

Headteacher's Newsletter

Important Dates:

- 9th October – PTA Games Night
- 21st October – Individual school photos
- 23rd October – Last day before half term begins
- 2nd November – Return to school
- 3rd November – Cinderella Pantomime
- **11th and 12th November – Parents Evening (DATE CHANGE)**
- 13th November – Children in Need
- 14th November – 9-11am Open morning for prospective families
- 27th November – PTA Christmas Fair
- 8th and 9th December – KS1 Nativity (times TBC)
- 10th December – Christmas Jumper Day (Save the Children charity)
- 10th December – Y5 Carol concert for families
- 14th and 15th December – FSU Christmas Show (times TBC)

Due to unforeseen circumstances, we have changed the dates for our upcoming Parents Evening, which was originally scheduled for the 4th and 5th of November. [Parents evening will now take place on 11th and 12th November.](#) We apologise for any inconvenience this date change may cause.

Nursery World Awards – VERY exciting news!

We are absolutely thrilled and immensely proud to share that last weekend, Manor Wood was celebrated on a national stage at the Nursery World Awards 2026! Both our 0–3 provision and our Foundation Stage Unit received prestigious national recognition for the care, enrichment and glowing opportunities we provide for our youngest learners. Our Foundation Stage Unit took top honours nationally! The judges highlighted “*our exceptional combination of child development philosophies - inspired by Reggio Emilia and Scandinavian Forest Schools - alongside our academic rigor*”. While our 0-3 provision was highly commended for its outstanding work with babies and two-year-olds. A massive congratulations and thank you to our whole staff team, whose hard work, dedication and passion make Manor Wood such a special place for our children.

Year 6 Residential

Our Year 6 residential was a huge success! The children had a wonderful time taking part in new activities, pushing their boundaries and making memories. Staff were full of praise for the group, reporting fantastic behaviour and enthusiastic engagement throughout. It was brilliant to see them embrace such valuable enrichment opportunities and throw themselves into experiences they wouldn't necessarily normally get to try. (And don't worry, we are assured they all slept eventually!) Well done to Year 6 for representing Manor Wood so brilliantly!

Enrichment at Manor Wood

We share the DfE's view that every child should leave Manor Wood with a strong foundation of knowledge, a love of learning, a well-developed set of skills and the confidence to use them. Throughout their time with us, we want our children to be exposed to a wide range of experiences which, alongside the core national curriculum, help prepare them for life and work. As we look to build upon our enrichment offer and develop our 'Manor Wood Milestones' and 'Owlcotes Elements', we want to gather family and pupil voice. We are reviewing the enrichment we already have in place, identifying gaps we can further develop and assessing costs.

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We know that costs are soaring for everyone; we would never ask for income from families to make a profit on trips and enrichment opportunities. In fact, despite the large sums of these offers, the school will always endeavour to subsidise these costs to bring the overall cost per family to an absolute minimum.

We would appreciate it if you could take some time to complete our 'Enrichment Offer Survey'. This will allow our curriculum development team to take parent and carer voices into account whilst building on this offer for our children.

LINK: [Share your voice - complete the survey!](#)

Free School Meals (FSM) Expansion

A reminder that from September 2026, eligibility has expanded so that all households receiving Universal Credit qualify for Free School Meals. This change removes the current £7,400 income cap and is expected to benefit over half a million additional pupils nationwide.

The new eligibility criteria means that families in receipt of Universal Credit are able to access Free School Meals from the 2026/27 school year. Eligibility will be automatically available to all families receiving Universal Credit but parents and carers still need to apply.

If you think the new criteria applies to your household and either parent/carer is in receipt of Universal Credit, please provide the school office with your full name, address, date of birth, National Insurance number and the name and date of birth of the child/children you are enquiring about. This will allow us to check eligibility and will act as consent for these details to be passed to the Welfare and Benefits Service. If confirmed, they will put your child's free school meal in place.

Online Safety

To help you navigate the digital world with your children, I wanted to remind families that we publish an updated online safety newsletter every month on our website. Each issue offers practical advice and reflects the current online landscape to help keep our children safe. Please take a moment to read our monthly updates!

LINK: [Online safety newsletters - find them here!](#)

Reception 2027 - Open Morning

Our open morning is Saturday 14th November from 9-11 am. Please complete the form via the link below and select your time slot.

LINK: [Book a visit here!](#)

- If you are visiting as a prospective family of our 0-3 setting (Baby Nest and 2YO provision), please sign in at our 0-5 office.
- If you are visiting as a prospective family of Reception for September 2027, please sign in at our 5-11 main school office.

Please pass these details along to any friends, family, or neighbours who are currently looking for a Reception place for September 2027. We look forward to welcoming them!