



Manland Primary School Newsletter

Friday 19th December 2025



Dear Parents and Carers,

We are finally at the end of term and I would like to say a huge well done to all the children in school. They have worked incredibly hard over the last 14 weeks and made fantastic progress in their learning. Their curiosity and love of learning is genuinely amazing and they have achieved so much already this year.

I would also like to extend my thanks to you as parents for being so supportive of our school and for the contribution you make to ensure our school community is such a warm and welcoming place to be.

On a personal note, can I say thank you to all the parents and carers for their very generous gifts. Although very unnecessary, they are very much appreciated.

I am already looking forward to the spring term and to seeing you all again for what promises to be another busy and enjoyable term.

I wish you all an enjoyable Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

Best wishes,

Mr Comer, Headteacher

Diary Dates

Date	Event
Monday 5 th January 2026	School Closed – Inset Day
Tuesday 6 th January 2026	Children return to school
Tuesday 6 th January 2026	Reception NHS Screening assessment
Tuesday 6 th January 2026	After-school clubs start this week
Tuesday 13 th January	Year 5 Residential parent information morning at 9.00am (approx. 9.45am finish)
Thursday 15 th January	Year 3 first swim back Spring term

Manland Values Award



Kleio comes into school everyday with an enormous smile and greets her friends warmly. She gets along with everyone and will help and encourage other members of the class when needed. She settles quickly, working with others to complete the morning work. Her learning behaviours are phenomenal and she is a role model.

It has been wonderful to watch her confidence grow with her reading and phonics this term, she is going from strength to strength. She knows her sounds, is able to segment and blend and is reading books with short sentences. We are equally impressed with her writing. We know that she will continue to build on her achievements as she continues through the school.

Manland Values Award




Stanley is a good friend to those around him. He is fair and honest and always quick to offer a helping hand to both staff and children. Stanley has a passion for learning and we have seen this recently in the riddle he wrote about space. Stanley also researched and wrote a fantastic poem about a Minotaur beetle when learning about myths! Stanley has a wealth of knowledge about science and he shares this with his classmates. His curiosity sparks thoughtful questions, his enthusiasm inspires classmates, and his eagerness to share what he knows enriches everyone's learning experience. By contributing ideas, exploring new concepts, and encouraging a love of discovery, Stanley helps make school a more exciting and engaging place for all. Stay curious, Stanley! You are an inspiration to us all!



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Manland Certificate Board


**Reception
Manland
Award**
Lleyton
Showing aspiration in
his reading, writing and
maths this week.
Signed Ms Shorthouse
Date 12th December 2025




**Year 1
Manland
Award**
Joris J
For demonstrating positive
behaviour choices during the
whole school pantomime outing this
week. Well done.
Signed Ms Fiedler
Date 12th December 2025



**Year 2
Manland
Award**
Scarlett J.
For accurately
reflecting complex
2D shapes.
Signed Miss Noonan
Date 12th December 2025




**Year 3
Manland
Award**
Takub Stone
For persevering and
for creating a great
interactive book in DT.
Signed Mr Britlin
Date 12th December 2025



**Year 4
Manland
Award**
Isabel H
for your concentration
in DT. You were able to
produce some lovely stitching.
Signed Miss Peacock
Date 12th December 2025



**Year 5
Manland
Award**
Ernest F
For always taking
a responsible attitude
towards his learning.
Signed Mrs Barker
Date 12th December 2025



**Year 6
Manland
Award**
Oscar K
For a fantastic Non-Chronological
Report, gaining the Success
Criteria carefully!
Signed Mr Winchester
Date 12th December 2025



Manland Certificate Board


**Reception
Manland
Award**
Kaylene Black
For amazing creativity and
asking super questions in
PSHE. Well done.
Signed Miss Kemp and the Reception
Team
Date Friday 19th December 2025



**Year 1
Manland
Award**
Florence K
For showing responsibility
when carrying the year one
Christingle this week.
Signed Ms Fiedler
Date 19th December 2025



**Year 2
Manland
Award**
Arthur B.
Excellent effort when
describing the properties
of 3D shapes.
Signed Miss Noonan
Date 19th December 2025




**Year 3
Manland
Award**
Bonnie S
For being a fantastic
role model during our
Christingle practice and
performance.
Signed Mr Britlin
Date 19th December 2025



**Year 4
Manland
Award**
Ava M
for excellent concentration
when sewing in DT, resulting
in a well-made stocking.
Signed Miss Peacock
Date 19th December 2025



**Year 5
Manland
Award**
Enzo M.
For great teamwork
and engineering skills
while building your bridge.
Signed Mrs Barker
Date 19th December 2025



**Year 6
Manland
Award**
Sansy K
For using Imperative Verbs
to 'improve' a recipe in our
'Instructional Writing' unit.
Signed Mr Winchester
Date 19th December 2025





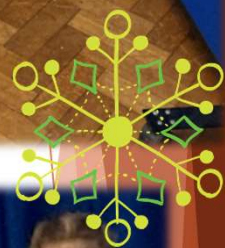
Spotlight on Nativity

Wow! What a performance! Well done to our Year 2 class for their fantastic performances of Hey Ewe this week! Ably supported by our angels from Year 1 and our kings and queens from Reception class, Year 2 sang, acted and danced brilliantly. Well done and thank you to everyone in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2!



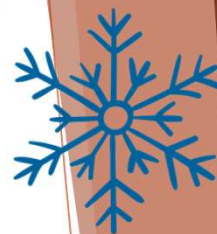


Spotlight on Nativity





Spotlight on Reading



Winter Reads

1 November 2025 – 31 January 2026

Complete 6 fun challenges through the winter months for a chance to win prizes, including an iPad! Sign up for the challenge at your local library.

Winter Reads is a series of exciting reading challenges and events for all ages, taking place across Hertfordshire libraries until the end of January.

You can either work through the challenges set by Herts libraries or change them to suit you.



Here's how it works:

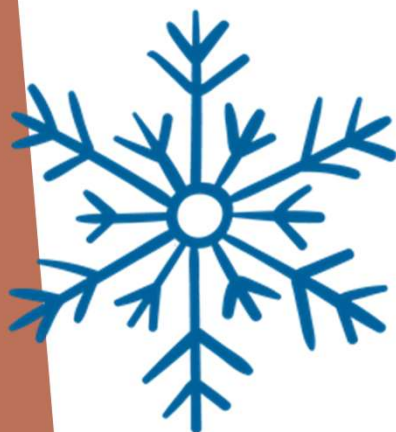
Pick up your challenge materials from your local library.

Adults get a Winter Reads bookmark. Children receive a Winter Reads challenge card.

Complete and record your challenges on your bookmark or challenge card.

Return to your local library to get a stamp or sticker for each completed challenge. Once you finish 6 challenges, you'll be entered into our prize draw to win an iPad (plus other fantastic runners-up prizes).

As well as being a great way to explore new books, authors and genres, Winter Reads is a brilliant opportunity to read together as a family or with friends.



Get Caught Reading

We know it's a little while away yet, but to coincide with World Book Day in March, we'll once again be holding our 'Get Caught Reading' competition.

Don't forget to take a book with you on your travels this Christmas - who knows where you'll get caught reading?!

WORLD
**BOOK
DAY**

5 MARCH 2026



Spotlight on Christmas Lunch

On Thursday, pupils enjoyed a wonderful Christmas Lunch, courtesy of the hardworking kitchen team from Herts Catering Ltd. It was a feast!

A **big thank you**, also, to the **HSA**, who provided every child with a Christmas cracker during lunch! The children loved them!





Spotlight on Christingle

On Wednesday we held our annual Christingle Service. The children sang beautifully and really put us all in the Christmas spirit!

Thank you to Rev'd Sally Goodson who came along to speak to us about Christingle and well done to class representatives who presented the Christingles so well: **Oscar (Year 6), AJ (Year 5), Petros (Year 4), Olivia L (Year 3), Riley (Year 2) and Florence (Year 1).**



Year 1 – Away in a Manger



Year 4 – While Shepherds Watched



Year 3 – We Three Kings



Year 6 – In the bleak midwinter



Reception – Little Donkey

Year 5 - It was on a starry night



Year 2 – Silent Night

A special thank you and well done to our Year 6 readers – **Will, Audrey, Charlie, Eliza, Jude, Matthew, Camille and Ava**





Pantomime

We had a fantastic time at the Harpenden Pantomime last week. A big thank you to all the parents and carers who accompanied us and to the HSA for the interval snack and drinks!



Reception "The fairy had a really sparkly costume"

Year 3 "Costumes and backdrops were amazing"

Year 4 "I laughed so much and loved the songs"



Year 1 "It was SO romantic!"



Year 5 "The jokes were really funny especially the cow"



Year 6 "Mr Winchester being picked on was really funny"



Year 2 "I loved singing to the songs"





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Christmas Jumper Day

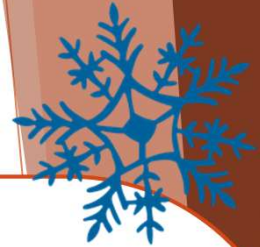


It was Christmas Jumper Day in school on Thursday 11th December! Everyone looked so festive!





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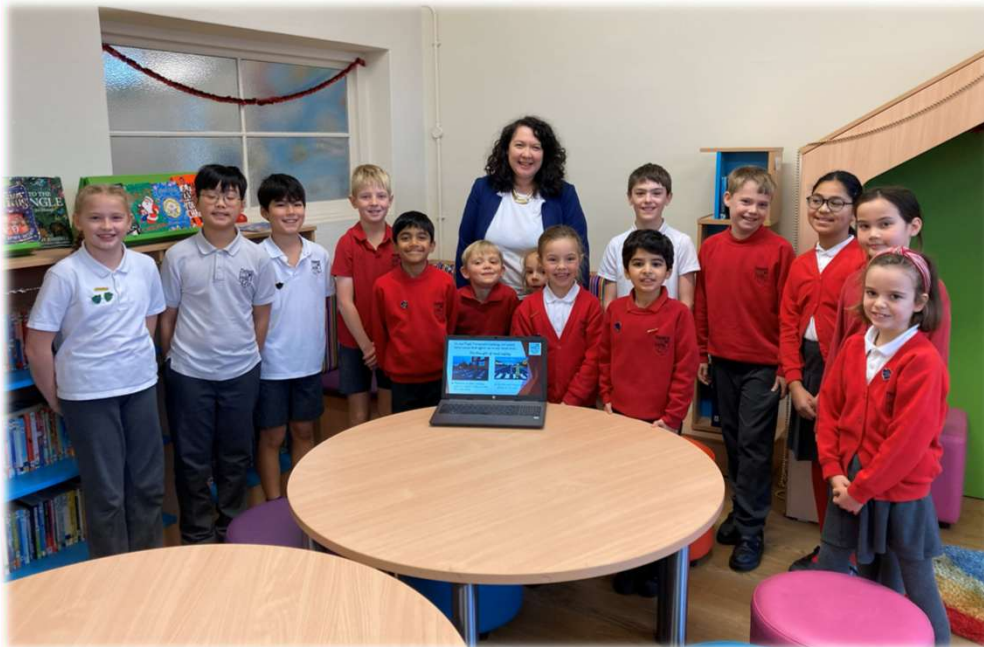
Victoria Collins MP visit

Last week, our local MP - Victoria Collins - visited our school! Victoria was greeted by Anna and Sammy (our Prime Minister and Deputy Prime Minister) who conducted a tour of Manland. Victoria met with our Pupil Parliament, who wanted to raise some local issues: road safety at home times and rubbish collection along Sauncey Avenue. Having consulted their classes, our class MPs expressed their opinions articulately and have agreed to write to Victoria to press their concerns further. This was followed by a whole-school assembly, during which Victoria shared a 'day in the life' as an MP and held a Q&A. Children asked thoughtful questions such as:

- What's the hardest thing about being an MP?
- Why did you want to become an MP?
- How do you become an MP?

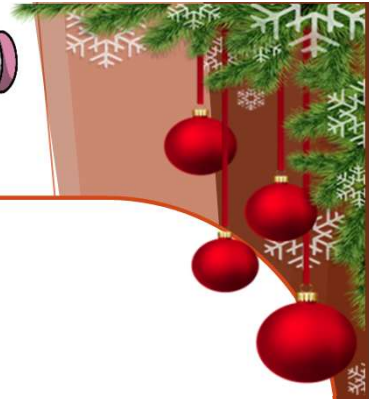


As always, children represented our school excellently - we're extremely proud of our MPs!





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Family Lives – Herts Parenting Groups

Family Lives are delivering the below 5 online parenting groups, funded by Herts County Council, in the Spring term for parents/carers who live in Hertfordshire.

Their programmes provide support, information and resources to parents/carers and adult family members so they can help their child reach their full potential as well as access to the wraparound support provided by our helpline, live chat and website.

The programmes taking place next term include:

Less shouting More Co-operation

Tuesday 20 January to 3 March - 7pm to 9pm

Or

9 February to 23 March 2026 - 9.45am to 11.56am

Bringing Up Confident ADHD/ASD Children

Friday 23 January to 6 March

9.45am to 11.45am

Getting on with Your Pre-Teen/Teenager

Tuesday 3 February to 17 March 2026

7pm to 9pm

Dads Together

Wednesday 4 February to 18 March 2026

7pm to 9pm



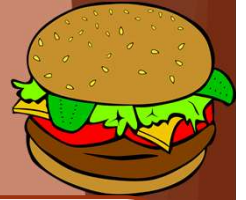
To book a place please click here [Referral Form for Family Lives Herts Parenting Groups and Workshops](#) for their online referral form.

You can also email services@familylives.org.uk or call them on 0020 4522 8701 / 204 522 8700 for more information.





Spotlight on Design and Technology



The Year 6s rounded off their D&T project by making some amazing burgers on Monday 15th December! With some expert tips and advice from a top London Chef, the children became 'chief choppers' as they created their own salad before making their hamburger patties to accompany it. Once the cooking had been done (and after the very valuable lesson of how to clear up!), the children grabbed their rolls as well as condiments to sit down and devour their lunch. A highly successful, enjoyable and tasty morning! One that has prepared the children just in time for Christmas day (both helping and clearing up!!!).

A huge thanks to our Chef, Mrs Read and Ms Chan for all their help during the morning!





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Safeguarding

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



MOMENTS MATTER, ATTENDANCE COUNTS.

Attendance

Our whole school attendance for the
last two weeks is 97.1%

Keep it up everyone!



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.



Poppy Appeal

A huge well done to our **Year 6 pupils** who
sold poppies to raise funds for the Royal
British Legion in November. They raised a
total of **£167.60!** What a fantastic
achievement.

Thank you to everyone who supported the
appeal

Thank you
for your support



Registered charity number: 219279





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Safeguarding

At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, a head of the Trust. It's created. This guide focuses on one issue of many which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit www.nationalonlinesafety.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about SETTING UP NEW DEVICES FOR CHILDREN

At Christmas, millions of lucky children will be excitedly ripping the wrapping off new phones, tablets, computers or consoles. However, in the rush to let young ones enjoy their shiny gadgets, many parents neglect to set these devices up safely – increasing the chances of children going online and stumbling across adult content, making expensive downloads or installing unsuitable apps. A little time configuring the device properly can save a lot of anguish later. Here are our top tips to ensure that a dream gift on Christmas morning doesn't turn into a nightmare by New Year.

PASSCODES FOR IPHONE/IPAD

If your child's getting their own iPhone or iPad, you can set up parental controls that make it difficult for them to access inappropriate content or download expensive apps. Once the device is set up, go to the Settings app and tap Screen Time, then select Use Screen Time Passcode and enter a passcode. Keep it to yourself so your child can't switch the protection off.

SCREEN TIME SETTINGS ON IPHONE/IPAD

Once you've set a Screen Time Passcode, you can adjust various safety settings. You could, for example, only allow communication with people from the Contacts app, place restrictions on App Store purchases and apply age limits to movies, music and web content. There are many more protective options available within the Screen Time settings section.

FAMILY LINK FOR ANDROID

Parents can manage Android phones and tablets, as well as Google Chromebooks, through Google's Family Link app. This gives your child some independence (and their own Google account) but lets parents monitor which apps are being used, set limits on content and ensure that parental permission is required to install apps. Look for Family Link in the Google Play Store.

ADD A CHILD TO FAMILY LINK

The easiest way to add a child's device to Family Link is to set it up with its own Google account. It's a good idea to create this before they use their new phone, tablet or Chromebook. Once they're logged in, open the Family Link app on your phone, press "+" in the top right and add a new family member using their Google account details. Then follow the on-screen instructions.

PLAYSTATION PARENTAL CONTROLS

With parental controls for the PS5, you'll need a PlayStation Network account (as the 'family manager') and the child will need their own account, which they should sign in with on the console. This all needs to be set up in advance, so you might want to do it before the big day. Go to Playstation.com and search 'family account' for instructions.

INSTALL XBOX FAMILY SETTINGS

If you don't have a PC, but your child does have an Xbox, it might be easier to use the Xbox Family Settings app for iPhone or Android. Here, you can restrict console screen time (particularly handy if the console is in a bedroom), restrict communication and monitor the types of game being played. There's also a feature where you can allocate spending money for games or in-game purchases.

SET AN ADMIN ON PCS

On Windows PCs and laptops, it's important not to let your child share a general user account or be the main admin on the device. If you're booting up a new family PC or a child's own device, set it up using your own account details and you'll become the admin by default. Then set up children with their own separate account: Settings > Accounts > Family & Other Users > Add Other User.

SET WINDOWS LIMITS

Once your child's account has been created, a parent admin can go back into the Family & Other Users menu and apply limits to it. These include restricting screen time, the type of games and apps that can be installed, web filters and more. Microsoft also includes reporting tools which, for example, can email you with a weekly summary of your child's activity on the device.

TREAT AN XBOX LIKE A PC

The same control settings you use for a PC can be used to apply parental controls on an Xbox. Again, once your child is signed into the Xbox with their own account, you can then monitor and regulate their activity from a PC or web browser. Microsoft's dashboard allows you to manage voice communication through the console, so you can limit who can contact your child, for example.

FAMILY SHARING ON A MAC

Families using a Mac get similar screen time options to iPhone and iPad users. Again, if you're setting up a Mac for a child, make yourself the main admin and add them as a user. This is handled through Apple's Family Sharing service, which not only allows you to put controls on child accounts but share apps and other purchases with them too. Search 'family sharing' at <https://support.apple.com>.

DISCUSS IT WITH YOUR CHILD

If you're planning to implement any kind of restriction or protection settings on your child's new device, we'd recommend having a discussion with your young one first about what these controls do, and what they are for. If you try to impose parental controls surreptitiously or with no advance warning, don't be surprised if your child tries to find a way around them.

STAY VIGILANT

It's important to remember that none of these methods is 100% foolproof. Nobody will ever invent flawless filters or parental controls – not least because what's unacceptable to some parents is perfectly acceptable to others. So although devices' parental controls will help to keep your child safe online, they work best side by side with good old-fashioned parental vigilance.

Meet Our Expert

Barry Collins has been a technology journalist and editor for more than 20 years, working for titles such as the Sunday Times, Which?, PC Pro and Computeractive. He's appeared regularly as a technology pundit on television and radio, including on Newsnight, Radio 5 Live and ITV News at Ten. He has two children and writes regularly about internet safety issues.

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Users of the... at their own discretion. No... are... of the date of release: 22.12.2021



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Scouting – Harpenden 10th

The Harpenden 10th currently has 3 spaces in their Cub pack for the Spring term 2026. Places are available for children who have already turned 8 years old.

They meet on Thursdays from 6.30pm to 8.00pm at:

10th Harpenden Scout Group
Crabtree Fields
Waldegrave Park
Harpenden
AL5 5SF

If any children are interested in joining, please email:

akelaswift@gmail.com

And also copy in: harpendenwaitinglist@gmail.com

If they get more interested families versus places then they will keep your details on the waiting list.



Thank you



We would like to say thank you so much to the Budd family for donating a blackboard to the school.

Reception are very excited to use it!



Pupil News



Lucas Ho from year 5 had attended ABRSM practical piano examination Grade 3 on 20/11 during school time. He passed the examination with merit.

Congratulations Lucas!

