



# Manorcroft Primary School

## December Newsletter 2023-24

### End of Term:

Unbelievably, we're at the end of the Autumn Term already - a third of the way through the school year! It's been a fantastic term with a huge amount going on, not least the Y4 children beginning to learn to play the cornet, swimming lessons in Y6, trips and visits out, the continued development of our outdoor spaces, and having our cohort of new YR children join the school. We're extremely proud of how well they have all settled into life at Manorcroft and become a big part of our school family.

School has been incredibly busy in the run up to Christmas. The fun started at the end of November with the PTA mufti day collecting items for our incredible Christmas raffle (winners being announced in assembly today!) This was followed by a variety of activities taking place right across the school, including most recently Christmas Jumper Day and our Christmas lunch cooked by our own catering team here on site - over 320 meals hot dinners eaten; no mean feat!

The last two weeks have seen a huge effort from the children (and staff!) to put on a multitude of Christmas performances. We started with the KS1 team (made up of Y1 and Y2) putting on two fantastic performances of 'Lights, Camel, Action - The Sequin'. This was a great production with superb singing and dancing from all involved! Y4 followed next with their annual Carol Concert and Christmas readings - they performed brilliantly and we were particularly impressed with all the little added extras they brought to the concert.

The last performance this week was led by our youngest children - this was the first time that they had performed to an audience and we're especially proud of how well they did. They had learnt all their words, sang their hearts out and were not intimidated by being on stage - amazing! A huge thank you to all parents and grandparents who came and watched - we hope that you enjoyed all the different performances. An additional thank you if you were able to make a donation in one of our buckets - all funds raised have gone towards the cost of props and performance licences.

A huge thank you to all the different members of staff who have gone above and beyond in the last few weeks - none of the events would be possible without their time, care and dedication.

Please can I take this opportunity to wish everyone a very happy Christmas and New Year, and we look forward to seeing all children return to school on **Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2024**.

**Ann Wheeler - Headteacher**

### Diary Dates:

The latest 'Diary Dates' are now available. All dates are also published on the 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 the latest detailed/printable overview.



### 8.40am Start:

A reminder that the school gates open every morning at 8.40am allowing 15 minutes for children to arrive before the register is taken at 8.55am. These 15 minutes are a key part of the school day and we strongly encourage all children to be in school as early as they can. This initial part of the day is used for 1-to-1 work, interventions, support and pre-teaching ahead of the first lesson.

## Curriculum Update:

Thinking ahead to after Christmas, every year group will be starting their new cross-curricular project. The school website will be updated shortly with all the information for Spring Term 1 - Knowledge Organisers, Book Lists and Home Learning ideas. We will also email these resources out to you as well. We would love it if the children would like to do some research or read ahead about what they might be learning.

**School Website:** Learning / [Year Groups](#)

**School Website:** Learning / [Home Learning](#)

**Book list**

Title	Author	ISBN
Puss in Boots (Ladybird Tales)	Ladybird	9781846468993
Monkey: A Trickster Tale from India	Gerald McDermott	9780544339187
The Hedge-Hog	Dick King-Smith	9780141332383
Looking After Dogs and Puppies (Usborne Pet Guides)	Katherine Starke	9781409533408
Looking After Cats and Kittens (Usborne Pet Guides)	Katherine Starke	9781409532422
Tigers	James MacLaine	9781409530671
Animal Poems	Compiled by Jennifer Curry	9781407158815
The Tiger Who Came to Tea	Julia Kerr	9780007215997
Dear Zoo (A Lift-the-Flap Book)	Ros Campbell	9780140504400
The Lion Inside	Rachel Bright	9781408331606
Alan's Big, Scary Teeth	Jarvis	9781406370805
My Name is Bob	James Bowen	9781782950813
Welcome to the Zoo	Alican Jay	9781840119732
Slowly, Slowly, Slowly, Said the Sloth	Eric Carle	9780140569247
Dogs (Pets Plus)	Sally Morgan	9781445118437
Usborne Children's Picture Atlas of Animals	Hazel Madell	9781409944814
Odd Dog Out	Rob Biddulph	9780007594153
Just So Stories (Puffin Classics)	Rudyard Kipling	9780141322622

● Recommended in the ELP    
 ● Love to Read guide available

Pears, Cleave and Whittlers     Copyright © 2017 Cornerstones Education Limited     Mighty Metals

**Home learning ideas**

### What will you choose to do?

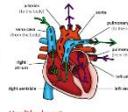
- Go on a magnetic treasure hunt in your house. How many magnetic objects can you find? What materials are they made from?
- Research some of the tasks carried out by robots. What tasks do you think robots could do in the future? What jobs would you like a robot to do in your house? Ask your parents – they're sure to have some ideas!
- Investigate the best surfaces at home for toy cars to travel on: carpet or a tiled floor? Measure the distance travelled on each type of surface and rank each one in order of effectiveness. Make a table or bar chart to show your results. Which force is acting to slow down and stop the cars from moving?
- Use non-fiction books and the web to find out about a metal of your choice. Write down your findings as a list of facts.
- Read stories and poems about robots. Choose your favourite, then write or film a review for your classmates.
- Design your perfect playground. What (real or imaginary) equipment would you include?
- Search the web to find artwork made using metal and make a collage or scrapbook of downloaded images.
- Learn to spell the names of some common metals such as iron, gold, platinum, lead and aluminium. Create anagrams for your friends and family to solve.
- Choose and find out all you can about a musical instrument made from metal. It could be an orchestral instrument or something more unusual. Create a presentation with photos and sound clips of your chosen instrument.
- Design and make a fridge magnet, either as a gift for someone or to commemorate a special event.
- Imagine... you wake up, and all the metal in the world has vanished! Write a story about your day. How is everyday life different without metal?
- Find out about King Midas and his golden touch.



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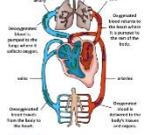
### Blood Heart

**The heart**  
The heart is a muscular organ that pumps blood to the rest of the body. It is made of muscle and is divided into four chambers: the right and left atria and ventricles. The heart is located in the chest, between the lungs.



**Blood**  
Blood is a red liquid that carries oxygen and nutrients to the cells of the body. It is made up of red blood cells, white blood cells, and platelets. Blood is pumped by the heart through a network of blood vessels.

**The circulatory system**  
The circulatory system is the network of blood vessels that carries blood to and from the rest of the body. It consists of the heart, arteries, and veins.



**Healthy heart**  
A healthy heart is one that is able to pump blood efficiently. It is important to keep your heart healthy by eating a diet rich in fruits and vegetables, exercising regularly, and not smoking.

**Circulation**  
Circulation is the process of moving blood through the body. It is a continuous cycle that keeps the body supplied with oxygen and nutrients.

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## The new Spring Term 1 projects will be:

- |                    |                          |
|--------------------|--------------------------|
| YR: Starry Night   | Y2: Magnificent Monarchs |
| Y1: Moon Zoom      | Y4: Playlist             |
| Y3: Mighty Metals  | Y6: Britain at War       |
| Y5: Alchemy Island |                          |

Lots of exciting launch activities have been planned, and the first few weeks of term see a variety of workshops and off-site visits taking place.

## Christmas Concert:

Very well done to our Y4 children who performed alongside other local schools, with Egham Brass Band, at St. John's Church last week. The concert was the annual school brass band performance and was a great opportunity for the children to perform as part of a mass ensemble. The children were amazing and it is incredible to think that they've been learning to play for less than 12 weeks. Well done to Mrs Mehmedaj and Miss Govey who have also both been learning alongside the children and took part in the concert!



Learning the cornet is an important part of our music curriculum. We have partnered with [Egham Brass Band](#), who come into school each week to deliver music lessons to the Y4 children. Each child is loaned their own cornet for the year, which they use for the lessons in school and then take home each week to practise with. On top of this we have started our own 'Manorcroft Band' club which some of our Y5 children are also part of. The lessons in school and the band all enable children to progress further and maybe join the Egham Training Band in time. We're incredibly grateful to the Brass Band for the opportunities that have been created for our children.

### Junior Duke:

For the second year running we are taking part in the Junior Duke programme. Mini and Junior Duke is an award scheme inspired by the Duke of Edinburgh Award and aimed at primary children, encouraging the development of valuable life skills. There are six levels:

Silver Mini Duke	(Year 1)	Silver Junior Duke	(Year 4)
Gold Mini Duke	(Year 2)	Gold Junior Duke	(Year 5)
Bronze Junior Duke	(Year 3)	Platinum Junior Duke	(Year 6)

Once again we've had an amazing take up across all the year groups, which is fantastic

The scheme is being supported by staff right across the school, with some taking on the role of the assessor for a range of different topics such as cookery, drama, environmental challenges, art and craft. Other staff are taking on the role of Duke House Leader in both KS1 and KS2 for each of our four houses.

The staff team have really enjoyed chatting to the children about their different challenges, and after Christmas we are looking forward to beginning to sign them off, eventually awarding badges and certificates later in the year. This is a great scheme for our children to be part of and a big thank you to Mrs Whittingham for organising it.



### Staff Update:

Good luck to the different members of the staff team moving on at the end of this term. As you'll know from previous communications, Mrs Scannell is leaving teaching to take on a new challenge and Mrs Davies will be retiring after having worked at Manorcroft for an amazing 26 (and a bit!) years. We wish them both the very best of luck for the future and we thank them for everything they have done for Manorcroft over the years.



We will be welcoming two new members of staff to the teaching team from January - Mrs Cox will be joining Y2 Bristol and Mrs Hayward will be joining Y3 Dublin. Both of our new teachers have been into school and have spent time with the children and teaching team, beginning the transition process. We will also be welcoming Miss Sturt, who will be joining our LSA team. There will be opportunities for parents and carers to meet the new staff in the Spring Term.

### Earrings:

Jewellery is not allowed in school (rings, bracelets, necklaces, etc.) and ideally, we would like children not to wear earrings. However, we understand that sometimes this is not practical. If they are worn, then the following rules must be adhered to:

- They must be small, plain silver/gold studs - no hoops, diamante/fashion or drop earrings are allowed
- Earrings are **not allowed** to be worn for any PE lesson, therefore children must be able to take them out independently (taping of ears is not an option)
- Please avoid having ears pierced during term time, as children end up missing several weeks of PE whilst they heal - PE is a statutory part of the curriculum

### School Nurse Parent Drop-In Service:

The School Nursing Service are setting up a parent drop-in service in the Addlestone Family Centre on Monday mornings, starting on 8<sup>th</sup> January 2024 to support families in the area. The school nurses will be running the clinic every 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of the month.

Address: 121-125 Church Rd, Addlestone, Surrey. KT15 1SH. There is free parking available on site.

The school nursing service can offer referrals, support, advice and signposting regarding: dental care, sleep, toileting, health promotion, healthy eating, heights & weights, behaviour, mental health and eating difficulties.

Additional clinics will also be running in the Woking and Surrey Heath areas - information available on the CSH website. [School nursing :: Children and Family Health Surrey \(childrenshealthsurrey.nhs.uk\)](https://www.childrenshealthsurrey.nhs.uk)

The Surrey-wide 0-19 Advice Line on: **01883 340 922** is available from 8am to 5pm, Monday to Friday (excluding bank holidays) for parents to call for advice regarding any health issues.

### KS2 Stationery Restock:

If your child is in KS2 (Y3 to Y6) then they need to bring their own pencil case to school; these need to be small and only contain the necessary items. Please check the pencil cases ready for the start of the new term and restock any used/broken items.

All children need the following: ✓

- HB pencil (and spare)
- Blue fibre tip handwriting pen (once they have their pen licence)
- Small selection of colouring pencils
- Whiteboard pen
- Pritt Stick
- 15cm ruler
- Eraser
- Small pencil sharpener



Not needed: ✗

- Felt tip pens
- Sharpie pens
- Gel pens
- Ink eraser
- Scissors
- Compass / set square

### Egham Bowls Club Car Park:

A reminder that Egham Bowls Club car park is a private car park and should only be used by members and visitors of the club. It is not open to parents to use at drop-off / pick-up time.

They have an ANPR (automatic number plate recognition) system installed and all unauthorised vehicles using the car park will be subject to a parking enforcement fine. The fines are advertised on the notices displayed around the car park - £100 parking charge reduced to £60 if paid within 14 days.

Please can we remind parents of the agreement that we have with Egham Orbit, where they allow parents to park for a brief period in the morning/afternoon, meaning parents can leave their cars safely and walk through to the school gates.

### PTA Thank You:

A massive thank you to everyone who has supported the PTA throughout the Autumn Term - there have been lots of things going on and it's been lovely to welcome some new faces to the team. In case you missed anything, since September the PTA have organised:

- Fireworks Night £3200 raised
- Christmas Raffle £1100 raised
- Elfridges Christmas Shopping Room £2000 raised
- Discounted Legoland Tickets £700 raised
- Discounted Woking Panto Tickets £300 raised

A grand total of £7300! A huge thank you to everyone who has given up time and money.

If you're interested, there are also several ongoing ways to support the school online:

- **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.

Further information can be found on the school [website](#).

#### Follow us on X (formally Twitter):

Keep up-to-date by regularly checking the school website and following us on X!



@Manorcroft



*Respect Responsibility Resilience*



# JOIN OUR CHATTERBOOKS READING GROUP



**At Egham Library**

**For Children aged 8-11 years**

**On once a month on a Tuesday**

**4pm - 4.45pm**

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO KNOW MORE  
PLEASE EMAIL  
[EGHAM.LIBRARY@SURREYCC.GOV.UK](mailto:EGHAM.LIBRARY@SURREYCC.GOV.UK)



**CHATTER  
BOOKS**

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READING  
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**SURREY  
COUNTY COUNCIL**



# Egham Library

## Code Explorers Club

Thursdays 4pm - 5pm  
Starts Thursday 11 January



The amazing and hidden world of microcontrollers

**In this club we will be learning about electronics and coding, building projects using the Arduino microcontroller which has been developed with learning in mind.**

To find out more visit [www.arduino.cc](http://www.arduino.cc)

**Suitable for children 9 - 13 years of age**

Spaces are limited, so booking at the library is essential

This activity is **FREE** of charge

