



Moordown St. John's Primary School Bulletin

A Christian community where commitment to educational excellence changes lives

Autumn 1 – Week 6 – Friday 9th October 2026

Headteacher Update

There's no Bulletins for a week and then two come along at once! We're getting back on track by sharing this week's bulletin on Friday, as usual.

This week, the SCARF Life Education team delivered fun, engaging health and wellbeing workshops. With help from Harold the giraffe, children explored healthy lifestyles, physical and mental health, feelings, friendships and safe relationships.



The sessions encouraged pupils to express their needs and feelings and make healthy choices. As the photo shows, Harold definitely won me over...

Mr Ruffle
Headteacher

Worship news

This week, we introduced the second of our four anchor Bible stories, The Wise and Foolish Builders (Matthew 7:24–27), linking to the *Excel* part of our Blossoming BEST vision.



We explored what it means to be wise, recognising that wisdom is more than simply knowing things – it is about making good choices and doing what is right. Jesus teaches us that, just as a house built on rock stands firm during a storm, we build strong foundations for life when we listen to his teaching and put it into practice.

Key updates

To clarify a few points from our last bulletin:

School email addresses

Please use the following addresses:

- School office for all general enquiries: msjoffice@st-johns.bournemouth.sch.uk — please note that this begins with msjoffice, rather than just “office”.
- Safeguarding concerns: MSJSafeguarding@st-johns.bournemouth.sch.uk
- SEND queries: MSJSEND@st-johns.bournemouth.sch.uk

For urgent matters during the school day, please telephone the office on 01202 527683.

Messages through Arbor

We currently use Arbor to send messages home. The app can only receive attendance information from parents and carers at present. Please use the relevant email address above for other enquiries. Arbor can not be used to send messages to school at this stage.

BEST Me badges on Arbor

You will not receive an automatic notification when your child is awarded a BEST Me badge. To see their achievements, please click the reward icon in Arbor. This will show your child's running total and all their reward messages—a lovely opportunity to celebrate their successes together.

Key reminders

1. Parents' Evenings

Our virtual Parents' Evenings for Years R–6 are:

Monday 19 October: 3.20–6.00pm

Wednesday 21 October: 3.50–7.00pm

Bookings are now open through the [online booking system](#).

2. Holiday vouchers and free school meals

BCP Council has confirmed that, following changes to government funding, supermarket food vouchers will no longer be provided during school holidays from October half term 2026 onwards. [Food Support for Families page](#).

More families are eligible for free school meals and it is not too late to apply.

[🔗 Check your eligibility and find out more about Free School Meals.](#)

3. School nurse drop-in

Our school nurse will be visiting the school on Thursday 12th October. If you would like to drop in to speak with her, she will be available from 9am until 10am.

Next week

Monday 12 October – Year 6 Height and Weight Checks

The school nursing team will carry out the National Child Measurement Programme (NCMP) checks for Year 6 pupils.

Monday 12 – Friday 16 October – Black History Month Focus

Next week, we continue our long-standing tradition of celebrating Black History Month. This year's theme, Honouring Our Communities, connects closely with our BEST value of Belong. Children will explore the stories and contributions of Black people throughout British history, culminating in a special celebration worship on Friday.

Wednesday 14 October – Funeral of Mrs Linda Knight

Linda was a much-valued member of the MSJ community, serving as a Teaching Assistant and lunchtime supervisor from September 1991 until her retirement in March 2024. We remember her with great affection and gratitude. Her funeral will take place at Holy Epiphany Church, Castle Lane West, at 2.00pm. Our thoughts and prayers remain with her family and friends.



Wednesday 14 October – EYFS Traditional Tales finale

EYFS parents are welcome to join the children for their traditional tales finale in the school hall. 2:15pm to 2:45pm. Children are asked to come dressed up for the day – please no superhero outfits!

Thursday 15 October – PFA School Disco

Our first PFA disco of the school year! Thank you to the PFA for organising what promises to be an exciting event for the children.

Timings for the disco are:

- EYFS and Year 1 – 3:30 – 4:30pm
- Year 2 and Year 3 – 4:45 – 5:45pm
- Year 4, 5 and Year 6 – 6:00 – 7:00pm

Great news!

As I finish the bulletin this afternoon, look what's just popped into my inbox.

Well done everyone!



READ to the BEAT **Summer Reading Challenge**

WINNER

Congratulations!

Moordown St John's Primary School is this year's winner of the **Heather Young Trophy** for the biggest increase in participation in the **Summer Reading Challenge** from 2025 - 2026

We'd love to come and present the trophy to you in an assembly. Please reply to this email to contact Sarah or Rowena and arrange a time.

BCP Council

The trophy is a large, ornate metal sphere with a wooden base and a curved handle. A small plaque on the base reads: "Heather Young Trophy Awarded for the biggest increase in participation in the Summer Reading Challenge 2025-2026". A cartoon girl in a purple outfit is dancing next to the trophy.

Autumn term dates 2026-27

AUTUMN TERM

OCTOBER 2026

Date	Time	Event
W/C 12 Oct	Whole week focus	Black History Activities Year 6 NHS National measurement programme
Tues 13 Oct	1 – 2.45	Pavilion Carol Concert Rehearsal @ Epiphany
Wed 14 Oct	2.15 – 2.45	EYFS traditional tale finale in the school hall Parents welcome Year 5 & 6 Girls' football tournament @ Littledown
Thu 15 Oct	From 3:30pm 7pm	PFA Disco Directors' Board Meeting
Mon 19 Oct	Morning and afternoon 3.20–6pm	Flu vaccinations taking place in school Dorset nursing service Parents Evening (virtual)
Wed 21 Oct	Morning 1.15 – 2.15pm From 12:30pm	Year 2, 5 and 6 - African drumming workshops Prospective Parent Tour Year 5 Boys' football tournament @ Littledown
Wed 21 Oct	3.20–7pm	Parents Evening (virtual)
Fri 23 Oct	All day 3pm	Year 6 - Bovington Tank Museum Trip 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)
Thu 12 Nov	9 – 10am	School nurse Parent drop-in
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
Mon 23 Nov	9 - 12	ASD parent workshop led by Linwood School This half-day session provides parents with a basic overview of how Autism and Neurodiversity may present in children and young people. The session is FREE and open to families who live in the BCP area. Your child does not need to have a diagnosis for you to attend. 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	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