Moordown St. John's
Church of England Primary School

Autumn 1 Week 3—Friday 19th September 2025

HEADTEACHER UPDATE

As we settle into the rhythm of a new school year, it's been wonderful to see our classrooms, playgrounds and hallways buzzing again. With routines now taking shape, we're excited to share our extra-curricular plans for the Autumn, as well as a recap of some of the key messages from the curriculum evenings.

Safeguarding Information

At MSJ, keeping every child safe is our top priority. To help with this, we have specially trained staff members called **Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSLs).** Their job is to make sure children are safe, listened to, and supported if they have any worries or concerns.

What Do DSLs Do?

- Listen to concerns about a child's safety or wellbeing.
- Take action if a child may be at risk of harm.
- Work with staff, parents, and outside agencies to keep children safe.
- Make sure safeguarding is always at the heart of school life.

If you ever have a concern about the safety or welfare of a child, you can speak directly to one of our DSLs.

Our Keep Safe Code for children

We teach all children a simple phrase so they know how to ask for help if something is happening that makes them feel uncomfortable:

"Please don't do that, I don't like it. If they don't stop, tell a trusted adult."

This helps children remember that:

- They have the right to say when they don't like something.
- If someone doesn't listen, they must tell an adult they trust.
- Every child should feel they have an adult in school who will listen and help.

By working together, we can make sure every child feels safe, supported and heard.

End of Day Collection - Reminders

To help keep every child safe at home time, we ask for your support with our end of day arrangements:

- **Y5 & Y6 walkers:** Children may walk home on their own if we have written permission from a parent/carer.
- **Responsible adults:** Children will only be handed over to adults (16+) who are named as authorised collectors. Please make sure your list of authorised adults is up to date with the school office.
- **Changes to arrangements:** We understand plans can change, but please inform the office as soon as possible. Notifications after 2:30pm may delay dismissal while the office confirm with the class teacher that the change is authorised.
- **After-school clubs:** Please also inform 115 and other clubs as soon as possible of any changes. We work closely with providers and club registers are shared with us so we know exactly where each child should be.

Use of Fidgets in School

Fidgets can be a useful sensory tool to help some children focus, but they can also distract others if not used properly.

- Only school-approved fidgets may be used in class. We have invested in lots of new ones over the summer.
- If your child needs a fidget, please speak with their teacher so we can agree on what will work best.
- Fidgets are learning tools, not toys. If they cause distraction, we may need to review their use.
- Any unapproved fidgets brought into school will be kept safely by staff and returned at the end of the day.

PE Safety – Earrings and Jewellery / Borrowing swimming costumes

For safety reasons, and in line with national guidance (afPE), all jewellery, including earrings, must be removed for PE lessons.

- If children cannot remove earrings themselves, they will take on a non-practical role during the lesson.
- Please arrange any new ear piercings at the start of school holidays, so they have time to heal before PE.
- Staff are not able to remove or replace earrings for pupils.

For health and hygiene reasons, the school does not provide spare swimming kits. If your child forgets their costume, they will unfortunately be unable to take part in the swimming lesson. In this case, parents/carers will be contacted.

European Day of Languages – Next Friday!

Next Friday we will be celebrating the European Day of Languages with a special focus on **French.**

The children will enjoy a fun-filled day "travelling around France" and collecting stamps in their own passports as they visit different stations. Activities will include French artwork, a café experience (with croissants and orange squash!), learning French songs, playing pétanque and a habitat hunt.

Each 30-minute session will help the children develop their French vocabulary while gaining a real appreciation of French culture.

Election time!

We will announce our new **Team Captains and School Parliament MPs** in our September newsletter (next week!). Well done to everyone who was brave enough to stand and take part, even if you were unsuccessful this time.

Harvest time!

Just an important advance notice that our Harvest services are on Friday 3rd October. Year 5 will be leading these services and our theme is 'Harvests of Hope'. We will be collecting donations for Bournemouth foodbank again. More information will follow in next week's newsletter.

Fruit of the Spirit ethos - underpinning theological texts

A core Bible text guiding the actions and decisions at MSJ for many years has been from the book of Galatians. It has become our values statement.

Galatians 5 v22-23: But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.

We've been working closely with the Diocese of Winchester to further develop our Christian ethos. As we know, nine values can feel like a lot for young children to fully grasp, so to make them more accessible we'll be exploring them through three core Bible stories: *The Prodigal Son*, *The Lost Sheep*, and *The Calming of the Storm*. These stories will help bring the values to life in ways the children can understand and relate to.

Rev Renate and Y6 led a brilliant worship last Friday introducing the story of the calming of the storm and linking it to the peace that Jesus can bring to the storms in our life.

Moordown St. John's
Church of England Primary School

Autumn 1 term dates

SEPTEMBER 2025		
Friday 26 September	All day	European day of languages
OCTOBER 2025		
Thursday 2 October		CENSUS
		FDB Director Meeting
Friday 3 October	8.45am – 9.15am 9.45am – 10.30am 10.45am – 11.30am	EYFS / Y6 – Welcome Service @ St. John's Church led by 5H 1F, 2NG, 3B, 4C, 6C led by 5H—Harvest Service @ St John's 1B, 2B, 3E, 4S, 6H led by 5H - Harvest service @ St John's *Harvest contributions in support of Winton & Moordown food banks*
Tuesday 7 October		KS2 SCARF Visit
Wednesday 8 October		KS2 SCARF Visit
Thursday 9 October	9 – 10 3.30 – 4.30	Prospective parent tour (studio) Stay & Play
	tbc	Live & Inspired Concert Live Music concert with professional musicians
W/C 13 October		Black History week
Tuesday 14 October	1 – 2.45	Choir rehearsals at Epiphany
Wednesday 15 October	2—3pm	EYFS story sharing & phonics information with parents
Thursday 16th October		PFA Disco
Monday 20 October	15.20 – 18.00	Parents Evening (virtual)
		Flu Immunisations tbc
Tuesday 21 October	9 - 10	Prospective parent tour (studio)
	tbc	Reception height and weight checks
Wednesday 22 October	15.20 – 19.00	Parents Evening (virtual)
Thursday 23 October	2.45 – 15.15	PFA Uniform Sale
Friday 24 October	15.00	**School closes for half-term holiday**

Moordown St. John's
Church of England Primary School

Autumn 2 term dates

NOVEMBER 2025		
Monday 3 November		**School Development Day** – school closed to children
Tuesday 4 November	8.20	**Children return to school – Start of Autumn 2**
Wednesday 5 November	9 – 11.30 2 – 3pm	Choir rehearsal at Epiphany EYFS parent workshop Reading @ home focus
Thursday 6 November	 6 – 6.30pm	Bovington – Year 6 Trip Prospective parents – evening information presentation
Monday 10 November		Start of Anti-bullying week + interfaith week Odd Sock Day
Tuesday 11 November		Remembrance Service & prayer stations
Wednesday 12 November	3.30 – 4.30	Stay & Play
Thursday 13 November	9 - 10	Prospective parent tour (studio)
Monday 17 November		Launch of Toy Appeal with the Salvation Army Fraser Portraits Individual and sibling photos
W/C 17 November		UK Parliament Week
Tuesday18 November		BST Heads meeting (am)
Fri 21 November		**School Development Day** – school closed to children
Wednesday 26 November	9 - 10	Prospective parent tour (studio) Pavillion Carol Concert
		Finance & AGM Directors Meeting
28th November		PFA Wreath night
DECEMBER 2025		
Monday 1 December	8.40	Advent service
Thursday 4 December	9 - 10	Prospective parent tour (studio)
		FDB Directors Meeting
Friday 5th December		PFA Christmas Fair
W/C 8 December		Pupil Progress Meetings
		Rocksteady Concert
Monday 15 December		Reception Nativity and Y1/2 Christmas Production
Tuesday 16 December		Reception Nativity and Y1/2 Christmas Production Carols by Torchlight
Thurs 18 December	 2.45 – 3.15pm	KS2 Carol Service PFA Uniform sale
Fri 19 December	12.30pm	School Ends