

Manor Park School & Nursery Newsletter



February 2024

A MESSAGE FROM MR COTTERILL

Hopefully the lighter nights are on the way, some sunshine and some warmth as well. We have had a wonderful half term in school with so many exciting activities, trips and learning taking place in all of our classes. Our new computers are a big hit with the children, we have thirty-three of the latest desktop computers with rotating monitors so the children can view their learning in both portrait or landscape depending on what they are doing. Thank you very much to the MPSA for donating £5000 to the upgrade. We also have increased the number of iPads that we have in school and they have been shared out amongst the classes, all classes now have a mixture of laptop/iPads for the children to access learning in class.

Our first Culture and Diversity week was a fabulous opportunity for our children to learn about many different communities and cultures from around the world. Children learnt about the indigenous tribes and people from all four corners of the globe, from Australia and New Zealand to the Middle East and South America. The children shared their learning with different classes and some of our children visited the Buddhist Centre and a Mosque in Manchester. It really was wonderful to learn about so many different cultures. Thank you to all of the staff who made the children's learning experience so exciting.

Our Year 5 children took part in a careers workshop at Great Places head office. This is part of our Raising Aspirations Project RAP where we work with our Year 5 and Year 6 children and explore the world beyond school and the skills, attributes and opportunities that are available to them when they are older. Thank you to the team at Great Places for supporting the school in our project.

Our Reception class continue to have a 'mystery reader' each week in the school library, if you are a parent or grandparent of a child in our Reception class and would like to come and read to the class, please speak to the class teachers and you could be our next mystery reader. Remember to keep it a secret as the children love the surprise.

On a different note - can I politely ask all parents and carers to refrain from parking directly outside of the school in the morning and after school. We have noticed an increased number of cars parking there and it is causing problems with traffic congestion which in turn is making the road a more dangerous place for our children. If you can please park away from the school and walk in with the children that would be appreciated by all of the school community. Thank you in advance.

The children are breaking up for a well-earned rest, we all hope you have an enjoyable half term and we look forward to seeing you all on Monday 26th February.

IMPORANT INFORMATION

Lateness – It is essential that you ensure that your child arrives at school on time to prevent disruption to your child's own learning and that of others. If you are experiencing difficulty with punctuality and would like to talk to us about it please contact the school office. The registers are taken at 9am therefore arrival after this time will result in a late mark.

A polite reminder that the end of the school day is 3.15pm for KS1 and 3.20pm for KS2. Children must be collected from the playground at this time.

KEY DATES

- **16/02/24** – Break up for half term
- **26/02/24** – Return to school
- **06/03/24** – Y4 Conway residential
- **07/03/24** – Book fair delivered to school
- **12/03/24** – Education Library Service book bus visit
- **20/03/24** – Parents evening
- **21/03/24** – Y5 Easter experience Knutsford Methodist Church
- **21/03/24** – Y1&Y2 Football taster at Knutsford Academy
- **25/04/24** – Image Theatre visit to school
- **27/04/24** – Parents evening
- **28/03/24** – Break up for Easter
- **15/04/24** – Return to school
- **18/04/24** – Y1&Y2 Little Champions at Knutsford Academy

PUPIL SAFEGUARDING CHAMPIONS

Our pupil safeguarding champions have spent some time looking specifically at playground safety and talking about the ways we keep the children safe during break and lunch times.

The children came up with some brilliant suggestions for improving safety and will be creating some posters to display around the school over the next couple of weeks.

During our next meeting they will be interviewing our Site Manager Mr Ashton to find out more about his role in keeping children and adults in school safe.



BIKEABILITY TRAINING

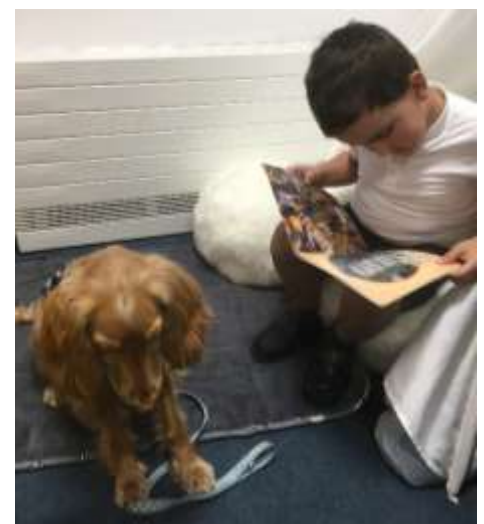


Some of our Y4 and Y5 children took part in Bikeability this week. Bikeability is the governments national cycle training programme which helps children to learn practical skills and understand how to cycle on today's roads. All children who completed their Bikeability training were presented with a certificate, badge and handbook to take home.



NELLY OUR SCHOOL DOG

Nelly has recently been enjoying listening to children read in the rainbow room and playing fetch on the field with her favourite ball.



SHARING LEARNING

As part of our current project based on the Anglo-Saxons and the Vikings, Year 6 had a fantastic time learning about Danegeld. They worked collaboratively to create freeze frames for each of the verses from the Danegeld poem by Rudyard Kipling.



Year 5 had great fun using the Lego WeDo to make a contraption to help wildlife cross the road.



SCHOOL UNIFORM

Here at Manor Park we pride ourselves on how smart all of our students present themselves every day. As we approach half term we would like to politely remind parents/carers to ensure the correct uniform is worn each day. Trainers are not to be worn in school with uniform. This includes black trainers.

Our uniform including PE kit can be purchased direct from Finesse School Wear in Macclesfield or via the following link

<https://finesseschoolwear.co.uk/school-uniforms/manor-park-primary-school/>

SAFEGUARDING

In today's digital era, an increasing number of children and young people are actively participating in popular group messaging platforms every day.

However, are you aware of the potential risks that those under your supervision may encounter in these online spaces?

'Your Guide to Group Chats' will help you in understanding social media and gaming chats and how to protect children and young people in your care from risks.

YOUR GUIDE TO Group Chats

Group chats are a type of communication involving multiple users that happen on most messaging platforms. While they have been around since the invention of online messaging (think chatrooms), popular use has grown in the last decade.

HOW DO THEY WORK?
Once a user creates a group chat on a messaging platform, they can:

- Choose the name of the group & select a group photo
- Set up the sharing and privacy settings
- Add other users as members of the group

After the group is set up, users can:

- Video or voice call all members of the group at the same time
- Message into the chat
- Send photos/videos/GIFS/voice notes
- Tag other group members in specific messages

Who can be in a group chat?
Anyone can be in a group chat as long as they are a user on that platform. Most platforms have age restrictions (usually 13+) but there are not always robust age verification processes in place.

Why do young people use them?

- Stay connected to friends, family, or teammates.
- Send important information to multiple people.
- Discuss specific interests or events with others.
- Organise meetings for school, work, extracurriculars, etc.

More than 8 out of 10 parents are concerned their child will be cyberbullied on a group chat.

The Risks of Group Chats

- Bullying.** Many young people have reported being left out of group chats, experienced bullying within them or have been made fun of in a chat they weren't included in.
- Image sharing.** Young people may feel pressured to share sexual imagery of themselves. Even if they choose to share an image with just one person, they may lose control if it is shared in a group chat.
- Disappearing messages.** A function of many group chats which allows users to delete messages or automatically make them vanish after a set time (e.g., on Snapchat) which can present opportunities for bullying or coercion when sharing inappropriate images.
- Information leak.** Being in a group chat could unintentionally lead to private information being shared, such as mobile numbers or live locations.
- Stranger interaction.** A young person may not know everyone they are in a group chat with, potentially exposing them to harmful interactions.
- Inappropriate content.** If someone sends in something that is inappropriate, it may expose a young person to content they were not prepared to see.
- Excessive screentime.** Some group chats might be receiving messages 24/7, which could draw a young person's attention at inappropriate times!

When using WhatsApp, images can automatically save to the user's camera roll, unless adjusted in the settings. This may lead to young people unintentionally possessing harmful or illegal images by default of someone else sending them into a group chat.

The most important thing you can do for a young person is to ensure they know who their trusted adults are and that they can always talk to them without fear of consequences. Here are some other preventative steps that you can take:

- Ensure they understand what information should be kept private.
- Talk about appropriate behaviour towards others online.
- Discuss the risks of sharing nude or semi-nude images.
- Enable and review privacy settings together - use our Safety Centre to help!
- Teach how to block, mute and report other users or chats.
- Adjust auto-saving settings on WhatsApp.
- Set family rules and screentime limits on devices.

Group messaging functions exist across various social media and gaming platforms. The most common way 3-17-year-olds interact online is through communicating via messaging/video platforms. The most used apps for this are:

WhatsApp	Snapchat	FaceTime
55%	38%	32%

If a young person does seek your help...

- Listen and reassure them that they have done the right thing.
- Include them in any decisions that follow.
- Screenshot evidence of bullying as soon as possible.
- Only ban the use of the platform where necessary for their safety.
- Involve parents or relevant staff if children are at risk.
- Contact organisations who can help.
- Do not respond directly to harmful or hurtful messages.
- If you believe a child is in immediate danger, contact the police without delay.

NEVER SCREENSHOT AN INDECENT IMAGE OF A CHILD!

INEOE An Online Safety Resource by NSIC Safeguarding Group

VACANCIES

Are you a dynamic and energetic individual with a passion for fostering creativity and playfulness in children? If so, we have the perfect opportunity for you! Manor Park Primary School and Nursery is currently seeking a dedicated and enthusiastic School Play Leader to join our team.

Position: School Play Leader

Hours: 11:45 AM - 1:15 PM (Daily)

Salary: Competitive

If you are passionate about creating a positive and enjoyable play experience for children, we would love to hear from you!

To apply, please email businessmanager@manorpark.cheshire.sch.uk for an application form.

MPSA UPDATES

With the MPSA's contribution of £5000 we were able to purchase all new IT equipment for the computing suite in December. These were installed over the Christmas holiday and the children are enjoying using them in lesson time and also during lunch time to complete homework. The Christmas raffle raised £1067 which will be put towards some exciting new school projects in 2024.

Without the support of our parents and carers and your generosity this would not be possible so we thank you and hope you will continue to support the MPSA's future fundraising events. We have some exciting things planned such as discos, the summer fair and a family bingo night.

ATTENDANCE

We advise parents/carers to avoid taking children out of school in term time. Holidays taken in term time will not be authorised. If you decide to take your child/children out of school, please call into the office for a Leave of Absence Form to be completed. This is so that we can accurately identify where a child is.

Please remember that taking your child out of school without the school's authorisation may result in the Local Authority issuing a Fixed Penalty Notice to each parent/carer for each child. The penalties are shown below.

Penalties for unauthorised absence		
Timeline	One child	Two children
Paid within 21 days	£60 per parent	£60 per child = £120 per parent
After 21 days and before 28 days	£120 per parent	£120 per child = £240 per parent
After 28 days	You will receive a summons to appear before the Magistrates' Court on the grounds you have failed to secure your child's regular attendance	You will receive a summons to appear before the Magistrates' Court on the grounds you have failed to secure your children's regular attendance

SAFEGUARDING KEY PEOPLE

Mr S Cotterill – Designated Safeguarding Lead

Mrs S Jeffery – Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead

Mrs K Thatcher – Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead

If you have a safeguarding concern please contact the school office and ask to speak to one of the safeguarding leads.

ATTENDANCE BANK TOTALS

Every week each class has the opportunity to add money to their piggy bank by winning the award for the highest attendance percentage. The prizes are as follows

1st Place - £5

2nd Place - £3

3rd Place - £2

The current totals for each class are

REC - £17

Y4 - £22.50

Y1 - £17

Y5 - £27

Y2 - £32

Y5/6 - £10

Y3 - £21

Y6 - £20

Y3/4 - £15.50

The team that places 1st each week will be rewarded with a non-uniform day! This will normally take place on a Friday unless Friday is your child's PE day.

At the end of the school year each class will have the opportunity to choose a reward using their piggy bank total to share and enjoy.

If you have any concerns about your child's attendance, please contact us to discuss them. As a school we want to support you to improve attendance as this will ultimately improve your child's enjoyment and progress at school.

SUPPORT FOR PARENTS/CARERS

The increase in the cost of living and the impact of Covid have hit many people hard. If you need an emergency food parcel we are able to make a referral on your behalf. Please contact Mrs K Thatcher via 01625 568837 who will be able to talk you through the process, answer any questions you may have and complete the referral. Once this has been completed, Hope Central will provide you with a food parcel which can even be delivered straight to your door.

Hope Central are also able to help in other areas such as

- Supporting people out of debt
- CV writing and interview skills equipping people in their search for work
- Helping people to take control of their finances and learn how to budget
- Supporting people to break free from life-controlling habits

