



Manland Primary School Newsletter

Friday 8th September 2023



Diary Dates

Date	Event
Mon 11 th September	Clubs start (for club start dates, see https://manland.herts.sch.uk/parents/clubs/)
Tues 12 th September	Year 6 'Meet the Teacher' – 9am
Wed 13 th September	Year 2 'Meet the Teacher' – 9am
Thurs 14 th September	Year 3 'Meet the Teacher' – 9am
Fri 15 th September	Year 5 'Meet the Teacher' – 9am
Wed 20 th September	Reception 'Meet the Teacher' – 9am
Wed 27 th September	Year 1 Phonics Workshop for parents/carers at 9am

Dear Parents and Carers,

It was a pleasure to welcome everybody back to school after the summer holidays on Tuesday. I hope you all had a lovely summer and managed to enjoy a well earned rest!

We are extremely proud of how well the children have returned to school this year, it has been wonderful to see how quickly everyone has settled into their new classroom and new year! I know that new beginnings can be challenging, and wanted to remind you that if you have any early concerns or worries, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

We also welcomed our new Reception class on Wednesday this week and it has been fantastic to see them so quickly become part of our community. We can't wait to see what they will go on to achieve.

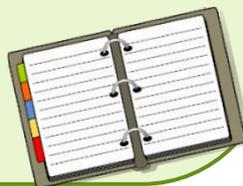
The Autumn term is always jam packed so I just wanted to remind you to keep an eye on our school website for diary dates and updates:

<https://manland.herts.sch.uk/news-dates/calendar/>

We are really excited for what the new academic year will bring, and we hope you are too!

With best wishes,

Mr Comer, Interim Headteacher



Attendance

Our whole school attendance for this week is **98.3%**, with both Year 5 and 6 achieving 100%. This is a fantastic start – keep it up everyone!

Thank you

Manland Parent Helpers were in school before the start of term, working on the outside area. The amount they achieved was amazing and it was delightful to come in on Monday! Thank you to everyone who volunteered their time – we really appreciate it:

Mr Wood
The Booth Family
Mr Nicoll
The Spadar-Sumner Family

Mr Peters
The Heineike Family
Mr Leung
Mr Bedingfield





Spotlight on Attendance

All **parents want** the best for their children and for them to get on well in life. Having a good **education is important** to ensure that they have the best opportunities in their adult life. They only get **one chance** at school, and your child's future may be affected by not attending school regularly.

If children do not attend school regularly they may:

- Struggle to keep up with school work. In a busy school day it is difficult for schools to find the extra time to help a child catch up.
- Miss out on the social side of school life. Poor attendance can affect children's ability to make and keep friendships; a vital part of growing up.
- Setting good attendance patterns from an early age, from nursery through primary school will also help your child later on in their life.

What can you do to help?

- If you suspect that your child may be missing school or is unhappy at school you should contact the school as soon as possible so that you can work with them to resolve any difficulties.
- Be on alert for any particular reasons for non-attendance, such as bullying or problems with school work and discuss these with the school.
- If your child is ill or absent for any other reasons, contact the school office, on each day of absence, by 9.30am.
- Follow the schools' procedures for notifying absence, and always let the school know of any days that your child is unable to attend.
- Make sure your child arrives at school on time.



At Manland, we expect children to achieve attendance of 96%. Please see our website for more information about attendance

Attending school every day = 100% attendance

Attending 4½ days a week = 90% attendance = **4 weeks missed per year**

Attending 4 days a week = 80% attendance = more than **half a term missed per year.**

Attending 3½ days each week = 70% attendance = more **than a quarter of the school year missed.**

An average attendance of 80% or less across a child's school career adds up to missing a **whole 2 years from school.**

Being late for school reduces learning time:

If your child is 5 minutes late every day, they will miss **3 days of learning** each year.

If your child is 15 minutes late every day, they will miss **2 weeks of learning** each year.

Safeguarding Update

Following the introduction of **Keeping Children Safe in Education 2023 on 1st September 2023**, the school has revised its **online safety policy** and **child protection policy**. A copy of these policies can be found on the school website:

Online Safety:

<https://manland.herts.sch.uk/safeguarding/internetsafety/>

Child Protection Policy:

<https://manland.herts.sch.uk/safeguarding/policy/>

Online Safety Acceptable use agreements will be coming home to all pupils shortly. These will need to be signed by pupils and returned to the school office as early as possible.



Parents and carers also have online safety responsibilities and these are outlined below. We should be grateful if all parents/carers could remind themselves of their responsibilities:

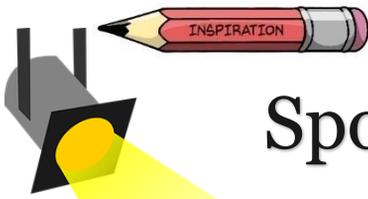
Online Safety Appendix F: Summary of key parent/carers responsibilities

The school provides online safety information for parents/carers, through the website, in newsletters and at events. It is important that parents/carers understand their key role in supporting children to behave appropriately and keep themselves safe online.

The online safety policy, supported by its acceptable use agreements, is intended to protect the interests and safety of the whole school community.

- Parents/carers are required to support their child in understanding and signing the Online Safety Acceptable Use Agreement for pupils.
- Parents/carers may only use personal mobile phones and devices in designated areas of the school unless otherwise informed, e.g. for specific events and activities. Under no circumstance should images be taken at any time on school premises that include anyone other than their own child, unless there is a pre-specified agreement with individuals and parents/carers. When a parent/carers is on school premises but not in a designated area, their phone/s must be switched off and out of sight.
- Parents/carers should not assume that pupils can bring technological devices to school and should always check the school policy.
- All cyberbullying incidents affecting children in the school should be reported immediately. (If the incident involves an indecent image of a child the report must also be made immediately to the police for your own protection.) The school will investigate and respond to all reported cyberbullying incidents, liaising with others where appropriate. No reply should ever be sent to the sender/poster of cyberbullying content. If applicable block the sender and report abuse to the site. Evidence should be retained and shown in school and/or to the police. Evidence should not be forwarded.
- The school may choose to set up social media sites, blogs or have some other online presence in its own name. Parents/carers, however, do not have the right to set up any site, page, chat group or any other online presence that uses the school name or logo in any form.
- Any parent/carers, distressed or concerned about an aspect of school should make immediate contact with a member of staff rather than posting their concerns online. Parents/carers should not share school related information or images online or post material that may bring the school or any individual within it into disrepute. Negative postings about the school would impact on the reputation of the whole school community. Parents/carers are encouraged to report breaches so that we can protect the reputation of the school, staff, pupils and parents/carers.

Please see the full online safety policy in the policies section on the school website.



Spotlight on Financial Support

At the start of the academic year, we wanted to remind families that financial assistance is always available for families who are experiencing hardship – no matter how temporary the period of hardship may be.

Support from Herts County Council

Any parent or carer can make an application for financial support from HCC by visiting www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals. We encourage all parents and carers who are experiencing financial difficulties to apply, even if you suspect these difficulties will only be temporary (e.g. a parent/carers has been made redundant and is between jobs). Alternatively, the school office can make an application for you – please just contact us on admin@manland.herts.sch.uk.

Some of the benefits your family can receive, are as follows:

Key Stage 2 (Years 3, 4, 5 and 6)

- free school meals
- meal vouchers for the holiday periods
- access to free holiday clubs (Herts HAPpy activity camps)

<https://sportinherts.org.uk/happy/booking/>

- assistance with music lesson fees
- assistance with travel costs

In addition, the school will receive additional funding from the Government to support your child's education ("Pupil Premium funding").

Early Years and Key Stage 1 (Reception, 1 and 2)

- meal vouchers for the holiday periods
- access to free holiday clubs (Herts HAPpy activity camps)

<https://sportinherts.org.uk/happy/booking/>

- Whilst all EYFS and KS1 children already receive a free school meal (under the Government's Universal Free School Meal scheme), a successful application will result in the school receiving additional funding to support your child's education ("Pupil Premium funding").

Support from Manland

We do appreciate that there will be some families who do not qualify for the support above.

We never want a pupil at Manland to miss out on an opportunity due to financial constraints

So if there is a club, event, trip, cake sale, (or anything!) coming up and you think you might need some financial assistance, please get in touch. All discussions will be treated in strictest confidence.



Did you know?

Manland can support children with the costs of school uniform, food and trips (as well as other items).

We committed to ensuring that every single child has equal access to everything we offer as a school!



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Support from James Marshall and Harpenden Trust

We are also incredibly fortunate in Harpenden to have two local charities who support children in Harpenden and we would encourage anyone experiencing financial difficulties to get in contact with them:

James Marshall Foundation

The James Marshall Foundation’s mission is to help young people who need support for education and career development opportunities by awarding grants. They help young people under 25 living in Harpenden, Wheathampstead, Kimpton, Redbourn, Flamstead and Markyate. This enables them to offer help with grants related to:

- Equipment and travel for work/apprenticeships
- Further education courses
- Apprenticeships/College/University costs
- Extra-Curricular activities: sport, music, creative arts
- Scouts/Guides and DofE
- Laptops and printers
- Residential school trips
- School uniform



Did you know?

In 2022, pupils from Manland received a total of 27 grants from the James Marshall Foundation, totalling £6k.

Thank you to everyone at the James Marshall Foundation!

For further information, or to apply for a grant, please visit:

<https://www.jamesmarshallfoundation.co.uk/apply-for-funding.html>



Did you know?

Manland Primary School received two grants totalling £25,000 from Harpenden Trust last year, allowing us to renovate our library and EYFS area. Thank you Harpenden Trust!

Harpenden Trust

Harpenden Trust offers support for individuals, families and young people in need, by way of the Care Fund. Families can be provided with confidential help to meet the cost of:

- Electricity, gas and water bills
- Vouchers for food, school uniforms or essential school trips
- Supply of new and recycled furniture and white goods

In addition, the Trust arranges an annual outing for families with young children who have received support in the year.

For further information, or to apply for a grant, please visit:

<https://www.theharpendentrust.org.uk/how-we-can-help/care-fund>

Food Banks

If you’re struggling to pay for food or essentials, support from a local food bank may be an option worth considering. Please see the attachment to the newsletter on how to access a food bank.