



Empowering children to lead fulfilling lives

Parent Forum: Tuesday 5th May 2026

Parent Reps: Mrs Barnard and Mrs Proctor (Reception) Mr Nicholl (Year 1), Mrs Budd (Year 2), Mrs Page (Year 3), Mrs Cuthbertson (Year 4), Mrs Smith (Year 5), Mrs Stow (Year 6).

Apologies: None

Actions from previous meetings:

Class	Action	Status
Reception	School to close curtains or put images on the panelling to break up the vertical lines.	Ongoing. School is looking into options and considering funding.
Reception	School to confirm book change day for Reception: Each day a group set of books will be changed. Usually, it will be the same day each week. Occasionally it will be a different day due to bank holidays or other events in school or class. Children have their reading books changed once a week.	Complete.
Year 4	School to provide formal guidance on snack. The following has been added to the school website: Mid-morning snack All pupils in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are entitled to one piece of fruit or vegetable per day, provided by the government. Children whose parents purchase milk through Cool Milk can also have milk. KS2 pupils (Year 3 to Year 6) are very welcome to bring in a healthy snack from home for morning break, such as: • unprocessed fruit or vegetables • crackers, rice cakes or breadsticks	Complete.



	We encourage children to have a healthy snack, so items such as chocolate, crisps and sweets are not permitted. Appetites differ amongst children and, as parents and carers, you will know your child best. Please consider the size of snack you provide and ensure it is not too large that your child misses out on playtime or is not hungry by lunchtime. Where a child needs additional food as part of a specific diet this will, of course, be accommodated.	
Year 5	School to provide estimated end times for school events: This is an ongoing action. We always aim to provide an estimated end time but please do let the school office know if we have missed one.	Complete.
Year 5	School to add weekly certificate to the newsletter.	Complete
Year 5	School to update the school lunch menu on the website.	Complete
Year 5	School to request external clubs not to accept bookings until all clubs have been announced.	Complete

Items discussed

Year Group	Points Discussed	Actions
Reception	Qu: Please could we have more frequent rotation of reading books? A: At Manland, we use Little Wandle as a reading scheme. We try to keep fidelity with the scheme as much as possible as we know that this helps to ensure children receive the best introduction to reading. Books in Reception are changed on a weekly basis -this is part of our approach to reading that encourages children to re-read the same book several times; this repetition develops automaticity and helps children to feel more confident in their reading abilities.	



Reception	Qu: Please can we have some summer learning guidance, such as suitable reading, phonics, writing and numeracy activities? A: We would always encourage parents to continue to read with children daily during the summer holidays as well as taking every opportunity to learn about the world around them. There are lots of things that parents can do during the holidays to support children's learning, but we don't provide any learning over the holidays.	
Reception	Qu: Can school share with parents the results of reading and numeracy assessment, as well as information to understand objective data and grades? A: Schools must complete the early years foundation stage (EYFS) profile assessments between April and the end of June. The results of the Early Years Profile are shared with parents and carers after the assessment has taken place. This is a statutory requirement and, at Manland, will be sent home parents and carers with as part of your child's report on 17th July 2026. The assessment data sheet will include explanatory notes.	
Reception	Qu: Can the children come into school in their PE kit on PE days? (to avoid the time it takes to change; potential loss of clothing items; to have time to have a full PE lesson). (Reference of lots of other schools doing this) A: We ask that children in all year groups come into school in school uniform to ensure consistency. In Reception, although it may take some time for children to change into their PE kits and back again, this is all part of their learning and stands them in good stead for later years. They still enjoy a full PE lesson.	
Reception	Qu: Can school include "mindfulness" into PE programme / in classroom / at playtime. Previous experience of Cosmo yoga which children enjoyed. A: We don't specifically teach mindfulness as part of our Early Years curriculum. However, part of children's learning in Reception is to develop their executive function. This means they	



	are taught, as part of the curriculum, how to concentrate on specific activities, manage their emotions and develop more cognitive flexibility.	
Reception	Crossing patrol: Could we please have an update on the introduction of a crossing patrol person. Could this be something the HSA can fund if lack of resources is the reason? A: This has been the subject of previous questions at parent forum. We appreciate parents' concerns over this crossing section. Crossing patrols are employed by Herts County Council (HCC), not the school, and we are hopeful that HCC can recruit someone for this role. In the past, the school and several parents reached out to local councillor, Paul De Kort, about the issue and various ideas were discussed, including: · An upgraded set of warning lights about children crossing; · Some vegetation cutback to improve visibility for drivers and pedestrians alike · The design work necessary to be able to install a zebra crossing, when funding can be secured. Parents are welcome to raise the issue with the local council again or the Active Safer Travel Team at Herts County Council (01992 556816/01992 556803 scp.enquiries@hertfordshire.gov.uk)	
Reception	Comments: We were disappointed to see minimal after school groups for Reception for Summer term (no replacement for Dance Club and most clubs are capped at YR1) A: We appreciate the disappointment; we always try to ensure we have a similar range of clubs available for all classes during the spring and summer terms (we tend not to have autumn term clubs for Reception, as part of settling them into school). Unfortunately, this was not possible this summer term. We have noticed a reduction in the number of clubs available to Reception class, and this is potentially due to the additional requirements of early years provision (there are ratio requirements for early years children, which can make clubs unsustainable for club	



	leaders). We will continue to look for clubs aimed at Reception children, both in house and externally. TimeOut club is also available for booking, all year round.	
Reception	Comment: We received much positive feedback from our parents and we would kindly like to pass on our gratitude to Mrs Shorthouse and Mrs Kemp for all their dedication and hard work this year. A: Thank you – we will let them know!	
Year 1	No comments or questions received.	
Year 2	Qu: Could we please have more clarity on the teaching provision for the rest of the academic year? The communications around these changes haven't been consistent and feel poor. This has been published in previous communications, and with as much notice as was feasibly possible. Miss Noonan will be teaching Year 2 across the week. This means that she will be in class 5 days a week. She will have some leadership release time, which will in-line with the wider needs of the school. She will be supported by Mrs Gourlay, Mrs Lorek and Miss Sweeney – and at times, by Mrs Kemp.	
Year 2	Comment: A concern was raised about the level of teacher flux across the school during the academic year. A: As with any organisation, staff movement is an expected and reasonable occurrence. The current teaching team in Year 2 have over 40 years combined time at Manland. This means that they are receiving an education from well-trained professionals who know the school, curriculum and the children extremely well. We are extremely lucky to have such a dedicated and flexible team.	
Year 2	Qu: Are there opportunities for pupils to learn an instrument at school - can you share plans/opportunities in this space (are violin lessons still available within the school?)	



	A: An overview of our music curriculum can be found on our school website. Pupils are also welcome to sign up for private instrument lessons which take place during the school day. The schools uses Musicale and Herts Music Service to deliver these lessons. These organisations will allocate teachers to schools, based on the requests they receive from parents. Currently we have 3 peripatetic music teachers who attend school to deliver instrument lessons. If you would like to sign your child up for lessons, please get in contact with • Musicale: https://www.musicale.co.uk/category/schools/ • Herts Music Service: https://ukhertfordshire.speedadmin.dk/registration#/ They will then contact school to inform us of the booking and to organise a space and time for the lesson.	
Year 2	Qu: Lunch portion sizes are too small. When is the current catering contract up for renewal? The children complain about the lunch food constantly. While we see the menus, can we also understand the degree of processed/ultra high processed food is served to them please? A: Thank you for this feedback on portion sizes and quality. This query has been raised before at parent forum and Mrs Wicks met with HCL to discuss the quality and size of portions. HCL confirmed the portion sizes are the size defined by the Government. We will pass the information on to HCL and request that they undertake a pupil survey. Nutritional information can be found on HCL's website: https://www.hcl.co.uk/allergy-overview (scroll down the page to Nutritional Information). We review our contacts on an annual basis and we consider a wide range of issues when selecting a catering provider, including cost, customer feedback, their approach to safeguarding and their allergy procedures, to name a few. We will continue to monitor this.	
Year 2	Summer temperatures in classroom can be very hot, which affects their learning. Has the school considered tinted window film and air conditioning? Could the HSA fundraise for this?	



	A: We agree that some classrooms can be hot in the summer. This is something that is monitored and action taken where we feel appropriate. Installing air conditioning can be a very expensive project, not just as an initial outlay, but with ongoing maintenance and electricity costs. Governors meet regularly to discuss the safety and maintenance of the site and this will continue going forward.	
Year 2	Qu: Does the school keep record of everyone who has had the Manland Values cup? It would be nice if everyone could win it at some point in their time at Manland. Everyone deserves to receive it for something. A: The school does keep records of who wins the Manland Values cup. In the past, the school did try to ensure everyone won the cup before they left, however this devalued the impact of the cup, both with children and parents, so the school has moved away from this approach. The values cup is awarded by teachers to children whom they feel have demonstrated the Manland Values.	
Year 2	Comment: Lots of general positive feedback and love for Manland, the quality of its teaching provision and care of our children. A: Thank you!	
Year 3	No comments or questions received.	
Year 4	Qu: Lunch portion sizes are too small. When is the current catering contract up for renewal? The children complain about the lunch food constantly. We are now doing pack lunches. The children are always left hungry. A: Question answered above (see Year 2).	
Year 4	Qu: Does the school keep a record of who has won the Manland cup? It would be nice if everyone could win it at some point in their time at Manland. Everyone deserves to receive it for something.	



	A: Questioned answered above (see Year 2).	
Year 4	Qu: Summer temperatures in classrooms can be very hot, which affects their learning. Has the school considered tinted window film and air conditioning? Could we fundraise for this? A: Questioned answered above (see Year 2).	
Year 4	Comment: Thank you to the teaching team. We quite enjoyed the spring concert and thought it was lovely that kids read their own poems. A: Thank you. We think the pupils delivered an exceptional spring concert this year. Well done all!	
Year 4	Comment: Pupils say Miss Peacock is very kind. A: We love to hear this and will pass it on to Miss Peacock.	
Year 5	No comments or questions received.	
Year 6	Comment: Please pass our thanks to Mr Winchester for his positive enthusiasm towards every student and encouragement towards learning and preparing for SATs and secondary school. Thanks also to the school for the opportunities and sporting events. A: Thank you for this lovely feedback. We will pass it on to Mr Winchester, school leaders and the school office. It has been wonderful to see the children taking part in such a wide range of events.	