



Manor Park

CE (VC) First School

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

Weekly Newsletter

Friday 25th September 2026

Dear Families,

It has been another busy and exciting week of learning at Manor Park.

The children have been finishing their Science topics and have experienced lots of awe and wonder, particularly through their outdoor learning. Year 1 explored the different trees in our school grounds and were amazed by the size of our sycamore tree. Year 3 have been investigating soil and finding out about the different components that make it up.

Year 4 have continued to enjoy their class reader, Varjak Paw, alongside developing their writing skills and learning how to write an effective explanation.

Our New Playground

We are very excited that building work for our new playground will begin next week. As a result, there will be some changes to drop-off and pick-up arrangements while the work takes place. We will send out a separate letter with further information regarding these arrangements.

Thank you to everyone for managing the changes to drop-off so well today. We really appreciate your patience, flexibility and support. We know that changes to familiar routines can sometimes be challenging, but your cooperation has helped everything run smoothly. We appreciate that there may be some slight inconvenience at times while the building work takes place. However, we are confident that you will agree that our children deserve a high-quality outdoor environment where they can play, learn, explore and thrive. We are incredibly excited to see the improvements take shape and cannot wait for the children to enjoy their new outdoor learning and play spaces.

Parents' Evenings

Bookings for our upcoming Parents' Evenings will also be going live shortly. Please look out for a separate letter with further information about how to book your appointment.



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Collective Worship: Keeping Our Promises

In Collective Worship, we are continuing to explore the story of Noah and God's promise. The children will be encouraged to look in and reflect on the promises they can make and keep every day.

We will think about how we can live out our school values:

Love for God

Love for Each Other

Love for Learning

By living out these values and keeping our promises to one another, we can make sure that our school continues to be a safe place of shelter, where everyone belongs and where we never give up.

We hope that, as one school community, all of our families will join us in this promise. In particular, at drop-off and pick-up times, we ask everyone to continue to show kindness, patience and respect towards one another. Our children learn so much from the way the adults around them treat others, and together we can model our value of Love for Each Other and set the very best example for them.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support and for working in partnership with us.

Have a lovely weekend.

Save the Date

25th September	KS1 playground work begins
30 th September	Y3 Cranborne Ancient Technology Centre
2 nd October	Harvest Festival
6 th October	Scholastic Book Fair
9 th October	Young Minds - Hello Yellow Day
13th October	SEND meetings (book a slot at the office)
13th October	Elm Class visit Shire Hall
14 th October	KS1 Literary Festival
15th October	Ash Class visit SHire Hall
15 th October	KS2 Literary Festival
15th October	SALT Drop-in sessions (10am-11am)
16th October	Disco
19 th October	Parents' Evening and RSHE drop in
20 th October	Parents' Evening and RSHE drop in
21st October	INSET Day
22nd October	INSET Day
23rd October	INSET Day
26th-30th October	Half Term
9 th November	Dorset and Wiltshire Fire and Rescue assembly
11 th November	Remembrance Day Service
11 th November	SEND meetings (book a slot at the office)
7 th December	SEND meetings (book a slot at the office)
14th December	Y1 and Y2 Nativity 10:30am - 11:30am
15 th December	Y1 and Y2 Nativity 1:45pm - 2:45pm
17th December	End of Autumn Term
18th December	INSET Day

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



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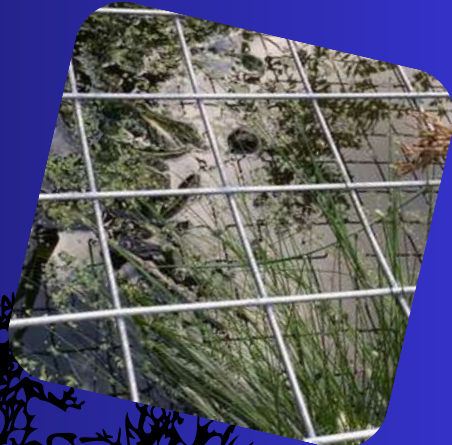
HIGHLIGHTS of the WEEK



Ash Class in Year 2 had a great time exploring the woods, looking for creatures that live there. We couldn't believe the size of the sycamore!



Can you spot our new little resident? 🐸 We are very excited to have spotted wildlife using our new pond!



What a brilliant experience for this #ManorParkSuperStar, being a mascot for the Dorchester Football team.

Check out #ManorParkSuperStar, Zach! During the weekend, he spent some time using the school's litter pickers to clean up Weymouth Beach with his family!

We are very proud of you!



This week in outdoor learning, Year 3 learnt how hard it is to clean water and how precious it is when we have clean water to drink.



In Roots and Shoots the children have enjoyed a variety of activities and have made the most of the sunshine.



The Royal Institution of Science treated us to a fascinating day of science last week!



Open Day!

Visit us on
5th November at
10:30am
Or
12th November at
1:30pm

Are you looking for a school place for your child who is due to join Reception in September 2027?



We are delighted to invite you to our school on either **Thursday 5th November** at 10:30am or **Thursday 12th November** at 1:30pm, where you will have the opportunity to speak with the Head of School, enjoy a tour of our wonderful EYFS area, and ask any questions you may have.

*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



@manorparkfirst



ManorParkDorchester

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about DISCORD

AGE RESTRICTION
13+

(with a 17+ app rating on app stores)

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

A CHANNEL FOR EVERYTHING

While Discord is strongly associated with video games, it also hosts communities for almost anything you can imagine, such as books, music, influencers, cooking and sport. Some large servers focus on popular games like Minecraft or Fortnite, but many are private, invite-only spaces where friends or communities with shared interests can chat across phones, computers, and gaming consoles.

REAL-LIFE DISTRACTION

Like many social platforms, Discord can become a real time-sink. Although it does not rely on endless scrolling in the same way as some apps, constant messages, group chats, and voice channels can keep young people engaged for long periods, especially in larger servers. As Discord is closely linked to gaming, it may also increase the time they spend playing games.

STRANGER DANGER

Users can choose to stay within private servers with only people they know, but joining public servers will most likely bring them into contact with strangers. Many users are just friendly enthusiasts, yet others could have harmful intentions, including grooming, extortion, or radicalisation. In these types of environments, anyone can claim to be another teenager, which can make it harder for young people to judge who is safe to talk to.

A HARASSMENT RISK

There is also a risk from people a young person already knows in the real world. Bullying in the real world can continue online, and Discord servers can make this feel more intimidating, especially if someone uses anonymous or multiple accounts to carry out threatening behaviours. Because Discord works across computers, phones, and gaming consoles, unwanted contact can follow young people into online spaces that should feel safe and private.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

This huge amount of choice can help young people "find their tribe", especially when they have niche interests. However, because users can create servers around almost any topic, younger users may still encounter unsuitable or distressing content. Even in spaces linked to child-friendly games, Discord cannot directly control every conversation, image, or video shared by other users.

A MONEY DRAIN

Discord is free to use, but users can still spend real-world money on it. This may include Discord 'Nitro', a monthly subscription that unlocks customisation features and larger media uploads, or purchases through the 'Shop' for profile cosmetics and game-related items. Small purchases can add up quickly, especially if spending controls are not in place.

Advice for Parents & Educators

USE FAMILY CENTRE

Parents and carers should make use of Discord's 'Family Centre', which gives an overview of a younger user's activity while respecting their privacy. Messages are not shared, but adults can view an activity feed and receive weekly email summaries. Discord says this is designed to support conversations about online behaviour, rather than be about constant monitoring.

CHECK, TALK, REPORT

Review Discord's privacy settings together, including who can send them friend requests or private messages. Use this as a chance to talk to them about strangers, privacy, and personal information, making sure young people know to question suspicious behaviour, such as requests to keep conversations secret. Show them how to block and report these kinds of users and reassure them that asking for help will not get them into trouble.

MANAGE TIME ONLINE

Agree clear expectations around when and how Discord can be used, especially during homework, bedtime, and family time. Encourage young people to turn off unnecessary notifications and leave servers that feel overwhelming. If Discord is mainly used alongside gaming, discuss healthy limits for both activities so that schoolwork, sleep, and offline friendships are not affected.

REVIEW SPENDING CONTROLS

Talk openly about paid features such as Discord Nitro, profile cosmetics, and in-game purchases. Make sure the young people in your care understand that digital items still cost real money. Check payment settings on the device they use, avoid storing card details where possible, and consider adding approval requirements for purchases, particularly for younger or more impulsive users.

Meet Our Expert

Alan Martin is an experienced technology journalist who has written for the likes of Wired, TechRadar, Tom's Guide, The Evening Standard, and The New Statesman.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

See full reference list on our website



@wake_up_weds



/www.thenationalcollege



@wake.up.wednesday



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Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 23.09.2026



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**Meet our
Eco
Warriors**



Manor Park is very proud to be part of the Eco-Schools programme which helps young people take action to protect the environment. It gives them the chance to choose important issues, plan projects, and involve the whole school and community.

You'll hear more from us in newsletters and invitations to join environmental activities!



LET'S GLOW WILD
FOR MANOR PARK'S FIRST
NEON DISCO

FRIDAY 16TH OCTOBER

PRESCHOOL & RECEPTION* - 5.00-5.45PM

(*PARENTS REQUIRED TO STAY)

YEARS 1 & 2 - 6.00-6.45

YEARS 3 & 4 - 7.00-7.45

**WWW.PTA-EVENTS.CO.UK/BUDSMANORPARK/
£4 PER TICKET**



**HOSTED BY BUDS OF MANOR PARK
IN PARTNERSHIP WITH ENCORE ENTERTAINMENTS**



...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 your
sessions
on Arbor*

Preschool Wraparound Provision



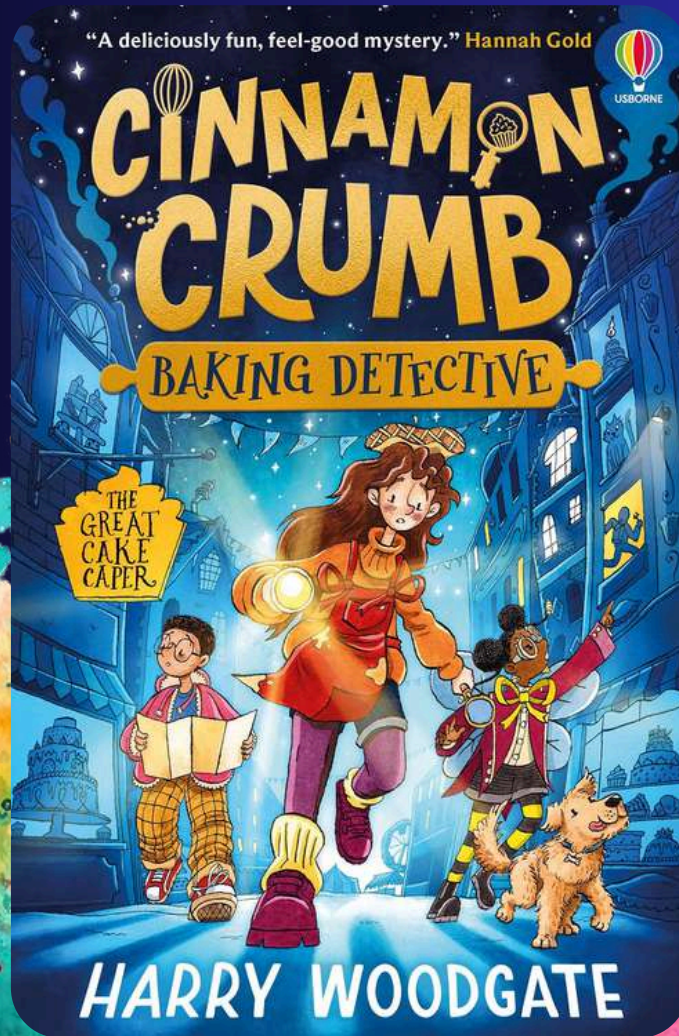
Our Preschool staff, Miss C and Miss Wilmot, run our Preschool Wraparound provision. This ensures that our youngest #ManorParkSuperStars are cared for by adults who are familiar to them throughout the day.

We offer a range of breakfast options in our breakfast provision, and a variety of snacks and activities in our after school provision.

Preschool Wraparound Care sessions are 8am-9am for our morning sessions and either 3pm -4:15pm or 3pm-5pm for our after school sessions. Please book sessions via Arbor (the option to select is called 'extended preschool')



Book of the Week



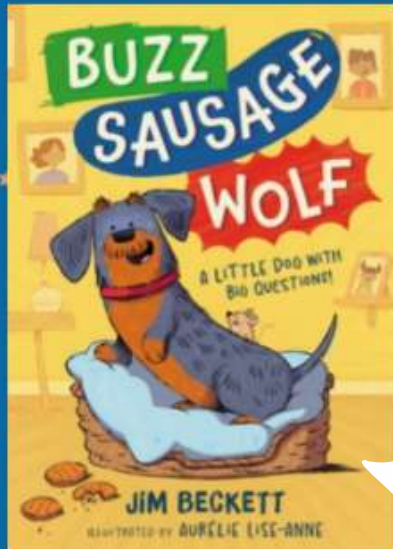
Newly released, this is the first in a series of chapter books - perfect for baking fans and detectives alike! Here's what Jamie Hammond (author of Grumpfort) has to say about it:

"Cinnamon Crumb, Baking Detective is a deliciously fun mystery packed with twists, teamwork and plenty of baking puns that will leave readers hungry for more. An instantly lovable detective whose clever thinking and determination make this a brilliant start to a series. Cosy baking chaos mixed with a page-turning mystery - it is sprinkled with charm and humour. Harry's artwork shines on every page and beautifully brings the world of Marzipan to life! Cinnamon Crumb is sure to become everyone's new favourite detective!"

Dorchester Literary Festival 14th and 15th October 2026

YR 1 & 2 AUTHOR VISIT BY JIM BECKETT

14th October



Two brilliant authors
have been secured to
give a talk to the
children and sign their
books!

Book Sales

If you would like your child to have a copy of the book and get it signed by the author on the day, please order one via your child's Arbor account. Books will be given to the children on the day of the author visit. Alternatively, if you already own a copy of the book, bring it in on the day and the author will sign it.

**Please order by Friday
25th September**

YR 3 & 4 AUTHOR VISIT BY TOM MCLAUGHLIN

15th October



We love reading at Manor Park and having authors visit our school is always a highlight. We hope your child enjoys the Literary Festival again this year.



 **BBC 500 Words opens for submissions on Tuesday 29th September at 8am!** 

The UK's biggest children's story-writing competition is back - inviting young storytellers to write the kind of story they would love to read. No pressure around spelling, grammar or punctuation - it's all about creativity! Plus, there are loads of prizes to be won!

Entry deadline: Friday 6th November at 9pm

Find out more: www.bbc.co.uk/500words

Remember, every story submitted is in with chance of winning 500 books for their school as well as a literacy wall art.

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.





"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/SC038092.



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

Sleep tight workshop

Suitable for families with children 12 months or older who are struggling with sleep

5 x 2-hour online sessions

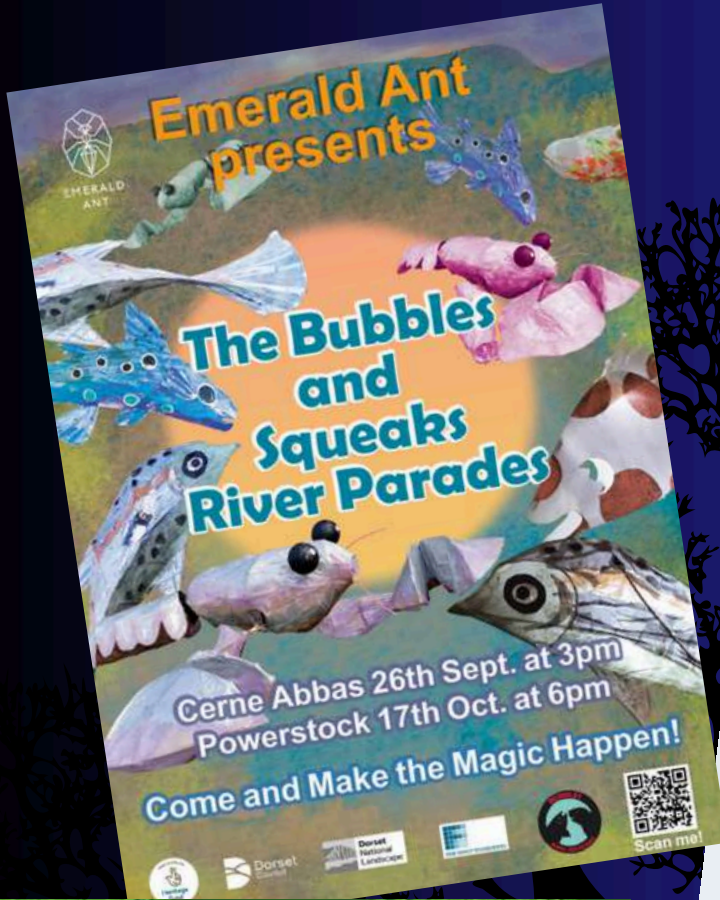
Wednesday 14th October 2026, 6pm - 8pm,
5 weeks excluding half term

At Chipmunks Day Nursery,
6 Herringston Rd, Dorchester DT1 2BS

Supporting Children, young people and their families to get a good night's sleep. To be added to the waitlist for these sessions or for more information please contact beststartinlife@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk stating which round you are interested in.



IN THE COMMUNITY



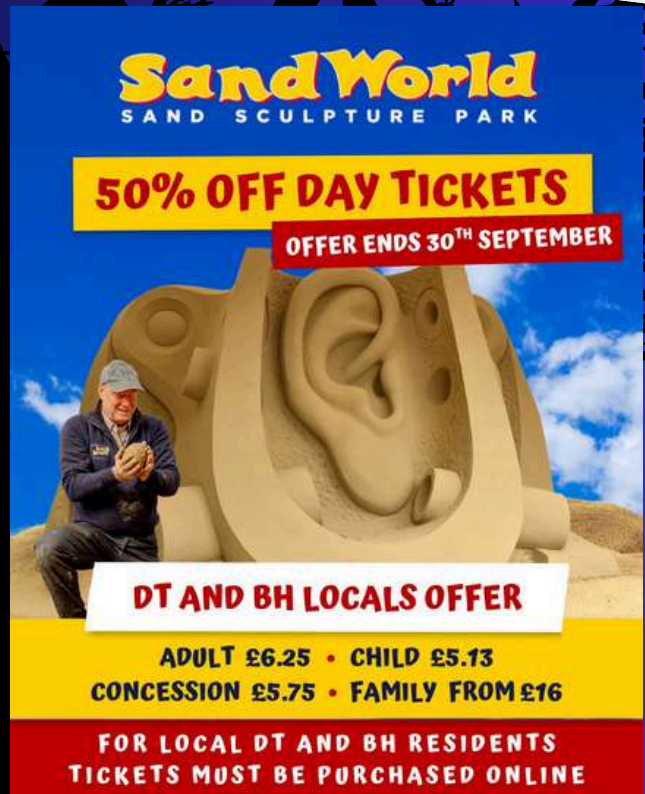
Everyone is invited to join the fun at our two, **free** processions. Spectacular and unique, they will be very different, so come along to both!

Gathering at 3pm at Abbey Street, DT2 7JQ
free parking at Sinsay Field.
the procession for a walk

Acoustic Trio' will round off the occasion.

Gathering at 6pm at Weir Field, DT6 3SP
Lit procession ending with beautiful fire sculpture. A hog
roast will be provided by the Weir Field Committee and
you can visit our Pledge Zone to support our rivers.

Two inspirational events to celebrate and support our wonderful chalk rivers and their unique wildlife.



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



Congratulations to Maple Class for achieving 100% attendance 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*

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