

Manorbrook School and Community Newsletter



Aiming for Excellence

No. 1 11th September 2026

Welcome Back!



Dear parents, carers and friends,

It has been wonderful to welcome everyone back to Manorbrook and to see the school come alive again after the summer. As I mentioned in my welcome letter, there is a real sense of excitement about the year ahead, and that has certainly been evident during our first full week. The children have returned brilliantly, settling into their new classes, reconnecting with friends and getting stuck into their learning. There have been lots of smiling faces, busy classrooms and plenty of those lovely conversations that remind us just how special our school is.

There is certainly no shortage of things happening already! Alongside the children getting to know their new routines and teachers, we are continuing to make the most of the opportunities that come with a new school year. We are looking forward to developing our teaching and learning further, expanding the opportunities available to children at lunchtime, strengthening our enrichment offer and continuing to build on the many positive things already happening across the school. With our ongoing expansion and the changes around the site, there is also plenty to keep us busy behind the scenes, but it is fantastic to see the school continuing to move forward.

For those who are new to Manorbrook, our newsletter is produced fortnightly and emailed to all parents and families. It is one of the key ways we share information, celebrate what has been happening in school and provide important reminders about upcoming events and activities. We would encourage everyone to take a few minutes to read it each time it arrives so that you can keep up to date with everything happening across our busy school. The newsletter will also be available on our school website, providing another way to access the information if you happen to miss an edition.

Thank you, as always, for your support as we begin another exciting year together. Starting a new school year always brings a mixture of excitement, anticipation and a few nerves, particularly when there are lots of changes happening, but the children have made a fantastic start. I am incredibly proud of them and of the staff who have worked so hard to make the first week such a positive one. We have a busy and exciting year ahead, and I am looking forward to sharing it with you all as we continue to live our Manorbrook values of Respect, Responsibility and Resilience and, together, keep Aiming for Excellence.

Wishing you a lovely weekend

Paul Medlicott

Y6 Camp Meeting

Y6 parent camp meeting will be held on Tuesday 15th September at 6pm in the Y6 classroom.

“Meet the Teacher” Drop-in Sessions

Our Meet the Teacher sessions are an opportunity for you to meet your child’s new class teacher and learn about some of the new routines that your child will hopefully already be familiar with. Sessions will start at 2.45pm. The dates for these sessions in September are as follows:

Mon 21st – Starlings

Wed 23rd – Goldfinches, Chaffinches, Robins, Swifts

Thurs 24th – Wagtails, Blackbirds, Sparrows

Fri 25th - Jackdaws

Reception(EYFS) class staff are currently meeting all our new families on their home visits.

Commendation Assemblies

The first of our Commendation Assemblies will begin on Friday 25th September at 9am in the KS1 hall. This will be for KS1 children (Year 1 & 2) with the following week being for KS2 children (Year 3, 4, 5, & 6). The assemblies will then alternate with KS1 one week and KS2 the next. These assemblies will begin at 9am and you will receive a message in advance if your child is receiving a Commendation in the assembly that week.

Clubs

Please be advised that teacher led clubs start next week (not applicable to Reception children until the 2nd term). Future Stars dates are available on their website.



Times Tables Rock Stars – Years 2 to 6

Times Tables Rock Stars have made some adjustments to their site which help support the Digital Wellbeing of their users. They have introduced a curfew so that schools can limit the hours that pupils access the site outside of the school day. We have set the times that pupils can log on as from 6.30am to 8pm. Outside of these hours, pupils will not be able to log on to the website. They have also added in a daily limit of minutes that can be played outside of the school day in order to reduce screen time. We have set this limit to 20 minutes and pupils will get a message when they are close to reaching this reminding them to log out soon. If you would like a reminder of your log on details from last year, please do ask the class teacher. Log on details for new accounts should be coming out soon.

Getting About In Thornbury

South Glos have invited residents to view the proposed designs for the Getting About in Thornbury project and to share how the feedback from the community has helped shape the plans. The drop-in event takes place on Wednesday 23rd September, 3pm to 6pm at 1st Thornbury Scout Group, Sinclair Hall, Park Road, Thornbury, BS35 1HU.

At the event, you will be able to learn more about the proposals, meet the project team, and see how local views have influenced the designs.

To find out more about the project, visit https://orlo.uk/Getting_About_In_Thornbury_1h9Mf

Reading Buddies

Can you spare a little time at the start or end of the school day?

We are keen to increase the support for our children as they learn to read and are looking for volunteers who would be willing to stay for a little while after dropping their children off in the morning, or to come in slightly earlier in the afternoon before collecting their children.

Even as little as ten or twenty minutes can be valuable, as it enables one or two extra children to be heard reading. So even if you can only spare a little bit of one morning or afternoon a week, please let us know, so we can increase the support for our young readers.

Being a reading buddy is easy to do; it makes an enormous difference to children and can be hugely satisfying. **The more volunteers we can attract, the more children can be helped.**

If you want to offer your help, or would like to know more, please get in touch with us! You can email the office and your details will be sent on to Mrs Haines, and she will talk you through how to get started.

Safeguarding

If you have a safeguarding concern/information that you need to contact us about, we have a new dedicated email address that you can use. This is safeguarding@manorbrook.org.uk and it will be delivered to the safeguarding team. Please only use this for confidential safeguarding concerns/information. All other information will need to continue to be sent to the office through enquires@manorbrook.org.uk. If safeguarding information is sent to the office address, it will continue to be forwarded to the safeguarding team, as previously.

Arbor App/Parent Portal

We use Arbor for our communication to parents via email and the Arbor in-app messages. Commendation messages are sent out on a Thursday afternoon and will be sent by in-app messaging as well as email. Any urgent messages will be sent by in-app messages or a phone call. All other non-urgent communications will generally be sent via email.

It is therefore essential that all parents / carers have logged into the Arbor app. Please check your phone settings to ensure that notifications have been enabled/allowed for the app so that you are aware when a message has been received.

Parent Pay – School Lunches

As you will be aware, our cashless Parent Pay system allows you to order and pay for your child's meals up to three weeks in advance, paying for the meals upon ordering. This avoids the build-up of any debt on the account. Occasionally, if a child does not have a meal pre-ordered on the system, or has arrived with no packed lunch, the teacher can submit the order on the family's behalf during morning registration to address this. When this happens, the charge for that meal appears on your Parent Pay account and must be paid as soon as possible to maintain a clear balance.

This is a reminder that ordering should as a rule be done at home, whereas ordering in school should only be an occasional occurrence, not done on a regular basis.

Please will you kindly ensure that your Parent Pay account remains in credit or at zero balance at all times. Anyone with an outstanding balance will be contacted to address this asap. If there is an outstanding balance of £9.20 or above, the child's name will not appear on the whiteboard at registration to allow an ad hoc lunch to be booked until such time that the balance has been cleared. As always, please do not hesitate to get in touch with the office staff if you are having difficulties clearing your balance, and we will be happy to discuss possible ways in which we can help.

Car Park

A polite reminder please that the car park is for staff parking only and should not be used by parents for dropping off/collecting children.

Packed lunches

We ask parents to provide healthy food and **not to put sweets or chocolates in lunch boxes.** (One small biscuit bar with a little chocolate is permitted.) **Please do not include** condensed fruit snacks such as fruit bars, fruit winders, fruit pellets and yoghurt-coated fruit flakes, as they often contain even more sugar than the sweets we already don't allow.

Children should bring only water to drink in a clear bottle with a sports top please.

This year we want to continue our Eco-school work to reduce single-use plastic waste. The children are very proud to show where they have used reusable tubs or recyclable foil instead of plastic to help reduce landfill. Anything you can do to help with this would be appreciated.

Nuts

We remain a 'nut free' school. Please ensure that nuts are never included in packed lunches, because some children at school (and some of their family members) and a member of staff are affected by severe nut allergies. (This includes nutty sandwich spread, e.g. Nutella, as well as biscuit bars and cakes containing nut products.)

Birthday Sweets

A polite reminder that we do not allow the giving out of birthday sweets, etc, in school.

Sharing of Videos/Photos Online

Please can we remind you not to share photos or videos of children at school or school events in social media or other online platforms. Whilst you may be happy for your child's image to appear online, we have some children in our community that, for a variety of reasons, should not appear. As a community school, please help us to keep everyone happy and safe by keeping any images and videos of school events etc between yourself and your family. Thanks for your support with this.

Notifications of alternative collection

Please could parents try to ensure that any notifications of someone else collecting your child from school are advised before 2.30pm where possible. Notifications received very close to collection time may not be passed/picked up in time.

Dogs in School Grounds

Please can we remind parents that dogs are not allowed to be brought onto the school grounds/playground at any time. If you have someone else dropping off or collecting your child, please can you ensure that they are aware of this also. Thank you.

Use Of Grounds Before/After School

As families use the grounds before and after school for the children to play, we wanted to just share some quick reminders:

- Equipment should not be used before school due to the number of people in a small area.
- As has been the case previously, please could we remind you that children are not allowed to play in the woodland area before or after school.
- All children need to be supervised by parents during these times and the grounds/facilities are used at your own risk. Unfortunately, the school cannot accept any liability for accidents that may occur during this time.

We thank you for your support with this.

Uniform, watches and mobile phones

As we start this term, the children have returned looking great in their uniform- thanks for your help with this. Just in case you have forgotten any of our uniform requirements over the summer, we will send out our Uniform Guidance with this newsletter. Just a reminder about the information on watches from the guidance:

“Watches and simple fitness monitors are acceptable. We would recommend something really simple and cheap, as watches are easily lost or broken.

Please note: wristwear which allows other functions that might be found on a phone, like games, messaging or recording, are not allowed. Children will be asked to take these off.

Please do also look at our website where you will find our new Mobile Phone Policy. This can be found at: <https://www.manorbrook.org.uk/site/data/files/migrated/policies-and-statutory-information/7028C4BA6C49F5403DD65B2210B76D3D.pdf>

Reception Class Open Days for September 2027

If you know someone who is looking for a place in Reception 2027, we have tours of the school taking place from the week commencing 19th October. All the dates/times are available on our website. Please phone or email the office to add names to the list.

Term Dates for Children to Attend in 2026 – 27

School Term Dates (2026–2027)

- **Term 1:** Tuesday 1 September 2026 – Friday 23 October 2026
- **Term 2:** Monday 2 November 2026 – Friday 18 December 2026
- **Term 3:** Monday 4 January 2027 – Friday 12 February 2027
- **Term 4:** Monday 22 February 2027 – Thursday 25 March 2027
- **Term 5:** Monday 12 April 2027 – Friday 28 May 2027
- **Term 6:** Monday 7 June 2027 – Wednesday 21 July 2027

INSET DAYS

The school allocates five INSET days per academic year. Children do not attend on these days:

The five INSET days for 2026-27 are as follows:

INSET 1 2nd September

INSET 2 2nd November

INSET 3 4th January 27

INSET 4 25th March 27

INSET 5 30th April 27

Walk to School Wednesdays and Fridays



We count Walk to School numbers on Wednesdays and Fridays. Please try and support this if you can; if you drive to school, you may be able to stop the car a distance from school and walk the rest of the way. ***We award the golden trainer to the class with the highest percentage of walkers.***



Manorbrook Primary School is taking part in **WOW – the walk to school challenge** delivered by Living Streets, the UK charity for everyday walking, to help as many children as possible experience the benefits of walking or wheeling to school. Last summer Years 3, 4 and 5 participated in WOW and we would now like to involve the whole school, encouraging our families to travel to school as actively and sustainably as possible.

The pupil-led challenge enables children to self-report how they get to school every day. If they travel actively (walk/wheel, cycle, scoot, 'Park and Stride' or hop off) at least once a week, for a month, they get rewarded with a badge. It's that simple!

What are the benefits of walking to school?

- Children feel happier and healthier
- They arrive at school refreshed and ready to learn
- Helps reduce congestion and pollution at the school gates

What if we can't walk to school?

If driving, 'Park and Stride' to help your child earn their WOW badges. Park **at least a 5 minute walk away** from the school and walk or wheel the remaining journey.

What is a WOW badge? There are 11 badges to earn from September 2026 to July 2027. A new badge can be earned every month if pupils walk/wheel, cycle, scoot, 'Park and Stride' or hop off at least once a week.

WOW 2026/27 encourages pupils to **Walk the Senses**, with badges depicting everything from scooters to sunflowers. The badges are made in Cornwall from material that was otherwise destined for landfill, including fridge trays, plastic plates and yoghurt pot off-cuts. For more information, visit: livingstreets.org.uk/recycling.

Last year, around 2,000 schools and over 500,000 pupils across the UK enjoyed the benefits of walking to school with WOW. We hope that you will join us on our new challenge.

If you would like to learn more about this exciting initiative, please visit

www.livingstreets.org.uk/wowlaunch#WOWresources. Click on 'Video guides' and view the 'What is WOW?' video.



'Friends of Manorbrook' News

FOM AGM: Please come along to our Annual General Meeting on **Thursday 24th September** at 7pm at the school to vote in new trustees, hear more about the year ahead and share your ideas. Everyone is welcome and we love to see new faces.

There are a few roles that we are looking to recruit for this academic year. These include:

- Trustee - being part of the team that oversees how FOM runs; and
- Social media volunteer - responsible for managing the FOM accounts and posting regularly on Facebook and Instagram.

If you are interested in any of these roles, please email the address below or mention it to one of the trustees and we will happily have a chat with you about it.

Reception Welcome Event: Remember to book your tickets asap (in advance only, via the link below) for FOM's new welcome event exclusively for our **Reception starters** and their

siblings! Join us at the school on **Friday 2nd October** for magic and fun with popular children's entertainer Lucy Lost-It. Doors open 4pm, show 4.15-4.45pm.

This is not a drop-off event. Tickets cost £5 per child, adults and under-2s go free but still need to book a ticket. Refreshments included. <https://www.pta-events.co.uk/friendsofmanorbrook>

Disco: The school disco returns on **Thursday 22nd October** – bookings will open shortly. Please note: to manage capacity constraints and allow our youngest children the chance to settle in, this event will be open to Year 1 classes and upwards only.

Cake sale: Our next cake sale will be taking place on **Friday 25th September**. Thank you in advance to the Year 2 classes for baking the cakes! We are proud to announce that half the proceeds from this cake sale will go to Macmillan Cancer Support.

100 Club: The winning numbers for the August draw are:

1st place (£21.60) 5 C Wood

2nd place (£10.80) 10 D McCabe

3rd place (£3.60) 18 R Owen

Congratulations to the winners. Commiserations if you were unlucky this time.

Interested in being a future winner? Just £2 a month gains entry into the monthly draw. The more who sign up, the higher the cash prizes!

For more details and to enter email friendsofmanorbrook@gmail.com

email friendsofmanorbrook@gmail.com

Facebook: [friendsofmanorbrook](https://www.facebook.com/friendsofmanorbrook)

Instagram: [@friendsofmanorbrook](https://www.instagram.com/friendsofmanorbrook)

Inset Days remaining – 2nd November, 4th January 2027, 25th March 2027, 30th April 2027

SEPTEMBER		
Tuesday 15 th	18:00	Y6 Camp Meeting
Monday 21 st	14:45	Meet Teacher Starlings
Wednesday 23 rd	14:45	Meet Teacher Goldfinches/Chaffinches/Robins/Swifts
Thursday 24 th	14:45	Meet Teacher Wagtails/Blackbirds/Sparrows
Thursday 24 th	14:45	FOM AGM
Friday 25 th	14:45	Meet Teacher Jackdaws
Friday 25 th		FOM Cake Sale

OCTOBER		
Thursday 2 nd	16:00	Reception Welcome Event
Thursday 22 nd		FOM Disco