

Into 2026 we go!

### Starting School

For some of you 2026 will mean thinking about a major milestone of starting school in September 2026. If you haven't done so already please apply for your school place as time is running out – the deadline is 15<sup>th</sup> January !.

Apply online <https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/w/starting-school-for-the-first-time>

### Potty Training

The New Year may bring many ideas of change and things you may personally want to conquer with your child. If potty training is one of these please do have read of the updated guidance

<https://startingreception.co.uk/potty-training/#introduction>

We encourage, across all the age groups, child involvement in toileting dependant on their stage of development this is different for all.

Nappies or pull ups – at the end of the day the choice and cost is yours. If your child is not potty training and wears pull ups they have to be stripped to only having their socks on when changed. We would therefore recommend for their own comfort, especially now as we go into the coldest part of winter that they wear a nappy.

If they are toilet training loose elasticated clothing is preferable, if you've every been desperate for the loo and got tight clothing on with a button that won't undo you'll know what we mean and why !

Do talk to us if you are ready to take on the challenge of toilet training and we can then loan you our toilet training bag which includes toileting stories and advice.

Last term we added toileting support to Tapestry care diary. – this records changing times and staff undertaking this. From January we will also be recording poo type. <https://eric.org.uk/poo-checker/>

### Struggling with your child ? – Behaviours challenging you?

There will be times when help is required to overcome behaviours. This could be refusal to brush teeth, emotional outbursts, anxiety in social situations, unwilling to try new foods or concern over unidentified needs.

We can help – we've seen it all !! if you have any concerns please do talk to us, if we can't support you ourselves we can signpost you to others services that can. Early intervention when challenges occur prevents it becoming a long term issue. We are here for you. ☺

### Learning this half term.

Our inspiration for learning this half term is going to be based on art and specific artists. Which will give us lots of cross curricular learning and opportunities to develop different skills in making and constructions

The artists we are going to explore are: Damien Hirst -crystals & dots, Monet - water colour, ponds, Anish Kapoor – silver balls & Orbit tower , Elizabeth Frink – clay, Gustav Klimt – collage, Cheng Rong – Chinese Dragons.

We are in the process of arranging transport to Dorchester to see the Elizabeth Frink statues in South Walks- As soon as we have this confirmed we will let you know. Along with a full itinerary.

#### EYFS Policy– vision and goals

Over the last 6 months we have been working to draft an EYFS policy in order to formalise our vision and goals for the children. It explains our intent, implementation and impact. We are defining the knowledge and skills that we want children to develop through their time with us and what we want them to have acquired by the time they leave us to start school. There is no significant change in learning as everything we do has a purpose in the 7 areas of learning under the Early Years Foundation stage. See Policy attached. It is a working document, has been proof read and amended many times so please forgive us if you spot typos etc.

#### Teachers Learning ! – INSET DAY 13/2/2026

Just like your children we never stop learning, there is always new research, guidance, regulations and educational programs to support what we do to. On Friday 13<sup>th</sup> of February we will be closed to undertake training in Phonics. Apologies this was unpublished when we set and published the academic calendar in September 2025. This means the half term ends on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> February.