

# Manor Way Primary Academy

## Happy and Successful Learners



### School News 6th November 2020

#### Dear Parents and Carers

I hope that you are safe and well during this second lockdown. As always we are here to support you as a family so if there is anything you need then we can offer support or signpost you to services and people that can help you. Please just ask.

We know that the number of positive Covid-19 cases are rising both nationally and locally and that from Thursday 5th November, the government took the following action:

1. requiring people to stay at home, except for specific purpose
2. preventing gathering with people you do not live with, except for specific purposes
3. closing certain businesses and venues

These new measures have been put in place to achieve the maximum reduction in growth in the number of cases, preventing the NHS from being overwhelmed, whilst ensuring that schools, colleges and universities can stay open and that as many people as possible continue to work. The new measures will apply nationally for 4 weeks up to Wednesday 2nd December. You can access the National measures here: [New National Restrictions from 5 November - GOV.UK](#) .

We will continue to update you with guidance for schools from the DFE. These are the current guidelines: [Guidance for full opening: schools - GOV.UK](#) .

We are working hard as a school to ensure that we can stay open and educate all of our children and this week has seen a number of classes receive remote learning provided by their teacher beamed into the classroom! This has worked really well and has been a success in ensuring high quality learning continues and children remain in school. Please be assured that we will continue to constantly refine our approach and manage the challenges that come our way with determination and positivity.

Thank you to all our parents for your ongoing support and your proactive and swift approach to informing us of information that we need to be aware of.

Our next goal is to make sure that Christmas comes to Manor Way and our creative brains are ticking away to make the end of this half term as special as it can be!

Have a happy and safe weekend.

#### Our learning this week...

**In Preschool**, the children came back so well after their school holiday! We have enjoyed sharing our holiday news and photographs with each other at news time. This week we have learnt all about fire safety and keeping safe around fireworks. The children have explored various firework patterns and shapes and also had a great go at making their own firework pictures using a variety of textures and layers to build upon them.



In **Reception** class, well done to all the children who have come into school after the holiday, so settled and grown up! This week we have been learning about 'Bonfire Night Safety' and keeping safe around fireworks. In phonics we have learnt the sounds l, ll, ff, ss and the tricky word 'the'. The children have made fantastic firework pictures using straws and paint. We have started our new whole class reading book 'Funny Bones' by Janet and Allan Ahlberg. The children have identified different bones in their bodies and what they are called; talked about x-ray pictures and made skeletons using cotton wool buds! It has been wonderful to see all the children live via google hangout throughout the day and see them engage in the learning. Well done to Mrs France and Miss Boden for facilitating the technology to be able to do this! Have a wonderful weekend and stay safe if you are celebrating 'Bonfire Night' in your gardens. Best wishes, Mrs Whitmore



In **Year 1**, We have had a great start to the half term with a new whole class reading book- 'The Jolly Postman'. We enjoyed finding out what a post person does and exploring different types of mail that we receive before taking a sneak peek inside our new book. We have been planning and then writing up a retell of our story from last term- 'The Sea Saw'. We're working really hard on our sentence structure and punctuation as well as choosing some super words to make our sentences more interesting to read. In maths we have been counting backwards and talking about and investigating weight. For our curriculum topic this week we made our own family trees and thought about what makes our families special. We have also had lots of fun sharing our autumn discoveries over half term with our classmates on Class Dojo. What a busy week!

In **Year 2**, this week in maths, we have been learning to add and subtract using the column method. In English, we have continued to focus on the story, 'Stardust' and have been learning to use speech marks, adjectives, commas and alliteration. Next week, we will be planning and writing our own story. In curriculum, we have been learning about Neil Armstrong. In art, we have finished our superb rocket pictures- we coloured in our rockets using tonal shading.

In **Year 3**, we dived straight back into our learning! We have experienced a different way of teaching through taking part in live lessons where we watch our teacher on the screen. Miss Wall, Mrs Mason and Mrs Cleaver have been extremely impressed with how well we have adapted to this! In maths, we are looking at how we can use the column method to subtract three digit numbers. In English, we are beginning to look at character descriptions and how we can use expanded noun phrases in our writing to add detail. In reading, we are writing our predictions about what we think our new class book ' The

Nothing to See Here Hotel' will be about. We have lots of interesting ideas about how the hotel may be run by aliens! In our theme lessons, we have shared our amazing home learning where we created our own Victorian school rules and wrote diaries pretending to be a rich or poor person living in the Victorian times.

In **Year 4**, we have had a very exciting week as we have boldly stepped into the 22nd Century with Mrs Gibbons being beamed, live, into the classroom from her dining room! The children have barely batted an eyelid and have been utterly amazing, cracking on with their learning as if nothing was different. This has enabled us to work on solving one and two step word problems, involving different operations as well as starting a new unit on instruction writing in English. We have really enjoyed hearing the text, 'How to Wash a Woolly Mammoth', and we have started thinking about writing our own instructions about how to wash a Stone Age animal of our own choosing. We have been looking at Stone Age tools in our curriculum lessons and we have also created our own classification diagrams in science. Lots of our work has been completed using Google Classroom this week and this has meant that Mrs Gibbons can mark it too! We have also learnt how to play a simple melody using 3 notes in guitars. We will be concert ready in no time!



In **Year 5**, we have dived straight back into everything Ancient Greece! We just can't get enough. We have been busy planning non-chronological reports about mythical beasts in English and have been reading myths about the Gods and Goddesses in reading to prepare ourselves to read 'Who Let the Gods Out?' by Maz Allen. We can barely contain our excitement to get our teeth stuck into this book- next week can't come quickly enough! In maths, we have been looking at the perimeter and area of shapes. In science, we have relished the challenge of using a compass to create a diagram of our geocentric solar system.



In **Year 6**, we have cracked on with our current history theme all about the Ancient Egyptians. I have been really impressed with how the class is starting to understand where this era fits on a timeline and our recent work on hieroglyphics has been excellent. In addition, in maths children have been using their knowledge of order of operations (BIDMAS) to help solve various maths calculations. In English, we have recently finished out fantastic persuasive letters and have moved on to writing instructions- children have already started to grasp what important features they will need to use. Finally, for this new half term we have also started our fantastic new whole class reader- 'The Graveyard Book' - by Neil Gaimann. I can't wait to learn more about the characters and the mysteries ahead. Keep up the good work Year 6!



## Scholastic Book Club



Our new **Scholastic Book Club** is up and running! For **every £1 you spend** on this month's Book Club, **our school will earn 20p** in Scholastic Rewards. Go to <https://schools.scholastic.co.uk/manor-way/digital-book-club> to browse the latest books and order online. Please place your **order online by December 4th, 2020**.



## Remembrance Day and The Poppy Appeal

A ParentMail has been sent out regarding purchasing items for your children in support of the Poppy Appeal. Thank you to those of you who have already placed an order, and should you wish to make a donation you can do this via the Parentmail app, in the payment section on the shop tab.

## Children in Need - Getting Spotty!

We can't let this year go by without supporting Children in Need so during the Appeal Week (9-13th November) all classes will take part in the Five to Thrive programme.

On Friday 13th November (next week) it is '**Ultimate Feel Good Friday**'. This is where we ask pupils to come into school with wacky hair and spotty faces and join in a very special challenge. Children will donate £2 to dress up and take part in the challenge. Please look out for the letter sent today with full details on dressing up (face and hair only) and how to donate via our new venture into a JustGiving page!

## School Lunch

The school lunch grab bag is currently ongoing in school and consists of the following items:

1. Ham, cheese or tuna sandwich
2. Piece of fruit
3. Biscuit or piece of cake (or Jelly as an alternative)
4. Yoghurt or carrot, Pepper, cucumber batons

We are currently looking at ways to re-introduce hot lunches, as soon as possible, using reusable lidded meal boxes/trays- with children pre-ordering their food choices. We will keep you updated once this has been finalised.

## Socially distancing on site

Please remember to stay 2 metres apart from other parents and families on the playground and when lining up to further prevent the spread of Covid- 19 and to reinforce our messages to the children.

## Snacks

Please can we ask that if you send your child in with grapes for snack or lunch, that these are sliced in half lengthways. Whole grapes can be a choking hazard as they can entirely block the airway; if sliced from top to bottom, the thinner piece of grape is less likely to cause a blockage.

## Birthday celebrations in school

We have decided at Manor Way that we are also going to celebrate birthdays in school in the classroom along with the childrens' teachers and friends! On the last Friday afternoon of each month we will hold a birthday party in class to celebrate all of the children who have had their birthday that month. This month as there is an inset day on the last Friday, therefore the celebrations will take place on Thursday 26th November.

During the afternoon, we will provide fun games, activities, snacks and treats and a birthday atmosphere! There will also be a little cake for each birthday child. All of the party costs will be covered by school and the Friends of Manor Way. Children should still come to school in their normal school uniform for that day.

If your child has already had their birthday during September and October, they will be included in the first birthday celebration after half-term. We look forward to celebrating with the children and giving every child the opportunity to celebrate with their friends and mark their special day. In addition, we have purchased some special birthday crowns and the children can proudly wear these on the day of their birthday.

Let the celebrations begin!

## Parking

The vast majority of parents and carers are being brilliant and supportive by parking safely and carefully, this is a plea to those two to three parents who are continuing to park on double yellow lines and across the pavement. This is endangering pupils and parents lives, especially when parents have to step into the busy road with pushchairs because they can't walk safely down the pavement.

Please be aware that Covid-19 has presented many challenges for schools including organising socially distanced drop-offs and pick-ups, and we do not have the capacity to police the roads outside school. In line with advice from the local authority and the police we are advising parents and neighbours to report unsafe and inconsiderate parking (on the pavement) to the police. To read more about Operation Parksafe please follow this [link](#).

This is the information shared with us in relation to Operation Parksafe: "We are asking those parents who have to drive children to school to make sure their parking does not cause danger to pupils, pedestrians or passing traffic, or that it does not inconvenience local residents. If this continues to happen, we want people to get photographic evidence and to share it with the police so the appropriate action can be taken. Anything submitted will be treated in confidence."

Thank you to those parents already parking safely and for your continued support!

## Battery collection

After such a long lockdown and summer I'm hoping your homes are cluttered with lots of used batteries in need of recycling... Let Manor Way's Eco Councillors help you and take them off your hands.... its collection time again!

We are awaiting the arrival of the new collection boxes but in the meantime if you could put all your used batteries into a bag they will be gratefully received.

The last day for bringing recycled batteries into school will be Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> November so that our Eco council can begin counting ready for the collection.



## Bags in school



Thank you for your help in minimising the number of items children are bringing in and out of school each day. To enable us to lower the risks of items passing between school and home, and to help us with storage during the day, please do continue to only send your child in with the following items each:

- Blue Manor Way book bag\*
- Reading book & reading diary in clear plastic bookbag (inside blue bookbag)
- Lunch box if required (including healthy morning snack & drinks bottle)

**Please ensure that all bags and lunches come into school with your child.  
The school office will not be handling lunchboxes and reading bags that arrive late.**

In a change to information we have previously given out, we would like the children to leave their PE pumps in their drawers at school during the term, please. \*Manor Way bookbags can be ordered via our uniform suppliers, [Maple](#), for £7.50. Maple will add your child's squad number/ name and squad number at no additional cost.

### Christmas Drawings & Messages for the QE Hospital

During the first lockdown Year 1 created beautiful 'rainbow pictures of hope' for the staff and patients on the Oncology ward at the QE hospital in Birmingham. They helped raise spirits during such a difficult time and the QE were so impressed by the pictures they have asked for more! They would like the children of Manor Way to send in Christmas pictures and/or messages which can be displayed on the ward and help cheer up the patients and staff who are in the hospital over the festive period.

Pictures should be bright and colourful and include your child's name and age- but no glitter please. They must be on A4 paper so that they can be laminated.

Please can all pictures and messages be in school by Friday 13th November (next week) so that they can be appropriately quarantined before passing on. A reminder that these should come into school via bookbags please (and not via the school office).

### Attendance

Now that we are back in school and running as normal, after half term we will be monitoring attendance as we have always done. As you are aware Dudley schools policy does not allow holiday during term time except in exceptional circumstances, and that if an absence is not authorised and your child is still taken out of school you may be the subject of a fixed penalty fine per parent per child. This is still the case for separated parents who both have parental responsibility.

Whole School Attendance from 2nd- 6th November: 96%	
Reception	98%
Year 1	92%
Year 2	98%
Year 3	95%
Year 4	98%
Year 5	96%
Year 6	96%



**Well done and congratulations to  
Year 4, Year 2 and Reception  
for receiving the  
'Attendance Trophy' this week!**

## Autumn Term Diary Dates

Date	Event
13th Nov	Children in Need Day
1st Dec	Phonics Screening Checks Year 1
4th Dec	INSET DAY
7th Dec	INSET DAY
14th Dec	Christmas Jumper Day
18th Dec	Break up from 1pm (staggered times to follow)
4th Jan 2021	INSET DAY
21st Jan	Special Lunch Menu

## TERM DATES

### 2020-2021 Autumn Term Dates

Term Starts: Tuesday 1st September 2020

Half Term: Monday 26th October 2020- Friday 30th October 2020

Term Ends: Friday 18th December 2020

### Inset Days 2020- 2021

Friday 4th December 2020

Monday 7th December 2020

Monday 4th January 2021

Monday 19th April 2021

Monday 28th June 2021