



# Manland Primary School Newsletter

Friday 1<sup>st</sup> May 2026



Dear Parents and Carers,

Another sunny couple of weeks have passed here at Manland, and we are full-swing into the summer term. There has been lots of fantastic learning going on as well as some lovely co-curricular experiences.

Last week our Year 5 & Year 6 classes got to visit SJJL to watch their performance of The Addams Family. Year 5 also got to visit All Saints to learn about the importance of our chalk streams (as we have one of only 200 chalk streams on the world)!

We've had some more sporting success, with our chess team winning the small school's trophy and some great examples of collaboration and mathematical thinking, with the Year 4 maths challenge!

It feels like we have all earned our extra day off, so I want to wish you an enjoyable and restful bank holiday weekend.

Best wishes,

*Mrs Wicks and Mr Comer, Co-Headteachers*

## Diary Dates

Date	Event
Monday 4th May 2026	<b>Bank Holiday</b>
Wednesday 6th May 2026	Y3 & Y4 Boys' District Football Rally (invitation only)
Monday 11th May – Thursday 14th May 2026	Y6 SATs week (Mon - Fri Year 6 Breakfast from 8.10am)
Friday 15th May 2026	Y6 Celebration afternoon

## Manland Values Award



Molly is a lovely member of Year 5. She works methodically and always to the best of her ability; she asks careful questions to check her understanding to ensure her answers are accurate. It goes without saying that her manners are exemplary. It is for these reasons that Molly is an excellent role model to those around her.

Molly's sunny disposition means she is great company! Her gentle demeanour sees her as a good friend to all (not just to those in her year group), often putting others before herself. Molly's positive outlook means she's always willing to offer a helping hand - I certainly appreciated her help when planting daffodils this spring! Molly is willing to take on any task - big or small - and I know she'll complete it to the best of her ability. Well done Molly.

## Manland Values Award



Hayden arrives each morning with a positive attitude and a real enthusiasm for learning. He eagerly shares ideas, embraces new challenges, and consistently demonstrate the Manland Values through kindness, respect, and consideration for others. Hayden is determined to do his best, regularly reviewing and improving his work, and has worked increasingly hard to improve his presentation. His confidence and friendly nature helps create a supportive and happy classroom environment, and he shows excellent focus and behaviour throughout the day.

It has been a privilege to teach Hayden. His progress and growing confidence this year has been fantastic to see. He shows great respect to both staff and peers and truly deserves to win the Manland Cup. Well done to Hayden!



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# Manland Certificate Board

**Reception Manland Award**  
 Lily C  
 Outstanding focus, determination and engagement in Maths and Literacy activities.  
 Signed Mrs Kemp and the Reception Team  
 Date Friday 24<sup>th</sup> April 2026

**Year 1 Manland Award**  
 Nathaniel C  
 Demonstrating knowledge and enthusiasm in our maths this week.  
 Signed Mr Fiedler  
 Date 24<sup>th</sup> April 2026

**Year 2 Manland Award**  
 Coco-Violet P.  
 For recognising a quarter and being able to represent the 'Whole' in several ways.  
 Signed Miss Noonan  
 Date 24<sup>th</sup> April 2026

**Year 3 Manland Award**  
 Emily P  
 For constantly pushing herself and improving her maths skill in arithmetic.  
 Signed Mr Brittin  
 Date 24<sup>th</sup> April 2026

**Year 4 Manland Award**  
 Emma P  
 for producing creative drawings of nests using oil pastels and charcoal.  
 Signed Miss Peacock  
 Date 24<sup>th</sup> April 2026

**Year 5 Manland Award**  
 George W.  
 Use of language and positive engagement during a live art exhibition.  
 Signed Mrs Kemp  
 Date 24<sup>th</sup> April 2026

**Year 6 Manland Award**  
 Sadiyah A  
 For demonstrating the correct sprinting technique throughout the start to transition phase.  
 Signed Mr Winchester  
 Date 24<sup>th</sup> April 2026

# Manland Certificate Board

**Reception Manland Award**  
 Molly B  
 Challenging herself to write a sentence and correctly punctuate it with a question mark.  
 Signed Ms. Shorthouse and the Reception Team  
 Date Friday 1<sup>st</sup> May 2026

**Year 1 Manland Award**  
 Barney P  
 For representing half in maths using a variety of resources and representations.  
 Signed Mr Fiedler  
 Date 1<sup>st</sup> May 2026

**Year 2 Manland Award**  
 Georgia H.  
 For an impressive and enthusiastic effort when completing homework.  
 Signed Miss Noonan  
 Date 1<sup>st</sup> May 2026

**Year 3 Manland Award**  
 Oscar W  
 For showing perseverance with persuasive writing.  
 Signed Mr Brittin  
 Date 1<sup>st</sup> May 2026

**Year 4 Manland Award**  
 Freya B  
 for writing an accurate and factual explanation text about the digestive system.  
 Signed MISS Peacock  
 Date 1<sup>st</sup> May 2026

**Year 5 Manland Award**  
 Iris S  
 Inspirational and creative Art work exploring the theme of architecture. Well done...  
 Signed Mrs Kemp  
 Date Friday 1<sup>st</sup> May 2026

**Year 6 Manland Award**  
 Camille B  
 For great focus when editing her World War II newspaper to include the success criteria.  
 Signed Mr Winchester  
 Date 1<sup>st</sup> May 2026



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## 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](mailto:safeguarding@manland.herts.sch.uk)



**MOMENTS MATTER, ATTENDANCE COUNTS.**



## Attendance

Our whole school attendance for the last two weeks is **98.2%**

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.



## The Big Walk and Wheel



**The Big Walk and Wheel** is the UK's biggest inter-school walking, wheeling, scooting and cycling challenge! Well done to everyone who took part and to Mr Winchester for co-ordinating the event.

Manland has achieved:

- 1377** total big walk and wheel journeys
- 71%** rate of walk/wheel journeys
- 148<sup>th</sup>** out of over 1100 schools
- We beat last year's total by **38 journeys!**



## Walk to School Week 2026

We're excited to announce the date for this year's Walk to School Week 2026! This year, our five-day challenge takes place between **18 and 22 May 2026**. Pupils will be encouraged to walk, wheel, cycle, scoot or Park and Stride to school every day of the week.



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# Safeguarding

## Smartphone Free Childhood

Manland Primary supports the Smartphone Free Childhood campaign and pupils at **Manland are not permitted** to bring smartphones into school. If parents and carers feel their child needs a mobile phone for safety reasons, consider a phone without internet connectivity, such as a Nokia 3210. If you think you have an exceptional circumstance for why your child needs a smartphone in school, e.g. an electronic bus pass on their phone, please arrange a meeting with the school to discuss. For further information, please see: <https://manland.herts.sch.uk/key-information/safeguarding/information-and-updates-for-parents/>

### Smartphones have reshaped childhood

Smartphones weren't designed with kids in mind – but they've reshaped childhood almost overnight. In the UK, 89% of 12-year-olds now own one, and so do a quarter of children aged 5 to 7. On average, kids get their first smartphone aged nine. □

Instead of growing up slowly, children are being pulled into a digital world built to keep them hooked. The impact on their development, mental health and relationships runs deep – and we can't afford to look away any longer.



### It starts by delaying, together

Smartphones are the gateway to social media and the Wild West of the internet.

If children don't have 24/7 access in their pockets, everything changes.

The longer we wait to give our children smartphones, the more time they have to learn, grow and develop away from addictive algorithms and the anxiety machine of social media.

**That's why we say delay, delay, delay.**



### Child-friendly alternatives

If you've decided to hold off on a smartphone for now, you're far from alone. But finding the right alternative that works for your child isn't always easy.

That's why we've put together this guide to the best child-friendly 'non-smart' phone options out there: simple phones, follow-on phones for older kids, GPS trackers, data-free SIMs, and more.

The good news? Whatever your child's age and stage, there are plenty of safer options that keep them connected – without opening the door to addictive apps, algorithms, and online risks.





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## **PGL Kids' Camps**

Many of you will know PGL from school trips. They also run holiday camps for children aged 8–16, offering a range of outdoor activities that build confidence, teamwork, and independence.

As part of our school community, families can receive 30% off PGL Multi-Activity Kids' Camps during May half term, summer, or October half term (book by 31st May, travel by 31 October 2026).

For full details and to claim the discount, please visit [www.evolveadvice.co.uk/loyaltylocker-pglkidscamps](http://www.evolveadvice.co.uk/loyaltylocker-pglkidscamps)

The offer also applies to UK Family Adventure breaks.



## **Young carers offer**

From Wednesday 1st April 2026, Hertfordshire County Council is delivering young carers support in-house, bringing this vital service fully within council provision following the end of the contract with Carers in Hertfordshire.

This change strengthens the council's commitment to young carers by embedding support directly into council services and supporting closer partnership working across Hertfordshire.

Support for adult carers continues to be delivered by Carers in Hertfordshire, with no change to that service.

A new Young Carers webpage has been developed in collaboration with young carers and their families. It includes information about available support, team contact details, and a day in the life of form to register a young carer online so they can access the support they need: <https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/services/adult-social-services/carers/young-carers/young-carers-in-hertfordshire.aspx>

All registered young carers have been contacted directly to welcome them to the new service and share updated contact details and information on how to access support.



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MESSAGE  
SENT BY:



## Water Safety

This message is being sent on behalf of Hertfordshire Fire and Rescue Service.

### Keeping safe around water – Be Water Aware

Activities in or around water can be a fun pastime, especially during warmer months. In Hertfordshire we have a number of lakes, rivers and reservoirs. Around half accidental drownings happen to people who didn't intend to go into the water.

Between 2000 and 2025 HFRS have attended 120 water related incidents. The majority of inland water fatalities occur whilst taking part in walking, running, swimming or jumping in. Twenty-one lives were tragically claimed during this period.

#### It's important to know how to stay safe:

1. Keep your phone charged so you can call 999 if you need help.
2. Keep clear of the water's edge - riverbanks can be unstable after very wet or very hot weather.
3. Follow the proper pathways – they're much safer.
4. Avoid unlit routes near water at night and plan a safer path away from the water.
5. A location app on your phone (like what3words) can help emergency services know your location.

#### If someone gets in in trouble in the water

If you come across someone, in trouble in the water here's what to do.

- **Phone** 999 straight away to get help. Ask for the fire service – **never** enter the water to attempt a rescue.
- Tell the person to stay calm and **float** on their back.
- **Throw** something that floats - if it is safe to do so.

**We are also encouraging pubs and entertainment venues near water to undertake our training on how to use a throwline.** It could save someone's life! To find out more, go to [cpd.customerservices@hertfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:cpd.customerservices@hertfordshire.gov.uk)

For more information on how to stay safe, visit our dedicated webpage:  
[hertfordshire.gov.uk/watersafe](http://hertfordshire.gov.uk/watersafe)



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Harpenden Active Tennis Coaching programme, based at Sir John Lawes School Tennis Courts in Harpenden, are offering a **free tennis trial session** for pupils at Manland, designed to encourage children to get active, build confidence and try a new sport in a fun and welcoming environment.

# TERM TIME TENNIS COACHING

★ SPECIAL OFFER FOR **MANLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL PUPILS** ★  
Sir John Lawes School Tennis Courts



**FREE TRIAL**

Try tennis for **FREE** – limited places for Manland Primary School pupils

**FREE TRIAL SESSION**  
Use code: **JVN266**

Enter this code at checkout to claim your free session

**PLAYER PATHWAY**

- Tots Tennis**  
Fun introduction through games and coordination
- Primary School Coaching**  
Develop technique, rally skills and match play
- Secondary School Coaching**  
Improve tactics, match play and competitive confidence
- Adult Coaching**  
Friendly sessions for beginners and improvers

**ANNUAL VIDEO PROGRESS REPORT**

Track your child's development over time with a personalised video report

- ✓ LTA qualified coaching
- ✓ Fun skill development & match play
- ✓ All equipment provided
- ✓ Friendly and inclusive environment

**BOOK YOUR FREE TRIAL NOW!**  
[harpenden-active.classforkids.io](http://harpenden-active.classforkids.io)



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# PRIMARY SCHOOL CHALLENGE



All participants in the fun run, whether an adult or child must enter the event. Children under age of 11 must be accompanied by an adult.

Don't forget to make sure you enter the name of your school on the booking page when you sign up!

## GET THE FAMILY INVOLVED!

The winning school will be the one with the highest percentage of their children running in the fun run!

**ENTER NOW!**



@EVENTSATW





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ATW PRESENTS

# ST ALBANS HALF MARATHON



## COMPLETE YOUR OWN HALF MARATHON!

Every time you finish a mile, tick it off and finish your very own half marathon by running mile 13 with us on the 14th June.

- MILE 1
- MILE 2
- MILE 3
- MILE 4
- MILE 5
- MILE 6
- MILE 7
- MILE 8
- MILE 9
- MILE 10
- MILE 11
- MILE 12

TICK OFF  
EACH MILE  
YOU RUN!



### MILE 13 IN THE PARK

The fun run will be finishing on the St Albans race track and £1 from every entry goes straight to the AVCAT charity to help maintain the track!

Join us at Verulamium Park for the last mile of the challenge and to receive your medal & ice lolly!

ENTER NOW!

