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# The Upton Schools

Belonging  Growth  Excellence

## Newsletter

17th October 2025

Dear Parents and Carers

As we continue to work building the federation of our two schools, I took the opportunity to reset the vision for the schools in the first few weeks of the term. Setting a vision is important as it clearly communicates what it is we are trying to achieve and what we want our schools to be. After much thinking, consultation and reflecting on what it is we want our children to experience at school I came to the conclusion that Belonging, Growth and Excellence nicely sums up the ethos I want us to have.

### Our Vision: Belonging, Growth and Excellence

At our school, we believe every child deserves to feel safe, supported, and inspired. Our vision is built around three key ideas:

#### Belonging

We want every child to feel like they truly belong. That means being **valued, known and understood**—not just as learners, but as individuals. We work hard to create a welcoming environment where every child feels part of our school family.

#### Growth

We believe in helping children grow in **every way**—not just academically, but also socially and emotionally. We support them to become confident, kind, and curious individuals who are ready for the next stage of their journey.

#### Excellence

We aim high. Whether it's in the classroom, on the playground, or in personal development, we encourage children to **strive for their best**. Excellence isn't about perfection—it's about doing your best and always looking to improve.

As our schools continue to grow, develop and improve our new vision will set our direction of travel and guide every decision we make.

## Message from Chair of Governors

Welcome Back to a New School Year!

I hope you all had a restful and enjoyable summer break. On behalf of the Governing Body, I would like to extend a warm welcome back to everyone at both Upton Infant School and Upton Junior School. It's wonderful to see the schools once again full of energy, excitement, and the eager anticipation that a new academic year brings.

To our returning families, welcome back – we are delighted to continue this journey with you. And to those joining us for the first time – whether in Reception, Year 3, or other year groups – a very special welcome. We're confident you will soon feel part of our nurturing and inclusive school community.

I would like to take this opportunity to express our sincere thanks to the headteachers, leadership teams, teachers, support staff, and everyone who has worked so hard over the summer to prepare the schools for the year ahead. Their commitment to creating a safe, stimulating, and welcoming environment for all children to thrive in is deeply appreciated.

As governors, our focus remains on supporting the schools to provide the very best opportunities for every child to learn, grow, and succeed. We are proud of the achievements of both schools and excited about what this year holds – from new learning experiences and school trips, to friendships formed and talents discovered.

We look forward to working closely with staff, parents, and carers throughout the year. Together, we can ensure that our children are happy, confident, and ready to embrace all the opportunities that come their way.

Wishing you all a happy, successful, and inspiring school year.

Warmest regards,

Rhi Wootten  
Chair of Governors  
Upton of Infant and Junior School

## Safeguarding Alert

### WhatsApp 'Add Everyone'

The 'Add Everyone' WhatsApp group is recirculating amongst children. This group has been highlighted as a significant safeguarding concern due to the potential to expose children and young people to explicit, abusive and harmful content.

The group's purpose is to invite children to join a chat that contains inappropriate content and encourage them to add inappropriate comments and add other children but not their parents or safe adults. Children as young as 9 have been reported as being on this group.

Go to Safer Schools [Safeguarding Alert: The 'Add Everyone' Explicit WhatsApp Group - Safer Schools](#) for further detail and support.

### Lunchboxes

A reminder that both our schools are nut free due to the number of children in our schools that have life threatening allergies. Please make sure that lunchboxes have no nut products or any items that contains nuts.

Please also consider what is being put into lunchboxes. I totally understand the issues, and frustrations, around encouraging children to eat anything remotely healthy and sometimes to eat at all! However, children who have eaten a diet of chocolate, cake, crisps and sweet drinks can be tricky to teach in the afternoon not to mention the health impact. Food and children can be a mind field so please have a look at the link below for further support.

[Lunchbox ideas and recipes – Healthier Families - NHS](#)

### Open Days

We have open days at our schools on the following days so if you have a child in year two or about to start school for the first time please come along.

#### For new starters to reception (Infant School):

- ❖ Open Morning Friday 7th November 10.30 to 11.30
- ❖ Meetings for Parents Thursday 13th November 6pm to 7pm
- ❖ Open Morning Friday 21st November 10.30-11.30

Parents are welcome to bring children to the open mornings, but the open evening is for adults (if you are struggling with childcare you can bring them-they will probably just get bored listening to me!)

#### Year Three (Junior School)

- ❖ Monday 17th November 1.30-2.30
- ❖ Monday 24th November 1.30-2.30
- ❖ These are for parents only.

### Parents Evening

Parents evenings for both schools is week beginning Monday 20th October and can be booked via the MCAS App.

### Staffing after Half Term

At the Infants school Mrs Loftus will be leaving us at the October half term and we are in the process of recruiting for her replacement. Thank you Mrs Loftus for being part of our team!

Also, as I am sure you are aware the wonderful Mrs Earl will be retiring and leaving us at October half term. If you see her, please talk a lot about how much she will be missed and how lovely she is as she is really enjoying all the emotion...

At the Juniors Mrs Newton will be leaving us and Mrs Gherardi has been appointed to teach in Toucans as her replacement. She has already met the children but will be coming in again to meet the class and staff. Mrs Newton has been a part of the Junior School for many years and will be missed by staff and children alike. Thank you, Mrs Newton for all of your hard work over the years!

After half term Mrs Blanch and Mrs Saunders will be taking over the teaching of 4Sunbears as they return from maternity leave. Mrs Ramsden will go back to her previous role of job sharing with Mrs Williamson in 6 Red Wolves. A huge thank you to Mrs Ramsden and Mrs Williamson in agreeing to go full time for the autumn term.

### ELSA

Unfortunately, we are unable to continue with ELSA currently at the junior school due to a staff absence. Mrs French will be trying to support the children currently receiving ELSA but this will be limited. Due to the specialist training this role requires we are unable to cover the absence in the short term. Hopefully, we will be able to resume this important provision soon.

### Blankets, Cushions and Beanbags

We have some enterprising children at the junior school who would like to set up a reading club (how amazing are they?!). If anyone has any good quality (and clean...please clean..!) blankets, cushions and beanbags they are happy to donate to up the coziness of this then please bring them to the junior school.

Kind regards

Duncan Churchill  
Executive Head Teacher  
Upton Infant and Junior School

# Upton in Bloom Poetry Competition



## **Introduction:**

This is an annual competition for pupils aged 5-11 years, run by Upton in Bloom, in conjunction with Upton Infants, Upton Juniors, Lytchett and Yarrells Schools. The competition categories are year groups 1-2, 3-4, 5-6.

The aim of the competition is to help pupils appreciate the value of, and an appreciation of the environment, through a better awareness of their surroundings.

## **Dates:**

**All entrees must be in by Friday 14<sup>th</sup> November** to give enough time to judge.

The date set **for the readings is Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> December at Lytchett Minster School, start time to be confirmed, but will be around 9.15 – 9.30.** Parents are of course invited and if possible, bring their child to the event if selected.

The theme this year, due Upton Bloom partnering with Dorset Wildlife Trust, ties in with their current campaign: **'From Rivers to the Sea'**. As a suggestion, the theme could be about rivers and oceans, tell the story of water as it travels from land to ocean, creatures that use both such as salmon, wherever their imagination takes them! Pupils can submit a poem or prose on anything to do with this initiative.

## **Format:**

One side of A4 – handwritten or typed up and **decorated** by the pupil

## **Finalists:**

Mr Thompson (Years 3-4 and 5-6) and Miss Hector (Years 1-2) will pick 3 children from the year groups as finalists. The poems from these children will be read out on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> December at 9am and parents may also be asked to accompany the children. The poems read will be judged by retired teachers and an Upton in Bloom Committee member.

Marks will be awarded for **quality of poetry, decoration and presentation performance.**

## **Awards:**

A trophy for each winner from each age group and book tokens for 1<sup>st</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> places. Certificates for all finalists.

# Upton Junior School Announcements



## Diary Dates

- ❖ Monday 20<sup>th</sup> & Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> October – Parents Evening
- ❖ Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> October – Year 6 Lytchett Minster Show- Charlie and the Chocolate Factory
- ❖ Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> & Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> October – Year 5 Bird Trip
- ❖ Friday 24<sup>th</sup> October – Year 3 Beat Dance Workshop
- ❖ Friday 24<sup>th</sup> October – Last day of school finishing at 3.15pm
- ❖ Monday 27<sup>th</sup> – Friday 31<sup>st</sup> October – Half Term
- ❖ Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> November – Children return to school
- ❖ Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> November – Flu Immunisations
- ❖ Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> November – Year 6 SATS information Evening – 4.30 – 5.30pm
- ❖ Monday 10<sup>th</sup> 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

- ❖ Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> & Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> October – Parents Evening
- ❖ Friday 24<sup>th</sup> October – Last day of school finishing at 3.15pm
- ❖ Monday 27<sup>th</sup> – Friday 31<sup>st</sup> October – Half Term
- ❖ Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> November – Children return to school
- ❖ Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> November – Flu Immunisations
- ❖ Monday 10<sup>th</sup> November – INSET DAY

## PE Days

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



**Dorset  
Council**

### **Safeguarding – Urgent Notification from Dorset Council**

We have been made aware of the following information regarding a set of children's books. The books involved are the series Spy Dogs/Pups and Spy Cat books written by Andrew Cope. These books contain a link to a website which contains highly pornographic content.

The book asks children to explore the website to find more about the characters in the book. It appears the website identified (on the back or inside page) has been compromised and takes users to a pornographic website with no age verification. We would advise schools to check if these are present in your school and remove from children access. It may also be sensible to share this information with parents and carers.

### **Anger Management in Children - NSPCC advice**

Anger management in children is one of the top mental health concerns in childcare. Anger and the ability to control it are key skills of adulthood. To help support parents and carers the NSPCC has produced helpful resources which you may find useful:

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/support-for-parents/arguments-conflict-family-tension>



# Do you need to apply for your child's new school place?

Is your child due to leave their current school in July 2026 and transfer to the next school in September 2026?



## Secondary applications - Closing date 31 October 2025

• Primary - Secondary School • Middle - Upper School

## Primary applications - Closing date 15 January 2026

• Starting School • Infant - Junior School • First - Middle School



Dorset residents apply online at:  
[dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/apply-school-place](https://dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/apply-school-place)  
or call 01305 221060



Scan here



Bournemouth PAVILION

BLOK PRESENTS

# Annie

BOOK BY THOMAS MEEHAN MUSIC BY CHARLES STROUSE LYRICS BY MARTIN CHARNIN

ORIGINAL BROADWAY PRODUCTION DIRECTED BY MARTIN CHARNIN • PRESENTED ON BROADWAY BY MIKE NICHOLS  
PRODUCED BY IRWIN MEYER, STEPHEN R. FRIEDMAN, LEWIS ALLEN, ALVIN NIEDERLANDER ASSOCIATES INC.,  
THE JOHN F. KENNEDY CENTRE FOR PERFORMING ARTS, ICARUS PRODUCTIONS.

BASED ON "LITTLE ORPHAN ANNIE" © BY PERMISSION OF THE TRIBUNE MEDIA SERVICES INC.

**29 OCT - 1 NOV 2025**  
**BOURNEMOUTH PAVILION THEATRE**  
0300 500 0595\* | [bournemouthpavilion.co.uk](https://bournemouthpavilion.co.uk)

\*Charged the same as a standard rate call.

Macmillan



## "Paws for Storytime" - new monthly reading event at Upton Library

Come and meet Ziggy and his owner Sally, who would love to hear you read to them on the first Wednesday of every month at Upton Library from 4.30pm.

Ziggy is a 10-year old male Bedlington terrier/whippet cross, is a registered 'Pets as Therapy' (PAT) dog and Sally is a PAT volunteer with previous experience of reading sessions in other public libraries.

This is a drop-in session (we may progress to bookings), is suitable for families with primary school aged children and all children must be accompanied by an adult.

Next sessions: Wed 5<sup>th</sup> Nov, Wed 3<sup>rd</sup> Dec and Wed 7<sup>th</sup> Jan, all from 4.30pm for about an hour. On Wednesdays we are open until 6pm.





# Free community session: 'An Introduction to Autism'



## What is the session about?

The session was co-developed with parents of autistic children, a SENCo, Dorset Parent Carer Council and Specialist Teachers and Educational Psychologists from Dorset Council.

It will help you to:

- Understand what autism is and how it may impact young people and families
- Learn some practical strategies to support an autistic child/young person

Please note, this is a general information session, so we won't be able to discuss individual children or schools.

The session will be delivered by either an Educational Psychologist or a Specialist Teacher from Dorset Council

## Who can attend?

Anyone from the community, this could include people:

- with an autistic child
- with a child undergoing an assessment for autism
- who are interested in learning more about autism

## Where and when?

Purbeck Youth and Community Centre (PYCF) Wareham Family hub, Worget Road, BH20 4PH (behind The Purbeck School)

Wednesday 12th Nov at 10-11.30am

To Book a place, please scan this QR code or click on this Link: [Register here](#)

Purbeck - An Introduction to Autism - Parent/Carer Autism training







# GIRLS CRICKET

## WINTER TRAINING

Poole Grammar School Sports Hall  
Saturday Afternoons  
Softball & Hardball Cricket  
All Ages  
Beginners Welcome

WhatsApp - 07949 105 663 for more information

SPORTZ+  
XTRA



2025

## SATURDAY SESSIONS

1, 8, 15 NOVEMBER 9.30 - 12.30 P.M.

VENUE: WEYMOUTH OUTDOOR EDUCATION CENTRE (WOEC),  
KNIGHTSDALE RD, WEYMOUTH DT4 0HS

COST: £8.75 PER SESSION

TO BOOK: LEISURE@DORSETCOUNCIL.GOV.UK

- ✓ 1 & 8 Nov. Action Van & sensory fun, soft play  
incl. bouncy castle weather permitting
- ✓ 15 Nov. Climbing & Tunneling with WOEC Tutors  
incl. bouldering & parachute games in the hall



£8.92 PER SESSION

[www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/sport-leisure/sportz-xtra](http://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/sport-leisure/sportz-xtra)

BOOKINGS CLOSE 16 OCT 2025  
CONFIRMATION EMAILS 17 OCT 2025

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



## Turlin Moor Recreation Ground

### October Programme

Meeting point: by the Foreland Road Playpark



THE PARKS  
FOUNDATION

#### Community Litter Pick Sun 5 Oct | 11am - 12pm

We'll join the litter pick  
organised by Rev. Lucy Bolster  
to help tidy the park for people  
and wildlife.



Volunteering

#### Moor to Shore - Nature Walk for adults Tues 14 Oct | 9.30am - 12.30pm

In partnership with Upton Country  
Park, join us for a gentle nature  
walk starting at Turlin Moor,  
looping into Upton Country Park  
and back.

We'll look out for  
birds and take in the  
nature as we go.



Free event

Scan for park  
information,  
including  
accessibility



To book: [parksfoundation.org.uk/events](https://parksfoundation.org.uk/events)

The Parks Foundation is committed to celebrating diversity - we welcome people from all backgrounds, genders, ethnicities, people with learning differences and varying physical abilities. If you would like more information or have questions about an activity, please contact us.

Get in touch with our team member, Lisa on: [lisa@parksfoundation.org.uk](mailto:lisa@parksfoundation.org.uk) or: 07458 039395





# BEAT

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# GREEN HALLOWEEN

**WEDNESDAY 29TH OCTOBER**  
**4 - 5:30PM**

JOIN US AT THE PYCF CENTRE, BH20 4PH FOR:  
COSTUME SWAP (BRING YOUR OLD ONE TO SWAP FOR ANOTHER)  
SPOOKY SUSTAINABLE CRAFTS  
GRUESOME GAMES  
SCARY SNACKS & DRINKS

**£4 PER FAMILY (1 ADULT + 3 KIDS)**  
**OR £1.50 PER PERSON**

SUITABLE FOR AGES 5+  
AGE 8 AND UNDER MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY AN ADULT

EMAIL [OFFICE@PYCF.ORG.UK](mailto:OFFICE@PYCF.ORG.UK) OR CALL  
01929 552934 TO BOOK YOUR PLACE




# SEN SENSORY Play Session!

**Wednesday 29th October 10.30am-12.30pm**  
**Led by Play Therapist Lisa**

For families with children of 1-8 years old with Special Educational Needs (diagnosed or undiagnosed)

- Sand trays
- Slime making
- Movement Games
- Marshmallow Building
- Stories
- Painting

To book –  
email [office@pycf.org.uk](mailto:office@pycf.org.uk)  
call 01929 552 934

**£3 per family. Includes a snack**  
**Older siblings welcome**





# 10am-3pm HALLOWEEN OPEN DAY

**25th October 2025**

A day full of frightful fun for the whole family!

- SCAVENGER HUNT FOR KIDS
- FREE CRAFT TABLES
- SPOOKY PHOTOSHOOTS
- WORKSHOPS & STALLS
- BURGER VAN & TOMBOLA
- RETAIL SHOPS OPEN
- ...AND MUCH MORE

📍 **BROADSTONE BUSINESS CENTRE**  
**19B Moor Road, BH18 8az**

DON'T MISS A DAY OF SPOOKY FUN – COSTUMES WELCOME!

