



Manorcroft Primary School

October Newsletter 2020-21

Thank Yous:

Firstly we'd like to thank everyone who supported our Harvest collection over the last few weeks. Once we had put everything together from across the school, we had managed to collect an incredible 12 crates worth of food which were given to the Runnymede Foodbank to support local people in crisis. In fact, the donation was so generous that the Foodbank had to send a large van to school to collect it all! Thank you to everyone across the school who donated.

Friday 9th October saw the school supporting 'Hello Yellow' day. It was fantastic to see how many children and staff from every year group had managed to accessorize their clothes with something yellow. In some cases, there were whole costumes on display! The purpose of the day was to remind the children about the importance of mental health and well-being and the staff team led lots of different activities, which had been organised by Miss Wilkins and Mrs Jordan. We thank everyone for their effort and enthusiasm, and we're pleased to say that we raised £320 for Young Minds.



Reading:

Thanks to the generosity of parents and governors, as well as an injection of funding from the school budget, we now have lots of new reading resources in school. New books have been purchased to support the reading scheme in YR and KS1, as well as new 'free reader' books in the library and classrooms for our more confident readers. We have introduced the idea of 'Diamond Readers' (key year group texts) as well as beginning the refurbishment of the school library.

Improving the quality of the reading resources across the school is going to be a long term investment, and to help explain a little bit more about what has been achieved to date, Mrs Rees has created a leaflet that will be going home at the end of this week to all parents. Please take the time to read this through and see what changes we've made. If you have any questions, then please contact class teachers in the first instance.

Attendance:

As we're all aware, children's attendance at school is vital and is closely tracked. We have a statutory duty to report on all attendance figures to Surrey.

Since the start of term we have been overwhelmingly impressed by the children's attendance in school - our whole school attendance figure is on a par with pre-Covid figures, an amazing achievement! We would like to take this opportunity to thank all parents for supporting us with helping the children return to school. There has also been a huge improvement in far less children being late for school, compared with this time last year. This makes a huge difference to a child's start to the day.

However, please rest assured that given the circumstances that we now find ourselves in, we understand that some absence will now be Covid related, for example, people waiting for test results or having to self-isolate for short periods of time. Although this data is tracked, it does not count in the weekly class attendance data and children will not be penalised for something out of their control.

As before, all exceptional leave of absence from school can only be authorised by the Headteacher and each case will be treated independently. Please note that any unauthorised absence for an extended

period of time could trigger a fine from Surrey County Council. Please see the school Attendance Policy on our website for full details.

School Website: Key Information / [School Policies](#)

Diary Dates:

The latest 'Diary Dates' are now available. All dates are also published on our website - please see the [Calendar](#) to stay up-to-date. Alternatively, please see the 'Term Dates' section where you can find the dates for the year plus a detailed/printable overview from October.

School Website: School Life / [Term Dates](#)

Coming Up:

Wednesday and Thursday this week sees us hosting "K'z Dance Entertainment" who will be leading a Bollywood style dance workshop with each class. The company will be following our Covid risk assessment and we hope the children thoroughly enjoy the opportunity to try something new. Thanks to Mrs Whittingham and Miss Hitchen for organising the event.



At the end of the week we will finally be receiving our long awaited delivery of new trees for the Forest School. These were ordered many months ago but had sadly been delayed by Covid. TreeLine will be visiting us for 2 days to oversee the laying out and planting of the trees, ably supported by Mrs Scannell! The new trees will be planted to the right hand side of the field as this is where we want to extend the Forest School too, using the area behind the willow fencing. Huge thanks to the PTA who are financing this development for us.

Exciting news for Y6 Oxford class which is next on the list of classrooms to be refurbished. We began a rolling programme nearly 2 years ago which has seen us refurbish a total of 8 classrooms, various group and intervention spaces, the main corridor, library and Admin offices. Once decorated and re-carpeted, each space feels fresh and purposeful again. The Y6 work will take place over Half Term, meaning that the children (and staff!) will be able to return to a new classroom.

After Half Term:

A reminder that after Half Term we will be having individual and sibling school photos on Tuesday 3rd and Wednesday 4th November.

Parents Evening appointments will take place on Tuesday 3rd and Thursday 5th November by telephone - a separate letter has gone home this week with all the details. Please make sure you've seen the letter as it contains instructions on how to sign up for an appointment, as well as details about what information will be sent home prior to Half Term.

Autumn Term 2 Clubs:

After careful consideration of the current situation, we have taken the decision not to run extra-curricular activities (3.15 - 4.15pm) in Autumn Term 2. DfE guidance is very clear, children cannot mix outside of their year group bubble when at school, so organising the raft of clubs that we had this time last year would be very difficult. It would involve far more staff, different resources and a complicated timetable of spaces to take into account cleaning schedules. We will however, review the situation for the Spring Term.

Please note, Breakfast Club and KOOSA after school provision are running - these are operated separately to the running of the main school and have their own risk assessments in place.

Music Lessons:

Individual music lessons run by Surrey Arts have restarted and at the moment children are receiving piano and guitar lessons. All sessions are being taught following strict Covid guidelines. After Half Term will also see Rocksteady starting again. Please note, because this is a small group activity, the children will only be able to part of a 'band' within their year group bubble. Therefore, there will be a limit on numbers and different year groups taking part.

If you would be interested in your child receiving peripatetic music teaching, please see our website:

School Website: School Life / [Music Lessons](#)

Staffing Update:

We have welcomed a new member of staff to our Admin Team - Mrs Kidwell joined Manorcroft at the beginning of October. She will mainly be based in our school office reception area so we're sure many of you may already have spoken to her on the phone. The new school term has also seen some new staff joining our team of Learning Support Assistants - Miss Parker, Miss Blazencova and Mrs Tree-Patel.

Finally, as some parents may be aware, Miss Govey will be starting her maternity leave at the end of this week. Mrs Maxwell will be joining our staff team from after Half Term, teaching Y4 Warwick until the end of the school year. We wish Miss Govey and her partner all the best and look forward to meeting the new arrival next month.

We hope it doesn't take long for all new members of the team to settle in and feel at home.

PGL Refund:

As you may know, last year's Y6 trip to PGL had to be cancelled, despite our best efforts to reschedule it. It has taken a little while to claim through our school insurance but we have now successfully received all the money back and will be refunding all parents in full before the end of this week. We thank everyone for their patience, through what has been a trying time for the school. As a result of the ongoing uncertainty, we have also taken the decision to cancel the planned PGL trip for this year's current Y6 children. We know that this will be a disappointment for the children, so will ensure something else exciting is planned for them in the summer term.

For those parents who have children in Y5, where we currently have a rescheduled booking for Hooke Court, we will be in touch with you shortly after Half Term with an update.

Hall Update:

As we're sure you're aware, a large section of our school hall is currently out of use, which is having an impact on accessing the space for PE lessons and school dinners. The ceiling has become damaged over time and we now need the whole ceiling, including the area above the stage, to be replaced. Surrey CC are responsible for assessing and carrying out the work, and after several meetings and surveys, we're hopeful that the repair work will begin after Half Term. It is likely that the whole project will take up to 6 weeks to complete. However, we're very excited to finally be getting a new ceiling, and subsequently new lighting in the Hall, as this is something that the school has needed for a very long time. Once the new ceiling is in place, then we'll review further refurbishments that will need to take place, mainly redecorating, replacing the blinds which have become damaged and looking at a new sound and lighting system for the stage.

In the meantime, we will need to continue with the emergency lunch system that we put into place a few weeks ago. All children ordering a hot meal will continue to receive one, either delivered to their classroom or served on the stage in the hall. Each class currently has a half hour slot for eating and a half hour slot for playing outside, which is timetabled so that each year group has a separate space. Once the repairs start in earnest, we will review the situation again and let you know if there will be any changes to the provision.

Where possible, nearly all PE lessons are now being taught outside, so it is vital that all children have a hoodie/sweatshirt and joggers with them. Even in cold weather the lessons continue, so children must have appropriate clothing with them.

Drop-Off & Pick-Up:

A huge thank you to all parents for supporting us with the new arrangements to the start and end of the day. We understand that it's a bit different, but our main priority is the safety of the school community. Below is a reminder of our new systems:

Drop-Off

- There is a 15 minute window for drop-off in the morning, between 8.40am - 8.55am
- Only 1 adult per household
- Parents will not be allowed to access the site - children to independently make their way in
- YR, Y1, Y2 and Y4 to use the Pedestrian Gate (by Nursery)
- Y3, Y5 & Y6 to use the Vehicle Gate (by the Bowls Club)
- There is a one-way system in operation at both gates - as you face the gate, approach from the left and exit to the right
- Adhere to social distancing rules when queuing on the pavements
- Keep the queue flowing, **please do not congregate once your child has been dropped off**

Pick-Up

- Only 1 adult per household
- All parents to enter the site via the Pedestrian Gate (by Nursery)
- Follow the one way system demarcated by the cones and fencing
- Stand in the allocated zone when waiting for your child, not on the pathway
- One you've collected your child, keep moving along the one-way system
- Adhere to social distancing rules

In order to alleviate the number of parents on the school site at the end of the day, we have slightly staggered the finish times for some of the year groups:

Year Group	Pick-Up Time	Pick-Up Zone
YR	3.05pm	By the main year group entrance door, opposite Nursery
Y1 & Y2	3.10pm	KS1 playground
Y4	3.15pm	KS2 Trimtrail Playground
Y3, Y5 & Y6		KS2 Back Playground (near the field)

Once you have collected your child from the correct pick-up zone, **please keep moving along the pathway**, either to the next zone to collect a sibling, or exiting the school site via the visitor car park.

Contacting Class Teachers:

At the moment we ask that you do not stand and chat with class teachers at the end of the day. Therefore, if you have a short message to share, either write it in the Reading Record (YR-Y2) or the Weekly Diary (KS2), or email into the Admin Team and they can pass it on for you (info@manorcroft.surrey.sch.uk). Alternatively, each year group has its own email account. Please note, these accounts are shared by the teaching team and will only be checked a couple of times a week, during working hours:

YearR@manorcroft.surrey.sch.uk
Year1@manorcroft.surrey.sch.uk

Miss Havard & Mrs Jordan
Miss Marshall & Miss Wilkins

Year2@manorcroft.surrey.sch.uk
Year3@manorcroft.surrey.sch.uk
Year4@manorcroft.surrey.sch.uk
Year5@manorcroft.surrey.sch.uk
Year6@manorcroft.surrey.sch.uk

Miss Hitchen & Mrs McClean
Miss Hudson & Miss Redman
Miss Elie & Miss Govey
Mrs Scannell, Mrs Woodin & Mrs Whittingham
Mrs Alden, Mrs Rees & Mrs Woodin

PTA:

PTA meetings have now moved online and there was great attendance for the last one, so thank you to everyone who logged in! If you'd be interested in joining the next one, please email the PTA at: manorcroftpta@hotmail.com

Upcoming Dates for the Diary:

- **Mufti Day** Thursday 22nd October
all children are encouraged to wear their own clothes to school (no theme) for a £1-£2 donation
- **Pumpkin Carving** by Monday 2nd November
Carve a pumpkin and submit a photo - £1 entry fee
- **Bag-2-School** Wednesday 11th November
Please fill the collection sack sent home - all bags to be left in the gazebo on the KS2 playground
- **Christmas Shopping Room** Friday 11th December
Opportunity for the children to buy their loved ones a secret Santa gift

There are also some online ways to support the school going forward, if you're interested:

- **PTA Lottery** - weekly tickets cost £1 and one lucky person wins a cash prize each week - [Your School Lottery](#)
- **The Giving Machine** - when shopping online, if you go through the [Giving Machine](#) website first, the PTA will receive on average 3% of your total spend.
- **Easy2Name** - everything in school needs naming and if you use this company, the PTA receive 20% from each order.
- **Smile Amazon** - if you shop through smile.amazon.co.uk then Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase to the PTA; this now works on both iPhones and android devices.
 1. *Open the Amazon Shopping app on your device*
 2. *Go into the main menu of the Amazon Shopping app and tap into 'Settings'*
 3. *Tap 'AmazonSmile' and follow the on-screen instructions to complete the process*

More details about fundraising for the school can be found on our website: [Our School / PTA](#)

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