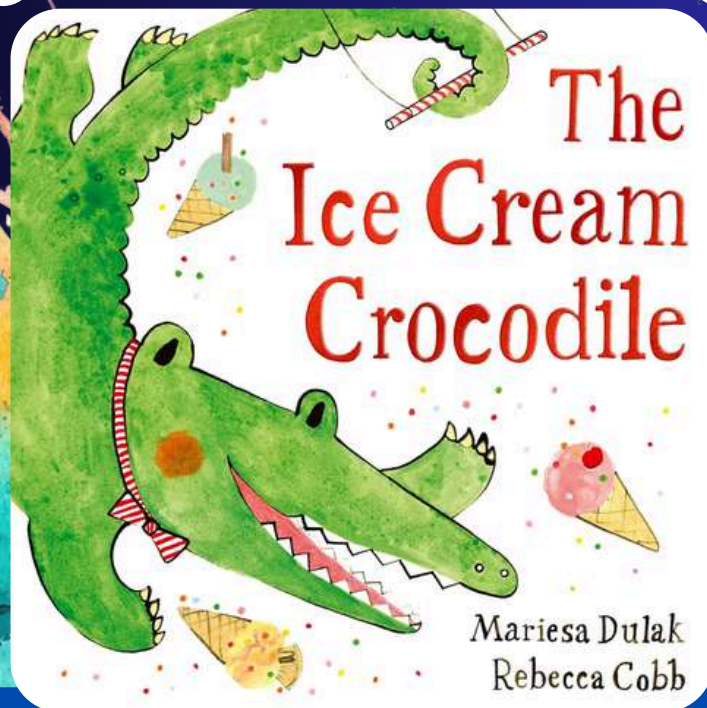


Manor  
Park  
CE (VC) First  
SCHOOL



I ♥ BOOKS

# Book of the Week



The Ice Cream Crocodile is a story about learning to love yourself and follow your dreams no matter what challenges the world throws your way.

Elvis the crocodile dreams of being a circus star like best friend Flossie. But Sidney the Ring Master only lets fluffy and furry animals perform on stage. How can Elvis show that he's got what it takes? A rhyming tale full of circus fun about celebrating difference and overcoming prejudice.



# End of Year 4 Events

**Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> June**

9.15 - 11am

Y3 and Y4 Sports Morning

**Tuesday 7th July**

Transfer day

**Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> July 1.30pm**

**Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> July 6pm**

Y4 End of Year Production

**Monday 13th July**

1.30pm

Leavers' service @ St Georges Church

**Tuesday 14th July**

5 pm- 7pm

Year 4 Leavers' Fest



# Buds Disco Night



With Encore Entertainment

**Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> 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**

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

NATIONAL  
**BOOK**  
tokens

In association with

Read  
for Good



#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.



Join your Family Hub and  
**TRAIN TO BECOME**

A volunteer parenting group leader

Lived  
Experience  
Shared Strength  
Lasting Impact

- The years between two and eleven can be an intense emotional roller coaster for any parent or carer.
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- We're looking for volunteers to lead Empowering Parents Empowering Communities a course by parents, for parents.
- You bring your experience.
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Mums, dads and carers can apply

To find out more, please scan the QR code, fill in the short enquiry form and we will contact you for an informal chat



# What Parents & Educators Need to Know about ONLINE GROOMING

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Online grooming is when someone builds a relationship with a child or young person online to gain their trust for the purpose of sexual abuse, exploitation, radicalisation, or criminal activity – such as county lines or financial scams. According to the NSPCC, police in the UK recorded over 7,000 offences involving sexual communication with a child in a single year – an increase of 89% since 2017/18.

## STRANGERS USING FAKE IDENTITIES

Groomers often pose as children or teenagers online to build trust. They may create convincing fake profiles, share photos stolen from real people, or mimic the interests of the child. By pretending to be someone their age, they make conversations feel safe and relatable. Over time, they may ask for personal details, photos, or suggest meeting in person, exposing children to significant emotional and physical harm.

## EXPLOITATION THROUGH GIFTS AND FLATTERY

To gain trust quickly, groomers often send gifts, gaming credits, or money. Alongside material offerings, they use excessive compliments, affection, and attention to create emotional dependency. These tactics make children feel valued and special, lowering their defences. Once trust is secured, groomers may escalate their requests, often asking for photos or private conversations, making the child feel pressured or indebted to continue.

## GROUP CHATS AS HIDDEN PATHWAYS

Unmonitored group chats on platforms like WhatsApp or Discord provide a cover for groomers. They can watch how children interact, identify those who seem vulnerable, and then move conversations into private messaging. This transition makes detection difficult for trusted adults. The seemingly harmless group setting often masks the presence of predators, giving children a false sense of security.

## THE RISE OF SEXTORTION

Sextortion involves pressuring children into sharing explicit content, then blackmailing them for more. Offenders may claim to have hacked a child's device, threaten to share images with friends or family, or demand money. Many victims remain silent out of fear and shame. This grooming crime is particularly dangerous because children often feel trapped, believing there's no safe way to escape the situation.

## GAMING PLATFORMS AS GROOMING GATEWAYS

Games like Roblox, Fortnite, or Call of Duty, which include live chat features, are frequent targets for groomers. Conversations often begin casually during gameplay and can become manipulative over time. Groomers may offer in-game gifts, credits, or exclusive add-ons to build rapport. Children using headsets or private chat features are especially at risk, as conversations are harder for adults to monitor.

## CRIMINAL & RADICALISATION RISKS

Grooming is not always sexual. Some offenders manipulate children into criminal activities such as drug running or online fraud. Others attempt to radicalise young people with extreme ideologies. Groomers often use fear, money, shame, or promises of belonging to control their victims. These forms of exploitation can be just as harmful as sexual grooming, and often leave lasting psychological and social consequences.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

### KEEP CONVERSATIONS REGULAR

Rather than having one "big talk" about online safety, weave conversations into everyday life. Ask questions about children's online friendships and interests. Share real-life examples to make discussions relatable and encourage honesty instead of secrecy. When children feel comfortable discussing their digital lives, they are far more likely to share concerns or admit when something feels wrong, reducing the chance of risky interactions going unnoticed.

### UNDERSTAND THE PLATFORMS CHILDREN USE

Take time to learn about the apps, games, and social platforms children are on. Familiarise yourself with privacy settings, parental controls, and group chat features. Use resources like the National College guides or Common Sense Media to stay updated. By understanding how these platforms operate, you'll be better equipped to set boundaries, guide safe use, and notice any unusual or concerning online behaviour early.

### CREATE A "TELL ME" CULTURE

Children often keep silent because they fear being punished or losing access to their devices. Reassure them that coming forward with concerns won't get them into trouble. Emphasise that you are there to help, not judge. Creating a safe, open environment encourages children to speak up if something feels wrong, and helps to ensure they don't suffer in silence when facing potential grooming risks.

### STAY ALERT TO WARNING SIGNS

Be attentive to both behavioural and digital red flags. Sudden secrecy, mood swings, or new online contacts may signal a problem. Watch for unexplained gifts, new social media profiles, or changes in sleep patterns. Increased anxiety or reluctance to attend school can also be indicators. Regularly checking in and showing interest in those whom they communicate with online help prevent small issues from escalating into serious risks.

### Meet Our Expert

Stratford-on-Avon Police is dedicated to keeping people safe and tackling crime across both the physical and digital world. The force continues to strengthen its digital investigation and safeguarding capabilities to protect children and vulnerable people online, working in partnership with local, regional and national organisations, schools, and the wider community.



Get full information visit our website

[@wake\\_up\\_weds](https://twitter.com/wake_up_weds)

[www.thenationalcollege.com](https://www.thenationalcollege.com)

[@wake.up.wednesday](https://www.instagram.com/wake.up.wednesday)

[@wake.up.weds](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC...)

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



# Ride on the Wildside on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> 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

DORSET

activate  
performing arts

### Youth Dance

Move, Create & Have Fun with DYD

Calling all 7-12 year olds who love to dance and perform! Join us for a FREE taster workshop full of movement, creativity and fun. We'll explore games, storytelling and creative activities in a friendly, energetic environment. No experience needed — just bring your love of dance!

Email [dvd@activateperformingarts.org.uk](mailto:dvd@activateperformingarts.org.uk) to book onto a session...

#### Upcoming dates:

Sun 7th June: 10am - 11am

Sun 14th June: 10am - 11am

Sun 21st June: 10am - 11am

Sun 28th June: 10am - 11am

Sun 5th July: 10am - 11am

Venue: YMCA Dorchester, DT1 2RZ



Art in Poundbury presents

### ART IN THE PARK

#### FREE CHILDREN'S ACTIVITY

A fun and free outdoor art activity taking place during the Dorchester Kite Festival.

If you are 17 or under, bring your parent or guardian and meet us at the red gazebos near The Swales on The Great Field.

All materials provided.

Saturday 6 June 2026, 12 - 2pm

The Great Field, Poundbury

Visit [www.artinpoundbury.co.uk](http://www.artinpoundbury.co.uk) to find out more.

#KITES

#PRIZES

#ART



### The Bloom Project!

Friday 29th May  
11am - 3pm

Join us for our Green Thumb Planting Workshop, a fun, hands-on session for families.

Help us plant colourful flowers in our new community planter and bring the space to life, while children enjoy potting their very own plant to take home and care for.



Visit our website for more info

**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**

# LEARN A BRASS

## INSTRUMENT!



Ages 8+



Free Tuition



Instruments  
Provided

Ever fancied playing the **cornet**, **horn**, **tuba**,  
percussion or one of the many other  
brass instruments?

Come and join the  
**DURNOVARIA SILVER BAND  
TRAINING BAND**

— a fun, friendly place to start  
your musical journey.



### WHAT YOU GET



Free music tuition



Instruments provided



Progress from Training Band  
into the Main Band



Welcoming, supportive atmosphere



Make new friends & learn new skills

MAKE  
NEW FRIENDS  
& LEARN  
NEW SKILLS!



FRIDAYS  
18:00



DURNOVARIA BAND HALL,  
KINGS ROAD, DORCHESTER,  
DT1 1NH



INTERESTED? GET IN TOUCH:

[dsbcommittee@gmail.com](mailto:dsbcommittee@gmail.com)



COME ALONG, GIVE IT A GO, AND DISCOVER  
THE JOY OF MAKING MUSIC!

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# PRIMARY

FOREST SCHOOL &  
OUTDOOR EDUCATION

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WEDNESDAY  
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9.00 - 15.30  
8.30 - 15.30  
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FROM £29.90  
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[www.primary-forest-school.co.uk](http://www.primary-forest-school.co.uk)



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



**Attendance**  
Reception – Year 4:  
**94.3%**

*Attendance Winners  
this week are...*

<u>EYFS</u>
Maple Class: 94.6%
<u>K.S.1</u>
Ash Class: 96.4%
<u>K.S.2</u>
Chestnut Class: 98.8%

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.”**



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**www.manorpark.wessex.ac**



**@manorparkfirst**



**ManorParkDorchester**

