



office@uptonjun.dorset.sch.uk



infantoffice@uptonschools.org

The Upton Schools

Belonging  **Growth**  **Excellence**

Newsletter

9th October 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

It was fantastic to see so many of our children taking part in Junior Parkrun at Upton Country Park last Sunday. Everyone showed great enthusiasm and did incredibly well.

Regular outdoor exercise has many physical and mental health benefits, helping children stay active, build confidence, improve fitness and boost their wellbeing.

We hope everyone enjoyed the event and will return again soon. Junior Parkrun takes place every Sunday at Upton Country Park, and we'd love to see even more of our children and families getting involved. Well done to all who took part!

Parking Reminder

A reminder to all families that St Martin's Road is closed to vehicles between 8:15am and 9:30am and between 2:30pm and 3:30pm each school day and cars cannot stop or park on the entrance markings between 8.00 and 5.00 pm Monday to Friday as part of the School Street safety scheme.

The Importance of Good Attendance

Good attendance is vital for children to achieve their full potential. Every day in school provides valuable learning opportunities, helping children develop their knowledge, skills and confidence. When attendance is poor, children can miss important lessons, fall behind in their learning and find it more difficult to keep up with their classmates. Regular attendance also plays a key role in children's happiness and wellbeing. Being in school every day helps children build friendships, feel part of the school community and enjoy the routines and experiences that support their emotional development. By attending school regularly and on time, children give themselves the very best chance to succeed both academically and socially.

The poster below shows the importance of attendance and the impact that regularly missing a few days off school can have. Even 90% attendance, which seems good, is nearly three weeks of school missed.



The Upton Schools



We recognise that good attendance (above 96%) is key to good pupil outcomes. The links between regular attendance, reaching potential attainment and future life opportunities are well researched. For this reason, the school will encourage good attendance and be robust in monitoring attendance and take action when attendance falls below the expected level. Good attendance impacts significantly on progress, learning, friendship groups and the child's overall happiness at school.

Easy as

1

There are 190 school days in a year; this leaves 175 days to spend on family time and holidays.

2

It is the responsibility of parents and carers to ensure that their child(ren) attend school every day and on time.

3

The school opens at 8:40 ; registration is from 8:50 . Please arrive as close to 8:40 as possible to maximise learning opportunities for your child.



Attendance Matters

Every student Every Day

We're here to help!

We understand that there are many reasons why children may be absent or late for school. Please speak to staff about ways that we can support you with this.

Equates to number school days off each year		
		100% > Perfection
4	School days missed	98% > Impressive
6	School days missed	97% > Good
7	School days missed	96% > On Target
9	School days missed	95% > Slight Concern
13	School days missed	93% > Concerns
20	School days missed	90% > Very Concerning
30	School days missed	85% > Serious Concerns

If your child misses...	That equals...	Which is...	And over 13 years of schooling that's...
1 day per fortnight	20 days per year	4 weeks per year	almost 1.5 years
1 day per week	40 days per year	8 weeks per year	over 2.5 years
2 days per week	80 days per year	16 weeks per year	over 5 years
3 days per week	120 days per year	24 weeks per year	almost 8 years



Safer Eating

To support the schools implementation of the governments Safer Eating initiative which particularly applies to reception aged children and has been brought in to safeguard reception children from the risks of choking, please can you support us by the following:

- ❖ Remove any stones and pips from fruit before serving.
- ❖ Cut small round foods, such as grapes, strawberries and cherry tomatoes, lengthways and into quarters.
- ❖ Cut larger fruits, such as melon, and hard fruits or vegetables, such as raw apples and carrots, into thin slices rather than small chunks.

Job Vacancy

Please see the link below for our latest vacancy.

[Staff Vacancies | Upton Infant School](#)

Parents Evening

Our parents evenings across the schools are Tuesday 20th and Wednesday 21st October. Bookings will go live at 6pm tonight via our MCAS app, under Parents Evening. Bookings will close on 19th October, 12 noon. Please come along and meet your child's teacher.

Coats and Names

As autumn seems to have finally arrived please send your child in with a named coat and while I mention names, please make sure EVERYTHING that comes into school is named. The mountains of unnamed lost property we have in both schools are beginning to attract their own weather systems!

Have a nice weekend everyone.

Best wishes

Duncan Churchill
Executive Head Teacher
Upton Infant and Junior School



[Online Safety Hub - Hamwic Education Trust](#)

Upton Junior School Announcements



Diary Dates

- ❖ 21st October - Year 6 Tank Museum School Trip
- ❖ Parents Evening-Tuesday 20th October and Wednesday 21st October
- ❖ Break the Rules Day – 23rd October – more details to follow
- ❖ 23rd October – Last day of Term – return Monday 2nd November 2026
- ❖ 5th November - Year 6 Parents SATS Information Evening
- ❖ 11th November – Flu immunisations
- ❖ 23rd November – Inset Day

PE Days

	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Monday				
Tuesday	PE		PE	
Wednesday		PE		PE
Thursday	PE		PE	
Friday		PE		PE

Upton Infant School Announcements



Diary Dates

- ❖ 13th October – Open Evening for New Starters Reception Sept 2027 - @ 5.30pm
- ❖ Parents Evening-Tuesday 20th October and Wednesday 21st October
- ❖ Break the Rules Day – 23rd October – more details to follow
- ❖ 23rd October – Last day of Term – return Monday 2nd November 2026
- ❖ 11th November – Flu immunisations
- ❖ 23rd November – Inset Day

PE Days

	Honeybees	Reception	Year 1	Year 2
Monday			PE	
Tuesday		PE		
Wednesday			PE	
Thursday				PE
Friday	PE			PE

Upton Schools Calendar 2026 - 2027

Sep 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

Oct 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Nov 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

Dec 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

Jan 2027						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

Feb 2027						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28						

Mar 2027						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

Apr 2027						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

May 2027						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

Jun 2027						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

Jul 2027						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Aug 2027						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

Bank and Public holidays 2026/2027

Christmas Day
Boxing Day
New Years day
Good Friday

25th December
28th December
1st January
26th March

Easter Monday
May Day
Spring bank holiday
Summer bank holiday

29th March
3rd May
31st May
20th August

School Holidays

Bank Holidays

Inset Days

Hamwic Development Day

East Dorset & Purbeck Safe at Home scheme

Keeping children safe in their homes



Safe Homes, Happy Childhoods



Funded by East Dorset and Purbeck locality Local Alliance Group

Safe at Home is a child accident prevention scheme, supplying **FREE** safety equipment for the home, including stair gates, window restrictors and cupboard locks.

For households with children under 5 years of age. Subject to eligibility criteria. Referrals completed by professionals only.

To complete a referral, please contact:
Wimbornefamilyhub@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk

Dorset Library Service news for schools

Reception class visits

For Reception class children, the Autumn term is a perfect way to introduce young children to libraries and the free resources that can be accessed with a Dorset library card.

This year's book is *Never Show A T-Rex A Book!* by Rashmi Sirdeshpande - is a fun-filled, laugh-out-loud adventure about a T-Rex whose love of books leads to all sorts of wonderful mischief. With its playful story and lively illustrations, children will delight in the chaos and enjoy joining in the fun from beginning to end.

By having the opportunity to use the public library children:

- will develop their confidence and motivation, seeing themselves as readers outside school
- read more widely and independently develop good reading habits from a young age
- have free access to a range of resources and activities where all are welcome

Book a Reception class visit

Class visits

Our school programme is free and available throughout the school year. We offer 3 programmes for primary schools, each session lasts for 60 minutes. They are:

- **Discover your Library** - this session aims to introduce children to the exciting world of their local library. Children will explore the wide range of books, and free services available through library membership, helping them become confident, independent library users and lifelong readers
- **Reading for pleasure** - find your next favourite book - an opportunity to talk and learn about new books. Children will be encouraged to read for pleasure and discover a range of stock to suit all levels and interests
- **Information skills: Library detectives** - unlock the mysteries of the library by learning how books are organised using the Dewey Decimal Classification System. Pupils will develop key information-finding skills, enabling them to locate resources independently for study or leisure

Find out more about our offer to schools and book a class visit [Library services for schools and teachers](#)

Thank you for your support

The 2026 Summer Reading Challenge: Read to the Beat! has now finished. Over 4600 children took part, reading a book of their choice or attending library events. Certificates are now being printed for children who chose to collect theirs from school.

Look out for your certificate delivery in the next few weeks.

Exciting online event with children's author Ashley Thorpe, 19 October 1:30 pm



Ashley Thorpe is a children's author whose fantasy stories, including *The Boy Beat the Gods* and *Spirit Warriors*, are inspired by West African and Caribbean mythology, manga and folklore. In this online event for children across Dorset, Ashley will share the inspiration behind his characters and stories and will encourage pupils to use their imaginations to create their own characters and heroes. Ashley introduces young readers to diverse cultures and inspires them to see themselves as storytellers with stories worth sharing.

The event offers links to the National Curriculum, and provides a great opportunity for schools to celebrate Black History Month in a meaningful way, helping children explore different cultures, perspectives and storytelling traditions. The event is aimed at KS2 years 4-6, and will include an opportunity to ask Ashley a question.

Booking form for KS2 online Black History month event with Ashley Thorpe



Book now for KS2 event with Ashley Thorpe



Our Library Service mission is to **Inspire, Connect and Enable** our communities



Busy Bee's HALLOWEEN HOLIDAY CLUB

A DAY OF SPOOKY FUN!

HALLOWEEN SLIME MAKING POTTERY PAINTING HALLOWEEN GAMES MONSTER MOVIES BEST DRESSED & MORE!!

WEDNESDAY 28TH OCTOBER

DROP OFF FROM 8AM

COLLECTION BEFORE 5:30PM

AGES 6 - 16

SANDFORD COMMUNITY HALL
Keysworth Drive
Sandford Woods
BH20 7BD

INCLUDES BREAKFAST, LUNCH & SNACKS!

MEAL INCLUDED
Hearty Vegetable Stew with Sponge Cake & Custard

FREE HAF SPACES (UP TO 5 HOURS)

£29.50 (UP TO 5 HOURS)

£39.50 (FULL DAY)

A SPOOKTACULAR DAY OF FUN, FRIENDS & HALLOWEEN MEMORIES!

Busy Bee's CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY CLUB

A DAY OF FESTIVE FUN!

BISCUIT MAKING POTTERY PAINTING FESTIVE GAMES CHRISTMAS MOVIES BEST DRESSED & MORE!!

WEDNESDAY 23RD & 30TH DECEMBER

DROP OFF FROM 8AM

COLLECTION BEFORE 5:30PM

AGES 6 - 16

SANDFORD COMMUNITY HALL
Keysworth Drive
Sandford Woods
BH20 7BD

INCLUDES BREAKFAST, LUNCH & SNACKS!

MEAL INCLUDED
Roast Chicken Dinner with Roast Potatoes, Vegetables & Gravy & Ginger Bread Cookie

FREE HAF SPACES (UP TO 5 HOURS)

£29.50 (UP TO 5 HOURS)

£39.50 (FULL DAY)

A MAGICAL DAY OF FUN, FRIENDS & CHRISTMAS MEMORIES!

JOIN US FOR A

HALLOWEEN GARDEN

TRICK OR TREAT

THURSDAY 29TH OCTOBER 2PM - 4PM

TRICK OR TREAT HUNT | LIVE ENTERTAINMENT
SWEET TREATS | SCARECROW & PUMPKIN COMPETITION JUDGING

This is an RSVP event – please let us know if you'll be joining so we can prepare plenty of treats! 🍬

✉ Upton.rec@hamberleycarehomes.co.uk
☎ 01202 620 020

Harvest Festival Donations

at Upton Manor Care Home

HELP US SUPPORT OUR LOCAL COMMUNITY

This Harvest Festival, Upton Manor is inviting our local community to come together and help support **Poole Food Bank**.

Throughout October, we'll be collecting food donations to help those in need across our local community.

- 📦 Bring along a food donation
- 📍 Drop donations at Upton Manor Reception
- 📅 Collection runs throughout October

Every donation, big or small, can make a difference.

LET'S COME TOGETHER THIS HARVEST

Thank you for helping us support our local community.

Upton Manor Care Home
1 Dorchester Road, Upton, Poole, Dorset, BH16 5NJ

RBL
ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

**OPEN DAY
FREE ENTRY
TO ALL**

**HALLOWEEN
KIDS PARTY**

SATURDAY 31ST OCTOBER
KIDS PARTY FROM 1PM - 5PM

PRIZES FOR
BEST DRESSED
CHILD &
BEST DRESSED
ADULT!

ENTERTAINMENT FROM
MINI MAZ
FROM 2PM - 4PM

ROCKWAVES
CLASSIC POP AND ROCK
LIVE FROM 8.30PM - 11.30PM

RBL | **LYTCHET UNITED ROYAL BRITISH LEGION CLUB**
DORCHESTER ROAD, UPTON, BH16 5NW

OR IF YOU DARE...
STEAM & SCREAMS | 31 OCTOBER ONLY




GREEN HALLOWEEN

Friday 23rd October
4:30pm-6pm

£1.50 per person
or £4 per family (1 adult, 3 children)
Ages 5+

ages 8 and under must be accompanied by an adult

GAMES CRAFTS SNACKS

costume swap
bring an old costume and exchange for a different one

calm area with a spooky film



At PYCF Youth Centre & Family Hub BH20 4PH

To book please email office@pycf.org.uk
or call 01929 552934




ART TRIBE DAY CAMP

Wednesday
28th October
10am - 4pm
Ages 7+ • £45 per child

SPACES ARE LIMITED
EARLY BOOKING RECOMMENDED

Looking for a fun and inspiring way to keep your child creative this Autumn?

Join us for Art Tribe day Camp at Happy River - a full day of hands-on art projects led by celebrated author and illustrator Rachel Bright and other exciting local artists and creatives.

We'll explore illustration, flip books, nature projects, solar printing and more. A friendly, supportive and fun day designed to help children build confidence, learn new artistic skills and make new friends.

Happy River Retreat
Alpha Farm, Bere Road, Wareham BH20 7PA
www.happyriver.co.uk • flow@happyriver.co.uk

All adults in charge are DBS checked.



JURASSIC COAST RAPTORS



BASKETBALL CLUB

JOIN THE TEAM BE PART OF THE PACK

Whether you want to learn the basics, sharpen your skills, or play competitive matches, the Coast is the place to be!

TRAINING
U10 - U12
SATURDAY
U14 - U16
SATURDAY & TUESDAYS

MINIMUM AGE
6 YEARS

FIRST SESSION FREE!

NO COMMITMENT.
JUST TURN UP AND PLAY.

LEARN. IMPROVE. COMPETE. BELONG.

www.jcraptors.co.uk

✉ jcraptorsbc@gmail.com | ☎ 07852162007

GLOBAL TALES BOOKFEST!



EVA WONG NAVA



SHIREEN LALJI



RASHMI SIRDHPANDE



MAYO AGARD - OLUBO



on at the...
REBEL READING FEST 2026!

SAT | 10 OCTOBER | 2026

10AM - 11.30AM

St Peter's Church, Ashley Cross, Poole



WORLD AUTUMN ADVENTURES

OCTOBER HALF TERM

BOVINGTON ACADEMY



26-29 OCTOBER 2026



9:00AM-3:30PM



AGES 5-11

HAF & PAID PLACES AVAILABLE



SPORTS • GAMES • CRAFTS • DANCE • WORLD FOOD • DISCO

BOOK NOW

<https://eequ.org/book/globe-fit-extravaganza-bovington-haf-and-paid-with-globe-fit-29104>



info@globefit.co.uk



www.globefit.co.uk

Strictly Stage stars take centre stage

If you would like to enrol your child with Strictly Stage please visit our website:

www.strictlystage.uk

There are limited spaces available and places are secured on a first come first served basis.

If your child already attends strictly stage theatre school, there is no need to re-apply, as they will have a secure place for the entire academic year!

STRICTLY STAGE
THEATRE SCHOOL



Where talent comes to thrive...

STRICTLY STAGE
THEATRE SCHOOL

The Principal of Strictly Stage, Liz, has worked as a professional Singer/Dancer all over the world on various cruise ships such as QE2, P&O, Royal Caribbean Cruise Lines and had the honour of working as part of the cast of Andrew Lloyd Webbers, Phantom of the Opera, in London's West End 1994 to 1996.

With a team of professional teachers to support her, Strictly Stage has proved to be highly successful with over 300 children currently enrolled.

Strictly Stage Theatre School has been successfully running in schools in the Dorset area since 2002.

Strictly Stage is a Performing Arts School, based on dance (Commercial, Cabaret, Ballet, Tap & Modern, Hip-Hop and much more), singing (pop, musical theatre) and drama, but most of all having fun!

Your child will have the opportunity to learn various routines to the latest chart music and Musical Theatre Shows such as Wicked, Aladdin, Shrek, Bat out of Hell, Matilda etc.

All Strictly Stage Students work towards and perform in our annual productions at the prestigious Lighthouse Theatre, Poole.

Classes available for ages 18 months+ both boys and girls. Prices start at just £6.50 per session which is payable per half term.

Email: hello@strictlystage.uk INSTA: @strictly_stage FB: @StrictlyStageTheatreSchool

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