



Important Dates :

- 16th January – Fiesta Fun Lunch (opt in for packed lunches via Parent Pay)
- 29th January – Y6 Parent Consultation Day
- 12th February – Parents Evening for Y1, Y2, Y3, Y4 and Y5 (3:15–5:30pm)
- 13th February – Parents Evening for Y1, Y2, Y3, Y4 and Y5 (3:15–5:30pm)
- 14th February – Break up for half term

Welcome back and Happy New Year!

A very warm (no pun intended!) welcome back to all of our families after the two-week festive break! I hope you had a restful time with family and friends. A Happy New Year to all of you!

I'd like to take this opportunity to express my sincere thanks for your continued support this week, with the school closure and delayed openings due to the extreme weather and freezing conditions. Your patience and understanding have been much appreciated. The forecast suggests that the weekend could still bring some challenging weather, but by the beginning of next week, temperatures are expected to rise, and hopefully, we will finally see the end of the snow and ice that have been affecting our daily routines. Next week we plan to return to normal opening and registration times.

A special thank you to the parents I spoke to this morning at the school gate who have kindly volunteered to do their best to help clear some of the compacted ice on the path leading up to the school entrance. Your generosity and willingness to lend a hand make such a difference – we are very grateful and I recognise how lucky we are at Manor Wood to have such wonderful support from our families.

This week you should have all received a newsletter from each of your child's year groups, outlining what the Spring Term will entail. If you haven't received it yet, please rest assured that it is on its way to you.

I would like to welcome back Miss Wilson, who has returned this week from maternity leave! We are delighted to have her back with us. Additionally, welcome to Renu, who is joining us and working alongside Meeca in the Yellow Group. Renu has worked with us regularly in Foundation Stage in the Autumn Term and we are thrilled to now have her as a member of the FSU team!

Parent and Carer consultations

Parent and carer consultations are taking place this half term. A letter will be sent home shortly, allowing you to sign up for your preferred time slots. The exact times will be provided on a paper slip and sent home in your child's book bag closer to the date.

Online Safety Newsletter

The link to our January Online Safety Newsletter can be found here:

<https://www.manorwoodps.org.uk/attachments/download.asp?file=111&type=pdf> Please do spend some time digesting the latest information regarding keeping our children safe online.

A letter from Mrs Lowry regarding spellings

Dear families,

In line with the latest evidence, we are moving away from weekly lists of words to memorise for spelling tests. Instead, children will have a focus pattern or rule for a week, and will be tested by applying the rule in unseen dictated sentences.

The children have spelling lessons based around phonics, spelling patterns, etymology (the root of words) and morphology (the different parts of words) which will be taught to your child each week. Each session begins with revisiting previous learning, teaching of a new rule or pattern with examples and games, and opportunities to practise applying the new rule. In KS1 this will still be through the phonics sessions as before.

Each week, instead of sending home a list of spellings for your child to memorise, teachers will share the weekly rule or pattern, with an example or two. You can work on discussing this at home with your child.

Spelling tests can be disheartening for many children and have been shown to have minimal impact on actual spelling ability when children need to apply them in their writing. Dictation and application is a more effective approach and we are excited to roll this out.

There are some word lists (the Year 1/2 list, 3/4 list and 5/6 list) which children are required to memorise as they move through school as they are common exception words (they don't always fit the rules) and teachers will still send these lists home for you to support your child to learn. These will be tested half-termly in addition to the above spelling curriculum.

Admissions - final reminder

The deadline for applications for Reception 2025 places is on 15th January. Information regarding admissions for Reception places for 2025-26 academic year can be found here:

<https://www.leeds.gov.uk/schools-and-education/school-admissions/our-school-admissionpolicies/primary-school-admission-policy-for-september-2025-to-2026>

Wishing you all a wonderful start to the new year, and let's hope the weather brings some much-needed warmth soon!

Kate Humphries