



Manland Primary School Newsletter

Friday 17th April 2026



Diary Dates

Date	Event
Tuesday 21st April 2026	Y5 & Y6 to SJL for "The Addams Family" performance
Wednesday 22nd April 2026	Y5 All Saints Church visit for Geography
Thursday 23rd April 2026	Y3 first swim back for Summer term
Tuesday 28th April 2026	Year 6 Residential parent information session, (online via Teams) 11.00 – 11.30am
	Y4 Maths Challenge Event (invitation only)
Thursday 30th April	KS2 Harpenden District Chess Jamboree (invitation only)

Dear Parents and Carers,

The summer term is finally here and we have enjoyed a great first week back at Manland. Children have settled back into familiar routines seamlessly and are already working hard.

The warmer weather has meant that we have been able to enjoy break and lunchtimes on the field this week, which has been a welcome change.

The summer term brings with it a range of important events, from statutory assessments in several year groups, sporting events, trips and productions. In assembly on Monday we talked about everything we were looking forward to, and children talked enthusiastically about all the things the summer term has in store – ice cream Fridays was a very popular offering!

Let's hope the sunny weather continues and that we can all enjoy the many highlights of our final term with good cheer!

Best wishes,

Mrs Wicks and Mr Comer, Co-Headteachers

Manland Values Award



It is so much fun to teach Flora! Her natural curiosity means Flora absorbs everything we cover in the classroom. She makes her own links to knowledge she picks up everywhere else: books she has read, experiences outside of school and conversations with others to develop her learning even further. She is an amazing friend and cares deeply about those around her. I can always count on Flora to cheer someone up and make sure that everyone is included. Flora is incredibly perceptive, often picking up on details unnoticed by others. In class, she carefully considers her responses during discussions, meaning I know Flora's contribution will often be insightful and offer a unique perspective. Flora applies 100% to every task, no matter how small - I always look forward to reading her books at the end of the day! Flora, you are an absolute star and we're very lucky to have you as part of our class!

Manland Values Award



Alice is a pleasure to teach and always makes valuable contributions to discussions. Alice consistently sets herself high standards and always strives to do her very best in everything she does. Alice is also an amazing friend—kind, caring, reliable, thoughtful, and always ready to support those around her. In phonics and reading, Alice is a fantastic role model. She demonstrates excellent carpet behaviour, listens carefully, and engages enthusiastically in every session. She takes pride in her writing and is choosing to undertake longer pieces of writing. In maths, Alice approaches challenges with determination and a positive attitude. Across the wider curriculum, Alice embraces all areas of learning with curiosity and creativity. Alice enjoys exploring the natural world around her when playing outside. Alice's enthusiasm, perseverance, and kindness make her a wonderful member of our class.



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Manland Certificate Board

**Reception
Manland
Award**
Sisena B

Inspirational work in Maths and Art, creatively exploring repeated patterns in the style of the artist Andy Goldsworthy.

Signed Mrs Kemp and the Reception Team
Date Friday 27th March 2026

**Year 1
Manland
Award**
Year 1

For demonstrating responsibility and representing school values during our class outing this week.

Signed Ms Fiedler
Date 27th March 2026

**Year 2
Manland
Award**
Dhilan M.

Displaying empathy when considering important events from another point of view.

Signed Miss Noonan
Date 27th March 2026

**Year 3
Manland
Award**
Jaxson S

For his responsible behaviour on the Year 3 school trip.

Signed Mr Brittin
Date 27th March 2026

**Year 4
Manland
Award**
Bella C

for writing a brilliant non-chronological report about the Amazon River.

Signed Miss Peacock
Date 27th March 2026

**Year 5
Manland
Award**
Emily M.

Displaying perseverance when finding unknown lengths of rectangles and shapes.

Signed Miss Noonan
Date 27th March 2026

**Year 6
Manland
Award**
Adam S

For a powerful Free Verse Poem based on refugees with great use of imagery.

Signed Mr Winchester
Date 27th March 2026

Manland Certificate Board

**Reception
Manland
Award**
Jake C

For enthusiasm and valuable contributions to our class learning on the topic of Dinosaurs.

Signed Mrs Kemp and the Reception Team
Date Friday 17th April 2026

**Year 1
Manland
Award**
Isabel F

For demonstrating an inspiring attitude to learning in maths when sharing clear ideas and reasoning skills.

Signed Ms Fiedler
Date 17th April 2026

**Year 2
Manland
Award**
Freddie M.

Demonstrating great subject knowledge of quiet stories.

Signed Mrs O'Connell
Date 17th April 2026

**Year 3
Manland
Award**
William P

For his knowledge of dates in our history lesson.

Signed Mr Brittin
Date 17th April 2026

**Year 4
Manland
Award**
Amar B

for your hard work in maths when adding and subtracting fractions.

Signed Miss Peacock
Date 17th April 2026

**Year 5
Manland
Award**
Oskar R.

Excellent narration of 'The Hobbit' to an audience.

Signed Miss Noonan
Date 17th April 2026

**Year 6
Manland
Award**
Saga G

For working carefully to follow the steps when working out angles inside a triangle.

Signed Mr Winchester
Date 17th April 2026



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**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, Miss Noonan or
Mrs Kemp or email them at

safeguarding@manland.herts.sch.uk



Attendance

Our whole school attendance for the
last two school 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.

Leave of Absence: 13th April 2026 onwards

We have updated our procedures for leaves of absence during the school day.

From 13th April 2026, the following process will apply:

Where your child requires time out of school during school hours (8.50am to 3.20pm) to attend a routine appointment, such as:

- Medical
- Dentist
- Optician
- Music exam

Please email or telephone the school office with the date and times of the absence. These absences will be authorised and agreed.

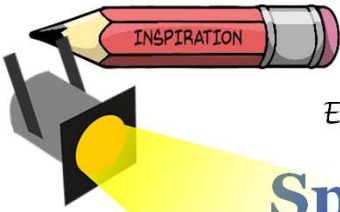
If you would like your child to have a **school dinner** on the day of the absence, please remember to include their lunch option in the email.

For all other leaves of absence, please continue to request permission using the [form](#) on our school website.

Free School Meals

Herts County Council have been in touch to let us know about some important changes coming to Free School Meals, including mandatory re-checks for qualifying families and also an extension to the eligibility criteria, meaning families in receipt of Universal Credit may now qualify for Free School Meals.

More information is expected over the next term and, as soon as we receive it, we will share it with you. If you would like to check if you qualify for Free School Meals, it's very quick and easy - please use the checker here: <https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/services/schools-and-education/at-school/free-school-meals/free-school-meals.aspx>



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Spotlight on Year 3 and 4 Spring Concert



The Year 3 and 4 Spring Concert was a truly joyful and uplifting celebration, filled with energy, laughter, and wonderful performances. From the very first song, it was clear how much effort and enthusiasm the children had put into preparing for this special event. Their singing, dancing, and confidence on stage brought smiles to everyone in the audience.

The concert was a perfect way to welcome the spring season, full of bright, cheerful moments that reflected the sense of new beginnings and happiness that this time of year brings. The children's excitement was contagious, creating a warm and lively atmosphere throughout.

We are incredibly proud of all the pupils for their hard work, teamwork, and bravery in performing in front of an audience. They should feel very proud of themselves for putting on such a fun and memorable show.





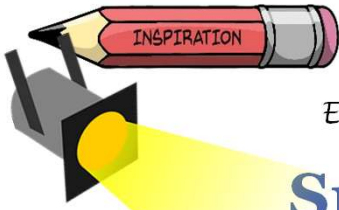
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Year 5 & 6 Spring Concert

Our Year 5 and 6 choir took part in the Spring Festival at the Eric Morecambe Centre during the last week of term! This annual event sees choirs from local primary schools perform with orchestras from local secondary schools, to provide an evening of entertainment for families and friends.

With songs such as Eye of the Tiger, We Will Rock You and Try Everything, the evening certainly left us all with a spring in our step! As always, we're extremely proud of the way our choir performed with confidence and a smile - if they were nervous, it didn't show! It's always lovely too, to see previous Manland students play in the orchestra. We'd like to extend a huge 'thank you' to Mrs Read for organising choir rehearsals to prepare for the performance - they did a sterling job!

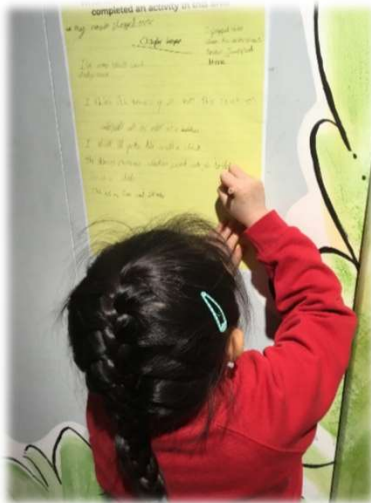




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Spotlight on Year 3 Trip Roald Dahl Museum

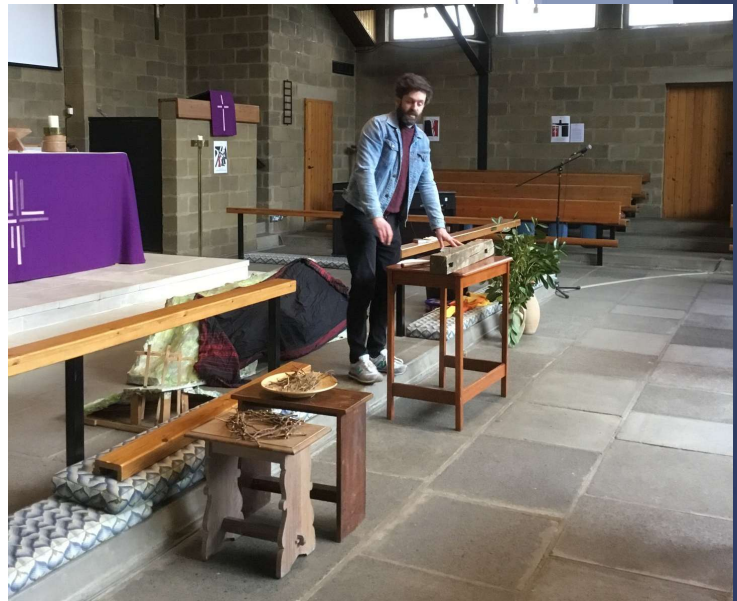
Year 3 had a fantastic trip to the Roald Dahl Museum and Story Centre, where the children were inspired by the magic of storytelling. In the Ideas Centre, the class explored fun and creative ways to generate ideas and build exciting sentences for their own stories. They were amazed by the museum exhibits, including props from film adaptations and fascinating insights into Roald Dahl's life as an author. To round off the day, we visited Roald Dahl's grave, giving the children a quiet moment to reflect on the legacy of such a beloved storyteller. The children were a real credit to the school throughout the visit; their behaviour was exemplary, and they showed great respect, enthusiasm, and genuine appreciation for Roald Dahl's work at every stage of the trip.





Spotlight on RE

On Tuesday before the Easter break, Year 1 had a whole class visit to All Saints Church where they learnt more about the Easter Story and even got to make a crown of thorns inside the church. They walked there and back and had fantastic morning, back in time for lunch.





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Story Writing Competition Winner

Charlie - our persuasive letter winner - met the Mayor on Wednesday before the Easter holidays.

Even though he was nervous he read his speech to the small audience and inspired the younger children to read their work aloud.

Congratulations Charlie!



Pupil News

Jude and Josh in Year 6 have achieved their brown belt one red stripe in karate.

Two more belts until black! Well done!



Pupil News

Chloe in year 1 has passed her Grade 1 piano exam, which she is very pleased about. You should feel very proud of yourself Chloe!



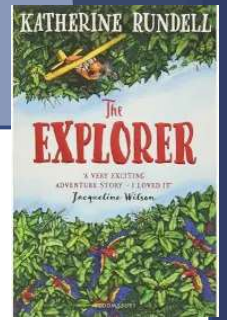
Pupil News

Ella in Year 6 has had her karate grading over the weekend. She's now a purple belt and hence transitioning into advanced training. Congratulations Ella!

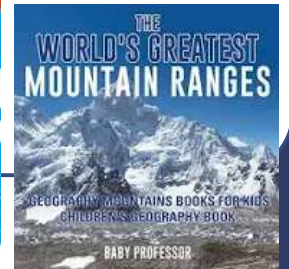




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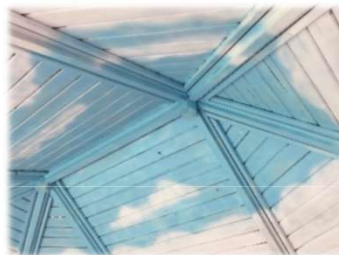


We would like to say a big thank you to the Rotary in Harpenden for matching our contribution to purchase new books for our school. We managed to get a grant of **£400!** These will be distributed among classes as well as the library and will be invaluable to our children.



Revamped Happy Hut

We would like to say a big thank you to the Nicholl family for spending their Easter holidays completely painting our happy hut. Mr Nicholl also hand built benches on the outside of the hut for the children to enjoy. We especially like the cloud painted ceiling which creates a calm environment during break and lunch times.



New Footballs and Netballs

A big huge thank you to the **Cockeram family** for another donation of balls for children to play with at lunch and break times. Our balls are very well used so we really appreciate the donation!





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Girls Tag Rugby

10 girls from years 5&6 spent the afternoon at Harpenden Rugby club recently. The girls took part in an hour of activities, followed by a round of games against schools.

It was a great afternoon, the girls all had a brilliant time, displaying some excellent teamwork and tag rugby skills and learning lots!

A big well done to everyone involved!



Netball

Before Easter, the A team had their final league game. The girls have done extremely well all term and went into their final game unbeaten. We welcomed St Helens who were also unbeaten! A very close game with lots of action displaying the hard-work and talent of every girl on court. After lots of goals at both ends it came down to a one goal difference. Manland were rewarded for all their hard work with 10-9 win!! A really exciting and competitive last game.

A huge well done and congratulations to everyone that has contributed to the team's success!

An extra well done to **Audrey** who was voted player of the match by the opposition.

Football

Another fantastic performance from our U11 Boys rounded off their season in style as they clinched the title to become the **Harpenden Small Schools' League Champions!** A blustery afternoon at St Dominic's saw us take a 1-0 lead early on through a fine solo goal from Harrison but a fightback came as we went into half time 1-1. Time ticked on and nerves were eating away at us, but another fine effort from Harrison to smash home off the crossbar saw us take a 2-1 lead into the final minutes. With a brilliant defensive display yet again, we managed to see the game out under extreme pressure, eventually winning 2-1 and celebrating in style as we were officially confirmed **LEAGUE CHAMPIONS!**

A huge well done to all the boys involved this year - **Mattie, Eric, Oscar, Jude, Harrison, Will, Marcus, Henry and Noah.** Finally, a huge thank you to all the parents for their help and support with transport and encouragement from the side-lines to help create such a memorable season for the boys!

Our B Team played with great intensity and passion against St Dominic but ended up losing 3-0. A mention for a fantastic performance from **AJ** in goal!





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Our 'Get Caught Reading' competition is now open! We know that Manland's children are obsessed with reading - nothing will stop them! We would dearly love to see all the places children have been reading this year!

Please email your photos into the office by **Friday 1st May** (thank you to those who have already sent them in). We can't wait to see the rest!

Message from Anaphylaxis UK

Support Groups for the Allergy Community

You're very welcome to join our new support groups. They bring together adults with allergies, including parents and carers, creating welcoming spaces to talk openly, share practical tips, build confidence, and feel less alone.

These groups are part of an exciting project we're delivering alongside researchers at University of Surrey through a Knowledge Transfer Partnership (KTP). Together, we're exploring how to better support people living with serious allergies by combining research with practical initiatives that make a difference.

While peer support is common in many areas of health, allergy-specific support has historically been underrepresented. That means many people have had limited opportunities to meet others navigating the same worries, decisions, and everyday realities. Not anymore.

With the strong interest in volunteering, we'll continue expanding the groups across the UK over the coming months so more people in the allergy community can access them.

Upcoming meeting dates:

North London - Tuesday, 21st April
Cottingham, East Yorkshire - Friday, 24th April
Chesterfield, Derbyshire - Thursday, 30th April
Online - Friday, 22nd May



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Safeguarding



Help your child stay safe online

Using their first device

Talking to your child about online safety and how they can use digital devices can help you both understand the rules that are there to protect them and why they matter.

Having conversations with your child can help build trust and make them feel safe to come to you if they are worried or if something happens that makes them feel unsafe.

Set up parental controls

Parental controls can stop your child from seeing content that could put them at risk of harm. This might look like:

- putting restrictive controls on the device your child has access to
- only allowing your child to use a device with an adult

As your child gets older or has new devices, it's important to check that the parental controls you use still work.

You may also want to talk to your child about why you use them, for example, to not disturb mealtimes.

Before you introduce your child to a digital device, it's important to consider what you want them to get from the experience; this could be to learn, play, or a combination of both.

Accessing digital devices and age-appropriate content can be a helpful tool in your child's development, but it's important to think about how it fits into their life alongside other activities such as outdoor play and spending time with family.

Find out where to get support

You might need help or extra information to guide your child when they use digital devices or go online.

Some of the different ways you can get support include:

- using a helpline to get expert advice
- knowing what your child is being taught about online safety in school
- attending a talk or online course

Know where to report something

Sometimes things happen online that upset your child or put them in danger.

It's important to remember that it's not your fault if things go wrong. But it's important to act.

Did you know?

The Government recommends no screen time for children under 2 years old, and no more than 1 hour a day for those aged 2 to 5 years.

Did you know?

Many social media platforms have a minimum age of 13 to use them. However, Ofcom research shows that over a third of 3 to 5 year olds use social media.





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XAP
CROSSARTS PROJECTS

All Saints
Batford



You are warmly invited to

Watershed: A River's Call to Action

An art installation
and programme of events for everyone
concerning the vitality and vulnerability
of our rivers and chalk streams

Saturday 11th - Sunday 26th April
12pm - 5pm

All Saints Church, Batford
Harpenden AL5 4UU

Scan the QR code or visit tinyurl.com/bdhvjbjn
for more information about our events & activities

Batford Springs
Volunteers



Supported by
**HARPENDEN
TOWN COUNCIL**
CLOSER TO THE COMMUNITY





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Scouts

4th Harpenden

Not Just fun and adventure - it's Scouting!

Beavers, Cubs and Scouts in their hundreds have enjoyed scouting at the 4th Harpenden Scout Group. We have a fine HQ and a team of experienced leaders, so it is no surprise that the 4th is among the strongest Scout Groups in our District.

Beavers, Cubs or Scouts gain experiences that encourage endeavour, fair play, initiative, generosity and self-reliance. Young people may be building rafts, making shelters or having fun round a campfire.

We have opened extra Sections to cope with demand. Hence, we have places to offer in our Monday evening Cub Pack. Cubs age range 8 years to 10½ years.

If your young person is interested in joining contact –

Contact: Elaine Brind, Group Lead Volunteer

Tel: 07929 346022

Email: gsl4thHarpenden@gmail.com



HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY SHOW 140th ANNUAL SHOW

23rd & 24th MAY 2026

SPECIAL OFFER

SPECIAL OFFER TICKET CODE

A showcase of Hertfordshire's finest farming, food, entertainment and shopping

How to use your code

Visit www.hertsshow.com
Select your tickets
submit code **hertsschools26**
Complete your purchase and enjoy the show

