



Manland Primary School Newsletter

Friday 13th February 2026



Diary Dates

Dear Parents and Carers,

What an amazing two weeks we have had at Manland! Not only have children been working incredibly hard, we also have been treated to two fantastic class assemblies, from Year 2 and Reception who wowed us with their maturity and confidence.

It feels like this half term has been characterised by some very gloomy weather, which I know we are all ready to say goodbye to. The weather, however, could not dampen our spirits today however; as the children brightened everyone's day with the most amazing talent show, I have ever seen.

I know that so many children auditioned to take part, and only a few managed to get to the final – but what a final it was! We were all so proud of the children who showed such remarkable bravery to perform on stage in front of the entire school.

What a way to end the half term! I hope everyone enjoys a well-earned rest and we will look forward to seeing you on the Monday 23rd!

Best wishes,

Mr Comer, Headteacher

Date	Event
Tuesday 24 th February 2026	Yr5 & Yr6 SJL visit for Drama performance "The Addams Family"
Wednesday 25 th February 2026	Yr 1 Phonics Screening Check parents meeting at 9.00am (approx. 9.30am finish)
Thursday 26 th February 2026	Yr 2 trip to Bletchley Park Yr 5/6 Tag Rugby Tournament
Thursday 26 th February 2026	Year 5 Maths Challenge (invitation only)
Monday 2 nd March 2026	SEND Parent Consultations start this week
Tuesday 3 rd - Thursday 5 th March 2026	Year 5 Phasels Wood Residential



Manland Values Award

We have been waiting all year for the right moment to nominate Charlotte! It takes a very determined person to persevere and try your absolute best - every, single day. During lessons, Charlotte is always ready for learning: she does the right thing, at the right time, all the time. It is a true testimony to her character that Charlotte was brave enough to speak in front of a large audience during her recent class assembly! Throughout rehearsals, she worked hard to get the choreography just right, and since that performance, Charlotte's confidence has gone from strength to strength. Not only is Charlotte a delight to teach, she is hugely appreciated by her friends. Charlotte, our day is always brighter when you come to school. Well done!



Manland Values Award

Freya is a kind young lady who comes into school every day with a smile on her face. She is keen and eager to start the day and always offering a helping hand. She is a good conversationalist and is able to converse confidently. She is not afraid to ask for help when she needs it, helping her progress throughout her learning. She is an enthusiastic learner who actively participates during all lessons. Freya is a kind person who plays nicely with everyone she encounters. She's fair and fun. Freya undoubtedly deserves the Manland Cup as she often shows our core values. She is a responsible person who takes accountability for her learning and actions. She inspires those around her by being a role model to look up to. She aspires to be the best version of herself daily. I hope she keeps up with such valuable qualities throughout her schooling life. Well done, Freya! Very well deserved.



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Manland Certificate Board

Reception Manland Award
Amakai
For doubling really big numbers. What an inspiration!

Signed Mrs Sporthouse and Mrs Kemp
Date 6th February 2026

Year 1 Manland Award
Aidan H
For an inspirational attitude towards learning about explorers in History.

Signed Mrs Fiedler and the Year 1 Team
Date Friday 6th February

Year 2 Manland Award
Francesca L.
Excellent use of text and bold lines in Art.

Signed Miss Nolan
Date 6th February 2026

Year 3 Manland Award
Saeed A
For showing great skill and care when mixing colour to create a range of hues and tones

Signed Mr Brittin
Date 6th February 2026

Year 4 Manland Award
Imogen D
for capturing detail in your still life painting.

Signed Miss Peacock
Date 6th February 2026

Year 5 Manland Award
Harrison W.
For an exceptional explanation in Science.

Signed Mrs Barber
Date 6th February 2026

Year 6 Manland Award
Matthew W
For showing great determination and focus during our Algebra topic in Maths lessons.

Signed Mr Winchester
Date 6th February 2026

Manland Certificate Board

Reception Manland Award
Caladh B
For taking responsibility such as learning lines, songs and actions for our assembly.

Signed Mrs Kemp and the Reception Team
Date Thursday 12th February

Year 1 Manland Award
Liana M
For demonstrating responsibility by always being ready to learn and to share her ideas with the class.

Signed Ms Fiedler
Date 12th February 2026

Year 2 Manland Award
Becky I.
For providing great verbal answers to questions in class!

Signed Mrs O'Connell
Date 12th February 2026

Year 3 Manland Award
Rose T
For her creative and detailed final composition in art

Signed Mr Brittin
Date 12th February 2026

Year 4 Manland Award
Savannah Da-Silva
for her increased confidence and participation in class, her wonderful story in English and beautiful art-work for home learning.

Signed Ms Peacock
Date 13.2.26

Year 5 Manland Award
Augustus R.
For a great piece of writing on your circular tale using many of the features.

Signed Mrs Barber
Date 13th February 2026

Year 6 Manland Award
Hayden C
For displaying a handwriting attitude throughout our Algebra unit and putting himself.

Signed Mr Winchester
Date 13th February 2026



Spotlight on Reception Assembly

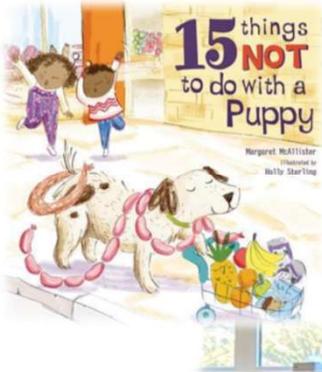
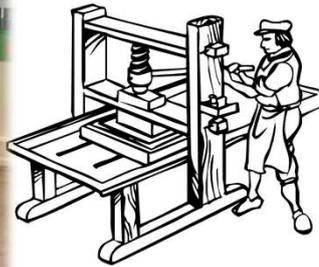
What a fantastic first ever assembly for our Reception children who were excited to share their learning about traditional tales. They spoke so clearly and confidently and even remembered who to pass the microphone to. Their beautiful singing and choreography was impressive. Everyone loved the children's paintings of the Three Bears' Cottage and the Gingerbread men that had been decorated with threading and buttons. We are so proud of all the children and we look forward to seeing their confidence grow as they continue their learning journey at Manland.





Spotlight on Year 2 Class Assembly

This week Year 2 presented their fabulous learning to us! We were so impressed with children's confidence and pleasure at sharing what they've been finding out in their lessons. You've been working really hard Year 2 and your sense of humour really shone through! Well done! We really appreciated parent participation for the final 'We Will Rock You' - thank you!





Spotlight on House Learning Day

What an excellent House Learning Day we have enjoyed today! We began the day with another House Quiz, where the House Captains wowed us with an amazing display of knowledge and learning – in the end Griffins and Unicorn could not be separated and claimed a tie! Well done to both teams.

Following this, the children spent the morning in their House groups creating some fantastic mathematically themed artwork. The Escher based tessellations were spectacular and it was particularly impressive to see KS1 children learning about the Fibonacci sequence!

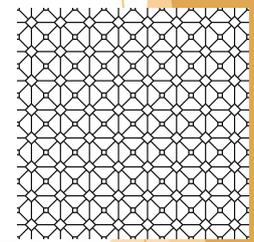
Finally, this afternoon children enjoyed the Manland's Got Talent show, where the chosen finalists dazzled us with their unique set of talents. The children showed us just how gifted and brave they are. Well done to all the finalists, but huge congratulations to **James Am** from Year 5 who took away the first place trophy!



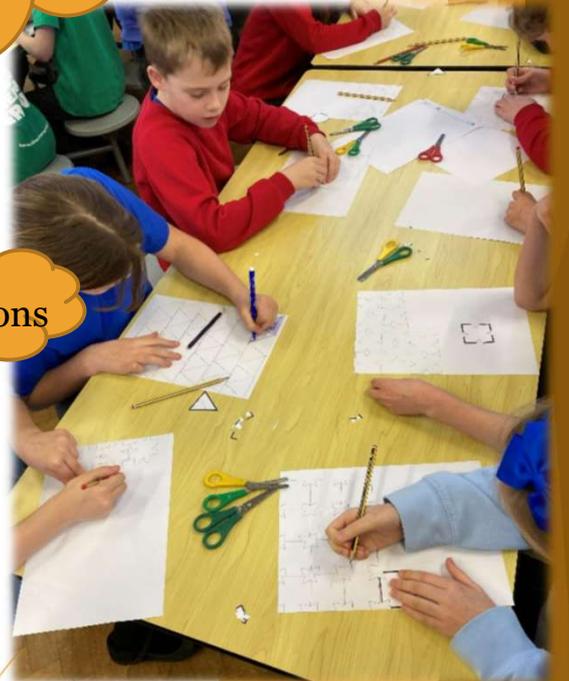
House Captain Quiz
Joint 1st place – Griffin and Phoenix
3rd place – Dragons
4th Place - Unicorns



Reception explored the number 10 for House Learning Day . They used their knowledge of number bonds to demonstrate different ways using counters.



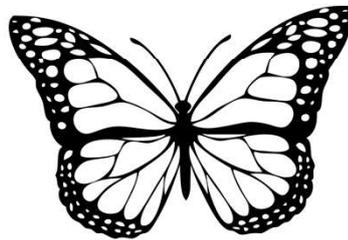
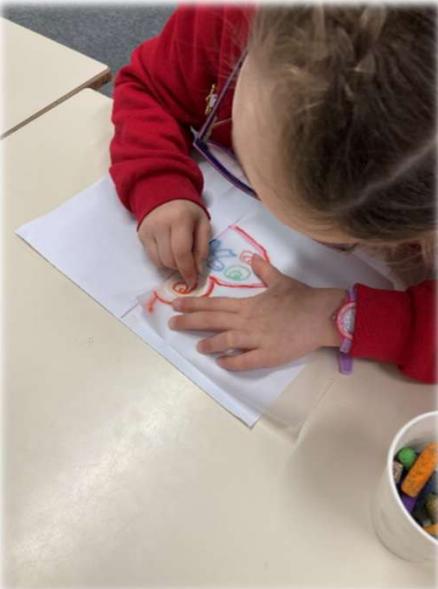
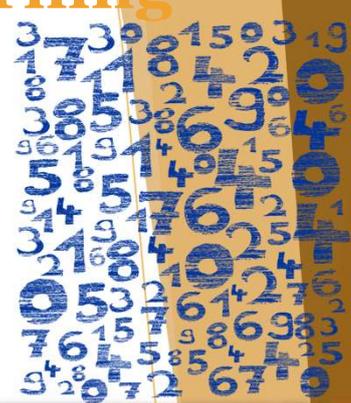
Tessellations





Spotlight on House Learning Day

Fibonacci Sequence



Symmetry





Spotlight on Manland Talent Show

We were absolutely blown away by the wealth of talent and skills here at Manland! Throughout the week, children have been auditioning for their chance to reach Friday's afternoon's final of the eagerly-anticipated Manland Talent Show. Children performed songs (some were original pieces, written by children themselves), dances and poetry recitals. It was so much fun seeing the array of instruments that children play too: drums, flute, cornet and the piano to name a few! It was lovely to see children supporting each other, cheering each other on and mostly, having fun! Children had put a lot of time and effort into their rehearsals before auditions - all should be congratulated!

Phoenix

Scarlett & Phoebe – Dancing
 Florence, Aoibheann & Imogen – Dancing
 Petros – Piano
 (Detective Wombat Blues by Julie Knerr)



Unicorn

Seren – Flute (Ninjago overture)
 Sofiyah – Karate
 Clara (Poetry)





Spotlight on Manland Talent Show

Griffin

JJ – Karate
James A – Piano
(Persistent Rhythm by
Martha Mier
Imogen & Sienna -
Dancing



Dragon

Elise – Piano (Stroll –
My Neighbour
Tortoro)
Charlotte – Ballet
Iris - Play





Spotlight on Talent Show



Winner





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National Year of Reading

The benefits of reading

Did you know that reading for just **10 minutes a day** can improve your child's wellbeing and boost their literacy skills at the same time?

What if my child is a reluctant reader?

If your child is a reluctant reader or you're finding it hard to find the time to read together, there are lots of different ways to help them enjoy reading more.

Ten tips to help you engage your child in reading

- If your child is a reluctant reader, you can use your child's hobbies and interests to find books that are more likely to hold their attention.
- Learn how to spend time sharing stories together. You don't always need to read the words in books. Looking at and talking about picture books is a great way to encourage your child to enjoy stories.
- If your child doesn't like books, you can also explore ways to get your child interested in stories by diving into the world of comic books or our list of audio books for teenagers.
- Discover how to help your child learn to choose books that they like.
- Try visiting the library to help your child try reading different books.
- Don't worry if your child only wants to read one book over and over.
- Find out how you can set a reading example for your child.
- Learn how to build reading routines into your day to day.
- Bring familiar stories to life with play. Act out a story you both know well to make reading feel more fun.
- Don't put too much pressure on yourself to build in reading time, or your child to enjoy reading. Just take it one moment at a time.



Daily story time

Find a short slot in your daily routine (bedtime works well for many families) to read one or two books together every day. Find a quiet, cosy place to snuggle up, and switch off distractions for a few minutes so you and your child have each other's full attention. Once story time becomes part of your routine, both you and your child will begin to look forward to this special time together.

Sharing a book

Sharing a book with your child can be a magical experience. By building story time into your daily routine you will be:

- Spending time together
- Developing your child's imagination
- Introducing new words
- Expanding their knowledge of the world
- Giving them the chance to ask questions
- Helping them to relax and calm down
- Developing their love of books and reading
- Having fun together!
- Repeat, repeat, repeat

Reading the same book again and again will help your child get to know the story. Once they know it well, ask them about what's happening or what's going to happen next, and praise them when they respond.

Look at the pictures

The beauty of children's books is that it doesn't matter if you don't read all the words - you can tell a story from the pictures! If your child knows the book well, or even if they don't, let them have a go at becoming the storyteller just from looking at the pictures on the page. It will help improve their speaking skills and self confidence.





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**MOMENTS
MATTER,
ATTENDANCE
COUNTS.**



Attendance

Our whole school attendance for the last two weeks is **94.5%**

Congratulations to Year 4 who achieved 99.7%

Safeguarding

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

Keeping children safe is everyone's responsibility



Manland hall for hire!

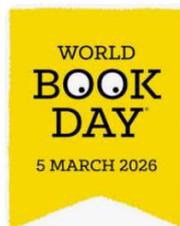
The hall at Manland School is available for hire for family birthday parties on weekends. Please contact the school office if you are interested.



Safeguarding Reminder

Please can we remind parents and carers not to use Fingertips as a short cut to Manland when dropping off/collecting younger siblings before and after school.

World Book Day



Before we know it, it'll be time to celebrate 2026's World Book Day (Thursday 5th March), and some of you may already have your costume planned! We always look forward to this annual event to celebrate all thing 'books'. We're really excited to see what themes and characters will emerge as children arrive dressed as their favourite book characters! In keeping with the spirit of the day, a little reminder that children should not wear football kits on this day. We will also be holding our 'Get Caught Reading' competition after the Easter break - if you are going away this half-term, make sure you bring a book with you!

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 2026 challenge. Join in by walking, wheeling, scooting or cycling to school between 16-27 March 2026.



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Pupil News



Last weekend Ernest, Henry and Harrison from Year 5 competed in the Hertfordshire County Cross Country Championships.

Harrison finished in **3rd place** which is Manland's highest ever placement in the championships. Harrison will now go on to represent Hertfordshire in the National Cross Country championships in March.

Good luck Harrison!



Upcoming Sporting Fixtures

Boys Football League

Thursday 26th February 2026
Away vs Kimpton (collect 3pm)
A team only

Friday 13th March 2026
Home vs Sauncey Wood (3.30pm start)
A&B teams



Football Tournament

Wednesday 11th March 2026
Wood End (1.15pm)

Girls Netball League

Thursday 26th February 2026
Away vs St Dominic (collect 3pm)
A team only

Thursday 5th March 2026
Away vs Markyate (collect 3pm)
A team only

Tuesday 10th March 2026
Home vs St Nicholas (3.30pm start)
A&B teams



Netball Rally

Thursday 12th March 2026
KWS (1.30pm)

Netball

This week the A team visited Sauncey Wood School for their next league game. The girls all displayed some great netball with lots of really good teamwork on display.

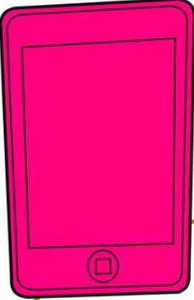
The game ended in Manland winning 9-3! A brilliant effort rewarded with a very impressive win. Well done all involved.



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Safeguarding



Smartphone Free Childhood

The Smartphone Free Childhood movement advocates for delaying children's access to smartphones, promoting healthier childhood experiences without the influence of social media and excessive screen time. Manland School supports the Smartphone Free Childhood campaign.

Here is a reminder of our Mobile Phone school policy

- Pupils should not bring valuable items to school, as they can be easily lost or stolen
- Pupils are not permitted to bring smartphones to school
- If a parent or carer feels their child needs a phone for safety reasons, we request that they consider a phone without internet connectivity (a 'brick' phone), such as a Nokia 3210
- Pupils remain responsible for all of their personal effects whilst at school. When pupils enter the school grounds the school takes no responsibility for mobile phones or other devices. Mobile phones are brought to school entirely at the owner's risk. The school accepts no responsibility for replacing lost, stolen or damaged mobile phones or other devices
- During the school day, if a pupil is seen using their mobile phone or other device, it will be confiscated and returned to their parent/carer. This includes using a mobile phone during a before- or after-school activity. This will be dealt with in line with the school's behaviour policy
- Parents and carers are reminded that in cases of emergency the school office remains a vital and appropriate point of contact and can ensure your child is reached quickly and assisted in any appropriate way. Parents and carers should contact the school office as an appropriate point of contact with their child
- If it is essential that a pupil brings a phone or any other device into school, it must be handed in to the class teacher, to be kept throughout the school day
- Even if pupils do hand their phones in, they are brought to school entirely at the owner's risk. The school accepts no responsibility for replacing lost, stolen or damaged mobile phones; or investigating theft of a phone.



Parents, carers and other family members

- Mobile phone use is not permitted on the school grounds
- For safeguarding reasons visiting adults are not permitted to take images on the school grounds unless permitted on special events such as Assemblies/Sports Days/sports events/etc. or if given permission by the Headteacher
- On these special events, family members may take photos of their own children. **No photos of children other than their own should be placed on social media**

<https://manland.herts.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/12/Mobile-Phone-Policy-September-2025.pdf>





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**Police & Crime
Commissioner**
FOR HERTFORDSHIRE

A message from Harpenden Police

- A new home for Harpenden Police officers

Harpenden's neighbourhood policing team is moving to Harpenden Town Hall in Leyton Road.

Moving the neighbourhood policing team to the Town Hall keeps officers at the heart of the community. It also supports modern, efficient ways of working. And delivers better value for money for taxpayers.

Continuing joint working with the Town Council strengthens local policing in Harpenden.

The Harpenden neighbourhood policing officers will be engaging with the public. And they'll be out and about in the local community responding and solving crime. Which is where residents have told me they want to see their officers.

The base at the Town Hall will serve as a place to complete paperwork and make calls.

Their focus remains the same - keeping the town and surrounding rural areas safe.

We've seen this work in St Albans with the police based out of the Civic Centre district council offices.

Joint working with local councils delivers value for money. And still ensures the police are still based in the town centre.

I'm grateful to Harpenden Town Council for their proactive partnership work on this project with Hertfordshire Constabulary and my Office.

Residents can contact their local officers directly at harpenden@herts.police.uk and make an appointment to see them. If you know the name of your local officer, you can email them directly using this format - first.surname@herts.police.uk

You can also contact your officers via our website and report incidents online at www.herts.police.uk/report. In an emergency, always dial 999.

To find out more click here: www.herts-pcc.gov.uk/news/20222/A-new-home-for-Harpenden-police-officers/