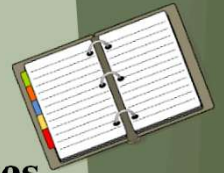




Manland Primary School Newsletter

Friday 20th March 2026



Diary Dates

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been another great couple of weeks here at Manland, and the recent improvement in weather has certainly helped; it certainly feels like spring is finally here.

We know how fantastic our children are at Manland, but over the last 2 weeks, we were reminded of just how lucky we are to work with such special young people. Year 4 represented Manland so well on their trip to the Tate Modern art gallery, as did Year 6 on their Crucial Crew visit; they were a credit to the school. We were also incredibly proud of our young writers, three of whom managed to finish in the top three of the local writing competition!

It's not just the children that we are appreciative of, however. This morning the HSA held their AGM and Mrs Wicks was once again blown away by the generosity of the parent body – you truly do so much to help create an amazing community, and we are incredibly grateful.

Next week is the last week of term and I am sure that after such a busy term, you are all ready for the Easter break. We wish you a restful break, when it finally comes.

Best wishes, *Mrs Wicks and Mr Comer, Co-Headteachers*

Date	Event
Monday 23 rd – Thursday 26 th March 2026	Scholastic Book Fair, each day in the hall 3.20pm
Tuesday 24 th March 2026	Year 6 Spring Music Festival (rehearsal & performance) Year 5/6 Girls Tag Rugby Festival Year 1 All Saints Church trip
Wednesday 25 th March 2026	Year 3 & Year 4 Spring Concert for parents at 9.10am (approx. 9.50am finish)
Thursday 26 th March 2026	Year 3 Roald Dahl Museum class trip
Friday 27 th March 2026	Easter Egg Hunt for children End of Term 1.15pm finish

Manland Values Award



Charlie brings warmth and friendliness into our classroom every single day. He is someone who truly cares about the people around them. Charlie's kindness stands out. Whether it's offering words of encouragement, taking the time to listen to a friend, or simply being there just to offer a smile. He shows what it means to be a thoughtful and supportive member of our class. These values don't just appear in how they treat others, but also in the pride they take in their learning. He will listen carefully to feedback and use it to improve his work, especially in his writing, always trying to make it even better. Over the year, it has been fantastic to see Charlie's confidence grow and flourish. His kindness, and enthusiasm make him a wonderful role model to others. Well done, Charlie!

Manland Values Award



Audrey arrives at school each morning with a bright, positive attitude and a genuine excitement for learning. She is always eager to share what she knows and fully embraces every opportunity to develop her understanding. She consistently reflects the Manland Values in everything she does, showing kindness, courtesy and warmth to both adults and classmates, and setting a wonderful example for others to follow. In lessons, Audrey shows clear determination to achieve her very best. Her confident, friendly nature adds enthusiasm to the classroom and plays a big part in creating a happy, supportive atmosphere where everyone can thrive. She approaches each challenge with focus and resilience, maintaining outstanding behaviour throughout the school day. Teaching Audrey has been an absolute privilege. Well done, Audrey!



Empowering children to lead fulfilling lives

Manland Certificate Board

**Reception
Manland
Award**
Mary H
For an inspirational attitude to
reading and writing a fantastic
sentence about the ducklings.
Signed Mrs Keasp and the Reception Team
Date Friday 13th March 2026

**Year 1
Manland
Award**
Bobo N
For demonstrating responsibility
for her learning in all lessons
and for showing fantastic focus
Signed Ms Flecker
Date 13th March 2026

**Year 2
Manland
Award**
Uzay A
For demonstrating accuracy
when comparing and
ordering heights.
Signed Miss Noonan
Date 13th March 2026

**Year 3
Manland
Award**
Will K
For his continued
enthusiasm on our
topic of Pirates.
Signed Mr Brittin
Date 13th March 2026

**Year 4
Manland
Award**
Lia L
Well done for your increasing
maturity and focus in all
lessons.
Signed Miss Peacock
Date 13th March 2026

**Year 5
Manland
Award**
Claudia R.
For her outstanding
performance as a
character from the book
Tuesday.
Signed Mrs Barker
Date 13th March 2026

**Year 6
Manland
Award**
Ghny W
For showing a clear understanding
and sharing experiences during
R.E lessons on the subject of 'Love'.
Signed Mr Winchester
Date 13th March 2026

Manland Certificate Board

**Reception
Manland
Award**
Leo U
For an inspirational attitude
towards reading and phonics,
reading progress blending words
independently. Well done.
Signed Mrs Keasp and the Reception Team
Date Friday 20th March 2026

**Year 1
Manland
Award**
James R
For inspirational maths work
and for demonstrating fantastic
listening during computing capacity.
Signed Ms Flecker
Date 20th March 2026

**Year 2
Manland
Award**
Daniel G.
Using a range of punct-
uation in writing: commas,
exclamation and question marks.
Signed Miss Noonan
Date 20th March 2026

**Year 3
Manland
Award**
Elise L
For giving 100% in
every single rehearsal.
Signed Mr Brittin
Date 20th March 2026

**Year 4
Manland
Award**
Whole class
for representing the school
so beautifully on our trip
to Tate Modern I am so
proud of you all.
Signed Miss Peacock
Date 20th March 2026

**Year 5
Manland
Award**
Connor Y.
Insightful answers when
discussing the consequences
of fast fashion.
Signed Miss Rider
Date 20th March 2026

**Year 6
Manland
Award**
Julia M
For settling into Year 6 so
well and displaying such confidence
when teaching a SATs question.
Signed Mr Winchester
Date 20th March 2026



Empowering children to lead fulfilling lives



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



MOMENTS MATTER, ATTENDANCE COUNTS.



Attendance

Our whole school attendance for the last two weeks is **97.4%**

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.



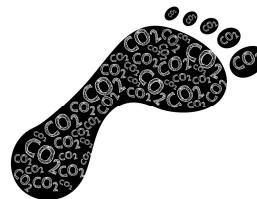
Climate Action and Sustainability



Walk Wheel Cycle Trust Headline sponsor SCHWALBE

Our Eco Warriors would like to make you aware of the following events coming up soon!

- The Big Walk and Wheel – 16 to 27th March 2026
- Walk to School Week – 18th to 22nd May 2026
- Clear Air Day – 18th June 2026



We would like to encourage everyone to do all they can to reduce school gate congestion and improve air quality around our school by taking part in the events above. Look out for more information nearer the time!

In the meantime, there are many ways you can help us reduce the impact we have on our environment. At Manland, you can help by:

- walking/ scooting to school
- if you do need to drive to school, consider parking a few streets away and walking the rest
- if you do need to drive to school, please do not leave your engine idling
- recycle your batteries and ink cartridges at school – please drop any off at the school office
- recycling any unwanted textiles in our clothing bank in the school car park



Spotlight on Science

On Monday 9th March we celebrated Science Day and the school was absolutely *buzzing with curiosity!* The children spent the day exploring, predicting, testing and discovering—just like real scientists.

Key Stage 1 became mini investigators as they experimented with invisible ink, revealing secret messages through chemical reactions (very *top-secret scientist* stuff!). They also created floating drawings, watching their artwork magically lift from the surface of water as they explored how different materials interact. To top it off, they investigated “walking water”, observing how coloured water travels between cups through absorbent paper towels—a fantastic way to see capillary action in action. You could say their curiosity was really *flowing!*

Meanwhile, Key Stage 2 was busy getting hands-on with some exciting experiments. They made their own bouncy balls, exploring how polymers form and why certain materials are more elastic than others. They also tested the powers of magnets, investigating magnetic forces, attraction and repulsion—some ideas really *clicked!* Finally, they created some spectacular reactions using Coke and Mentos, observing how dissolved carbon dioxide rapidly escapes to create an explosive fountain. It was a brilliant example of chemical reactions and gas release—and definitely the most *popular* experiment of the day!

The day was full of wonder, questioning and discovery, and it was fantastic to see the children thinking like scientists—making predictions, observing results and discussing their findings. Who knows? We might have a few future inventors and Nobel Prize winners in the making!



Floating Drawings



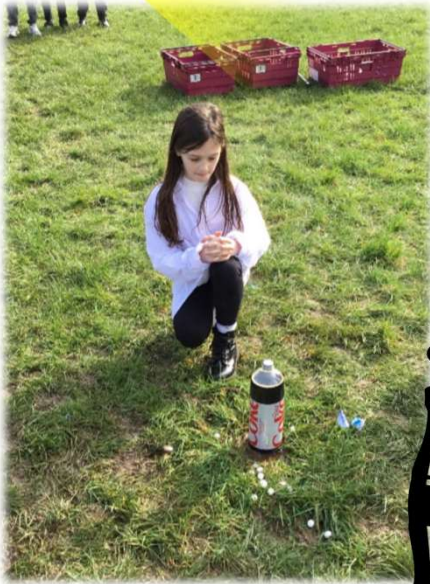
Walking water



Invisible ink



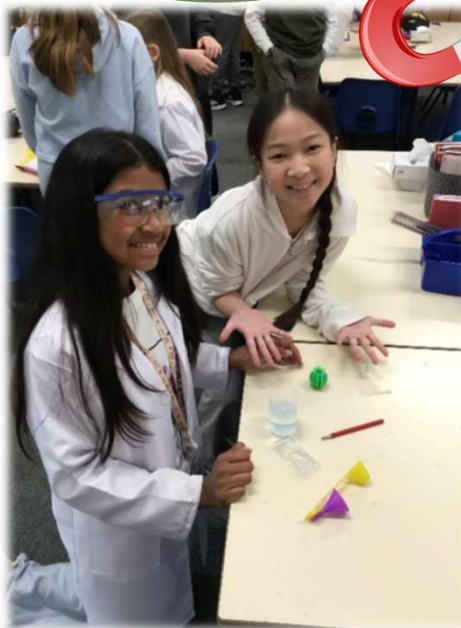
Spotlight on Science



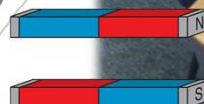
Coke and mentos



Mighty magnets



Bouncy balls





Spotlight on Reception

Reception had a wonderful visit to our local library in Harpenden last Tuesday. It was perfect weather for walking and the children walked in pairs all the way there and back. At the library, Richard talked to everyone about the different sorts of books they could borrow and how many they could take home with them. All of the children had time to find a book they wanted to borrow. Richard showed the children how to use their library cards and scan their books at the machine. Before we left, the children listened to Richard read them a story. What a lovely morning we all had.





Spotlight on Art

Year 4 had a fantastic and inspiring trip to the Tate Modern in London! From the moment we arrived, the children were excited to explore the incredible world of contemporary art. They enjoyed discovering a wide range of bold, imaginative, and sometimes surprising artworks, which sparked lots of thoughtful discussions and creative ideas.

Throughout the day, the children took part in engaging activities, encouraging them to look closely, think deeply, and share their own interpretations. It was wonderful to see their confidence grow as they expressed their opinions and made connections between the artwork and their own experiences.

I was incredibly proud of the children— their behaviour throughout the trip was exemplary, making the day run smoothly and ensuring it was an enjoyable experience for everyone. They represented the school brilliantly and should feel very proud of themselves.

The trip was not only educational but also great fun, leaving everyone feeling inspired and full of creativity. A brilliant day out that will be remembered for a long time!

“Going on the train to London was so much fun and the view was amazing from the Tate.”



“We went into a drawing room where you drew a picture on an iPad and it would appear on the wall.”



“My favourite exhibit was the cat bus it was made from fabric with a cat head and 16 arms!”



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Harpenden & Villages Primary Schools Persuasive Letter Writing Competition

This year's Harpenden and Villages Schools' Letter Writing Competition was particularly successful for Manland! Each year, children compose their own piece of independent writing in school, with class teachers choosing one entry per year group for entry. This year's theme was writing to persuade on a topic of children's choice. We are delighted to share the news with you that three of our budding writers were placed in the top group for their year group!

Reception (3rd place): Riley Smith - a letter to persuade mummy and daddy to go to Lego Land

Year 2 (2nd place): Chloe Seale - based on the book 'Tuesday', a persuasive letter to the mayor

Year 6 (1st place): Charlie Mor - a persuasive letter explaining why 'easy peelers' should be banned

Well done writers! We're extremely proud of you! A huge congratulations to Charlie, who as overall year-group winner, will attend an award ceremony at the Mayor's Parlour at Harpenden Town Hall later on this month.



WINNER

Finalists





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Good morning Year 6,

Today I write to you to tell you what I truly believe belongs in Room 101 forever... Easy peelers. Yes — easy peelers. Except they are NOT easy to peel!

How would you feel if you were excited for your snack, absolutely starving, dreaming of that sweet, juicy taste... and then you couldn't even open it? You tug. You pull. You dig your nails in. And nothing happens! Is that fair? Is that right? Is that what we were promised?

It all starts in the shop — in Sainsbury's — when you spot the bright bag that boldly says, "Easy Peelers." Easy? EASY? Why should we stand for such shocking lies? You put them in your basket, full of hope, full of excitement, full of trust... only to discover later that you have been completely betrayed!

You try to peel one. It rips. It splits. It squirts juice everywhere. Your fingers become sticky, slimy, sugary messes. Your nails are orange. Your hands are dripping. It is annoying. It is frustrating. It is absolutely infuriating!

And what about the floor? When the juice splashes down and leaves a wet patch — who wants a slippery, sticky floor?

Some people might say they are easy to peel. But are they really? Or have you just developed superhero peeling strength? And even if they taste nice sometimes, does that excuse the struggle, the stress, the sticky disaster?

They are misleading. They are messy. They are frustrating!

They should not be called easy peelers. They should be called tricky peelers. Or difficult peelers. Or even disastrous peelers!

So, I ask you, Year 6... do we deserve snacks that fight back? Do we deserve fruit that betrays us? Do we deserve sticky fingers before breaktime?

I say no. No more lies. No more mess.
No more rage-filled peeling battles!



That is why easy peelers must be sent to Room 101 — and never seen again.

Thank you.

Book Fair

We have arranged for the Book Fair to return to Manland! The book fair will be next week – Monday 23rd March – Thursday 26th March at 3.20pm in the hall.

Book Fairs are a wonderful way to promote reading and the school also earns commission from all books sold at the fair. We use this commission to buy much needed books for Manland.

Please be aware, we are only accepting **payments online, via QR code** or via **pre paid vouchers** at the book fair. . **Please note, you will need your credit/debit card details (it does not accept Apple Pay etc).** To purchase a voucher, please follow this link:

<https://bookfairs.scholastic.co.uk/travelling-books/gift-vouchers>



Empowering children to lead fulfilling lives

Year 6 Trip to 'Crucial Crew'

The Year 6s had an amazing trip out to visit 'Crucial Crew' on Thursday. The workshop, run by the St Albans Fire Service in partnership with Oaklands College, taught them lots of important ways to stay safe in everyday life. The children learned about personal safety and staying safe online, what to do in dangerous situations at home and outside, and how to deal with risks like fires and flood water. They also talked about bullying (including online bullying), knife crime, road and railway safety, basic first aid, the dangers of alcohol, and how to look after their mental health. Everyone joined in brilliantly, asked great questions, and learned some really important life skills. Well done!



Red Nose Day – 20th March 2026

Thank you and well done to Year 6 Pupil Parliament who raised **£289.20** selling Comic Relief red noses! We bought more noses than normal this year, but Year 6 managed to sell all noses, in just three days! Well done Pupil Parliament!



Spotlight on fundraising



MY SCHOOL FUND

A huge thank you to all our parents and carers who are registered and raised funds for us with My School Fund!

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.

Total Earned School Funds

£822.86

Sainsbury's



Argos

Total Earned Parent Funds

£1,645.72

Total Value Parent Redemptions

£1,592.00



How do I join?

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!

Please tell all your family and friends!





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WOW!

Football Tournament



Last Wednesday, our Boys' Football Team attended the Annual District Football Tournament at Wood End. With 16 teams from across the District taking part, our boys did fantastically well, progressing through the Group Stages and making it into the Semi-Finals! Group wins against Kimpton (1-0), Harpenden Academy (2-0) and Crabtree (1-0) set up a tough Semi-Final against The Grove. After a tight 0-0 draw, the match went to after extra-time, but no-one could break the deadlock. The game went to penalties and unfortunately, we lost 2-1.

The boys were congratulated on their efforts, winning the 'Small Schools Trophy' and should be extremely proud of their achievement. It really was a fantastic afternoon in the sunshine, playing some wonderful football as a team against tough opposition. Three goals from William and a goal from Henry together with superb performances from our defenders to keep four clean sheets during the tournament is testament to their hard work in training sessions. A huge well done to Mattie, Eric, Oscar, Jude, Harrison, Henry, Noah, Will and Marcus for their efforts!

Netball Tournament



Last week 10 year 5&6 girls spent the afternoon at Katherine Warrington school for the yearly netball rally.

They played 5 games in total and needed to finish in the top two in their group to qualify for a semi-final. The girls all played fantastically winning three of their 5 games with one of their losses being a very close game.

After all the rounds were finished the girls ended up coming 3rd in their group just missing out on a spot in the semi-final. A great effort by all. A big well done to everyone involved.

An extra well done to Sofiyah who was voted players player by the team!





Empowering children to lead fulfilling lives



Football

A superb Friday afternoon last week in the sunshine saw our Boys' Football team beat Sauncey Wood 2-0 and then Markyate 2-0 to take two wins from two and continue their success in their league campaign. Three goals from William and one goal from Marcus saw us take all 6 available points but it was the two clean sheets against tough opposition that was key. A fantastic effort again from all the boys as we look forward to finishing off our season strong!

There was another fantastic performance from our A Team Footballers as they travelled to Kimpton on a beautiful Thursday afternoon this week. Goals from Marcus and an own goal together with solid performances in defence from Eric, Oscar and Mattie gave us a brilliant 2-0 win to make it 5 out of 5 wins in our league campaign! This Friday we host back-to-back games against Harpenden Academy and Beech Hyde as we hope to take all 6 points and take one more step to the league title. We wish the boys luck!

Netball

The A team welcomed Beech Hyde to Manland on Tuesday. An enjoyable game, the girls did really well playing some great netball finishing in a very convincing win.

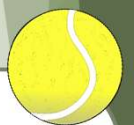
On Thursday both the A&B girls netball teams were in action against St Nicholas. Both teams did fantastically resulting in a big win for the A team and a 5-0 win for the B team.

An extra Well done to Ava and Orla who were voted players player by the girls.

Tennis Taster Sessions

On Wednesday, pupils from Reception through to Year 4 enjoyed exciting tennis sessions led by professional coach Phil Leighton (LTA Level 5). Throughout the morning, the children developed new skills, took part in fun challenges, and showed great enthusiasm and teamwork.

It was fantastic to see so many smiling faces and such positive engagement from all year groups. We hope the experience has inspired our pupils to pick up a racket and continue playing tennis during the summer months!





Empowering children to lead fulfilling lives



Safeguarding



The impact of harmful online content on children

The online world is an integral part of children's lives, giving them opportunities for learning, entertainment and social connection as well as access to resources and support such as Childline. However, some online content is unsuitable and harmful for young audiences.

Every child deserves to be, and feel, safe online.

The online world creates many opportunities for children and young people, providing a place where they can communicate, learn and play. But there are also risks.

- **Enable access to devices with limited features** - Device usage at this age is best kept to devices with limited capability. This could include tablets without data and non-smart phones that only allow calls and texts.
- **Keep tech use visible in the home** - Try to keep tech use in shared family spaces or used with bedroom doors open. This will allow you to support your child and be more aware of what they are doing online.
- **Follow age ratings** – Apps, sites and games come with age ratings which are important to follow. You can find out the age rating on the website for the platform or by visiting [Common Sense Media's reviews](#).
- **Use safety settings** – Explore the in-app and device safety settings with your child and check them regularly to make sure they are still in place.
- **Revisit parental controls** – as children grow up and need the internet more for schoolwork you may want to adjust your **parental controls**. Keep checking these regularly to make sure they are in place.
- **Have regular safety conversations** – at this age online safety conversations should be happening regularly. Visit our advice on [talking to your child about online safety](#).
- **Build healthy habits** - acknowledge the positives it brings as part of your safety conversations and agree rules and boundaries together as a family.





Empowering children to lead fulfilling lives



Asthma Friendly School

Manland is an asthma friendly school and we want to share the latest guidance we have received from NHS West Herts with our families.

Asthma plans and annual asthma reviews

If your child has asthma, your GP / nurse / consultant should provide you with a personalised Asthma Plan as well as an annual asthma review for your child. This Asthma Plan is important as it sets out what steps they advise to take in event of an asthma attack for your child. Different GPs may use different Asthma Plans, however they should all have a traffic light system (green, amber, red), showing signs of good, warning and severe asthma.

When your child has a new Asthma Plan, please share it with the school office, so we can update our records.

If you do not have an Asthma Plan, or you have not been invited for an annual asthma review, please get in contact with your GP to arrange this.

Green zone

I have no asthma symptoms



Your asthma is under control if:

- your breathing feels good
- you have no cough or wheeze
- your sleeping is not disturbed by coughing
- you are able to do your usual activities
- you are not missing school
- if you check your Peak Flow, it is around your best

If you are needing to use your reliever inhaler more than 3 times per week for symptoms,

Move to the Amber Zone

Amber zone

My asthma is getting worse



If you are regularly needing to use your reliever inhaler more than 3 times per week or your asthma interferes with normal activity or sleep, arrange a review with your asthma nurse or GP

Warning signs that your asthma is getting worse:

- you have symptoms (cough, wheeze, 'tight chest' or feel out of breath)
- you need your reliever inhaler more than usual
- your reliever is not lasting **four hours**.
- your peak flow is down by about a third

PEAK FLOW 1/3 DOWN

Amber Zone Action

Continue your normal medicines AND

- Take **2 puffs** of the BLUE inhaler with your spacer 1 puff at a time. Keep doing this every 10 minutes if you still have symptoms up to a total of 6 puffs.
- You can do this every 4 hours but **must** make an appointment at your GP surgery within the next 24hrs even if you feel better.
- If you need to do this more than every 4hrs, you must see your GP today or go to A & E
- Start keeping a record of your symptoms and peak flow readings to take to the Doctor

IMPORTANT

- If after your **6 puffs**, you still have increasing wheeze or chest tightness

Move to the RED ZONE

Red zone

I am having an asthma attack



- you are still breathing hard and fast
- you still feel tight and wheezy
- you are too breathless to talk in a sentence
- you are feeling frightened and exhausted

Other serious symptoms are:

- colour changes - very pale / grey / blue
- using rib and neck muscles to breath, nose flaring

Red Zone Action

Take 10 puffs of the blue inhaler via a spacer and call 999

Asthma can be life threatening

- Stay where you are and keep calm
- Do not attempt to do a peak flow
- Whilst waiting for the ambulance and using your spacer, take 1 puff at a time of your blue inhaler, breathing at a normal rate for 4-5 breaths, every 30 seconds.
- If the ambulance has not arrived after 10 minutes, call it again
- If your child becomes unresponsive and has an adrenaline pen for allergies-use it now.



www.beatasthma.co.uk



Asthma+LungUK at:
www.asthma.org.uk



<https://uk-air.defra.gov.uk/forecasting/>

