



Moordown St. John's Primary School Bulletin

A Christian community where commitment to educational excellence changes lives

Autumn 1 – week 1 – Friday 4th September 2026

Headteacher Update

Welcome back to a new school year.

We introduced our renewed school vision to the children in worship yesterday, and they sat and listened brilliantly. Over the summer, I spent some time walking in the Lake District, adding a few more Wainwrights to my total. When you set out on a journey, it helps to have a map and a compass to guide you in the right direction – and the start of a new school year can feel a little like setting out on a new journey together.

Our school vision and values are our map and compass, helping to guide us as we move forward through the year ahead. At the heart of our renewed vision is a simple but important message for every child: **God loves each one of us and wants each one of us to grow and become our Blossoming BEST.**

As this new school year begins, we look forward to helping every child to **belong, excel, shine and thrive.**

Mr Ruffle



Key Message for this coming week

Please try to attend our **Curriculum Information Meetings** which are being held twice on the same day (2.00pm and 5.00pm) to enable as many as possible of you to attend. We want to work in partnership with you and we hope you will find these 45 minute meetings really useful:

Monday 7 September: Years 1 & 2

Tuesday 8 September: Years 3 & 4

Wednesday 9 September: Years 5 & 6

Wednesday 9 September: Reception (6.00pm only)

Enclosed at the end of the Bulletin:

- Autumn 26 diary dates
- 26-27 and 27-27 term dates



Other important reminders at the start of the year

Marvellous Me / Arbor App Sign up

- 77% of parents have signed up for the **Parent Arbor App**. If you have not done this yet, please click on the link from the reminder email to set this up. **We will now be using the Arbor App for direct messages from teachers to parents/carers (primary guardians), replacing Marvellous Me.**
 - Unfortunately, **MarvellousMe has been discontinued by its developers and the service will shortly close**. Importantly, we have recorded every child's current badge total so that all of the achievements and efforts recognised through MarvellousMe to date are retained.
 - We are currently working to introduce a replacement reward system. Unfortunately, the new software is experiencing some technical issues which are beyond the school's control. We will continue to praise and reward children's good choices and effort until the new system is up and running.
 - We hope the new system will be up and running soon and we will update parents as soon as we are able to launch it.
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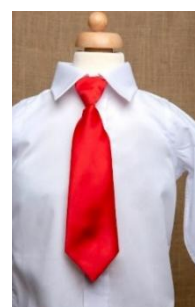


Free School Meals – New Eligibility Rules – sign up

- If you currently receive **Free School Meals**, or if your household receives Universal Credit, please complete a new application as soon as possible using the link below:
<https://www.bcpccouncil.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/support-with-education/free-school-meals>
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Uniform – Summer and Winter Uniforms allowed until October half-term

- Due to the unprecedented hot weather and reports that the UK is forecast to experience further heat waves in early Autumn, we have made the decision to extend the use of summer uniform until October half-term.
 - We also want to acknowledge how smart the Year 3 children look in their new shirts and ties!
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Smart phone policy - reminder

- Pupils are not permitted to bring smart phones on to the school site.
- If a child in Year 5 & 6 needs to bring in a phone, it must be a basic mobile phone (calls and text only) — not a smart phone.
- Smart watches/fitness trackers and location devices may be worn, but must have all cellular, camera, and sound recording functions disabled during the school day.
- All mobile phones must be switched off and handed to the class teacher at the start of the day. They will be stored safely and returned at home time.
- Any smart phones brought into school will be kept in the school office and must be collected by a parent or carer.



Exceptional Circumstances: *We understand that in very rare cases, a child may have a genuine need to bring a smartphone to school (for example, for medical reasons such as diabetes monitoring). If this applies to your child, you must make a written request to the Headteacher, outlining the reason. The Headteacher will review your application and confirm whether permission has been granted. If approved, the phone must still be used strictly in line with our school's expectations. Please note that this privilege may be withdrawn at any time if the agreement is not respected.*

Y5 and Y6 walking home independently – written permission needed

- Year 5 and Year 6 pupils have been given a paper permission slip regarding **walking home from school independently**. Please complete and return this by **Monday 7 September**, even if you have previously given permission.
 - Only Year 5 and Year 6 pupils with **current (2026/2027) written parental permission** will be allowed to leave school independently. We expect all other pupils to be collected from school by a responsible adult. Thank you for helping us to ensure that our end-of-day arrangements are safe and clear for everyone.
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Food allergy safety plan – we remain a nut, seed and pea free school

Extra-Curricular Clubs Update

Music Club

We are working with Gethin Compton, an experienced music teacher, to offer more opportunities for children to learn an instrument, sing and perform.

If you decide to opt for the 'Premium Membership', the weekly payment of £8.95 is spread across the year to make it easier for families – it can be cancelled at any time. Lessons take place during school term time. If you would like your child to take part, or if you have any questions, please contact Gethin Compton: gethinmusiclessons@gmail.com

Places are limited, so please get in touch as soon as possible if you are interested.



FIND YOUR SOUND.
LEARN.
PLAY.
PERFORM.

Exciting music opportunities for every young musician at our school!

BUILD CONFIDENCE. MAKE FRIENDS. HAVE FUN!

★ **CHOOSE THE OPTION THAT SUITS YOU**

INDIVIDUAL LESSONS	GROUP LESSONS	BAND SESSIONS	SAMBA CLUB
One-to-one lessons tailored to your child's progress and goals.	Learn alongside other young musicians in a fun and supportive setting.	Be part of a real band! Rehearse, develop skills and perform together.	Feel the rhythm! Join our energetic Samba sessions before school.
£12	£8	£4	£3
per 20-minute lesson	per session	per 30-minute session	per session
PAID TERMLY	PAID TERMLY	PAID TERMLY	PAID TERMLY

★ **MOST POPULAR!**

GO PREMIUM!
The complete music experience for just

Weekly 20-minute individual lesson + Weekly 30-minute band rehearsal + FREE Samba Club membership + Performance opportunities throughout the year

ALL FOR JUST £8.95 PER WEEK

- ✓ Build confidence
- ✓ Develop skills
- ✓ Make new friends
- ✓ Have fun!

One simple weekly payment gives your child access to the full music experience!

DEVELOP SKILLS | **BUILD CONFIDENCE** | **MAKE FRIENDS** | **PERFORM TOGETHER**

PLACES ARE LIMITED – REGISTER YOUR INTEREST TODAY!
Speak to Gethin for more information or to sign up.

gethinmusiclessons@gmail.com
Speak to Gethin at school

Extra-Curricular Clubs Update

Theatre Club



THEATRE KIDZ CLUB



@ MOORDOWN ST JOHNS PRIMARY SCHOOL FOR CHILDREN IN YEAR 1 to YEAR 6
Every Tuesday straight from school until 5.00pm, commencing 08/09/2026

At Theatre Kidz, we provide a magical and inspiring environment where children can grow in confidence, express their creativity, and develop their stage skills in fun and engaging ways.

 **Drama** – Children will explore acting and performance through improvisation, poetry, and prose. They'll build their storytelling skills and enjoy creating short plays and scenes guided by their teacher.

 **Dance** – Our dancers will learn exciting routines in popular styles such as Street, Pop, and Jazz – building rhythm, coordination, and performance technique.

At the end of the school day, children will be collected from their classrooms by a teacher and brought to the school hall, where sessions are led by our experienced and qualified Dance and Drama instructors.

If your child would like to join us please use this link for full information and to book your place:

<https://dancestudio-pro.com/online/tpa> *(Select Moordown Primary School –Theatre Kidz)*

If you do have any questions at all please drop us an email to: info@theatrekidz.com

Extra-Curricular Update

Team Theme Sports Clubs



After School Sports Clubs

Moordown St Johns Primary School

An action packed hour of fun & games every Tuesday & Thursday



MSJ After School Clubs

Tuesday - Dodgeball Club, Years 3-6

Starts 15th September, 5:15-6:15pm

Thursday - Street Dance, Years 1-6

Starts 10th September, 3:00-4:15pm

Thursday- Football Club, Years 2 & 3

Starts 10th September, 3:00-4:15pm

BOOK NOW



For more information please contact Ally on 07725 135473
TEAMTHEMESPORTSCOACHING.CO.UK

Teamtheme After School Clubs

All Teamtheme sessions are based around inclusiveness and the children being able to play and learn in a fun, safe environment.

We aim for children will develop new skills and confidence whilst being part of a team or as an individual.

MSJ after school football club, run by Mike Jeffery

Mike Jeffery's after-school football clubs will be starting again next week. The clubs are open to boys and girls and will run as follows:

- Year 6 – Mondays, starting 7 September
- Year 4 – Tuesdays, starting 8 September
- Year 5 – Fridays, starting 11 September
- Cost: £75 for a 10-week course

If your child would like to take part, please complete and return the slip to the school office, including a contact telephone number and details of any medical conditions. Paper forms can be requested from the school office.

Payment can be made by cash or BACS. If paying by cash, please return the payment with the completed slip. If paying by BACS, please still return the completed slip to school.

For any queries about the football club, please contact Mike Jeffery on 07415 130813.

Bournemouth University Sports Clubs

We are pleased that our Bournemouth University after-school sports clubs will be returning again this year. These provide children with opportunities to take part in a range of different sports led by Bournemouth University coaches.

We are currently waiting for final confirmation of the timetable and the clubs that will be on offer. We will share full details, including year groups, days and booking information, with parents as soon as these are confirmed.

Extra-curricular clubs Update

Breakfast and after-school club

The school is not yet part of the Government's 'free' breakfast club scheme. Our external providers, 115 Club, continue to facilitate breakfast and after-school provision on the school site.

To book a place, please go directly to the 115 club website (Moordown).



Breakfast Session	Afterschool Session	Holiday Session
		
 Breakfast Provided	 Snacks Available	 Snacks Available
 07:30 until Start Of School	 End of School until 18.00	 08:00 until 17:45
 Regular: £7.35 per session	 Regular: £15.95 per session	 Holiday Club: £41.90 per session
 Non-Regular: £8.40 per session	 Non-Regular: £17.25 per session	 Early Bird Holiday Club: £39.90 per session (for sessions booked & 50% securing deposit paid for 20 days before or more before the first day of Holiday Club)
 EYFS Children: £16.95 per session		

Extra-Curricular Update

MSJ Swim School

We are pleased to be expanding the range of sessions available at MSJ Swim School:

- **NEW Parent & Baby Open Session** – Wednesdays, 9.15–10.00am, just £6.50 for 45 minutes. A relaxed opportunity for parents and babies to enjoy time together in our school pool.
- **NEW Adult Beginner Lessons** – Thursdays, 6.15–6.45pm, £9 per lesson. Friendly lessons designed for adults who are new to swimming or would like to build their confidence in the water.

Alongside these new sessions, our usual children's swimming lessons continue throughout the week. Please help us spread the word to friends and family who might be interested!



The poster features a top section with a photograph of three children in a swimming pool, wearing swim caps and goggles. To their right is the MSJ Swim School logo, which includes cartoon characters and the text 'MSJ SWIM SCHOOL'. Below the photo, the text reads 'From first splash to confident swimmer in your community pool'. The lower half of the poster is a blue wave graphic containing several text blocks and icons. The text blocks provide details on class times, levels, instructors, cost, and booking. Icons of a beach ball, goggles, and a snorkel are also present.

MSJ SWIM SCHOOL
From first splash to confident swimmer in your community pool

Class Times:
Mondays - Thursdays : 3:15pm -6:40pm
Fridays: 3:15pm - 3:45pm
Wednesdays & Fridays 10:45am-11:45am

Levels:
Ducklings & Stages 1-7 (Swim England)
Suitable for all ages

Expert Instructors:
Taught by Mrs. Trotman & Ms. Meharg –
Level 2 Swimming Instructors

Cost:
£9.00 per lesson

How to Book:
Visit our website for more information
msjswimschool@courseprogress.co.uk to sign up today!

Questions?
Email us at: msjswimschool@st-johns.bournemouth.sch.uk



Autumn term dates 2026-27

AUTUMN TERM

SEPTEMBER 2026

Date	Time	Event
Tue 1 Sept		Staff Development Day – School closed to pupils
Wed 2 Sept		Staff Development Day – School closed to pupils
Thu 3 Sept	8.20am	Children return to school – Start of Autumn 1 1:1 meetings with EYFS parents
Mon 7 Sept	2pm and 5pm	Y1 & Y2 Curriculum Evenings 1:1 meetings with EYFS parents
Tue 8 Sept	2pm and 5pm	Y3 & Y4 Curriculum Evenings 1:1 meetings with EYFS parents
Tue 8 Sept		EYFS start part time Group A 8.30 – 11.30 Group B 12.30 – 3
Wed 9 Sept	2pm and 5pm 6pm	Y5 & Y6 Curriculum Evenings Reception Curriculum Evening
Mon 14 Sept	8.20am	EYFS start full time
Tues 15 Sept	7pm	PFA AGM
Thurs 24 Sept	9 – 10am 7pm	Prospective Parent Tour Directors' Board Meeting
Mon 28 Sept	8.20	Bournemouth Food Bank Appeal (for Harvest)

OCTOBER 2026

Date	Time	Event
Thu 1 Oct		School Census
Fri 2 Oct	8.45 – 9.15am	Welcome Service at St John's Church (Year 6 and EYFS children) led by 5G Families welcome
Fri 2 Oct	9.45am – 10.30am – 1F, 2C, 3NG, 4D led by 5S 10.45am – 11.30am – 1MT, 2BL, 3B, 4S led by 5G	Whole School Harvest Service (Year 5 lead) at St. John's Church Families welcome
Tues 6 Oct	All day	SCARF Life Education Workshops (KS2)
Wed 7 Oct	All day	SCARF Life Education Workshops (KS2)
Thu 8 Oct	9–10am 3.30–4.30pm	Prospective Parent Tour Stay & Play

W/C 12 Oct	Whole week focus	Black History Activities
Tues 13 Oct	1 – 2.45	Pavilion Carol Concert Rehearsal @ Epiphany
Thu 15 Oct	7pm	PFA Disco (tbc) Directors' Board Meeting
Mon 19 Oct	3.20–6pm	Parents Evening (virtual)
Wed 21 Oct	1.15 – 2.15pm	Prospective Parent Tour
Wed 21 Oct	3.20–7pm	Parents Evening (virtual)
Fri 23 Oct	3pm	School closes for October Half Term <i>Please note that the application deadline for secondary school (Y6) is the 31.10.26</i>

NOVEMBER 2026

Date	Time	Event
Mon 2 Nov		Staff Development Day
Tue 3 Nov	8.20	Children return – Start of Autumn 2
Wed 4 Nov	9.15 – 11.30	Pavilion Carol Concert rehearsal @ Epiphany
Thu 5 Nov	6–6.30pm	Prospective Parent Information Evening
Fri 6 Nov	2 – 3pm	Team Reward (Aut 1)
Tues 10 Nov	Morning	RISE Discovery Morning at MSJ (with the DfE)
Wed 11 Nov	9 – 9.30am	Remembrance Service (Year 6 lead)
Mon 16 Nov	Whole Week Focus	Odd Sock Day and Anti-Bullying week 'Break the Silence'
	Whole day	School photos (Fraser) – individual portraits
Thu 19 Nov	9–10am	Prospective Parent Tour
	3.30 – 4.30pm	Stay & Play for Prospective Parents
Fri 20 Nov		Staff Development Day
Wed 25 Nov	9 – 12	Pavilion Carol Concert rehearsal
	Evening	Pavilion Carol Concert Performance Families welcome
Thu 26 Nov	9–10am	Prospective Parent Tour
	7pm	Directors' AGM and Finance Meeting
Fri 27 Nov	8.40am	Christmas Charity Appeal Launch of Toy Appeal with Salvation Army
Nov		Reception vision checks (tbc)

DECEMBER 2026

Date	Time	Event
Mon 30 Nov	8.40am	Advent Service in school
Wed 2 Dec	1.15 -2.15pm	Prospective Parent Tour
Fri 4 Dec		PFA Christmas Event (tbc) Families welcome
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)
		Flu Vaccinations (tbc)
Mon 14 Dec	9.30am	Y2 Christmas Production Families welcome
	2pm	Reception Nativity Families welcome
Tues 15 Dec	9.30am	Reception Nativity Families welcome
	2pm	Y2 Christmas Production Families welcome
Wed 16 Dec	Lunchtime	Christmas lunch (Forerunner)
	2pm	Y1 Carols around the Christmas Tree Families welcome
	2 – 3pm	Christmas craft (Reception and Y6 buddies)
Thu 17 Dec	9am – 3B, 4S, 5S, 6C	KS2 Carol Service (all KS2 involved) at St John's Church Families welcome
	10.30am – 3NG, 4D, 5G, 6H	
	Afternoon	EYFS, Y1 and Y2 Christmas Party
Fri 18 Dec	9am	Christmas special assembly
		Collection of toy appeal
	12.30pm	School closes for Christmas

Term dates 2026-27

Please keep these dates handy for the school year ahead.

Autumn Term 2026

First day for Y1 to Y6 pupils: Thursday 3 September 2026

Half-term: Monday 26 October – Monday 2 November

Pupils return: Tuesday 3 November

Last day of term: Friday 18 December – school closes at 12.30pm

Spring Term 2027

First day for pupils: Tuesday 5 January 2027

Half-term: Monday 15 February – Friday 19 February

Pupils return: Monday 22 February

Last day of term: Thursday 25 March – school closes at 12.30pm

Summer Term 2027

First day for pupils: Monday 12 April 2027

May Bank Holiday: Monday 3 May – school closed

Half-term: Monday 31 May – Monday 7 June

Pupils return: Tuesday 8 June

Last day of term: Wednesday 21 July – school closes at 12.30pm

Staff Development (INSET) Days

School is closed to pupils on the following dates:

- Tuesday 1 September 2026
- Wednesday 2 September 2026
- Monday 2 November 2026
- Friday 20 November 2026
- Monday 4 January 2027
- Monday 7 June 2027

Please note that some INSET days have been placed alongside school holidays or half-term breaks, so please check the dates carefully when making childcare or holiday arrangements.

Term dates 2027-28

Autumn Term 2027

First day for pupils: Monday 6 September 2027

Half-term: Monday 25 October – Monday 1 November

Pupils return: Tuesday 2 November

Last day of term: Friday 17 December – school closes at 12.30pm

Spring Term 2028

First day for pupils: Wednesday 5 January 2028

Half-term: Monday 14 February – Friday 18 February

Pupils return: Monday 21 February

Last day of term: Friday 31 March – school closes at 12.30pm

Summer Term 2028

First day for pupils: Tuesday 18 April 2028

May Bank Holiday: Monday 1 May – school closed

Half-term: Monday 29 May – Monday 5 June

Pupils return: Tuesday 6 June

Last day of term: Friday 21 July – school closes at 12.30pm

Staff Development (INSET) Days

School is closed to pupils on the following dates:

- Wednesday 1 September 2027
- Thursday 2 September 2027
- Friday 3 September 2027
- Monday 1 November 2027
- Friday 19 November 2027
- Tuesday 4 January 2028
- Monday 5 June 2028

Please note that some INSET days have been placed alongside school holidays or half-term breaks, so please check the dates carefully when making childcare or holiday arrangements.