



Manland Primary School Newsletter

Empowering children to lead fulfilling lives

Friday 1st March 2024



Diary Dates

Date	Event
Monday 4th March 2024	Year 5 Bikeability week
Tuesday 5th March 2024	Harpenden District Football Tournament Year 5 & 6 – invite only
Thursday 7th March 2024	World Book Day
Monday 11th March 2024	Science Day at Manland
Tuesday 12th March 2024	Parents evening (Rec to Year 6): 3.30 – 7pm
Thursday 14th March 2024	Parents evening (Rec to Year 6): 3.30 – 5.30pm

Dear Parents and Carers,

It was a pleasure to welcome all the children back to school on Monday. We hope you all had a restful and safe break over the half term holidays.

I must bring to your attention a concerning decline in attendance at Manland before and after school holidays. Around the February 2024 half term, pupils at Manland lost a total of **42 days** of learning due to term time holidays or illness.

At Manland, we expect all pupils to achieve attendance of at least **96%**. The Government define any child with attendance of **90%** or under as “persistently absent.”

As reminder, absences from 1 January 2024 due to term time holidays may attract a penalty notice of £60. Each parent is liable to pay a separate penalty and a penalty will be issued for each child to whom the absence relates.

We will continue to review attendance and be in contact with parents/carers of pupils with low attendance. If you need any support with helping to raise your child’s attendance, please get in contact.

Best wishes

Mrs. Wicks, Headteacher

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Attendance

Our whole school attendance for this week is **95.5%**, largely due to unauthorised term time holidays. Please remember, Moments Matter, Attendance Counts.



Manland Values Award

This week’s winner of the Manland Values Award trophy is Oli from Year 1! Oli consistently shows all the Manland values and is regularly praised for being a role model. He holds the door for others, walks sensibly in corridors and is a kind friend to his peers.

Oli shows excellent learning behaviours, listening attentively, making positive contributions and not being afraid to disagree with peers if he has a good idea or knowledge to share. We are so proud to have Oli in our class and he certainly deserves the Manland Values Award!



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"I enjoyed going in the hut where Alan Turing worked" – Sophia

Spotlight on History

On the Thursday before the half term break, Year 2 spent the day at Bletchley Park learning all about communication to link with their History topic.

They had a jam-packed day exploring the grounds and a workshop. The class even found a dedication to Isabel's relative, Rolf Noskwith, who worked at Bletchley!

The children got to crack lots of different codes using their Morse code knowledge, as well as exploring real uniforms and artefacts from WWII.

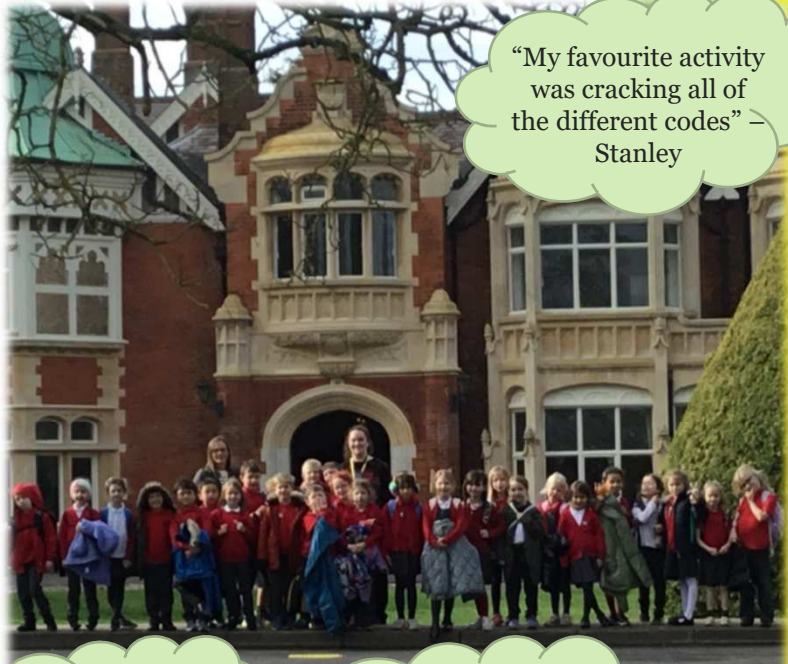
Year 2 should all be so proud of the way they behaved and engaged in the day. The workshop leader even said they were more knowledgeable than the Year 9s she had! Well done Year 2!



"We figured out a Morse code message that said My name is Doris Taylor" – Tom



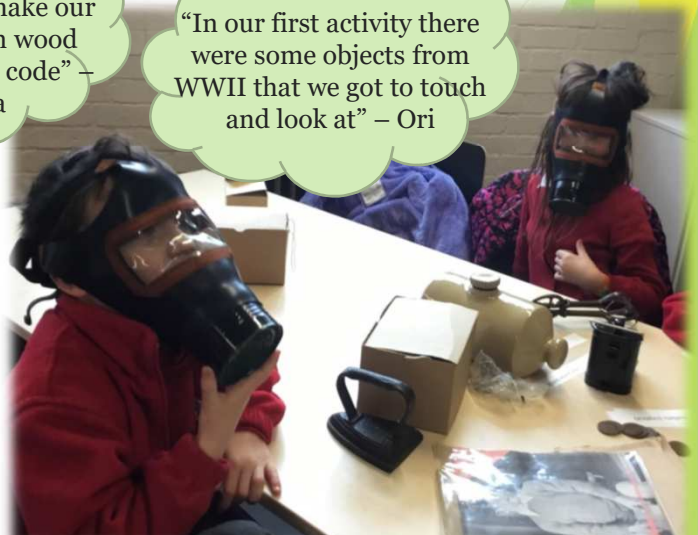
"My favourite activity was cracking all of the different codes" – Stanley



"We got to make our names with wood block Morse code" – Clara



"In our first activity there were some objects from WWII that we got to touch and look at" – Ori





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Spotlight on displays around school

On Friday 16th February 2024, House Captains led our termly House Learning Day.

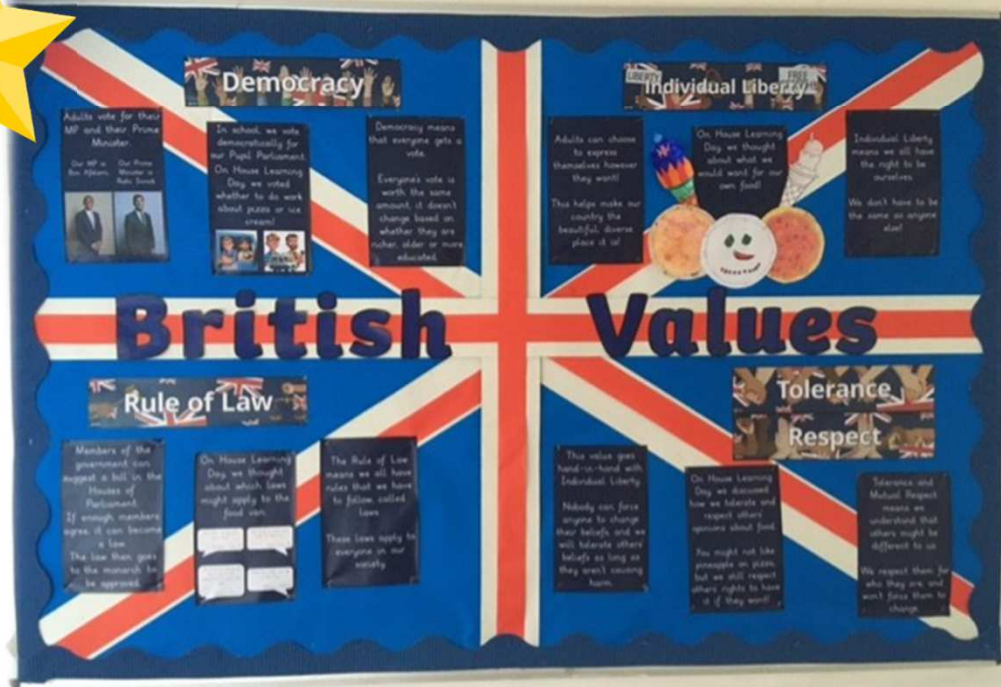
These days are wonderful opportunities for children to develop their team work and communication skills, as they take part in learning across all year groups. It also provides pupils with the opportunity to work with new people and builds our sense of school community.

The hot topics being debated this House Learning Day were:

- What does it mean to be British?
- How can I keep safe online?
- How can I make others feel welcome?
- How can I demonstrate the Manland school values – Inspiration, Aspiration and Responsibility

Thank you to our House Captains for leading the day and for navigating your houses to all the correct places.

Here are some of the outcomes of the day, detailing everything the children learnt and discussed. Well done everyone!





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Spotlight on HSA

The HSA Parent Helpers have always amazed us with their handy skills, but this half term they truly outdid themselves! After the school received a rather large quote for replacement fencing in the EYFS area, the HSA Parent Helpers decided to take matters in to their own capable hands and replace the fencing for school. Not only has this made the EYFS area look incredibly smart, but it has saved the school thousands of pounds. Whilst at it, the HSA helpers undertook some DIY and also weeded and planted the planters around school – we cannot wait to see the flowers grow!

We cannot express how grateful we are to our HSA parents and carer helpers. We know you all have busy jobs and family lives, so for you to give your free time and expertise to help school is truly inspiring. Thank you again to everyone who helped out in the February half term!



This fencing work was the last stage in the HSA's renovation of the EYFS forest area. The HSA have provided funds which have allowed us to invest in lots of new resources for the Forest area!

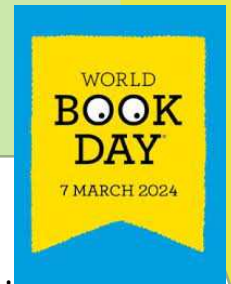


Save the Date! We will be holding an EYFS forest area opening ceremony on **19th April 2024 at 9am**, for 10/15 mins. Everyone is welcome! Please come along and show your appreciation for the HSA!





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World Book Day

It won't be long before we'll start to get ready for World Book Day on **7th March!**

On the day, children will take part in the BBC's live lesson (will our school get another mention this year?!), be visited by other teachers to share their favourite books, decorate their classroom doors in the style of a book they've read and of course, come to school dressed as a book character (if they would like to)!

We very much look forward to children celebrating their love of reading and can't wait to share news of the day with you.

We'll also be holding our 'Get Caught Reading' competition again this year (please see details in our newsletter from 16th February 2024). Always carry a book with you, as you never know when you'll encounter an extraordinary place to 'get caught reading'! Please send all entries 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 monthly recommendations to discover new authors and stories.

The Book Trust's recommended list for **March 2024** has not yet been launched, but I'm sure there are some books from the February 2024 list to interest you! Go and check out the books!

<https://www.booktrust.org.uk/booklists/b/books-we-love-in-february-2024/>



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Safeguarding – Online Safety

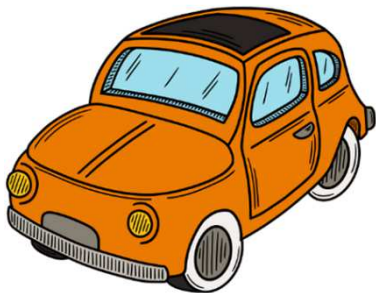


Attached to this week's newsletter is Herts for Learning Spring term online safety newsletter. In the newsletter, you will find lots of simple ways to reinforce the important online safety lessons your child has been learning in school.

This term's newsletter includes articles on:

- Developing online safety skills together – 8 games you can play with your child to build their online safety skills
- EE Mobile and Internet matters – a website designed to help families keep safe online

Helping children keep safe online is an important part of our safeguarding responsibilities. If you ever have a concern about a child, please contact our Designated Safeguarding Lead, Mrs Wicks, or one of our Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads, Mr Comer and Mrs Kemp.



Looking for a driving instructor?

Rick Mobbs is a retired driving instructor who takes on a small number of customers in Harpenden (both learners and full license holders), with sessions being run in customers' cars. He is kindly using his skills to raise money for the school through Friends of Manland. He can be contacted on FoMDriving@mobbs.net.

On behalf of school, we want to thank Mr Mobbs for giving his time to support the school – we think it is a wonderful thing you are doing and we are very grateful!



Football News

On Thursday before half term the boys A team played their second and third league games against Markyate and Kimpton.

The boys played some excellent football and are really beginning to work well together as a team. They played Markyate, first winning by an impressive 3-0!

During their second game against Kimpton they again played excellent football, unfortunately despite having the majority of possession and coming so close to scoring so many times the games resulted in a 0-0 draw, still, a fantastic effort by all!





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Netball News

The girls A and B team visited Kimpton school this week for a netball match.

The A team played first displaying some great netball. The girls worked really well together, with Phoebe and Matilda scoring some excellent goals! Well done to **Matilda** for being voted player of the match by the opposition, who were I'm sure impressed with the great goals she scored!

The B team also played amazingly, all working so hard and showing great teamwork! Their hard work resulted in a 5-0 win! Well done girls. A big well done to **Gabrielle** for being voted player of the match, Gabrielle showed excellent play, not only with her movement and passing skills across court but also scoring some great goals!



Red Nose Day - 15th March 2024



This year, Manland will once again be supporting Comic Relief's Red Nose Day! Comic Relief is a charity focusing on alleviating poverty's consequences and grip on people's daily lives.

Please find below a message from Phoebe, House Captain of Griffins:

"On Friday 15th March 2024, House Captains will be holding a cake sale after school, next to the HSA Hot Chocolate stall. If you can, please bring in some cakes on Friday 15th March 2024. We will be selling them for 50p."

Also, from Monday 11th March, House Captains will be selling Red Noses in school. If you would like your child to buy one, please send them in to school with £2 (supplies are limited).



If you are able to donate some cakes for the sale (home made or shop bought), please drop them off in the hall at school drop off on Friday 15th March 2024. Please **no nuts, or products which may contain nuts.**



Thank you!



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Educational Healthcare Plans (EHCPs) in Hertfordshire

The Quality Assurance team at Herts County Council have asked us to share the information below with our parents and carers of pupils with EHCPs:

“The Hertfordshire SEND partnership are committed to improving the quality of EHCP’s for children and young people in Hertfordshire; ensuring plans are of high quality and meaningfully capture children and young people’s: views, experiences, needs and outcomes, and specify provision.

To support with achieving this aim, there will be regular multi-agency audits of EHCP’s.

These multi-agency audits involve professionals from education (school representatives, specialist advisory teachers, educational psychologists and members of the statutory SEND service), health, social care, SENDIASS and the Herts Parent Carer Involvement coming together to audit the quality of a random selection of EHCP’s. Professionals then work together to identify areas of good practice and areas where learning is required. These events are crucial for supporting improvements in practice across the system.

This may therefore mean that your child’s plan could be selected for audit and shared with the above professionals for auditing purposes.

All professionals involved in multi-agency audits of EHCPs are required to comply with Data Protection legislation and confidentiality duties, which restrict the sharing of information pertaining to your child's EHCP outside of the auditing activity.

If you wish to opt out and do not wish for your child's EHCP to be included in our quality assurance audits, please email the Quality Assurance Service at: policyandpractice@hertfordshire.gov.uk



RNIB

See differently

Parent Pathways – Free RNIB training

Parent Pathways is a free and informal series of online sessions for parents and carers whose child has recently been diagnosed with vision impairment. Part of the Living Well with Sight Loss series, it is designed to give parents the space to learn about and discuss some of the important questions that they might have about raising a child who is blind or partially sighted. It is open to parents or carers of children aged from birth to 25 years old.

For more information email cypf@rnib.org.uk or call 0303 123 9999.

Further information is available on the RNIB website: www.rnib.org.uk/living-with-sight-loss



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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.

On the first day back after half term, **7** pupils across **5** year groups were absent

Before and after the February 2024 half term, pupils at Manland were absent for a total of **42** days

96% – 100%: Well done!

91% – 95%: Risk of underachievement

86% – 90%: Serious risk of underachievement

Below 85%: Serious cause for concern and underachievement. Student will be reported to Educational Welfare Officer of Library Board

Attendance at Manland on the day before half term was **88%**

**MOMENTS
MATTER,
ATTENDANCE
COUNTS.**