



Manland Primary School Newsletter

Empowering children to lead fulfilling lives

Friday 9th February 2024



Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you to all the Year 6 parents and carers who attended the SATs meeting on Tuesday this week. We hope you found the meeting useful. If you were not able to attend, slides from the presentation can be found on Classlist.

Year 2 have had a busy week! On Wednesday they performed their class assembly to the school and parents and carers. Then, on Thursday, they visited Bletchley Park as part of their history learning. We hope to share some photos with you in a future newsletter.

We continued our focus on 'Aspiration' this week, welcoming in Mrs Ambrose who talked with the children about her role in town planning. Thank you, Mrs Ambrose, for your fantastic assembly.

A reminder that next week is half term and that school is closed. We look forward to welcoming you all back to school on Monday 26th February 2024.

Mrs. Wicks, Headteacher

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Diary Dates

Date	Event
Week commencing 19th February 2024	Half term – school closed
Monday 26th February 2024	Children start school at 8.50am
Thursday 29th February 2024	Year 1 Phonics meeting for parents and carers at 9am Year 5 Maths challenge – invite only
Monday 4th March 2024	Year 5 Bikeability week
Tuesday 5th March 2024	Harpenden District Football Tournament Year 5 & 6 – invite only



Attendance

Our whole school attendance for this week is **95.9%**. Well done to Year 5 who achieved attendance of **99.3%**!



Manland Values Award

This week's winner of the Manland Values Award is Camille from Year 4! Camille displays all the Manland Values in her day to day life. In lessons, she always strives to complete her work to the best it can possibly be. Camille also challenges herself at home too, reading and researching topics and sharing this knowledge.

Camille is always smiling and makes everyone feel included. She is optimistic and caring, helping others to see the positives. She is always respectful and polite, greeting everyone with a 'Good morning' or a 'Thank you for teaching us that lesson.'

Thank you, Camille, for being such a wonderful person and dedicated student. We're very lucky to have you in Year 4!



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Worry Boxes

In our lessons and assemblies, we regularly discuss ways in which we can keep ourselves safe. We encourage all children to tell a trusted adult if something is worrying or upsetting them.

For some children, this can be a big step, so we also have worry boxes in every classroom which children can use to discretely tell their teacher about their worries.

Worry boxes can also be used at home. If your child often feels worried or anxious, you could try making a worry box together.

Worry boxes are containers into which children can post their anxious thoughts. Children can find them soothing because they:

- give them a physical way of getting rid of their worries, so they don't need to carry them around anymore
- make them feel safer by holding their anxious thoughts for them
- help them to understand that thoughts are just thoughts, not real things that happen in the world, and that it's possible to let them go
- create a routine for sorting out their worries and sharing them with you

Youngminds.org have developed a really useful guide for parents and carers on how to make a worry box. If you think your child might benefit from this, please follow the link below:

<https://www.youngminds.org.uk/parent/blog/how-to-make-a-worry-box-a-guide-for-parents/>

If you ever need any support with your child and their worries, please do get in contact with your class teacher.

If something is worrying you
“tell a trusted adult or put something in the worry box”-Leo



Safeguarding: Sports Permission

Following requests for less paperwork from Parent Forum, we have spent time developing an online permission system for sporting fixtures. When a child is selected for an event, an email is sent to parents asking them to complete an online sports permission form, which can be found on our website.

Please note that the due date for providing permission for your child to take part in a sporting event is **3pm the day prior to the event**. If permission has not been received by this time, your child will not take part in the event, and a substitute will be offered the spot instead.

The online sports permission form can be accessed here: <https://manland.herts.sch.uk/sports-fixtures/>

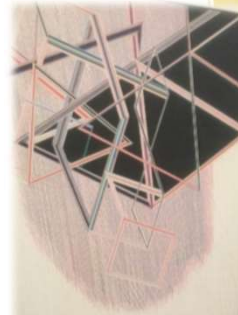


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Spotlight on Art

Last Friday, Year 4 visited the Tate Modern gallery with their sketchbooks in tow! All of the class were very excited by the train journey into London, seeing famous London landmarks as we arrived at Blackfriars station.

They visited various rooms in which they viewed a wide range of interesting works of art, including still life paintings by Picasso, light installations and even a tower made of radios. They also had the opportunity to create our own digital art which was displayed on the gallery wall - we have some very talented budding artists! During the tour, children sketched works of art that captured their imaginations, bringing to life works of art and techniques they have been learning about this term.



"Best school trip ever!" -

Virginia

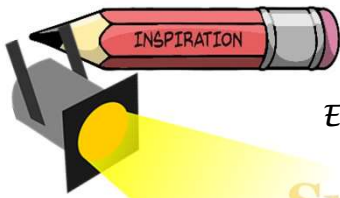
The class demonstrated great responsibility both on the train journeys and in London, and returned to school having had a brilliant day, albeit with tired legs!



"Anything can be art" -
Anna

"The wall by El Anatsui was my favourite piece. It was a sculpture that touched the ceiling." -
Mattie





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Spotlight on Early Years

Reception class were busy this week making pancakes to celebrate Shrove Tuesday. The class carefully measured all the ingredients and mixed them together. Mr Spendlove demonstrated his amazing pancake flipping skills. The final step was to eat the pancakes - delicious!





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Safeguarding



Online Safety: How to start a conversation with your child about using a phone safely:

Why do you want to get a phone?



Whilst deciding if it is time for your child to have their first phone can be a great opportunity to find out what your child expects to use their phone for. This could be for connecting with friends, playing games, for keeping in touch whilst out of the house or other reasons.



What do you like about using your phone?

You can ask your child about their favourite apps or games, what they like using their phone for, or you can ask them to show you how to play or use their favourite game or website.

What would you do if something worrying or upsetting happened on your phone?



You can ask them about the places they can go to find the safety advice, find out what they know about privacy settings, and ask them how to report or block on the services they use.



How can we do more online together?

Ask your child about activities or games that you could enjoy as a family, this can be a great time to establish a family agreement to manage your families time online.



Talk with your child about responsible use of their phone

Discuss what is okay and not okay to use their phone for. Talk about time limits and expectations of where the device can and cannot be used, this could include things like the phone being charged outside their bedroom overnight.



Discuss what to do if something upsetting or worrying happens

Give them the strategies they need in case something concerning happens whilst they are using their device. This could be to lock the screen and tell an adult, to make a report to the platform they are using, or to block the user.



Explore parental controls

Take a look at the controls available both on the phone itself and on your home Wi-Fi. Talk these through with your child too. Parental controls are a helpful tool, but an open conversation with your child is the most important thing.



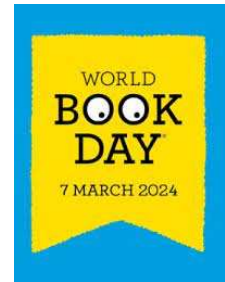
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World Book Day

Get Caught Reading! With World Book Day approaching (7th March), we'll once again be holding our 'Get Caught Reading' competition! It was great fun reviewing everyone's entries – Henry and Dexter stole the show last year!

Although we won't be holding the competition for a little while yet, you might encounter a weird and wonderful place in which to read your book!

We will be in contact nearer the time, but if you would like to send an entry to us, please email it to admin@manland.Herts.sch.uk.



Reading Corner

This is Manland's virtual Book Corner! Whilst re-visiting loved books together is always invaluable, you might want to peruse the Book Trust's recommendations to discover new authors and stories.

Here is the recommended list for February 2024:

<https://www.booktrust.org.uk/news-and-features/features/2024/february/#!?q=&sortOption=MostRecent&pageNo=1>



A reminder membership of Harpenden Library is completely free. Harpenden Library is located at 27 High Street, Harpenden, AL5 2RU.

You can also do a whole range of activities online, including joining, browse their catalogue online and reserving books:

<https://herts.spydus.co.uk/cgi-bin/spydus.exe/MSGTRN/WPAC/HOME>



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Safeguarding - Attendance

We continue to see a worryingly high number of children being absent from school at the beginning or end of a school half term / term.

Today, Friday 16th February 2024, 24 children were absent

The majority of these absences were unauthorised

Attendance at Manland today was 88%

All learning at Manland is **progressive**; this means that teaching builds and builds on a daily basis.



When a child misses a school day, due to an unnecessary absence such as term time holidays, **they miss out of one of the building blocks of their education.** This can prevent them accessing future learning or consolidating and achieving their full potential.

We want to remind all parents and carers that our school follows Hertfordshire County Council's Penalty Notice for Truancy Code of Conduct and procedures.

We expect parents and carers to work with us to address attendance problems.

From January 2024, if a pupil has at least **15 sessions** (7.5 days) unauthorised absence in the current and/or previous term, the Headteacher may ask the Local Authority to issue a **Penalty Notice**.

The penalty is £60 if paid within 21 days of receipt of the notice, rising to £120 if paid after 28 days. There is no right of appeal by parents/carers against a Fixed Penalty Notice. If the penalty is not paid the Local Authority may prosecute parents/carers for their child's irregular attendance. **Further details can be found in our Attendance policy on the school website.**



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EVERY SCHOOL DAY COUNTS

Every single day a child is absent from school equates to a day of lost learning.

Attendance percentages can be misleading.

100% Attendance	0 Days Missed	EXCELLENT
95% Attendance	9 Days of Absence 1 Week and 4 Days of Learning Missed	SATISFACTORY
90% Attendance	19 Days of Absence 3 Weeks and 4 Days of Learning Missed	POOR
85% Attendance	28 Days of Absence 5 Weeks and 3 Days of Learning Missed	UNACCEPTABLE
80% Attendance	38 Days of Absence 7 Weeks and 3 Days of Learning Missed	UNACCEPTABLE
75% Attendance	46 Days of Absence 9 Weeks and 1 Day of Learning Missed	UNACCEPTABLE

For some parents 90% may seem like an acceptable level of attendance, but the reality is that 90% attendance means that your child will miss half a school day each week or 19 days of school during the school year – that's nearly four school weeks.

