

HEADTEACHER NEWSLETTER

IMPORTANT DATES FOR THE DIARY

- 23rd February - Return to school
- 25th and 26th February - Parents Evening
- 26th February - SEND coffee morning
- 5th March - World Book Day
- 26th March - Purple Day
- 31st March - Y3/4 Easter Show (AM show)
- 1st April - Y3/4 Easter Show (PM show)
- 2nd April - Break up for Easter
- 3rd April - Good Friday (school is closed)



Manor Wood
Primary

What a half term it has been! Although it has been a short one, it has certainly been full and accompanied by what feels like ever-pouring rain! Thank you for continuing to get your children in each day, coats zipped and wellies on, despite the very soggy school runs.

There has been so much happening across school and our children have enjoyed a range of school trips this half term, bringing their learning to life beyond the classroom. These experiences are such an important part of our curriculum and it is wonderful to see their enthusiasm and excellent behaviour when representing our school in the wider community.

We have concluded the half term with a fantastic Literature Week. From our very youngest learners through to Year 6, all children (0–11) have studied the beautiful picture book *Footpath Flowers*. The creativity and depth of work produced has been wonderful to see, and a multitude of outcomes were displayed for you today. Thank you to those who were able to attend. We will be sharing more photographs and celebrating this work further in our upcoming curriculum newsletter and on our Instagram page. A special thank you to our 0-5 families who joined us for the 'Stay and Stroll' on Wednesday morning - it was lovely to see our youngest children out in the community, sharing a little joy. Please look out for their pebbles, intended to make you stop and smile, scattered around our local community.

Year 2 also hosted a wonderfully warm and joyful Valentine's Assembly for their families this week. It is always a real highlight in our calendar and one of my personal favourites — the children did themselves proud.

Many children have also been celebrated this half term, with Manor Wood postcards sent home recognising their effort, attitude and achievements. These postcards will be entered into a draw for Hot Chocolate with the Head at the end of the Spring Term - something the children are very excited about and keen to achieve!

Thank you to families who joined us for the SEND (Emotional Based School Avoidance theme) coffee morning. It was a valuable opportunity to connect and share information and a further session is arranged for the first week back after half term. Please sign up to register your attendance : [JOIN OUR SEND COFFEE MORNING - LINK](#)

We are also very grateful to those of you who completed our stakeholder engagement questionnaire. Your feedback is helping to inform our work around consolidating the platforms we currently use across school and streamlining communication to make this clearer and more manageable for everyone.

Looking ahead to next half term, we have a few important reminders to share:

PE Kit – Children should attend school in a plain PE kit on their allocated PE days.

Indoor Shoes – Please ensure all children have pumps in school ready for indoor use when we return.

Attendance – Attendance remains incredibly important. An absence is only authorised in truly exceptional circumstances. If you do need to request time away from school, please complete a special leave form and hand it in at the office.

Parents' Evening takes place in the first week back and appointment times should now be with you. We hope you found the booking system straightforward and helpful. These meetings are an important opportunity to discuss your child's achievements, progress and next steps.

Forest School Update - We are making steady progress with our Forest School development. We are excited that a top-hat tipi style tent will soon be making its way into the space! This area is slowly taking shape thanks to the commitment of our wonderful 0-11 staff team who have been working on it after school hours. It is however, a large project with plenty still to do! If you are able to support with resources, practical skills, or a little of your time and handy work, we would be incredibly grateful and are asking for any help, big or small.

[FOREST SCHOOL SUPPORT - LINK](#)

Drop off and pick up - While we are incredibly grateful to the majority of our families who drive with patience and care, the reckless and selfish parking of a few is creating a crisis at the school gates. We are seeing cars blocked in, residents' driveways obstructed and most alarmingly, drivers stopping in the middle of the road or parking carelessly on pavements to drop off children.

This year, we have already witnessed several near-misses. Despite our ongoing work with the local council, police and traffic wardens, the danger persists. I am writing to you not just as a headteacher of our school but as someone deeply concerned: we are heading toward a serious accident. Please, I am pleading with you to park mindfully and put the safety of our children above personal convenience. We must act as a community before a tragedy occurs.

As we move into the break, we would like to wish a Ramadan Mubarak to those families beginning their observance during half term. We also recognise that the season of Lent will soon begin for members of our community who observe this, too. These are important times of reflection and commitment and we wish you well during this period.

As always, thank you for your continued support, partnership and commitment to our school community. Wishing you all a restful and enjoyable half term break - hopefully with a little less rain!

Kate Humphries
Headteacher

Dear Parents and Carers,
We need your help!

We're excited to share that we are in the process of setting up a Forest School area for our children, which will give them wonderful opportunities for outdoor learning, creativity, and exploration.

MANOR WOOD FOREST SCHOOL

To help bring this project to life, we are looking for donations of materials or practical help from our school community. If you have any of the following items available (new or used), we would be extremely grateful:



- Old kitchen sinks
- Loose parts for play and construction
- Tyres
- Mud kitchen accessories
- Wooden planks or offcuts
- Decking boards
- Pallets
- Crates
- Wooden reels

We are also looking for anyone with joinery or practical building skills who may be able to volunteer a few hours here and there to help us safely construct elements of the Forest School area. Even a small amount of time would make a huge difference.

If you're able to donate items, offer skills, or would like more information, please click the google form (on the right!).

Any support at all would be very much appreciated. Thank you for helping us create a special outdoor learning space for the children.



The Forest School Team