



Important Dates :

- 24th October - BREAK UP FOR HALF TERM
- 3rd November - Return to school
- 7th November - FSU Nursery is closed (open to Reception)
- 8th November - Open morning for prospective families
- 14th November - Children in Need (non-school uniform)
- 1st December - Santa dash
- 9th December - KS1 Nativity (PM performance)
- 10th December - KS1 Nativity (AM performance)
- 11th December - Christmas Jumper Day
- 16th December- FSU Christmas Show
- 17th December - FSU Christmas Show

As we reach the end of a very busy and productive first half term, it's wonderful to reflect on all our children have achieved in just 8 weeks. It was fantastic to see so many of you at our Parents' Evenings this week. Following feedback from families about the inconvenience of closing the school for our previous 'Parent Partnership Day', we hosted these over two evenings instead. It was lovely to hear how well your children have settled into their new year groups - last year already seems like a distant memory!

Democracy in Action!

I am overjoyed to share some wonderful news about democracy and pupil voice at Manor Wood.

Firstly, a huge congratulations to Ayaan in Year 6, who made it to the final 12 for the Leeds Children's Mayor! While he wasn't chosen as the final winner, we are all so incredibly proud of him, his powerful manifesto, and his vision. We will be meeting with Ayaan and his parents soon to see how we can help him carry out some of his brilliant plans for our school and community.

In other news, our new Year 6 Team Captains have been elected! Children from Y6 presented their manifestos, and pupils from Year 1 to Year 6 cast their votes. These extremely important roles were awarded last week. A huge congratulations to:

- Josie - Foxes Team Captain
- Arjun - Squirrels Team Captain
- Aarohi - Woodpeckers Team Captain
- Saml - Hedgehogs Team Captain

and new for this year, Mayor of the Manor, Ayaan.

I look forward to hearing their plans and working closely with them to fulfil their important leadership roles this year.

Black History.

This morning, we were treated to an incredibly moving assembly showcasing the children's work from Black History Month. Led once again by the fantastic Miss Wilson, this work is a key part of our History curriculum. The assembly, which focused on the inspiring story of Ruby Bridges, highlighted all the important messages pupils have learned throughout October. We are proud that our children learn about discrimination and the importance of being anti-racist. This month has been a fabulous and insightful launch, though of course, this is not the only time we explore the 'black curriculum' and share these vital messages.

SEND coffee morning.

Our recent SEND Coffee Morning was a real success and was very well attended. It was a great opportunity for families to connect. We have already planned more of these events throughout the academic year, which will cover varying themes and provide more chances for families to network and build supportive relationships.

The BBC 500 Words Competition

Miss Hemingway recently led an assembly on the BBC's 500 Words competition, and we would love to get as many entries from Manor Wood as possible! This is a fantastic opportunity for pupils to write creatively for pleasure - something we are really promoting in school.

The judges are looking for imagination and originality, not perfect spelling, punctuation, or grammar.

Deadline: 7th November

Age Categories: 5-7 and 8-11.

The Prizes: The prizes are amazing! Winners receive book bundles, and gold winners win 500 books for our school library. 50 finalists will be invited to a star-studded grand final at Windsor Castle in February 2026, hosted by Her Majesty Queen Camilla. Winners will even have their stories read by a celebrity on a special BBC One Show programme in early March.

The Rules:

- Stories must be 500 words or less.
- It must be a child's own original idea (not AI-generated) and not written by a group.
- It must be a story, not a poem or rap.
- Do not include any personal details (like the child's full name) in the story itself.

Please encourage your child to take part at home! All stories must be submitted online here: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/500wordscompetition/login>

Statutory Assessments: A Guide for Parents

Just so you are aware, pupils in primary schools in England take part in six statutory assessments during their time with us. Below is a brief overview (you can find more information on the Department for Education website)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/national-curriculum-assessments-information-for-parents>

- Reception Baseline Assessment: Completed within the first 6 weeks of Reception.
- Early Years Foundation Stage Profile: Assesses development at the end of the Reception year.
- Phonics Screening Check (Year 1): A check of phonics skills in June (some Year 2 pupils also take this).
- Multiplication Tables Check (Year 4): An online check held in June.
- Key Stage 2 Tests (Year 6): Often called 'SATs', these take place in May.

Owlcotes Multi Academy Trust - Arts Week

Our final week of term has been filled with a plethora of arts activities centered around the theme of 'feeling good'. Children have been exposed to and used many different mediums to express themselves. Once all this wonderful work has been collated, we will be sure to share it with you.

Important Notices

Leeds Admissions Consultation

Leeds City Council is running a public consultation on the 2027/28 admission policy for Leeds community and voluntary controlled schools. If you wish to share your views, you can find out more at www.leeds.gov.uk/SchoolAdmissionsConsultations. The consultation closes on 1st December.

Streamlining Our School Apps

We are fully aware of the large number of apps we currently use for school communication. We know this can be frustrating. Please be assured that the senior leaders and governors are working on this. In the new year, we will trial a new, streamlined communication system with a couple of year groups. Our goal is to use this trial to "fact-find" before reducing the number of apps for everyone by the end of this academic year. We hope this is welcome news!

High school choices - Y7 places

The deadline for applications is in half term on 31st October.

The Local Authority offer secondary school places on 2 March 2026 (known as offer day). If you applied through their online application portal, they will email you with your child's offer. They will send this email during the working day. If you applied in any other way, you'll receive an offer letter to your registered home address (a few days after offer day). If you would like and support or advice regarding your high school choices please contact the school office who will signpost you to the right person for your query.

And Finally...

Thank you for your continued support this half term. I hope you all have a lovely, restful break. For those enjoying Halloween and Bonfire Night activities over the holiday, please stay safe.

We look forward to welcoming the children back to school on Monday 3rd November.

Kate Humphries
Headteacher