



Headteacher Update

2nd October 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been another busy and positive week at Manland, with lots of opportunities to welcome families into school.

A big thank you to Ms Shorthouse for leading our Phonics Parent Workshops this week, and to all the parents and carers who attended. These sessions are a valuable opportunity to understand how we teach phonics in school and how you can support your child's reading at home.

Our Meet the Teacher sessions have also been taking place over the past couple of weeks. Thank you to everyone who has joined us. We really value the partnership we have with our families, and these sessions are an important opportunity to hear more about the year ahead and how we can work together to support the children.

It was also lovely to see our HSA Coffee Morning taking place last week. Events like these are a great reminder of the strong sense of community we have at Manland. Thank you to our HSA for organising it and to everyone who came along, whether you are a familiar face or new to our school community.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support of the school. It has been wonderful to see so many parents and carers getting involved in school life as we settle into the new academic year.

Mrs Wicks, Headteacher



Diary Dates

Monday 5 th – Friday 9 th October	Year 5 Bikeability week
Tuesday 13 th October	Year 2-Year 6 'Reading workshop' for parents at 9.00am (1 hr)
Friday 16 th October	Year 2 History workshop
Monday 19 th October	Year 1 Science workshop
Tuesday 20 th October	Parents evening 3.30-7.30pm
Thursday 22 nd October	Harvest Festival Celebration Assembly at 9.15am (1.5 hrs)
Thursday 22 nd October	Parents Evening 3.30pm- 5.30pm
Friday 23 rd October	House Learning Day



Online Safety: Keeping the Conversation Going

Children's online lives are an increasingly important part of their world. Gaming, videos, messaging and apps can provide lots of positive opportunities, but children can also come across content or contact that they are not yet equipped to manage.

One of the most effective ways of supporting children online is simply **keeping the conversation going**. Showing an interest in favourite games, asking children to explain what they enjoy online and talking about what they would do if something made them uncomfortable can help online safety become part of normal family conversation rather than something only discussed when a problem occurs.

Find out more: <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/>

If you ever have a concern about the safety or wellbeing of a child, however small it may seem, please speak to a member of the team or contact safeguarding@manland.herts.sch.uk. Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility



Regular attendance and punctuality are essential to helping children thrive at school. **Every day and every minute of learning matters** – arriving on time helps children settle calmly, feel part of their class and be ready to learn from the very start of the day. Even small amounts of absence or lateness can add up over time and mean important learning is missed. Thank you to all our families for supporting good attendance and helping children to **be here, be ready and belong**.





Empowering children to lead fulfilling lives



Manland Values Trophy



From the moment Isabel enters our classroom, she strives to do her best - even when something is challenging. Isabel's positive outlook stretches not only to the breadth of subjects we study in class, but to her friendships too. Isabel's curious nature means she asks really thoughtful questions in class, and listens intently as adults explain instructions. Isabel makes great contributions that add to and develop our class discussions - her enthusiasm is lovely to see. Isabel has high expectations of herself and strives to be the best version of herself. Isabel has made such a great start to Year 2: she rises to every challenge and I'm very much looking forward to the rest of her time in KS1.



Casey has made a fantastic start to Year 5. He approaches school with maturity, responsibility and a genuine desire to help others and do his best. His responsible attitude extends beyond our classroom too, and we regularly hear positive comments about the way he helps others and conducts himself around school, before and after school in clubs and Time Out. One of Casey's most endearing qualities is his sense of humour. If he makes a mistake, he can smile about it, but importantly, he then takes responsibility and puts it right. This shows resilience and a positive attitude towards learning. A keen and gifted sportsman, a supportive friend and an incredibly responsible member of Year 5, Casey consistently demonstrates the Manland Values.

You are an inspiration!
Congratulations!



Empowering children to lead fulfilling lives

VALUES CERTIFICATE WINNERS



Reception

Klaudia

For super effort
and participation
in phonics.



Year 1

Caladh

For creating
detailed artwork.



Year 2

Orla

For using
ambitious
adverbs.



Year 3

Mark

For tackling
challenges with
focus and care.



Year 4

Brodie

For perseverance
in art.



Year 5

Izzy

For persevering with
challenging Maths
problems.



Year 6

Claudia

For using emotions
to create suspense.



Reception

Charlotte

For writing an
inspirational
invitation at home.



Year 1

James

For perseverance
in Maths.



Year 2

Aidan

For an inspirational
contribution
in RE.



Year 3

Chloe

For consistently
using powerful
vocabulary.



Year 4

Mimi

For perseverance
in Maths.



Year 5

Neve

For inspiring others
with your art work.



Year 6

Noah

For demonstrating
outstanding hockey
skills.



INSPIRATION

ASPIRATION

RESPONSIBILITY



Empowering children to lead fulfilling lives

MEET OUR NEW PUPIL PARLIAMENT



Edward

PRIME MINISTER



James

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER



Darcey and Emily

YEAR 5 MPs



Seren and Bella

YEAR 5 MPs



Xyla and Brodie

YEAR 4 MPs



Flora and Scarlett

YEAR 3 MPs



Nathaniel and Autumn

YEAR 2 MPs



Ted and Lottie

YEAR 1 MPs



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A Spotlight on... PUPIL PARLIAMENT ELECTIONS

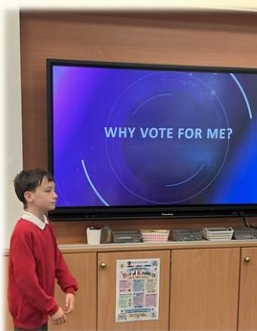
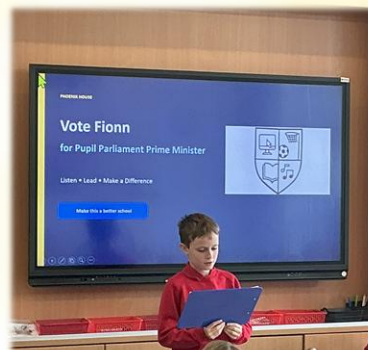
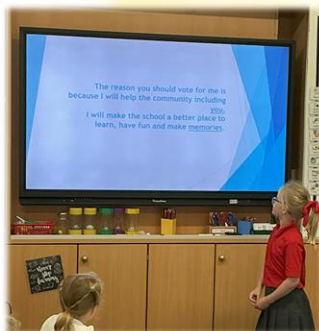
This week, classes have been busy electing their **Pupil Parliament representatives** for the year ahead.

A huge **well done to every pupil who put themselves forward**. Standing in front of your classmates, sharing why you would make a good representative and asking others to vote for you takes real confidence and courage. We were incredibly proud of everyone who took part.

Following the speeches, pupils had the opportunity to **cast their votes and take part in the democratic process**, choosing the person they felt would best represent their class.

Congratulations to our newly elected Pupil Parliament members! We look forward to hearing your ideas, listening to your views and seeing the positive difference you will help to make across Manland this year.

And to everyone who stood for election – **well done for having the courage to have a go and put yourself forward. You should be very proud!**





Beryl's Pupdates

Making Everyday Pawsome

Beryl has been working very hard around school – and last week she achieved what we think must be a **world record**!

During her important duties surveying the school premises, Beryl managed to find an incredible **17 tennis balls**, along with **one Connect 4 token** and even **one piece of rubbish**! Nothing gets past Beryl's expert nose and watchful eye.

We are incredibly proud of how responsible Beryl is with school resources.

Well done, Beryl – keep up the pawsome work! 🐾 🗣️



She has been enjoying some **reading time with the children** and has proved herself to be an excellent listener – although we're not entirely sure how much of the story she understands! Some of our children have also been helping to take Beryl for **short walks around the school grounds**, which she is always very pleased about. She takes her walking duties extremely seriously... particularly if there is something interesting to sniff along the way! When she isn't reading or out on patrol, Beryl can regularly be spotted **peering out through the office hatch**, keeping a very close eye on everyone passing by. We think she has appointed herself **Manland's Chief Security Officer** and likes to make sure that everyone is safe, happy and exactly where they should be!



Another pawsome week for Beryl! 🐾



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Spotlight On Teaching Assistants

On Friday 25th September, we celebrated **National Teaching Assistants' Day**, recognising the incredible contribution our Teaching Assistants make to our school every single day.



Our Teaching Assistants play a vital role in school life. They support learning in the classroom, work with individuals and small groups, help children with additional needs, prepare resources and provide invaluable pastoral support.

But their role is about so much more. They encourage, reassure and motivate; they celebrate successes, build confidence, help children through difficult moments and provide a friendly, trusted face throughout the school day.

Their patience, kindness, flexibility and dedication make a real difference to our children and are hugely valued by teachers, families and the whole school community.



National Teaching Assistants' Day was a wonderful opportunity to say a very big **thank you** to all our Teaching Assistants for everything they do.

We are incredibly grateful to have you as part of our school team!





We are delighted to invite parents and carers into school for our upcoming **Parents' Evenings**:

- **Tuesday 20th October 2026:** 3.30pm–7.30pm, or
- **Thursday 22nd October 2026:** 3.30pm–5.30pm

Parents' Evening is a valuable opportunity to visit your child's classroom, look through their books and speak with their class teacher about their **learning, progress and achievements**.

Booking Your Appointment

We use an online booking system for Parents' Evening appointments, allowing you to choose a convenient appointment time with your child's class teacher. Once you have made your booking, you will receive an email confirmation. You can also log back into the system should you need to change your appointment.

Bookings open: Friday 2nd October at 6.00pm

Bookings close: Sunday 18th October at 8.00am

To access the booking system, go to: <https://manland.schoolcloud.co.uk/>

Children on the SEND Register

Parents and carers of children on the **SEND register** will be invited to attend a separate meeting with their child's class teacher. However, you are very welcome to book a Parents' Evening appointment instead if you would prefer. If you choose to do so, please book your appointment through the Parents' Evening online booking system.

We look forward to welcoming you into school and sharing your child's progress with you.

**Thank You for Supporting
PE & Sport at Manland!**

A huge **thank you to all our parents, carers and families** for your fantastic fundraising following Olympian Fred Afrifa's visit last term. Thanks to your generosity, we have been able to make a significant investment in new PE and sports equipment, including basketball posts, balls, cricket equipment, skipping sets, agility equipment and lots of new playground resources. Your support will benefit children across the whole school for many years to come and help us continue to develop PE and sport at Manland. **Thank you!**



Our KS1 children have been busy creating a beautiful magical fairy garden using natural materials they found. They used their creativity and imagination to transform leaves, twigs, stones and other natural treasures into a magical miniature world.



Our Year 5 & 6 Girls' Football Team have made a fantastic start to their season!

Despite a narrow **2–1** defeat against The Lea in their opening fixture, the girls responded brilliantly, producing an excellent performance to secure a **4–0 victory** over Markyate.

They followed this up with another superb display, beating St Nicholas **6–0!**

A huge well done to all of the girls for their hard work, determination and teamwork so far this season. Their fantastic efforts in training are really paying off on the pitch, and it has been wonderful to see their confidence and performances developing with every game.

Another fantastic result for our Girls' Football Team, who secured an **impressive 8–1 victory** over Beech Hyde! Every player put in a brilliant performance, working tirelessly throughout the match to secure our third win in a row!



Thank You for Supporting Sustainable travel

Big Ben to the Eiffel Tower – Non Stop Cycling Challenge

A huge **thank you to Mat** for his fantastic fundraising challenge last summer, cycling from **Big Ben in London to the Eiffel Tower in Paris** over two incredibly hot days! We are also very grateful to all the **Manland families** who generously supported Mat.

Thanks to your donations, we have been able to purchase a much-needed **additional bike shed**, which has now been installed at school.

We hope the extra space will encourage even more children to **cycle to school**. Active and sustainable travel helps reduce traffic and pollution around our school, while also supporting children's **health, wellbeing and independence**.



Thank you, Mat, and everyone who supported this wonderful initiative!





Notices

**KWS Fireworks Night
Fundraising for Manland**

Friday 7 November, 6-8pm
Early bird discount until 8 Oct:

Adults: £8.30
Children: £6.30 (under 3s go free)
Family ticket: £26.20 (up to 2 adults and 2 children)
Limited car parking: £10.30 per space

Purchase tickets with this link and 10% of the sales will go to Manland HSA!

<https://www.tickettailor.com/events/katherinewaringtonschool/2390134/r/manland>

Come along and enjoy a fantastic evening of fireworks, BBQ, bar, mulled wine, tuck shop and more!

SJL Comedy Night

FRIENDS OF SJL PRESENT...

SJL Comedy Night

10% OF TICKET SALES TO MANLAND SCHOOL

FRIDAY 13 NOVEMBER 19.00-23.00

CALLY BEATON

MIKE GUNN

DON BISWAS

ANDY STEDMAN

SIR JOHN LAWES SCHOOL CANTEEN, MANLAND WAY, HARPENDEN, AL5 4QP

WELL STOCKED BAR - INCLUDING ALCOHOL FREE DRINKS, SOFT DRINKS, WINE, BEER, GIN IN A TIN & SNACKS.

Manland will get 10% from all ticket sales.



Did you know we have a Manland running club?
Informal and friendly club meeting regularly for short runs and chats around Harpenden. For more information, please contact Claire Wollaston 07968703885 or speak to any of the group.



Harpenden Colts Inclusive Taster Session

Last year we invited any of your students keen on football, but unable to access mainstream sport to attend a taster session with the Harpenden Colts Inclusive Section.

We will be running another taster session as follows:

Time: 3.30 - 4.30pm

Date: Sunday 11th October 2026

Venue: Roundwood Park School 3G Pitch

By way of a reminder, **Harpenden Colts** offers **free weekly inclusive football sessions** for players aged 6–21 with any kind of learning or physical impairment. We also welcome neuro-diverse players and those who would like an alternative to mainstream football, for any reason. The sessions are every Sunday afternoon at the venue and timings above.

Our sessions are led by experienced, disability-trained coaches and focus on building core football skills, communication, and teamwork. Most importantly, they're designed to be fun—with at least half the time doing what our players want to do most; and that's play a match!

As places for the taster session are limited, please ask parents to register their interest by emailing harpendencoltsinc@gmail.com by **Wednesday 7th October 2026**, including:

- Name
- Age
- School
- Details of learning or physical impairment
- Parent/guardian's name, contact email and telephone number

Confirmation of their daughter's/son's place, along with further information about the taster session will be provided.

Parent / Carer Motor Development Information Sessions

When do children develop particular motor skills, such as riding a bicycle or using a pen? How can you help your child to develop these skills? What can you do if your child is struggling with a skill?

This session is for parents or carers of children aged between 4-8 years old who would like to understand more about their child's motor development and how to support this. The session will share information about the typical ages when children develop different motor skills. It will explain how to breakdown an activity such as pulling on a jumper into simple steps to help your child complete this independently. You will also get advice on activities and simple things you can do at home to support your child's motor development.

Monday 19th October 10.00am

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/1994779834182?aff=oddtcreator>

Wednesday 25th November 11.00am

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/1994792949410?aff=oddtcreator>



A bright
future
starts here
♥

MANLAND

PRIMARY SCHOOL

empowering children to lead fulfilling lives



OPEN MORNING

COME AND SEE OUR AMAZING SCHOOL

If your child is due to start school in September 2027, we would be delighted to welcome you and your child to one of our open mornings.



Thursday
5th November 2026
at 10.00am



Friday
20th November 2026
at 10.00am



Thursday
3rd December 2026
at 10.00am

*Meet our Headteacher, key staff and Year 6 Ambassadors,
take a tour of our school, see our classrooms and learning environment,
and find out more about what makes Manland such a special place.*



Exceptional
learning
opportunities



Dedicated
and caring staff



A nurturing
and inclusive
environment



High aspirations
for every child



**Phonics Check
Score 97% (2026)**
*Well above the
national average*



Sign up for our Open Mornings here:

[Prospective Parent Open Mornings](#)

Or scan the QR code to book your place



We look forward to welcoming you!



MANLAND
PRIMARY SCHOOL



Manland Primary School
01582 123456
admin@manland.herts.sch.uk
www.manland.herts.sch.uk



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HARPENDEN



**BOOK
YOURS
TODAY!**

OCTOBER HALF TERM SWIM CRASH COURSES

Crash Courses are back this October Half Term
Monday 26th – Friday 30th October 2026

Stage 1 – 09:00am – 09:30am

Stage 2 – 09:30am – 10:00am

Stage 3 – 09:00am – 09:30am

Stage 4 – 09:30am – 10:00am

Just **£45.00** for the week!

Bookings can now be made in centre with our reception team
or for further information please contact us.



EVERYONE LOVES TO LEARN A LIFE SKILL

01582 767 722

HarpendenSwim@everyoneactive.com



St Albans
City & District Council

everyone
ACTIVE