Moordown St. John's Primary School Bulletin

A Christian community where commitment to educational excellence changes lives

Autumn 2 – Week 1 – Friday 6th November 2026

Headteacher Update



It's the start of 2nd half of the Autumn term and the children have got straight back into their learning. Year 5 enjoyed a fascinating visit to **Winchester Science Centre**, bringing their scientific learning to life. Meanwhile, Year 4 stepped back in time with a visit to **Cranborne Ancient Technology Centre**, as well as enjoying a **Roman Experience** Day in school. Photographs will be included in the next newsletter.

We were delighted to welcome prospective families to our **New Parents' Open Evening** last night. If you know any families considering a Reception place for September 2027, please encourage them to come and see us. Tours during the school day are still available and can be arranged by contacting the school office.

Green team earned the most Arbor badges in Autumn 1 by a large margin and they had their reward afternoon today, chosen by the Green team captains. We set up an obstacle course and lava challenge in the hall using all the gymnastic equipment and everyone seemed to thoroughly enjoy themselves.

Finally, congratulations to our **mixed Year 6 football team**, who achieved a fantastic second place in a competition at Littledown. Well done to everyone involved!

Mr Ruffle
Headteacher

Key Messages

Job Vacancies

We currently have two exciting opportunities to join the Moordown St John's team.

Swimming Instructor (Level 2)

We are looking for an enthusiastic and qualified Swimming Instructor to join our school swimming team. This is a permanent, term-time position working 18 - 20 hours per week, Tuesday to Friday, supporting children to develop their swimming skills, water confidence and enjoyment of swimming.

This vacancy has arisen because Mrs Meharg is leaving MSJ at the end of November to take up another position with the amazing charity 2wish. We would like to thank Mrs Meharg for helping pioneer the new MSJ Swim School when we started back in January 2024. Many will also remember her fantastic efforts in organising the sponsored abseil down St Peter's Church tower, raising valuable funds for our school swimming pool! Thank you Mrs Meharg.

Teaching assistants (30 hours)
We are also recruiting for additional teaching assistants to join our school from January 2027.

Full details of both vacancies, including job descriptions and how to apply, can be found on the Dorset Council Jobs website.

Please do share these opportunities with anyone you think might be interested in joining our wonderful school!

Admissions Consultation – Looking Ahead to September 2028

As part of our responsibilities as an academy trust, we are consulting on our proposed admission arrangements for the 2028–29 academic year.

Schools are required to consult periodically on their admission arrangements, and this consultation provides an opportunity for parents, carers and the wider community to share their views.

Importantly, we are not proposing to reduce the number of places available at Moordown St John's. Our Published Admission Number (PAN) will remain at 60 children per year group, and our established priority for siblings will be retained.

The main proposed change is the introduction of an admissions priority for children of eligible school staff, recognising the importance of recruiting and retaining staff.

The consultation documents explain the proposals in full, and we welcome feedback from parents, carers and other interested members of our community. Further information about how to respond is available through the school's admissions consultation information.

Key dates for next week

Tuesday 10th November - Department for Education RISE Visit

Next week, we are looking forward to welcoming Headteacher across the South West as part of the Department for Education's RISE (Regional Improvement for Standards and Excellence) programme.

Earlier this term, we were delighted to receive recognition from the Department for Education for the strong outcomes achieved by our disadvantaged pupils at the end of Key Stage 2. The RISE visit will provide a valuable opportunity to share our school's approach to teaching, learning and inclusion, while also reflecting on how we can continue to improve.

Wednesday 11th November 9am - Remembrance Service
We will come together as a school community to mark Remembrance Day on Wednesday 11 November.

Led and Written by our Year 6 pupils, our Remembrance Service will provide an opportunity for children to reflect on the sacrifices made by those who have served in conflicts, both past and present. We warmly invite any serving or retired members of the armed or emergency services to our service.

Thank you to everyone supporting this year's Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal – poppies will still be available to buy on Monday.

Thursday 12th November 8:30am – School nurse drop-in



Supporting Families – Autism and Neurodiversity Parent Courses

We are pleased to share details of three courses for parents and carers, offered by Linwood School in partnership with BCP Council.

Introduction to Autism and Neurodiversity – Hosted at MSJ

We are delighted to be hosting a **FREE parent workshop on Monday 23 November, 9.30–11.45am**, at Moordown St John's.

This session explores how autism and neurodiversity may present in children, including different ways of communicating, interacting and experiencing the world. It will also include insights from a young person's own experiences.

No diagnosis is needed to attend, and the session is open to all parents and carers living in the BCP area.

EarlyBird Plus (Ages 5–9) and Teen Life (Ages 10–16)

These two programmes, developed by the National Autistic Society, offer practical advice and support for parents and carers of autistic children. Topics include communication, sensory needs, anxiety, wellbeing and everyday family life.

Both programmes run over six weekly morning sessions. To be eligible, children must have an autism diagnosis and live in the BCP area.

How to book

Email **LTSA@linwood.bournemouth.sch.uk** to reserve a place on the introductory workshop (indicating whether you require one or two spaces) or to request an application form for EarlyBird Plus or Teen Life.

Further details are available in the accompanying course leaflets. We would encourage any families who feel they might benefit from these opportunities to get involved and make sure you include that your child attends MSJ.

THE PARISH OF FOUR SAINTS

The Parish of Four Saints

Join us this Christmas

Sunday 29 November
Advent Service of Light — St John's: 6.30pm

Sunday 6 December
Family Carols by Candlelight — St Francis: 5pm

Sunday 13 December
Community Carols & Christingle — St Luke's: 3pm
Taize Prayer for Advent — St Francis: 6.30pm

Sunday 20 December
Carols by Candlelight — St John's: 6.30pm

Thursday 24 December (Christmas Eve)
Crib Services (with alpacas) — St Francis: 3pm
St John's: 4pm
St Luke's: 5pm

Christmas in Bethlehem
(first Communion of Christmas) — St Francis: 8pm
Midnight Mass — St John's: 11.30pm

Friday 25 December (Christmas Day)
Celebration Communion — St Luke's: 10am

St Francis: Charminster Road, BH8 9SH
St John's: Wimborne Road, BH9 2SA
St Luke's: St Luke's Road, BH3 7LR

Community Christmas Market

St John's Church, Vicarage Road, BH9 2SA

Saturday 21 November

10.30am - 2pm

Admission 50p

RAFFLE

TOMBOLA

STALLS OF ALL KINDS!

REFRESHMENTS

FATHER CHRISTMAS

Cash preferred



www.foursaints.org facebook.com/parishoffoursaints

NOVEMBER 2026

Date	Time	Event
Tues 10 Nov	Morning	RISE Discovery Morning at MSJ (with the DfE)
Wed 11 Nov	9 – 9.30am	Remembrance Service (Year 6 lead)
Thu 12 Nov	9 – 10am	School nurse Parent drop-in
Mon 16 Nov	Whole Week Focus Whole day	Odd Sock Day and Anti-Bullying week 'Break the Silence' School photos (Fraser) – individual portraits
Thu 19 Nov	9–10am 3.30 – 4.30pm	Prospective Parent Tour Stay & Play for Prospective Parents
Fri 20 Nov		**REMEMBER THE DATE – SCHOOL CLOSED** Staff Development Day
Mon 23 Nov	9 - 12	ASD parent workshop led by Linwood School Please email: **LTSA@linwood.bournemouth.sch.uk** to book your space and indicate whether you would like 1 or 2 spaces.
Wed 25 Nov	9 – 12 Evening	Pavilion Carol Concert rehearsal Pavilion Carol Concert Performance Families welcome
Thu 26 Nov	9–10am 7pm	Prospective Parent Tour Directors' AGM and Finance Meeting
Fri 27 Nov	8.40am 7pm	Christmas Charity Appeal Launch of Toy Appeal with Salvation Army PFA Wreath, Drink and Be Merry See details above
Mon 30 Nov	Morning	School Parliament to visit Toy HQ at the Salvation Army Start of Advent service in school

DECEMBER 2026

Date	Time	Event
Tues 1 Dec	Tbc	PFA 12 days of Christmas raffle begins
Wed 2 Dec	1.15 -2.15pm	Prospective Parent Tour
Tues 8 Dec	All day	PFA event in school 'Elfridges' Details to follow
Wed 9 Dec	6pm	Carols by Torchlight with the Salvation Army Families welcome
Thur 10 Dec	3.30 -4.30pm	Stay n Play (prospective parents)
Mon 14 Dec	9.30am 2pm	Y2 Christmas Production Families welcome Reception Nativity Families welcome
Tues 15 Dec	9.30am 2pm	Reception Nativity Families welcome Y2 Christmas Production Families welcome
Wed 16 Dec	Lunchtime 2pm 2 – 3pm	Christmas lunch (Forerunner) Y1 Carols around the Christmas Tree Families welcome Christmas craft (Reception and Y6 buddies)
Thu 17 Dec	9am – 3B, 4S, 5S, 6C 10.30am – 3NG, 4D, 5G, 6H Afternoon	KS2 Carol Service (all KS2 involved) at St John's Church Families welcome EYFS, Y1 and Y2 Christmas Party
Fri 18 Dec	9am 12.30pm	Christmas special assembly Collection of toy appeal School closes for Christmas