



Manland Primary School Newsletter

Friday 21st March 2025



Dear Parents and Carers

We've had a very busy couple of weeks in school so it is a jam packed newsletter today!

Firstly, thank you to all the parents and carers who came in for our parent evenings. We hope you found the sessions useful; the children always love the opportunity to show you their classroom and all their hard work.

In addition, we recognised Science Week with our annual Science Day on 14th March. A big thank you to Mrs Barker, our Science Lead, for organising the day.

We are welcoming back Year 5 from their residential trip today – we missed you! Look out for details of their adventures in the next newsletter!

Mrs. Wicks, Headteacher

Diary Dates

Date	Event
Mon 24 th -Fri 28 th March 2025	Scholastic Book Fair at 3.20 – 3.40pm in Hall each day
Tuesday 25 th March 2025	Year 6 Spring Music Festival (rehearsal & performance)
Wednesday 26 th March 2025	Year 1 All Saints church trip
Thursday 27 th March 2025	Year 3 last swim for Spring term
Tuesday 1 st April 2025	Reception in-class assembly at 2.30pm



Manland Values Award

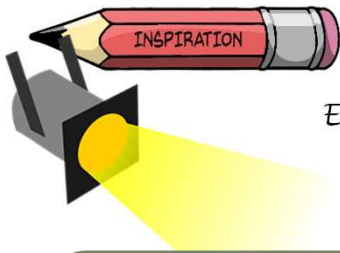
Elouise has truly excelled in her Year 6 journey. From the very first day Elouise has worked hard consistently across all subjects. Particularly in maths her determination is paying off and she has made fantastic progress. In lessons she can confidently answer questions that probe a little deeper to demonstrate that she has a sound grasp of the topic. This ability to re-group, smile and try again is a quality that sets her apart and will put her in good stead for the future.

Elouise is a fair and constant friend. She will consider other's needs (before her own) and takes the time to include everyone at break time – I can always count on Elouise to look out for others and to do the right thing. Elouise has had a fantastic Year 6 so far, and I'm excited to see what the rest of the year brings!



Manland Values Award

Since starting Year 2, Emily has continually shown all of Manland's values! Emily is **aspirational** and strives to reach and surpass her potential in all subjects. Not only does Emily work hard to answer questions, but she responds to feedback in a conscientious way, considering and adjusting her approach. Emily's behaviours for learning are **inspirational** to her classmates. She is always ready, focused and listening for her next instruction. Emily takes **responsibility** for her own learning, but also looks out for those in need. In group work, Emily will encourage everyone to share and ensure that everyone has their ideas and feelings heard. Emily should be so proud of all the hard work she has put into her time in Year 2 so far. I am so excited to see her continue and flourish even more as the year progresses. Well done Emily!



TATE

Empowering children to lead fulfilling lives

Spotlight on Art

Year 4 class recently enjoyed a fantastic trip to the Tate Modern in London. Armed with sketchbooks, they explored the gallery, taking in a wide range of incredible artwork. The children were especially excited to see the still life pieces, which linked to their current topic, and they were fascinated by the unusual and thought-provoking sculptures on display. It was wonderful to see their enthusiasm and creativity in response to the art. Mr Brittin was incredibly proud of how well the pupils represented the school and their excellent behaviour throughout! Well done Year 4!



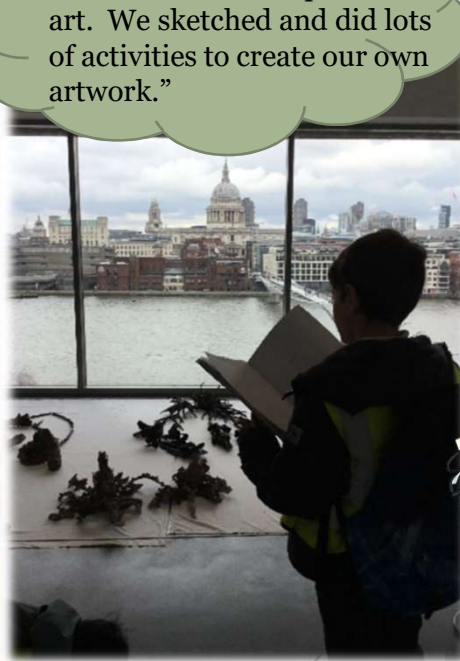
Edward "Abstract art was really vibrant with lots of different colours. I liked how I could interpret it in my own way."

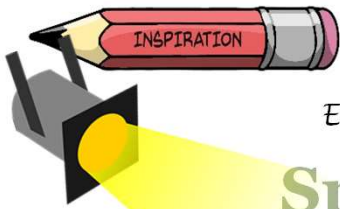


Iris "We saw lots of pieces of art. We sketched and did lots of activities to create our own artwork."



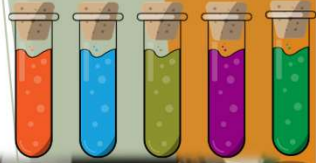
George "Modern art is so different to traditional paintings. My favourite part was creating my own drawing using a computer."





Empowering children to lead fulfilling lives

Spotlight on Science Day



On Friday 14th March we celebrated Science Day at Manland. We wish you could have been in school to hear all the "oooo"s and "aaaaa"s and squeals of excitement as pupils took part in a range of explosive experiments! From fizz bottle rockets to dancing raisins, we learnt so much! Thank you, Mrs Barker, for all your hard work organising this event.



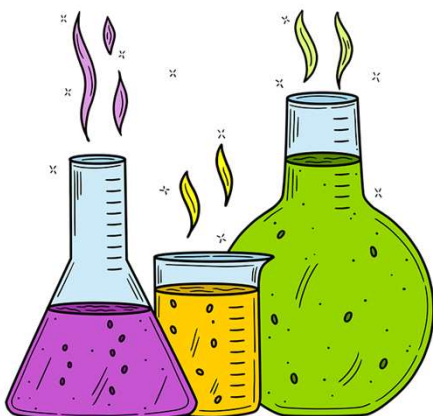
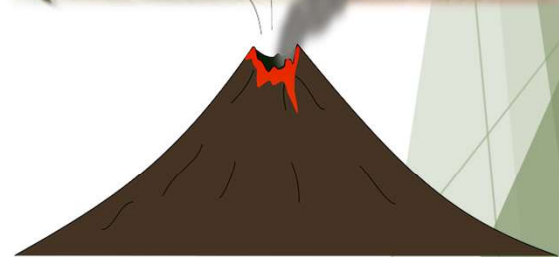


Empowering children to lead fulfilling lives

Spotlight on Science Day



A big thank you to
Dr Curry who came
in to tell pupils all
about his medical
research!





Empowering children to lead fulfilling lives

Spotlight on school lunches

We are really pleased to announce that the school kitchen was recently visited by the Environment Health agency and the Manland kitchen was awarded the top mark – 5 out of 5 stars!

As with all food providers, Environmental Health officers routinely inspect our kitchen to ensure it is meeting the legal food safety and hygiene standards.

Well done to Head Cook, Nicola, and the HCL team for all their hard work keeping our kitchen clean and safe!



“Eat Them to Defeat Them” returned to Manland on Monday 10th March 2025 and we are pleased to announce that lots of our pupils have been munching, crunching and chomping the vegetables on offer each week!

Children have been collecting stickers and filling up their reward charts. Join the Big Chomp if you have not done so already!

A big thank you to Head Cook Nicola, and her team for designing the dishes for this important event!





Empowering children to lead fulfilling lives

Spotlight on PE



Netball Rally

A squad of 10 girls from Years 5&6 attended the Harpenden & District netball rally recently. The girls had 5 games in the rounds, winning all but one, which saw them lose 5-4 in a very close game. They finished runners up in their group sending them through to the semi-final!

Another excellent game resulted in them beating Roundwood 7-5 to Manland!

In a closely fought final between Manland and High Beeches, extra time was needed after the main game finishing 5-5. The extra time unfortunately saw High Beeches go 2 goals ahead. Despite not claiming the win in the final, the girls did amazingly, beating both small and big schools along the way to claim **overall Small Schools' Rally winner!**

Well done **Eliza, Cora, Rae, Elouise, Annabelle, Lucy, Audrey, Isis, Scarlett and Gabrielle!**



WOW!



Empowering children to lead fulfilling lives

Spotlight on PE

Football v The Lea

The Years 5&6 boys had another league game recently against The Lea. The A team boys were unlucky to be 2-0 down early on. After lots of good teamwork and some excellent play by **Gene**, scoring two goals, they came back to draw 2-2! Well done boys!

The B team had another brilliant game, again showing some amazing teamwork and scoring some great goals, another win in the bag! Well done!



District Football Tournament

The year 5&6 boys also attended the annual football rally at Wood End School. The boys played 4 games, winning two out of the 4 games. The boys did a great job, narrowly being beaten by Kimpton and The Grove by only a goal each and then they beat Crabtree and Sauncey Wood 1-0 in both games.

The whole team played amazingly well and got stronger with each game. Unfortunately, despite their efforts they missed out on a spot in the semi-finals, but should all be very proud of how well they did. Well done **George G, Marcus, Charlie, Jem, August, Thomas, Josh, William, Gene and George P!**





Spotlight on fundraising



Did you know, there are two easy ways you can raise vital funds for Manland when you are shopping? These donations really mount up and make a big difference to us, so we'd really appreciate it if you could take a moment to sign up and support us. It's completely free and only takes a moment.



My School Fund: Sainsburys and Argos

You can raise funds for Manland when shopping at Sainsbury's and Argos. My School Fund is an initiative that combines the spending power of parents and carers to boost school budgets. For every £1 spent in store, **1% will go to Manland** (terms and conditions apply) **and 2% will go to you**. This cashback is redeemed in the form of e-gift cards that can be accessed by logging into your account on the My School Fund website. To register, take the following steps:

- Step 1: Visit myschoolfund.org to sign up for free and link your account to Manland Primary
- Step 2: Register your credit/debit card to your account
- Step 3: Spend at participating retailers
- Step 4: Start receiving your eGift Cards!

Thank you to the 17 parents, carers and staff who have registered with My School Fund.

So far, you have raised £402.30 for the school and £804.61 for yourselves!

Total Earned School Funds

£402.30

Total Earned Parent Funds

£804.61



How it works Find a cause R

EasyFundraising.org

Manland School HSA is registered with easyfundraising.org, which means you can raise free donations for us every time you shop online. Over 7,000 brands will donate to us when you use easyfundraising to shop with them – at no extra cost to yourself!

You can find the Manland HSA easyfundraising page at:
https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/manlandschoolhsa/?utm_source=twitter&utm_medium=social&utm_campaign=pmc&utm_content=gs-tw1

Manland School HSA, Harpenden

© Harpenden, Hertfordshire

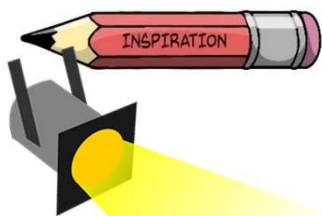
£5,339.11 raised

117 supporters

Sign up and support this cause

£5,339.11
raised, to date!
Wow!





Empowering children to lead fulfilling lives

Spotlight on Attendance



National threshold for Penalty Notice fines

At the start of the academic year we wrote to you regarding new legislation brought in by the Government to raise school attendance. Unfortunately, national attendance has still not gone back to pre pandemic levels and this is having an impact on the health, wellbeing and education of our children.

This means Manland Primary now must apply for Penalty Notice Fines where any pupil has more than 10 sessions (5 school days) of unauthorised absence, within a rolling 10 school week period.

These sessions do not have to be consecutive and can be made up of a combination of any type of unauthorised absence. The 10-school week period can span different terms or school years.

**MOMENTS
MATTER,
ATTENDANCE
COUNTS.**

Further information on Penalty Notice Fines can be found attached to the newsletter – see **“Helping Parents understand Penalty Notice Fines for School Attendance”**

What is an unauthorised absence?

Unauthorised absences are determined on a case by case basis by the school, but include:

- term time holidays
- time off to attend family events
- being taken home early due to childcare issues
- routine/non emergency medical or dental appointments during the school day
- extended appointment absences e.g. a whole day off for an hour long music exam

Want to read more about the impact of attendance on a child?

This month, the Government has published updated information on **the link between attainment and low attendance:**

Report showing that school attendance is associated with higher average academic performance in an assessment year across all pupils from all backgrounds:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/link-between-attendance-and-attainment>

And, **the impact of school absence on lifetime earnings:**

This report estimates the monetary impact of one day of school absence in state-funded secondary schools:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-impact-of-school-absence-on-lifetime-earnings>



Empowering children to lead fulfilling lives

Spotlight on Attendance

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.

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

Attendance of all pupils is reviewed every two weeks by Manland's safeguarding team

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

If we have any concerns over your child's attendance, we will be in touch

**MOMENTS
MATTER,
ATTENDANCE
COUNTS.**



Empowering children to lead fulfilling lives



Safeguarding

Smart Speakers

Many of our families will probably have a smart speaker or two in your house. The UK Safer Internet Centre have recently published a safeguarding guide for parents and carers on the this topic:

How to start a conversation with your child about using a smart speaker safely: Why do you want to get a smart speaker?

Why not find out what your child expects to use their smart speaker for. This could be for finding out information, playing games or taking quizzes, or listening to music.

What would you do if there was a smart speaker in another person's home you were visiting?

You can ask them about appropriate things they can do on the speaker, as well as expectations around how they use technology, both at home or with their friends.

How can you check that information that a smart speaker is telling you is correct and reliable?

Critical thinking is a great skill for young people to have, you can use this opportunity to look at how your child checks the sources of information they see and hear, and how opinion is different from fact. Read more in the UK Safer Internet Centre's [misinformation guidance](#).

What would you do if you heard something worrying or upsetting from the smart speaker?

Talk about strategies they need in case something concerning happens whilst they are using a smart speaker. This could be to walk away and tell an adult.

Top Tips

Talk with your child about responsible use of your smart speaker

Discuss what is okay and not okay to use the smart speaker for. Talk about time limits and expectations of where the device can and cannot be used.

Discuss what to do if something upsetting or worrying happens.

This could be to stop talking to it, leave the room and tell an adult.



Explore parental controls

Take a look at the controls available both on the speaker 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.





Empowering children to lead fulfilling lives



Safeguarding

End of day arrangements

Our school site is in use, every day, until 6.20pm. This means there are still hirers on site, such as Time Out, Fingertips and after school club providers, **who all have a statutory duty to safeguard the children in their care.**

In order to safeguard the children in their care, our hirers need the site to be secure.

If you are picking up your child at 3.20pm, please can we remind you:

- **Please leave promptly at 3.20pm.** Children are not permitted to play on school equipment or use the playgrounds – these areas are hired, every day, by external hirers from 3.20pm. It poses a safeguarding risk for hirers to the children in their care when other children are still on site, in areas the hirer has hired.
- **Please ensure the pedestrian gate is not propped open** at school pick up time or at 4.20pm, when most clubs finish. Our pedestrian gate is set to unlock between 3.20 to 3.35pm and 4.15 to 4.30pm; please just pull the gate open during these times.
- **Children are still on site until 6.20pm** and the site is not secure if the pedestrian gate is propped open. Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility - if you are passing through the gate and you notice it has been propped open, please close it.

Reminders:

Leave the site promptly at 3.20pm – our site is hired, every day, from 3.20pm.

Please do not prop open the pedestrian gate.

If you see the pedestrian gate propped open, please close it.

Thank you for your help in keeping our site safe for all children, at all times.





Empowering children to lead fulfilling lives



**MOMENTS
MATTER,
ATTENDANCE
COUNTS.**



Safeguarding

We have a **Safeguarding Team** in school.
If you ever have a concern about a child,
please speak to:
Mrs Wicks, Mr Comer or Mrs Kemp or
email them at
safeguarding@manland.herts.sch.uk

**Keeping
children safe
is everyone's
responsibility**



Attendance

Our whole school attendance for the last
two weeks is **98.4%**

Well done to Year 1, Year 3 and Year 6
who all achieved attendance over 99%!

Manland hall for hire!

The hall at Manland School is
available for hire for family
birthday parties on weekends.
Please contact the school office if
you are interested.



The Big Walk and Wheel

The Big Walk and Wheel
inspires pupils to make
active journeys to school,
improve air quality in their
neighbourhood and discover
how these changes benefit
their world.



We're taking part in the Sustrans Big Walk
and Wheel 2025 challenge. Join in by
walking, wheeling, scooting or cycling to
school between 24 March-4 April.

Year 5 Maths Challenge










At the beginning of the month, a team of
mathematicians from Year 5 took place in the annual
Year 5 Maths Challenge!

These friendly, online, inter-school competitions give
children the opportunity to apply their mathematics
knowledge and teamwork skills to solve problems and
answer challenging questions, putting their reasoning
skills to the test.

Congratulations to the mathematicians from Year 5 that
took part: **Jude, Mattie, Oscar, Camille, Audrey,
Henry, William and Marcus!**

Two example questions from the challenge are included
here. Why don't you see if you can manage them?

What is the value of  ?

			13.25
			12.75
			13
13	13.5	12.5	

Order these calculations from smallest to largest answer.
(answer in the form of D, B, A, C)

- A) $49.2 \div 6 =$
- B) $15.3 - 2.75 - 4.25 =$
- C) $3 \times 0.45 \times 6 =$
- D) $4.62 + 2.9 + 0.83 =$



Empowering children to lead fulfilling lives



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:

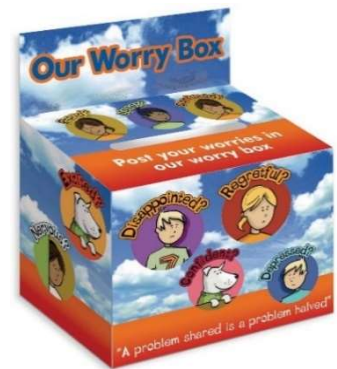
- give them a physical way of getting rid of their worries, so they don't need to carry them around anymore
- make them feel safer by holding their anxious thoughts for them
- help them to understand that thoughts are just thoughts, not real things that happen in the world, and that it's possible to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



World Book Day

Get Caught Reading! We are once again holding our 'Get Caught Reading' competition! It is always a great way to promote reading at home and we love reviewing everyone's entries!

The aim of the competition is to catch your child reading in the most unusual and creative place you can! For inspiration, below are some examples from previous years.

The competition is now open. If you would like to submit an entry, please send it to admin@manland.herts.sch.uk.



The deadline for entries is
Friday 25th April 2025





Empowering children to lead fulfilling lives



10th Harpenden Scouts

Volunteers Needed

The 10th Harpenden Scout group are looking for new volunteers who would like to join their leader teams. Both River Beaver Colony on Thursdays and Mercia Scout Group on Mondays are looking for help.

10th Harpenden Scouts meet at Crabtree Fields HQ, Waldegrave Park, right next to High Beeches.

By committing as a leader for two years for either of these two groups, volunteers will have a guaranteed spot for their children at 10th Harpenden, regardless of the children's ages (volunteers don't have to be in the same section as their child).

If interested, please get in contact on riverbeavers@hotmail.com.

Walk for Autism

Walk for Autism is a fundraising challenge run by Autism Initiatives Group. Autism Initiatives Group is working towards a world where every autistic person has the support they need to thrive, every opportunity to fulfil their potential and a supportive, inclusive community to live in.



From 26th March to 2nd April, one of our families will be walking a total of 10,000 steps a day to raise money for this important cause. Good luck!

<https://fundraise.autisminitiatives.org/fundraisers/gemmalannon>



PARENTING IN THE DIGITAL AGE

Supporting parents and schools navigating smartphones, social media and addictive technology with children

A talk with Children's Mental Health Expert
and Smartphone Free Childhood Leader

Nova Eden

Tuesday, 6th May 7pm

Roundwood Park School, Harpenden, AL5 3AE



COLLECTIVE POWER