



Manor Park

CE (VC) First School

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

Weekly Newsletter

Friday 11th September 2026

Dear Families,

What a wonderful start to the term it has been. The children have now completed their first full week and have settled well into their routines. It has been a pleasure to see their enthusiasm, confidence and positive attitudes as they continue to embrace new learning opportunities.

Outdoor learning has now commenced across all year groups, and the children have thoroughly enjoyed spending time exploring the woods, connecting with nature and linking their experiences to their science topics. These opportunities provide valuable hands-on learning and encourage curiosity, teamwork and a deeper appreciation of the world around us.

We are also looking forward to **Science Day on Tuesday** next week. The community is warmly invited to join us for our Science Show. It promises to be a fantastic occasion, filled with excitement, discovery and opportunities to learn something new together.

In Collective Worship next week, we will be exploring the story of Adam and Eve. Through this story, we will reflect on our purpose and consider how we can live out our school values of **Love for God, Love for Each Other and Love for Learning**.

Every one of us has unique talents and gifts. To develop and use them fully, we must show respect, resilience and determination, especially when faced with challenges. By living out our values each day, we learn to respect ourselves, recognise our own strengths and appreciate the talents and contributions of others. Together, through understanding ourselves and supporting one another, we continue to grow as a caring and successful school community.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. We look forward to another exciting week of learning, discovery and celebration.

Together, we truly are 400 Manor Park Superstars!

Save the Date

15 th September	Science Day
15 th September	In School National Fitness Day 2026
15 th September	Evening Science Show (5:30pm-6:30pm) by the Royal Institute of Science
25 th September	KS1 playground work begins
30 th September	Y3 Cranborne Ancient Technology Centre
2 nd October	Harvest Festival
5 th -9 th October	Cycle to school week
6 th October	Scholastic Book Fair
9 th October	Young Minds - Hello Yellow Day
14 th October	KS1 Literary Festival
15 th October	KS2 Literary Festival
15 th October	SALT Drop-in sessions (10am-11am)
19 th October	Parents' Evening
20 th October	Parents' Evening
21 st October	INSET Day
22 nd October	INSET Day
23 rd October	INSET Day
26 th -30 th October	Half Term

*Further details of relevant events will be sent out via Arbor closer to the time.

2026-27 term dates for this academic year are on the school website.





Manor Park

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

HIGHLIGHTS of the WEEK

In RE, Year 1 have been learning about the different groups we belong to. We explored how we are all part of the wider Manor Park family, as well as our own Willow/Aspen Class family.



In Outdoor Learning, Year 4 have made batteries out of fruit and veg then tested them in circuits.

Aspen Class in Year 1 had their first Outdoor learning session today. We looked at leaves and chatted about seasons, and why some leaves are brown and some are green this time of year.

In Science, Year One are learning all about the weather and the different seasons we experience in the UK. We focused on clouds and used our scientific observation skills to look closely at what we could see in the sky.

What a busy week at Roots and Shoots! The children have had lots of fun taking part in a variety of activities.

We would like to say a big thank you to all parents/carers for all your positive feedback





Ri The Royal Institution
Science Lives Here

FAMILY SCIENCE SHOW

FREE!

BY THE ROYAL
INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE

Spaces are limited, so please sign up (free of charge) at the office.



Promises to be engaging and fun, as well as helping us learn about the world around us.

Come and join us for an exciting Science Show, hosted by The Royal Institution of Science.

Manor Park First School (in the hall)

Tuesday 15th September 2026

5:30pm - 6:30pm

Children must be accompanied by an adult.

FREE

Support Your Child's Wellbeing with the Free myHappymind App

As part of the myHappymind programme taught in your school, our Parent App helps children and families **build positive mental health and wellbeing habits at home**, using fun, engaging activities that connect with what's being taught in school.

What's Inside the App?

myHappymind Places—a personalised self-regulation tool

Be Your Best Programme – supporting pupils' mental wellbeing ahead of end-of-year assessments, such as the National Times Table Test and SATs

Happy Breathing - A self-regulation & calming exercise

Mini Masterclasses for Parents covering topics such as sleep

Fun games to help initiate conversations around wellbeing

Download your Free Parent App





...our wraparound care!

Roots and Shoots provides wraparound care for children from Preschool to Year 4. It is run by Manor Park staff, so children are looked after by familiar faces every day.

We have a beautiful provision set up in The Bungalow.



Sessions

Before school - 7:30am - 8:45am (£7)

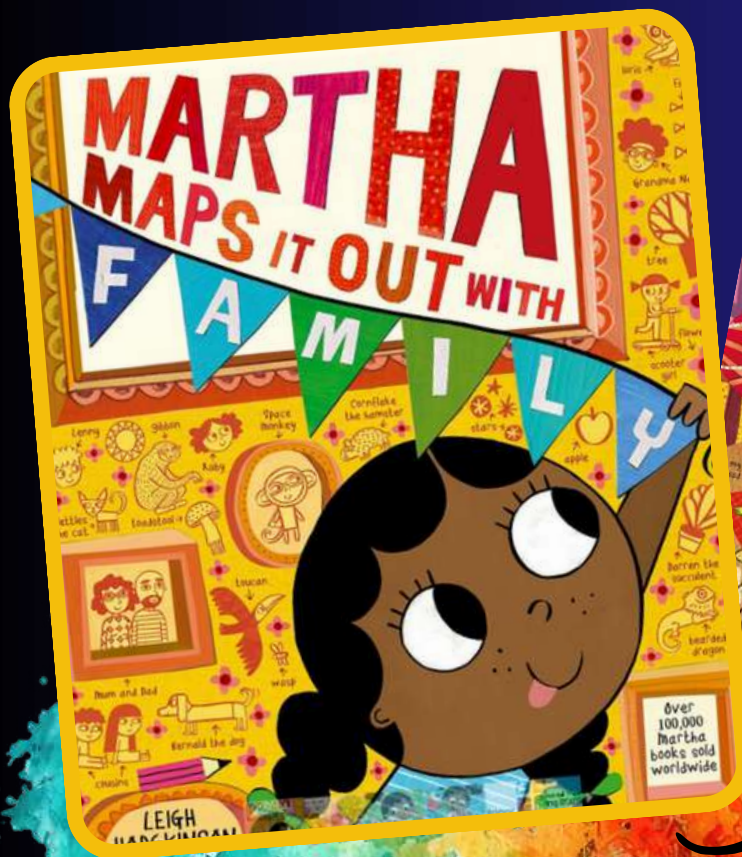
After school - 3:15pm - 4:15pm (£7)

4:15pm - 5:30pm (£7)



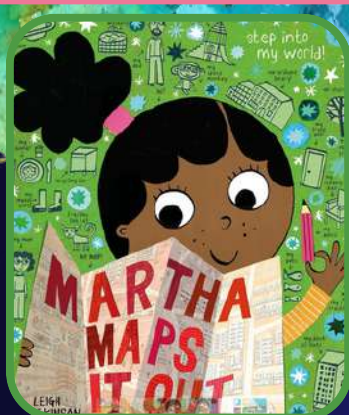


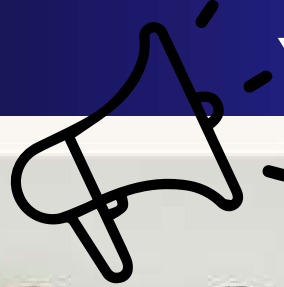
Book of the Week



This lovely picture book sees Martha mapping out her family, in readiness for a new sibling. She then moves on to mapping out her community and eventually the whole world! A fantastic book which will appeal to children expecting a new sibling, or who love maps and diagrams.

You'll find this book in our library, along with the others in the series:





Dorchester
Middle School

OPEN MORNINGS FROM 9.15-10.15AM

- 1st October 2026
- 17th November 2026
- 10th December 2026

OPEN EVENING 13TH OCTOBER 2026 4.30PM-6PM

**COME AND SEE ALL OF THE
EXCITING CHANGES AT DMS.**

**WE LOOK FORWARD TO
WELCOMING YOU AND YOUR
CHILD AS YOU VISIT OUR
SCHOOL**



01305 265651



<https://www.dms.wessex.ac>



Address: Queen's Avenue,
Dorchester, Dorset, DT1 2HS



To book a place to come and visit our school, please follow the link here
<https://www.trybooking.com/uk/events/landing/121385>
or the QR Code



Eco Warriors' September Top Tips



Biodiversity

We can protect wildlife.



Healthy Living

We can grow and taste our own food.



Global Citizenship

We can understand how our actions affect others.



Energy

We can unplug chargers when not in use.



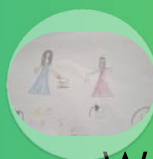
Water

We can save water at school and at home



Marine

We can take part in clean-ups



Litter

We can encourage others to care for our school.



Waste

We can compost food waste.



Transport

We can take part in walk-to-school days.



What Parents & Educators Need to Know about CHARACTER.AI

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Character.AI is an entertainment platform where users create and chat with AI-powered characters. These chatbots can act like existing favourite characters from movies or books, or like friends, mentors, or even romantic partners, responding in an emotional, personally engaging way. Although this can encourage creativity, it can also make a generated conversation feel like a genuine relationship, which is concerning if it takes the place of human relationships.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

AI replies are generated in real time rather than chosen from a fully checked script. Even with safety filters on, conversations can still move into sexual, violent, discriminatory, or self-harm material. These AI characters are often made by users, so a familiar name or child-friendly description does not guarantee that every response from the character will be suitable for a young person.

BLURRED BOUNDARIES

Characters on Character.AI can use the language of friendship, love, and empathy without ever feeling anything. Vulnerable young people may struggle to separate this simulation from genuine understanding. Romantic role-play or a character that demands attention, loyalty, or secrecy could also risk distorting young people's expectations around consent, disagreement, and the give-and-take involved in healthy human relationships.

UNRELIABLE ADVICE

Characters, like other chatbot platforms, are at risk of inventing facts or giving inappropriate advice while sounding completely confident. Characters may also echo a young person's assumptions instead of questioning them. This can become particularly risky when users rely on a character for guidance about health, mental wellbeing, relationships, money, or personal safety instead of checking with a credible source or trusted adult.

EMOTIONAL DEPENDENCY

Character.AI chatbots can appear endlessly attentive, supportive, and affectionate, which is one of the hallmarks of the generative AI models that such companions are built on. A young person may start turning to a character chatbot whenever they feel lonely or upset and believe that it understands them better than the humans in their life. This can become more concerning when chatting starts to replace sleep, schoolwork, hobbies and friendships.

PRIVACY CONCERNS

Character.AI chats may feel private, especially when a bot sounds personal and caring, but they take place on a company's online systems. Users could intentionally or unintentionally reveal their name, school, location, routines, images, or intimate concerns. Character.AI says some data may be retained to improve its services and AI models, so young people should never treat a chatbot like a confidential diary.

UNHEALTHY ENGAGEMENT

Be aware of warning signs such as secret accounts, bypassing age restrictions, hiding phone use from adults, chatting late at night, distress when access to the platform or character stops, withdrawal from other people, falling interest in school, or believing the character is conscious. Increased use may also signal that the young person is already lonely, anxious, or seeking help.

Advice for Parents & Educators

KEEP CONVERSATIONS OPEN

Ask what the young person enjoys about Character.AI and invite them to show you how the platform and their favourite characters work. Useful questions include, "Has it ever said something that felt wrong?" and "How can you tell it doesn't have feelings?" Avoid shaming them for using platforms like Character.AI or making them feel there is something wrong with them for doing so.

PAUSE, CHECK AND ASK

Teach young people to pause before accepting an answer from characters on Character.AI. Encourage them to check important claims against a trustworthy source and ask a safe adult when the issue matters. Never use a character as the sole source of medical, mental health, legal, financial, or safeguarding advice. Remind them not to share passwords, contact details, school information, live locations, or private images.

CHECK AGE, SETTINGS & LIMITS

Character.AI's minimum age is 16 in the UK, but open-ended companion chat is restricted to adults aged 18 or over. Users aged 16 to 17 receive a different experience built around guided 'Stories' and other creative or social features. Check their current settings, never help or encourage a young person to give a false age, and apply the same safety rules to other chatbot apps.

NOTICE AND RESPOND

Take action if chats involve sexual content, threats, coercion, abuse, self-harm or danger. Save relevant evidence, report the character and follow the setting's safeguarding process; educators should involve the designated safeguarding lead. If anyone is in immediate danger, contact emergency services. Childline is available on 0800 1111 and the NSPCC Helpline on 0800 800 5000.

Meet Our Expert

Darren Coxon is an educator with almost 30 years' experience across teaching, school leadership and governance. He works internationally supporting schools and colleges with AI leadership and governance and [insert NC courses I have written].



The National College

See full reference list on our website



@wake_up_weds



/www.thenationalcollege



@wake.up.wednesday



@wake.up.weds

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 09.09.2026



"Behaviours that challenge us" Information Session

Free one-off session for parent/carer(s) living in BCP and Dorset
with children aged between 5 and 11 years

Join our one-off information session to find out more about how you can support and understand your child's challenges and difficulties. Session is delivered by a Child Clinical Psychologist.

Tuesday 2nd June 2026
10:00am - 12:00pm
Face to Face session, venue in BCP area

Wednesday 1st July 2026
10:00am - 12:00pm
Virtual session via Microsoft Teams

Tuesday 22nd September 2026
07:00pm - 09:00pm
Virtual session via Microsoft Teams

Tuesday 3rd November 2026
10:00am - 12:00pm
Virtual session via Microsoft Teams

Tuesday 19th January 2027
10:00am - 12:00pm
Virtual session via Microsoft Teams

To book your place, please visit our website:
actionforchildren.org.uk/dorset or scan the QR code



WORKING IN
PARTNERSHIP
WITH:



Action for Children, registered at 3 The Boulevard, Ascot Road, Wafford WGL8 8AG and registered as a charitable company limited by guarantee in England and Wales under number 04764232. Registered charity numbers 1097940/5038092.



Current Term 2026

Dorchester Locality
Dorchester Family Hub

Family Help Advice Sessions

The opportunity for parents/carers to meet 1:1 with a member of our team to gain practical and friendly support, information and advice regarding children and young people aged 0-19.

Please feel free to drop in. However we advise that you book a time slot, which can be held face to face or over the phone.

Family Support Worker:

From September
Thursdays 10am - 12pm

Dorchester Family Hub Room 1
in Dorchester Library

For more details and to book a place, please email:
dorchesterfamilyhub@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk

For more news, events and support, join us at
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/dorchesterlocality>



September Timetable

All regular sessions delivered live online via zoom. 90 minutes long

£24 each or FREE with School Membership

Book online at facefamilyadvice.co.uk

Recordings available for 48 hours

Facing Defiance	1 Sep 10am
Cannabis & Ketamine Awareness	1 Sep 7pm
Supporting Healthy Sleep	7 Sep 10am
Raising Self-Esteem	7 Sep 7pm
Introduction to OCD	8 Sep 10am
Decreasing Depression	8 Sep 7pm
What is ACT?	14 Sep 10am
Improving Family Communication	14 Sep 7pm
Supporting a Child with ADHD	15 Sep 10am
Understanding Addictive Behaviour	15 Sep 7pm
Understanding the Teenage Brain	21 Sep 10am
Understanding Anger	21 Sep 7pm
Autism: Improving Communication	22 Sep 10am
Supporting Healthy Screen Use	22 Sep 7pm
FREE - Masking Awareness	24 Sep 7-8pm
Anxiety Explained	28 Sep 10am
School Anxiety	28 Sep 7pm



THE POD

A safe, inclusive and welcoming space for children, young people and adults of all abilities.

A SPACE TO EXPLORE, PLAY & GROW

The Pod is a multi-sensory and therapeutic space, designed to support wellbeing, confidence and connection. We offer a range of fun, engaging and therapeutic sessions for children, young people and adults, including 1:1 and small group sessions.

Come and discover a space where everyone belongs!

OUR SESSIONS & ACTIVITIES INCLUDE:



BOUNCE & PLAY

Try our exciting sensory and movement equipment!



EXPLORE

Take a look around our amazing new facility!



FAMILY FUN

Activities and sensory experiences for all ages!



REFRESHMENTS

Hot and cold drinks and treats available!



MEET THE TEAM

Find out more about what we offer and how we can help.



Whether it's for play, therapy, support or simply a space to be, The Pod is here for you.

WE CAN'T WAIT TO MEET YOU!



THE POD

Unit 12, South Park, Avon Close.
Granby Industrial Estate.
Weymouth. DT4 9UX



Tel: 07351572594



Email: info@podweymouth.co.uk



Website: <http://www.podweymouth.co.uk>



We can't wait to welcome you and your family to The Pod!



THE POD
BOUNCE • PLAY • CONNECT



ST GEORGE'S CHURCH

ST GEORGE'S
CHURCH

DRAGONS

SUNDAY SCHOOL. SHARING SCRIPTURE. SPARKING SOULS.

Age 5+ | 1030 Every Sunday (during term) | Church Hall
Games ♦ Crafts ♦ Songs ♦ Prayer

Sunday school

St George's Sunday school is restarting after the summer break. We would love to encourage new families to bring their children along to try out a session of Sunday school.

Family Harvest Barn Dance

St George's church is hosting a Harvest Barn Dance on the evening of the 19th September. All are welcome to this family friendly evening.

ST GEORGE'S
CHURCH

BARN DANCE

SAT 19TH Sept
6.30pm

HARVEST
2026

St George's Hall
Donations on the Door



Events

IN THE COMMUNITY

Heritage Open Days: FREE!

Every year in September, Heritage Open Days offers the public the opportunity to visit hundreds of attractions, castles, churches, theatres, town halls, museums, and more for FREE! This year the event runs from Friday 11th to Sunday 20th September however you will need to check with each location which dates their event applies.



Includes:

Lulworth Castle
Corfe Castle
Nothe Fort
Hardy Monument
Max Gate
Abbotsbury Abbey
Dorset Museum
Portland Port Guided Tour
and many more...

FREE SESSIONS

RUGBY

TASTER 9.30am - 10.45 am SESSIONS

Dorchester Rugby Club
Sunday 13th September
Boys and Girls School Years 1-6
Bring a water bottle and boots (or trainers)
Dorchester Rugby club, Coburg Road, Dorchester, DT12HX
[HTTPS://DORCHESTERRFC.RFU.CLUB](https://dorchesterRFC.RFU.CLUB)

savills

BREWERY SQUARE PRESENTS

COUNTRY in the SQUARE

Nashville is coming to Dorchester

FREE ENTRY

DEADWOOD & WHISKEY
THE WILD HEARTS
ZACH BRYAN
KICKING IT COUNTRY LINE DANCING UK

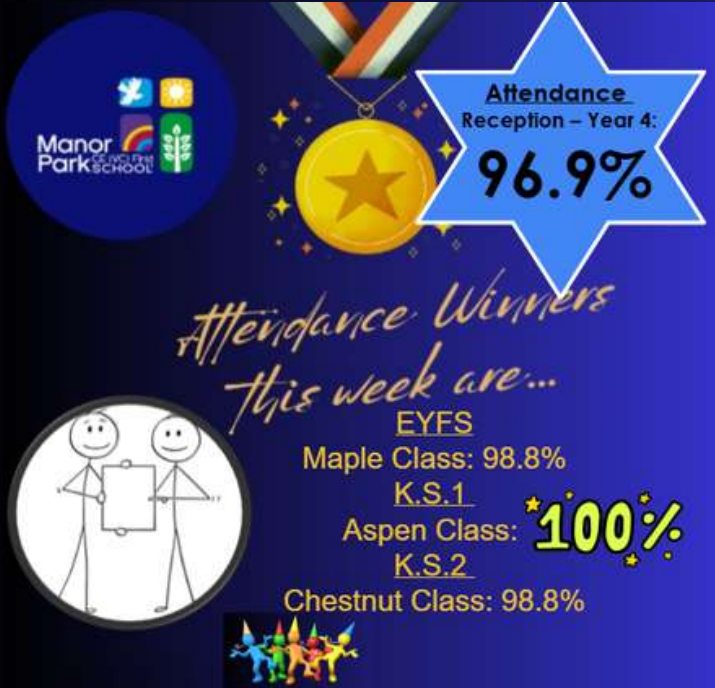
SATURDAY 19TH SEPTEMBER • 1PM - 9PM

Brewery Square, Dorchester, DT1 1GH | brewerysquare.com

THE STURMINSTER CHEESE FESTIVAL

12 & 13 SEPTEMBER 2026, 10 AM TO 5 PM EACH DAY

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



A massive well done to Aspen Class for achieving 100% again this week!

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.”**

SALT Drop-in sessions 15th October
between 10am and 11am

Our community Speech and Language Therapist (SALT) is available for anyone whose child is currently on the SALT list or anyone who has concerns about their child's speech and language. Please phone the office to make an appointment.

Future drop-in dates:

28th January 2027

6th May 2027

*“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.wessex.ac



@manorparkfirst



ManorParkDorchester

