



Manland Primary School Newsletter

Empowering children to lead fulfilling lives

Headteacher Update



18th September 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

A very warm welcome back to everyone, and a particularly warm welcome to all of our new families and Reception children joining the Manland community. It has been wonderful to see the school buzzing again, and the children have made a fantastic start to the new year.

A huge thank you to Mr Dwyer, who worked exceptionally hard over the summer to get our school looking fantastic and ready for everyone's return. There is always so much happening behind the scenes, and we are very grateful for all his hard work.

It has already been a busy couple of weeks, with lots happening across the school. Beryl, of course, has also been delighted to be back – although we suspect she thinks the school has reopened entirely for her benefit! She has wasted no time making the rounds, collecting cuddles and generally making herself at home.

Our House Captain elections have also taken place, with some brilliant speeches from our children – read on to find out more! It is lovely to have everyone back, and I am looking forward to another exciting year at Manland.

Mrs Wicks, Headteacher



Diary Dates

Monday 21st September	Year 4 'Meet the Teacher' parent session at 9.00am (1 hr)
Tuesday 22nd September	Reception 'Meet the Teacher' parent session at 9.00am (1 hr)
Tuesday 29th September	Year 1 Phonics parent workshop at 9.00am (1 hr)
Wednesday 30th September	Reception Phonics parent workshop at 9.00am (1 hr)
Thursday 1st October	Flu vaccination day for all classes
Monday 5th October – Friday 9th October	Year 5 Bikeability week



Keeping our children safe is always our highest priority. All staff have completed their annual safeguarding update training at the start of this academic year and receive regular updates throughout the year. Our Safeguarding Team is Mrs Wicks, Mr Comer, Mrs Noonan and Mrs Kemp. 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

As a reminder, safeguarding concerns regarding pupils should only ever be discussed with a member of the Safeguarding Team.

Please do not discuss any details of your concern with other members of staff or parents. Our Safeguarding Governor is Chris Wardle who monitors that the school meets all statutory requirements in regard to Safeguarding.

All of the adults in our school help to keep children safe.



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**.





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Manland Values Trophy



Lucas has settled into his new year group brilliantly and has approached everything that has been asked of him with determination, maturity and a willingness to give his very best. In the classroom he listens carefully, contributes thoughtful ideas and takes real pride in his work. What has impressed me the most is his desire to challenge himself. In such a short space of time Lucas has already shown himself to be a fantastic role model. He is polite, considerate and respectful towards both adults and other children, and consistently demonstrates the Manland Values through the choices he makes. We may only be just over a week into the school year, but if this is a sign of what is to come, I think we have a very exciting year ahead. Well done Lucas!



Teddy puts effort into everything she does. Whether completing her work, joining in with class activities or helping others, she always tries her best and takes pride in what she achieves. Every day, Teddy comes in ready to learn and shows responsibility by listening carefully, following instructions and taking ownership of her learning. She encourages those around her simply by being enthusiastic, kind and willing to participate. Her approach helps create a positive classroom environment, and she is a lovely role model for her peers. I have also been impressed with how she demonstrates a commitment to continue learning at home. She is keen to build on what she has learnt in school and enjoys sharing her ideas and achievements. Well done Teddy!

You are an inspiration!
Congratulations!



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VALUES CERTIFICATE WINNERS



Anna

Reception

For being brave
coming into school
each day.



Alice

Year 1

For using alternative
verbs in her writing.



Adam

Year 2

For grouping tens
and ones in Maths.



Georgia

Year 3

For being a positive
role model.



Oscar

Year 4

For showing great
responsibility in
his learning.



Ava

Year 5

For inspirational
suspense writing.



Evangelia

Year 6

For a fantastic
monologue in English.



Marley

Reception

For working so hard
to create a beautiful
worry monster.



Sienna

Year 1

For inspiring others
in English.



Teddi

Year 2

For using ambitious
vocabulary in
Science.



Flora

Year 3

For showing
dedication and
confidence.



Saeed

Year 4

For inspirational
use of vocabulary.



Tom

Year 5

For improving work
after feedback.



Ernest

Year 6

For using his
individual creativity
in Maths.



INSPIRATION

ASPIRATION

RESPONSIBILITY



Empowering children to lead fulfilling lives

MEET OUR NEW HOUSE CAPTAINS!

We are delighted to introduce our new House Captains for this academic year!
They will help lead their houses, support events and be positive role models
across our school community.



UNICORNS

	
Harrison House Captain	Charlotte House Captain



PHOENIX

	
George House Captain	Orla House Captain



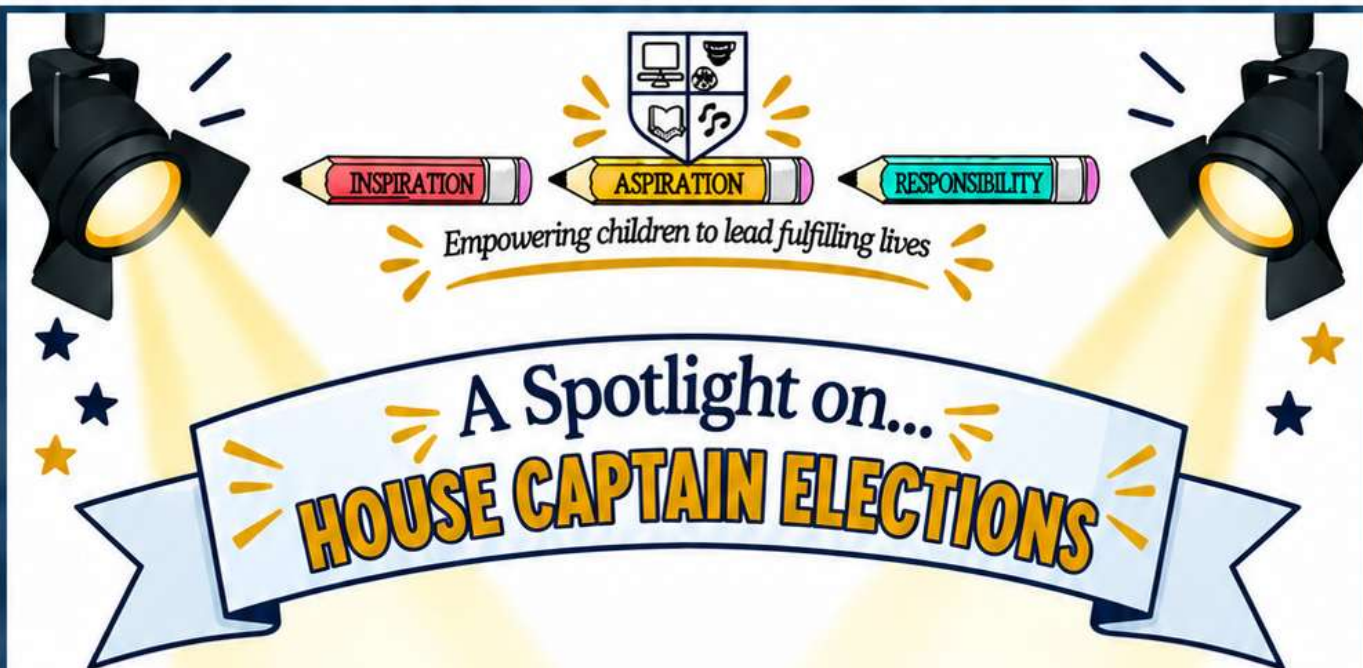
GRIFFINS

	
Augustus House Captain	Noah House Captain



DRAGONS

	
Iris House Captain	Eric House Captain



We are delighted to announce our new House Captains for this year! Congratulations to Iris and Eric, who will lead Dragons House; Noah and Augustus, who will represent Griffins House; Orla and George, our new Phoenix House Captains; and Harrison and Charlotte, who will lead Unicorns House. We know they will be fantastic role models and will represent their Houses with enthusiasm, responsibility and pride throughout the year. A huge well done to everyone who put themselves forward for a House Captain position. It takes real courage and confidence to stand in front of your peers and ask for their vote, and every pupil who took part should be incredibly proud of themselves.





Introducing Our Year of Kindness

Notice ♥ Celebrate ♥ Share

At Manland...

We are delighted to launch our Year of Kindness – a whole-school focus that will encourage us to notice, celebrate and spread kindness in everything we do.



Why is kindness important?

Kindness has the power to make a real difference. It strengthens relationships, creates a positive environment for learning, supports wellbeing and helps everyone feel valued and included. Often, it is the smallest actions that have the greatest impact.



A whole school community

Our Year of Kindness is about our whole school community. Children, staff and families all have a part to play. Kindness does not mean lowering expectations or always saying yes; it means treating others with consideration, respect and understanding.



Many ways to be kind

Throughout the year, we will encourage our children to recognise the many ways kindness can be shown:

- ♥ Helping others
- ♥ Offering encouragement
- ♥ Including everyone
- ♥ Celebrating success
- ♥ Respecting differences
- ♥ Listening carefully
- ♥ Taking responsibility when things go wrong



How will we celebrate kindness?

We will be finding lots of different ways to notice, encourage and celebrate kindness across the school, through assemblies, classroom activities, whole-school events and challenges, with opportunities for pupils, staff and families to get involved.



Kindness at Manland

Kindness is already an important part of everyday life at Manland, reflected in the way our children and adults support one another and contribute to our school community. Our Year of Kindness gives us an opportunity to shine an even greater spotlight on this and celebrate the acts of kindness, both big and small, that happen every day.



Together, let's make kindness something we notice, celebrate and share.



Because kindness costs nothing – but it can mean everything.



Be the reason someone smiles today





After a fabulous summer spent running along the beach, enjoying the sunshine and making the most of some well-earned time off, Beryl returned to school in September ready for another busy year.

She had even popped into school during the summer holidays to “help” Mr Dwyer with the painting. Her exact contribution to the decorating is perhaps questionable, but she was certainly very keen to be involved and offered plenty of moral support!

Since the start of term, Beryl has been making herself very much at home. She has taken a particular interest in the new Reception children, making sure they are settling in well and enjoying their first few weeks at school. She has also decided that their sand pit looks like an excellent place for a dog to play and cannot quite understand why she hasn't been invited in!

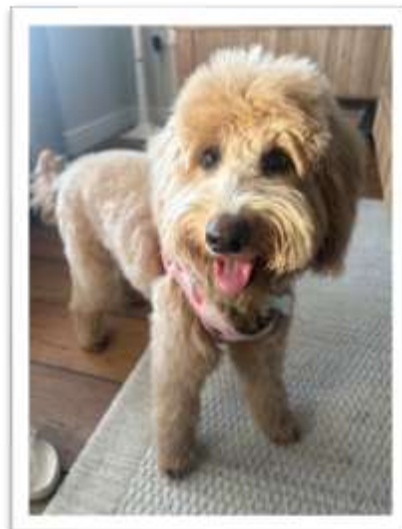
Beryl has been busy checking on everyone around school, popping into classrooms and making sure both children and staff are getting on with their day.

There have been lots of meetings too. Some have been more exciting than others, but Beryl has approached each one with great enthusiasm — particularly when there are people available for a cuddle. She has become something of an expert at finding a friendly face and making sure everyone gets their fair share of Beryl affection.

Most of all, Beryl has loved being back amongst the children and staff. Whether she's checking in on everyone, enjoying time outside, joining a meeting, offering a comforting cuddle or simply making people smile as she passes, she has certainly made her presence felt.

It's been a busy return from her summer adventures — and somehow, Beryl has managed to fit in plenty of fun along the way

Although, if she had her way, there would definitely be more beach days... and a little time in that sand pit! 🐾 ❤️





Summer Assessment Data

We are delighted to share a summary of our summer assessment data. These results reflect the hard work, dedication and determination of our pupils, together with the expertise of our staff and the continued support of our families.

Proud of our progress!



EYFS

Good Level of Development (GLD)

Manland

86%

National average

68%

A fantastic achievement, with the vast majority of our Reception children reaching a good level of development across all areas of learning.



Phonics

Year 1 Phonics Screening Check

Manland

97%

National average

80%

An excellent result! Our Year 1 children have worked incredibly hard and this shows in their phonics knowledge and early reading skills.



Multiplication Tables Check

Year 4 (MTC)

Manland average

23.2

National average

21.0

Our Year 4 pupils have shown great determination and resilience in developing their times tables knowledge. Well done!



Key Stage 2

End of KS2 Assessments (Year 6)

Reading

Manland

93%

National average

75%

Writing

Manland

93%

National average

72%

Maths

Manland

97%

National average

74%



What this means...

Our summer assessment data shows strong outcomes across the school, with our pupils achieving well above national averages in most areas. This is a fantastic reflection of their hard work, positive attitudes and love of learning.

Every child's journey is unique, and we are incredibly proud of all our pupils for their effort, resilience and determination.



Looking ahead...

We will continue to build on these successes next year, focusing on high-quality teaching, supporting every child to reach their potential, and further developing our ambitious and inclusive curriculum.

Together we can achieve more!





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Saeed (Year 4) went for his Brown belt karate exam over the summer holidays along with his sister and got it! We are very proud of them both and their hard work paying off.



Thank You!



A huge thank you to everyone from the HSA and to everyone who supported HSA events over the last year. At the end of last term, the HSA were able to donate to school **35 new ipads**, including a **charging trolley!**

Before this, some of our ipads were so old that they did not meet the technical requirements of educational assessments, such as the Reception Baseline Assessment and the Multiplication Times Check Assessment. These new ipads will allow our pupils to develop their computing skills, with no problems at all. Thank you HSA!

Could You Be Our Next Resources Governor?

We are looking for a new **Resources Governor** to join our Governing Body and help support the strategic oversight of the school's finances, premises and resources.

If you are interested, or would simply like to find out a little more about what the role involves, **please contact the school office to make an appointment** for an

Make a difference behind the scenes!

Help us continue to build a bright future for our





Message from Herts County Council

WORKING TOGETHER FOR A BRIGHTER HERTFORDSHIRE



Christmas Art Competition ♥

SPREADING CHEER TO OUR ARMED FORCES

We are inviting Key Stage 2 pupils across Hertfordshire to create festive artwork that will help spread Christmas cheer to serving military personnel.

Now in its **14th year**, the competition gives children the opportunity to use their creativity to show appreciation for members of the Armed Forces who may be away from home during the festive season.

As well as bringing smiles to military personnel, entrants will also have the chance to win a **special prize** generously donated by Northwood HQ, the UK military's operational headquarters.



If you would like to submit an entry, please pass it to the school office before

Monday 9th November 2026.



Further details can be found here:

<https://www.hertfordshireheroes.org/latest-news/christmas-art-competition-2026.aspx>



Scan here
for more
details

*Small drawings
make a big difference* ♥

CREATIVITY • KINDNESS • SUPPORT • TOGETHER



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
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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) <i>Well above the national average</i>
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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

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Message from Herts For Learning: Lumi Nova App

The Lumi Nova app is available free to families in Hertfordshire in partnership with Herts Mind Network's with YOUTH service.

Lumi Nova supports children and young people to build confidence and learn lifelong skills to manage their worries through an intergalactic adventure game. It is designed for **ages 7-12** and offers positive screen time with built-in time limits and ethical rewards.

Find out more



How it works

Lumi Nova has been developed alongside both NHS clinicians and leading academics at the Anxiety & Depression in Young People Clinic based at the University of Reading.

The young person goes on an exciting intergalactic adventure through space where they explore new planets and collect treasure. As part of the therapy your child/young person will:

- Shortlist 3 goals with you from a list of 15 different goals related to separation anxiety, social anxiety and phobias
- Learn to break down goals into smaller, manageable challenges that gradually get harder
- Complete in-game challenges to help build confidence before tackling real life challenges
- Learn about how our thoughts, feelings and actions affect each other
- Repeat challenges to build resilience and unlock new rewards
- Game play is time limited to support positive screen time

As this is a therapeutic intervention for young people, the With YOUTH team will be in contact with trusted adults after 3-4 weeks of inactivity or if a young person rates high on the anxiety scales during a challenge to offer additional support.

For children with sensory difficulties or sensory based anxieties, it is recommended that Lumi Nova is used alongside professional support so that reasonable adjustments can be made. Lumi Nova is not suitable for children with severe or complex needs.