



office@uptonjun.dorset.sch.uk



office@uptoninf.dorset.sch.uk

The Upton Schools

Belonging  **Growth**  **Excellence**

Newsletter

15th May 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Well Done, Year 6!

A huge well done to our amazing Year 6 pupils for your hard work and determination during SATs week! The week can be challenging not just the tests but the changes to timetables and the huge amount of mental and emotional energy taken up by the week.

Our children have shown fantastic effort, resilience, and a positive attitude throughout, qualities that matter far more than any test result. We are incredibly proud of the way you approached each day whether taking the tests or not and how you gave your very best.

SATs week can feel challenging, but you rose to the occasion brilliantly. You've demonstrated not only your learning but also your maturity, focus, and perseverance.

Well done, we are proud of you!

New Classes

At this time of year, we begin the important process of creating new class lists for the next academic year. This is always carried out carefully and thoughtfully, with the needs of all children at the heart of our decisions. Our main aim is to create classes that are conducive to learning and where all children feel happy, settled, and ready to succeed. Teachers will be speaking with children about their friendships and who they feel comfortable learning alongside, while making sure children's choices are positive for learning. We consider a wide range of factors across each year group so that classes are well balanced and all children's needs are considered.

WhatsApp Groups

We are increasingly concerned about the use of WhatsApp groups among children, particularly where this is beginning to have a negative impact on friendships and relationships in school. Messages shared outside of school hours can sometimes lead to misunderstandings, fallouts, and unkind behaviour, which then carry over into the classroom. This often requires school staff to spend valuable time helping children resolve issues that have arisen online. It is also important to remember that WhatsApp has an age restriction of 13+, and children of primary school age should not be using it. We would encourage parents and carers to monitor online activity closely and support us in promoting positive, respectful communication both in and out of school.

For further guidance and more information on online safety please have a look at:

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

Discos

I understand that the fact that the Discos at the junior school are happening during the day and we are charging for them has caused some dissatisfaction. The reason why we have made the decision to have them during the day is when we did them after school at the Infants we had lots of children unable to come due to after school clubs and childcare arrangements which meant children couldn't attend. This left a lot of children unhappy and feeling left out. By having them during the school day we thought it would make it easy for all children to attend. We are holding them as a fund raiser for the school as we continue to try and raise money to replace our minibus.

I apologise if this was not communicated effectively at the time.

Lost Property

We are getting a very large volume of lost property on a weekly basis. Please ensure everything is named so we can return the items back to the children.

Staff Vacancies

Please visit our website to see our latest staff vacancies.

[Staff Vacancies | Upton Junior School](#)

Staffing

I am sorry to inform you that Miss Hector, year one teacher in frogs, will be leaving the infants at the end of the year as she is relocating. Miss Hector has been a brilliant member of our school team and will be missed by us all. We will wish her well for the future. Miss Gibbons, current year five teacher at the Junior school, has taken the decision to move to the infants to replace Miss Hector. We are currently advertising for a replacement for Miss Gibbons.

Mrs Perry will be starting her maternity leave on Tuesday 19th May with her last day with us being Monday 18th May. We will wish her all the best! Mrs Ward will start her role teaching 4 Pumas on Tuesday too.

Mrs Palmer, teaching assistant in reception, has decided to retire after over thirty years working at the Infants. Mrs Palmer has been a fantastic member of our team and will be missed by us all. The level of dedication, care and expertise she has shown every day has been exemplary. She will be missed.

On a happier note, Mrs Jones, teaching assistant in the Ladybirds on a Thursday and Friday will now not be leaving us at the end of the year. Hurray for us!

Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

Duncan Churchill
Executive Head Teacher
Upton Infant and Junior School



Message from Chair of Governors

My name is Jo Shepherd and it is my privilege to be able to introduce myself as the new chair of governors at The Upton Schools. It is a role I take on with enthusiasm and a desire to help support the school community, and your families, to ensure the schools flourish and provide the education and pastoral care our children deserve.

My eldest started at Upton Infants in 2017 and my younger 2 are currently in year 5 and year 2. I have grown to know the schools well and to appreciate the important role they play within our community. I became a governor of Upton Juniors in 2021 and have been an active member of the board since then. I have held designated roles in SEND and safeguarding and have been Vice Chair since 2023. I have been involved throughout the journey of the two schools joining and will continue to work closely with the school leaders to help support them with this process. This is still a work in progress and we thank you for your patience and understanding.

Last, but not least, I would like to extend a big thank you to our outgoing chair, Rhi Wootten. Rhi has been in the role since 2024 and the school has benefited greatly from her support, time and efforts. I, and the rest of the governing body, wish her all the best for the future.

Upton Junior School Announcements

Diary Dates



- ❖ Monday 18th May – Year 5 Sealife Centre trip
- ❖ Tuesday 19th May – BSO Lighthouse trip
- ❖ Thursday 21st May – School Disco Yr 4 and Yr 6
- ❖ **May Half Term Monday 25th May – Friday 29th May**
- ❖ **Monday 1st June – Inset day – Children return Tuesday 2nd June.**
- ❖ Wednesday 3rd June – Group 2 swimming lessons start
- ❖ Thursday 4th June – School Disco Yr 3 and Yr 5
- ❖ Thursday 18th June – Sports Day

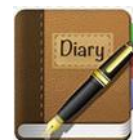
Tuesday 1st and Wednesday 2nd September – Inset days
Children return on Thursday 3rd September

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



- ❖ Friday 22nd May – Fire Engine visiting Year 2
- ❖ **May Half Term Monday 25th May – Friday 29th May**
- ❖ **Monday 1st June – Inset day – children return Tuesday 2nd June.**
- ❖ Wednesday 10th June @6pm – Meeting for new reception parents
- ❖ Wednesday 17th June – Honeybees sports day – more info to follow
- ❖ Friday 19th June – Sports Day

Tuesday 1st and Wednesday 2nd September – Inset days
Children return on Thursday 3rd September.

PE Days

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

Join the free 2026 Summer Reading Challenge: Read to the Beat at your local library

Your child (age 4–11) can join the Summer Reading Challenge this summer. It's fun, free and helps keep up reading skills over the holidays!

- ❖ set a reading goal
- ❖ read whatever they like – books, eBooks, audiobooks, picture books, and more
- ❖ join in with library events
- ❖ Earn stickers, rewards and even a certificate
- ❖ Starts 4 July in England & Wales

It's a great way to boost confidence and make reading fun!

For fun digital activities and book recommendations, take a look online:

[Summer Reading Challenge](https://summerreadingchallenge.org.uk)

Joining the Summer Reading Challenge

Children sign up through their local library and receive a sticker booklet and free mini Storytime magazine. They set a reading goal and borrow books of their choice during the summer or join in with library events, collecting special stickers as they go. Children who complete the Challenge are presented with a medal when they have collected 6 stickers, and a certificate is sent to school in the Autumn term.

To inspire children, we are hosting two online launch events for schools:



Reception and Key Stage 1 event with Annmarie Anang Thursday 2 July 1:30 to 2:10 pm

Join Annmarie Anang for a fantastic online interactive author session which features music and dance based on her celebrated books *I Am Neferiti* and *Dance Just Like So!* Annmarie delivers a highly engaging, joy-filled online sessions.

Event sponsored by the Friends of Weymouth Library.

[Book now KS1 event with Annmarie Anang.](#)



Key Stage 2 event with Steve Cole Thursday 9 July 1:30 to 2:15 pm

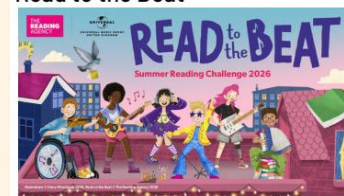
This lively, interactive session will invite young readers to meet Steve Cole from their classroom, hear about his books and get inspired to read for fun over the summer. Known for popular series including *Astrosaurus* and *Cows in Action*, Steve will share how music, rhythm and sound can spark ideas for stories, linking perfectly with the challenge's lively Read to the Beat theme.

Event sponsored by the Friends of Wimborne Library.

[Book now KS2 event with Steve Cole](#)

2026 Summer Reading Challenge:

Read to the Beat



The 2026 Summer Reading Challenge - Read to the Beat, celebrates the joy of reading through music, rhythm and performance.

Through vibrant illustrations, fun rewards and free library activities inspired by music and sound, Read to the Beat invites children to discover how stories and music connect, while enjoying their local library and sharing the experience with family and friends.

Read to the Beat is a free holiday activity for children, and a key moment in the National Year of Reading.

Read to the Beat starts Saturday 4 July.

We value your support in helping Dorset libraries promote the Summer Reading Challenge and therefore we will be pleased to:

- attend an assembly to talk about the Summer Reading Challenge
- provide an electronic promotional flyer and newsletter content for emailing to parents and carers

To ensure all children hear about Read to the Beat, library teams would be delighted to visit an assembly to talk to children about how they can take part in Read to the Beat.

Assembly visits are available between 15 June and 16 July

[Book your assembly visit](#)



The Summer Reading Challenge 2026: Read to the Beat. Delivered by The Reading Agency in partnership with public libraries and powered by Universal Music UK.





READ to the BEAT

Help Your Child Discover the Joy of Reading This Summer!

This summer, give your child the chance to fall in love with reading! The Summer Reading Challenge, created by The Reading Agency and delivered in partnership with public libraries, is a FREE, fun-packed way to keep kids reading and learning all summer long.

This year's theme, **Read to the Beat**, and is powered by Universal Music Group UK. The Challenge will celebrate the joy of music and the power it has to move, inspire, and connect us – all through the magic of reading. The Challenge is being brought to life with illustrations by award-winning author and illustrator, Harry Woodgate.

Why join?

- It's FREE! Available at local libraries and online
- Inspires a lifelong love of reading
- Boosts confidence, creativity, and imagination
- Earn rewards, certificates, and prizes
- Fun for the whole family. Visit your local library together
- 95% of children said they read more after joining!
- Children choose their own books to read, collect rewards over the summer and receive a certificate or medal when they complete the challenge.



Visit your local library or go online at
summerreadingchallenge.org.uk
 to get started from 4 July 2026.

Help your child start their reading adventure today!



Axe
throwing

BMX
display

UPTON COUNTRY PARK
Saturday 30th May, 10am-3pm

Tasty
food

Arts &
crafts

Countryside
displays

Live
music

Dog show

Kick boxing

Bouncy
castle

And lots
more!

A free family event, celebrating
Dorset's countryside and coast!



UPTON COUNTRY PARK
Saturday 30th May, 10am-3pm

Dog show

Live
music

Arts &
crafts

And lots
more!

A free family event, celebrating Dorset's
countryside and coast!

HEALTHY WRIGGLERS VIRTUAL WEANING SESSIONS



Do you want to find out more about when and
how to start your baby on Solid foods?

Book onto one of our virtual/online weaning
sessions delivered by our Public Health Nursery
Nurses to find out more.

(You should wait until your baby is around 6 months old to
introduce solid food. This gives them time to develop properly,
so they can cope with solid food.)



To book a place please text ParentLine 0-5 on **07312 277162** or call your local Health Visiting Admin Hub
on the Number in the front of Your baby's red book.

We strongly advise booking early as these sessions are
popular and get booked up quickly.



Join your Family Hub and
TRAIN TO BECOME

A volunteer parenting group leader

Lived
Experience
Shared Strength
Lasting Impact

- The years between two and eleven can be an intense emotional roller coaster for **any parent or carer**.
- Could your parenting journey **support other parents and carers?**
- We're looking for **volunteers to lead** Empowering Parents Empowering Communities **a course by parents, for parents.**
- **You bring your experience.**
- We'll give you the **training to thrive as a leader.**

Mums, dads and carers can apply

To find out more, please scan the QR
code, fill in the short enquiry form and
we will contact you for an informal chat



Short Breaks Services

Coping with CHAOS

School holiday and weekend sessions for children with disabilities and their family. Siblings are welcome and a parent/carer is required to stay and maintain full responsibility.

Project My Time

School holiday sessions for children between the ages of 8 - 18 years old with a registered disability. Parents/carers are not required to stay as our team provide 1:1 support.

Awesome Nights

A weekly youth club for young people between the ages of 13 - 18 years old with a registered disability. Parents/carers are not required to stay as our team provide the care.

STARs

A sibling support group for children between the ages of 6 - 18 years old who have a sibling with a disability. Time for them to make friends and experience activities. Parents/carers are not required to stay as our team provide the care.

Family Support

Regular parent/carer only events. Activities include coffee mornings, wellbeing groups and parent training sessions. Events take place twice a month, booking is required.

Little Squirrels

Weekly group on a Monday (term time only) for children under 5 years with SEN or those awaiting a diagnosis. Siblings are welcome to attend. A parent/carer must be present at all times.

Just Drop In

Weekly group on a Tuesday (term time only) perfect for home education children, mentor sessions, and all children with additional needs. A parent/carer must be present at all times.

Feel-Good Fridays

Weekly group on a Friday (term time only) for adults who are 18+ with SEN who want to have a safe place to go to socialise with peers and enjoy activities. A parent/carer must be present.

PMLD Club

School holiday and weekend sessions exclusively to children who have Profound and Multiple Learning Disabilities. Siblings are welcome. A parent/carer must be present at all times.

SEN Club Nights

Limitless - Adults with SEN aged 18+ years. Events held monthly at Bar Coast Bournemouth.

Please scroll down for more info about Chaos, Project, Awesome Nights and STARs!



Coping with CHAOS

What is Coping with CHAOS?

We provide activities for children and young people with complex, profound and multiple learning disabilities and challenging behaviour, who cannot easily access other resources and play schemes.

Coping with CHAOS is a service which you as a family attend, siblings are welcome and a parent/carer is required to stay and maintain full responsibility.

During school holidays we organise activities out and about in the community, as well as at our bases at The Treehouse (Christchurch), Weymouth Outdoor Education Centre and Wyvern Academy.

You can also request a 1:1 member of staff to support your family during sessions.

We also provide weekend sessions at our base in Christchurch, The Treehouse. These alternate between Saturday's and Sunday's, 10am - 2:30pm. There is access to the sensory room, cinema room and gaming room, as well as indoor soft play area, outside play park, mini golf, outside water play and enclosed trampolines.

How can I register my family?

Children need a registered disability or to be on the SEN pathway. Please email us at shortbreaks@diverseabilities.org.uk and we can send across the registration information.

Diverse Abilities Children's Team

diverseabilities.org.uk

shortbreaks@diverseabilities.org.uk

01202 855105

**School
Holidays
&
Weekends**

**Children with
SEN and
their siblings**

**Ages
0 - 18
years**



Project My Time

What is Project My Time?

Project My Time is for children between the ages of 8 and 18 years old, with a registered disability. We provide school holiday activities for children and young people and the idea is for them to have fun and experience new things which they may not usually have the chance to access.

It is a drop off service therefore parents/carers do not need to stay as our team provide 1:1 support.

There are sessions every school holiday week and sessions are generally three hours long, depending on the activity.

What do you get up to at sessions?

The group meet during school holidays at venues all across Dorset, and do loads of really fun activities. We have a main base called The Treehouse in Christchurch where there is access to lots of facilities such as a sensory room, cinema room and gaming room, as well as an indoor soft play area and much more. These sessions have a theme such as baking, crafts, disco's etc. We also meet out and about in the community doing activities such as swimming, cinema trips, pottery painting, and even theme park trips!

How can I register my child?

Children need a registered disability to sign up for this service. Please email us at shortbreaks@diverseabilities.org.uk and we can send across the registration information.

**School
Holidays**

**Young
people
with
SEN**

**Ages
8 - 18
years**



Awesome Nights

What is Awesome Nights?

Awesome Nights is a weekly youth club for young people between the ages of 13 and 18 years old with Special Education Needs and Disabilities.

The aim of Awesome Nights is for young people to grow independently away from their families, giving them time to become their own person and to socialise in a fun environment with their peers. It is also a time for parents to gain some respite and a well needed break!

The group have planning meetings where the young people can have an input in to what activities they would like to do each timetable. The types of activities range from out and about activities such as swimming, cinema trips, meals out etc, to sessions at our main base, The Treehouse (Christchurch), such as movie nights, quizzes, baking and much more.

How can I register my young person?

Young people need a registered disability to sign up for this service. Sessions are usually funded via Direct Payments or privately funded. Please email us at shortbreaks@diverseabilities.org.uk and we can send across more information.

**Wednesday
evenings**

**Weekly
Sessions**

**Young people
with disabilities
aged 13 - 18
years old**



STARs

What is STARs?

STARs is a sibling support group for children and young people who have a sibling with a disability. There is a big gap in provision for siblings, which is why we launched STARs - to help these Supportive, Thoughtful And Resilient children and young people.

We provide sessions for young people to get involved with and to have a space to make friends and experience activities which may not usually be available to them due to their family situation, all whilst providing an environment of support and advice.

It's important we provide opportunities to help them realize they are not alone, hopefully giving them a support network which will last far longer than however long they wish to attend our sessions, because being a sibling never ends.

How can I register my child?

Children are required to have a sibling with a disability and no disability themselves to attend STARs. Please email us at shortbreaks@diverseabilities.org.uk if you would like to sign up your young person.

Mondays

Term Time Only

Location:
The
Treehouse
BH23 6DT

Youngers:
(Under 12s)
4:30pm-6:30pm

Olders:
(Over 12s)
6pm-8pm

ARTZ+ SPORTZ+ XTRA



2026

SPORTZ XTRA SEND SESSIONS

SATS: 6, 13, 20 JUNE 2026

TIME: 9.30 - 12.30 P.M.

VENUE: PRINCE OF WALES PRE-SCHOOL, MAIDEN CASTLE RD
DORCHESTER, DT1 2HH

COST: £9.20 PER SESSION

TO BOOK: LEISURE@DORSETCOUNCIL.GOV.UK

- ✓ Sensory Room Soft play room
- ✓ Games and activity room
- ✓ Swimming in the therapy pool
- ✓ Toys and Games

www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/sport-leisure/artz-sportz-xtra

BOOKINGS CLOSE WEDS 20 MAY
CONFIRMATION EMAILS 20 MAY

PARENTS MUST STAY IF THIS IS YOUR CHILD'S FIRST SESSION.



ASPIRE —LIFE—



MAY HALF TERM HOLIDAY CLUBS



HELD AT:

LYTCHETT MINSTER SPORTS CENTRE

FOOTBALL CAMP

HELD AT:

Lytchett Minster Sports Centre
Post Green Road
Lytchett Minster
Poole
BH16 6JD

DATES:

Tuesday 26th May
Wednesday 27th May
Thursday 28th May

TIMES:

08:00-12:00/ 13:00-17:00/ 09:00-15:00

Early drop off (AM) and Late pick up (PM) available

COST:

£24 per child
1 x Sibling 25% off

BOOKINGS AND SPECIAL OFFERS:

<https://aspirelifespports.magicbooking.co.uk>

A fun and energetic Football Holiday Club for children of all abilities!

- ✓ Skills, games and matches
 - ✓ Qualified Coaches
 - ✓ Safe and supportive environment
- STAY ACTIVE. MAKE FRIENDS. HAVE FUN



www.aspire-life.co.uk

ASPIRE —LIFE—



MAY HALF TERM HOLIDAY CLUBS



HELD AT:

LYTCHETT MINSTER SPORTS CENTRE

MULTI-SPORTS CAMP

HELD AT:

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BOOKINGS AND SPECIAL OFFERS:

<https://aspirelifespports.magicbooking.co.uk>



SPORTS

Tue BASKETBALL | DODGEBALL
Wed CRICKET | TENNIS
Thu BADMINTON | FOOTBALL

- ✓ SKILLS, GAMES & CHALLENGES
- ✓ QUALIFIED COACHES
- ✓ SAFE & SUPPORTIVE ENVIRONMENT

www.aspire-life.co.uk

Hot & Cold Drinks

Come and Join us for

No Charge

Hobbies @ The Corner

All Ages Welcome

Bring the Family or Bring Yourself
(Children to be accompanied by an Adult at all times)

Different Crafts to Try Discover Something New!

26th and 27th May 2026

10 am to 2:30 pm

Upton Methodist Church

79 Dorchester Road, Upton BH16 5NN

Children's Story Time

www.uptonmethodistchurch.net

www.poolebaymethodists.org.uk

TEENAGE CHIN OUT ZONE

BYO Lunch & Chat with Friends

POOL TABLE * MUGA * CRAFTS

aim community

BOARD GAMES * SHARED HOT MEALS * CHILL OUT

SIGNPOSTING * GARDEN AREA * A SAFE SPACE

COME & RELAX AT THE WELLBEING CAFE

TUESDAYS 5.00 - 7.00PM

AIM CREEKMOOR CREEKMOOR YOUTH CENTRE, NORTHMEAD DRIVE, BH17 7XZ

FOR MORE INFO PLEASE CONTACT
FCEO@AIMCOMMUNITY.ORG OR CALL 01202 085304

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CASTLE COURT

Aug 03. - 07.

09:00 - 16:00

Get 10% off with your school discount:

IBTS10

QR Code

Junior camps: Ages 6 - 8 / 9 - 12

OFSTED Registered: Pay via Childcare Vouchers

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British Theatre School International British Theatre School Camp Limited to 24 spaces per week. Register today www.britishtheatreschool.com/register

POOLE SWIM ACADEMY

SWIM • LEARN • ACHIEVE

SWIMMING LESSONS

Now Open!

CASTLE COURT SCHOOL POOL

LESSONS STARTING SATURDAY 2ND MAY 2026

OUR LESSONS INCLUDE:

- SMALL GROUP LESSONS
- 1-TO-1 SESSIONS
- 2-TO-1 LESSONS
- SWIM FIT SESSIONS

- FRIENDLY, EXPERIENCED INSTRUCTORS
- SUPPORTIVE & RELAXED ENVIRONMENT
- TAILORED LESSONS FOR ALL ABILITIES
- OUTDOOR POOL EXPERIENCE

FOR FURTHER DETAILS Contact us

pooleswimac@gmail.com