



Manland Primary School Newsletter

Friday 20th October 2023



Dear Parents and Carers,

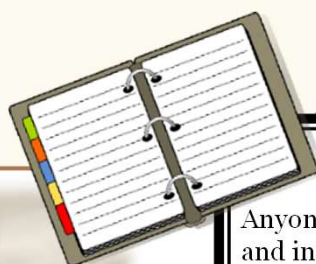
This week we welcomed parents and carers in to school for two evenings of parent consultations. The children love the opportunity of showing parents/carers their classroom and all the hard work in their books. Thank you to everyone who attended.

We finished the week off today with House Learning Day. House Learning Day is always a much enjoyed day in school, with children working and supporting each other across year groups. Thank you to our House Captains for all their hard work during House Learning Day.

As you will have seen from the Classlist this week, I will be returning from my medical leave after the half term break. I have been in school for the past few weeks and I am really looking forward to being back as Headteacher after half term. I want to thank everyone for all their support during my period away, particularly Mr Comer, Miss Noonan and Mr Spendlove who all took on additional duties and workload during my period away.

Finally, best wishes to all our families for the half term break. We hope you all have an enjoyable and safe break.

Mrs Wicks, Headteacher



Diary Dates

Date	Event
Mon 23 rd – 27 th October	Half term
Wed 1 st Nov 2023	Prospective Parent Morning at 10am
Wed 8 th Nov 2023	Year 5 Class Assembly at 9am
Mon 13 th Nov 2023	Flu vaccinations
Tues 14 th Nov 2023	Rec to Year 4 Sex Education Parent Workshop at 9am
Wed 15 th Nov to 21 st Nov 2023	Scholastic Book Fair in school – Hall at 3.15 to 3.30pm

Attendance



Our whole school attendance for this week is **96.8%**. Great work everyone!

Manland Values Award

Anyone who knows Oliver will be struck by his energy, zest and infectious smile! Oliver is an active participant in lessons: he thinks about new learning, makes rapid links to what he has already learned and demonstrates new skills straight away. During lessons, I can almost hear his brain pondering 'what do I think about this? How can I use this? Is this the best strategy?' Oliver thinks carefully about the success criteria and applies this fastidiously in all of his tasks. Oliver has high expectations of himself and is always willing to go a step further - one challenge is never enough! His manners are exemplary, and he cares deeply about his friends. Oliver's strong sense of fairness and reflective nature means he is an inspiration to those around him. I am already so proud of Oliver and know he has an exciting year ahead!

Manland Values





Spotlight on EYFS Forest area

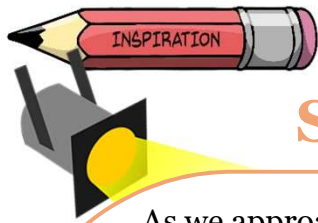
We are incredibly excited about the renovation of our EYFS Forest Area. Work is still in progress, and we are still waiting for some deliveries, but we wanted to give you a sneak peak of the work that has taken place already.....



SNEAK PEEK

These resources would not have been possible without the support of our HSA. We will be having a grand opening event once all the work is complete, but in the meantime, we wanted to say a massive thank you to everyone at the HSA!





Spotlight on Attendance

96%

As we approach winter, we wanted to remind parents and carers of the importance of good attendance at school.

School is integral to the long-term wellbeing and aspirations of children, so it is a cause for significant concern that school absence has increased markedly since the COVID-19 pandemic.

At Manland, we expect all pupils to achieve attendance of **96%**.

Below are some practical resources for parents and carers to help determine when to send your child to school:

- Is my child too ill for school?: https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery
- the Chief Medical Officer's letter to schools, which aids in making judgements about mild illness: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/letter-to-school-leaders-on-mild-illness-and-school-attendance/letter-to-school-leaders-on-mild-illness-and-school-attendance?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery

In addition, the Royal College of General Practitioners (RCGP) recently approved 5 principles and these have been shared with GPs with the aim of promoting school attendance. We thought it would be useful to share them with parents and carers:

1. Be alert to when it is better to encourage a child to attend school rather than take time off. Consistently promote school attendance, emphasising the importance of attendance for every child's long-term outcome, while continuing to support the child and their family.
2. Reassure and have sensitive conversations with pupils and parents about anxiety, particularly at the start of new school terms, recognising the importance of minimising time missed during the first week of school.
3. Remind ourselves that some schools have mental health support teams, and most have a range of self-help resources and organisations to which we can signpost.
4. Encourage parents and carers to speak to school staff about any worries their child may have, enabling them to work together to support their child and improve attendance.
5. Make it practice policy to try and schedule routine appointments to minimise time taken off school. Although broader in scope than just GP appointments, in 2020/2021 there were 4.6 million school sessions interrupted due to medical appointments.

At Manland, we will continue to make contact with parents/carers of children whose attendance is low. We are keen to provide any support we can to improve attendance in school. Targeting support to children who have been absent is a key part of an effective strategy. Research by FFT shows pupils absent during the first week of term were up to 58% more likely to become persistently absent.

Please get in contact via the school office if you want to discuss attendance for your child.



Did you know?

Today, **13** children were absent from school due to term time holidays.



Spotlight on House Learning Day

What a fantastic day we had today during House Learning Day! House Learning Day is always a much enjoyed day in school, with children working and supporting each other across year groups. It is always inspirational to see our older pupils helping younger pupils and learning valuable inter-personal and teamwork skills. Well done everyone!



Air
Pollution



Reduce
Reuse
Recycle

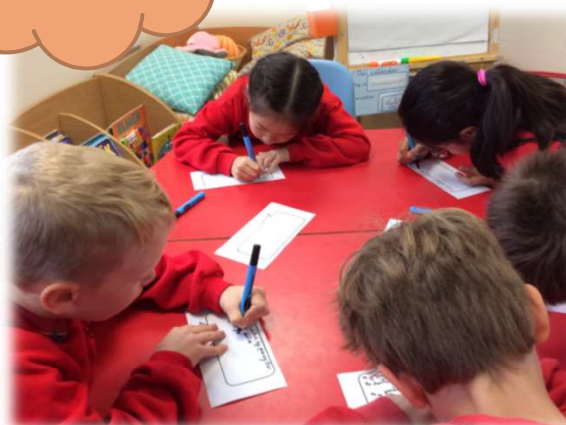


Plastic
Pollution



The theme of this term's House Learning Day was "The Environment" which was suggested by the children during house assembly.

All children learnt about 4 different environmental themes.



Deforestation





Spotlight on Writing

"Write a story you would love to read".

BBC's 500 Words is the UK's largest children's story writing competition for 5-11 year-olds.

500 Words is the UK's most successful children's writing competition and it has now opened for submissions and will run till Friday 10 November.

Since the competition was first launched in 2011, it has received over one million stories from children throughout the UK.

This year, the two age categories will be:

- **5-7 year-olds** and
- **8-11 year-olds.**



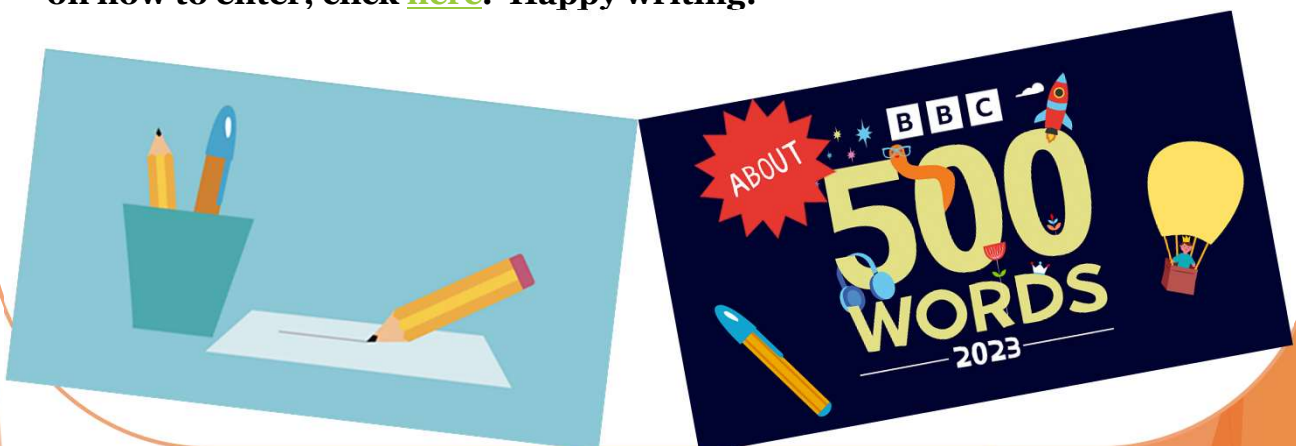
Children of all abilities are encouraged to use their creativity and imagination to **write a story they would love to read** without the pressure of having to worry about spelling, punctuation and grammar.

The 500 Word judges this year are: award-winning and best-selling authors **Frank Cottrell-Boyce**, **Francesca Simon**, **Charlie Higson**, and former children's laureate, **Malorie Blackman**. This year there will be a new addition to the panel, TV legend, children's author and World Book Day ambassador, **Sir Lenny Henry**.

The judges will be casting their expert eyes over the final 50 stories. The competition has been given the royal seal of approval and has the support of Her Majesty, The Queen.

This year, BBC Breakfast will be hosting the competition supported by us on BBC Teach. The winners will be featured in a special 500 Word programme with **The One Show**, on World Book Day on 7 March 2024.

We would love as many Manland pupils as possible to enter. For details on how to enter, click [here](#). Happy writing!





Manland are Recruiting!



We are looking for a **SEND Support Assistant** to join our support staff team:

- Monday - Friday 8.50am – 1pm

We are also looking for a full time **Teaching Assistant** to join our team:

- Monday - Friday 8.50am – 3.15pm (part time or full time)

Although previous experience of working in a school is desirable, it is not essential and full training can be provided.

For further information, please get in contact with the school office. All applications should be made via the Teach in Herts website:



SEND Assistant role: https://www.teachinherts.com/find-a-job/view/send-support-assistant_87708.htm

Teaching Assistant role: https://www.teachinherts.com/find-a-job/view/teaching-assistant_88351.htm



Volunteer Auditor needed!

Time Out, our after school and breakfast club, are looking for a volunteer to audit their accounts. The accounts are straight forward and we do not expect it to be a lengthy task. The auditor does, though, need to be someone who does not make use of Time Out services.

If you have suitable qualifications and some time to volunteer, please get in contact with Time Out on:

manlandtimeoutclub@gmail.com

or via the school office:

admin@manland.herts.sch.uk

Thank you for considering this request.

Parking

Unfortunately we have had more complaints about parking on Sauncey Avenue, from residents and also parents/carers of the school.

We appreciate that parking can be difficult around school, particularly with the ongoing footpath works. **Please ensure you leave plenty of time to find a parking spot.** If need be, please park in side roads and walk the remaining distance to school.



Thank you

A big thank you to the HSA for arranging and paying towards the cost of repairing the lighting on the pedestrian pathway. A special mention to **Mrs Arnold** for all her hard work organising this work.

The HSA are always busy behind the scenes of school, saving school time and money and we are incredibly grateful for everything they do. If you have some time or expertise to offer the HSA, please get in contact with them via your HSA class rep or via the school office.



Safeguarding: Halloween

Whilst Halloween is still some time away, this will be our last newsletter before the 31st October. If children and parents are planning to go trick or treating this year, please find below some advice from Hertfordshire Constabulary about keeping safe this Halloween:

- Never go trick or treating alone and always take an adult with you.
- Don't knock on the doors of strangers
- Only visit houses where there are signs that trick or treaters are welcome, such as Halloween decorations and pumpkins outside.
- Keep your Halloween 'tricks' safe - damage to property or hurting someone is a crime. Threatening and abusive behaviour can amount to an offence too.
- Remember road safety rules, particularly after dark.
- Wear something bright so that drivers can see you.



Safeguarding

If you're worried about a child, even if you're unsure, you can speak to the NSPCC about your concerns. They are able to listen, offer advice and support and can take the next steps if a child's in danger. 08008005000

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/reporting-abuse/what-if-suspect-abuse/>



Year 4 Assembly

Congratulations to Year 4 for their fantastic assembly on Thursday this week. The class showed great enthusiasm when telling us all about their learning this term!

We particularly enjoyed hearing the poems the children had written and Year 4's fascinating history learning. One of the highlights was the class' superb rendition of "September." That song was stuck in all of our heads for the rest of the day!

Congratulations to everyone in Year 4; we are very proud of you!

Well done!



Girls Football

Congratulations to our Year 5 and Year 6 girls football team who played the final matches in the Harpenden District School's Sports Association Girls Football League this week.

In addition to a draw and a loss, the team achieved their first victory, with both Sienna and Maia scoring against Harpenden Academy.

The team have really developed over the tournament and should be exceptionally proud of themselves!

Congratulations to Aimee, Cora, Rae, Ella, Sienna, Maia, Gabrielle, Elouise, Annabelle and Tay!

