



Manorcroft Primary School

November Newsletter 2023-24

Thank You:

Thank you to everyone who supported our Harvest collection for the Runnymede Foodbank around October half term time. Once we had put everything together from across the school, we had managed to collect an incredible 13 crates worth of food, which were then driven over to the Foodbank to support local people in crisis. Altogether we collected 198.3kg in total, which the Foodbank acknowledged by sending us a certificate. A huge thank you to everyone across the school who donated.



Diary Dates:

The latest 'Diary Dates' are now available. All dates are also published on the website - please see the [Calendar](#) to stay up-to-date. Alternatively, please see the [Term Dates](#) section where you can find the dates for the year plus the latest detailed/printable overview.



Staffing Update:

At the end of term we will sadly be saying goodbye to different members of the staff team. Firstly good luck to Mrs Scannell, who is leaving teaching to take on a new challenge. Over her time at Manorcroft she has been instrumental in developing our Forest School and outside curriculum. She has tirelessly given of her time and driven different projects across the school site, including the development of the Y1 outside area, the allotment and the forest. Her dedication to 'Learning Outside the Classroom' also enabled the school to be awarded the Gold Mark in July 2022. We wish her all the very best for the future and thank her for everything she has done for us.

Mrs Davies will also be retiring at the end of term after an amazing 26 (and a bit!) years at Manorcroft. We can't thank her enough for everything she has done for the children and school over the years; the 100s of children she has supported, the many trips and visits she's been on, all the residential experiences she's accompanied, the list goes on. Mrs Davies has worked with 3 Headteachers and has seen the school change immeasurably over the years. We will really miss her; however we know she is very much looking forward to her hard-earned retirement!

Finally, Mrs Cronan will be stepping back from teaching in Y3 Dublin class; however she is not leaving Manorcroft, so we will still see her around. Mrs Cronan has been leading the class since September and we thank her for all her hard work. From January she will once again be supporting different classes across the school.



We wish all the staff moving on the very best of luck for the future, whatever they have planned; and over the next few weeks there will be lots of different opportunities to thank them and say goodbye.

We will be welcoming two new members of staff to the teaching team from January - Mrs Cox will be joining Y2 Bristol and Mrs Hayward will be joining Y3 Dublin. Both of our new staff will be coming into school to spend time with the children and teaching team over the next few weeks. We will also be welcoming Miss Sturt, who will be joining our LSA team.

There will be opportunities for parents and carers to meet the new staff in the Spring Term.

Governor Update:

A warm welcome to Paul Bepey who will be joining our Governing Body as a parent governor. We thank him for his application and look forward to working with him over his term of office.

A full list of [Governors](#) can be found on the school website along with details about their role.

Christmas Performances 2023:

Rehearsals are currently underway for this year's Christmas performances. Thank you to those parents who have already begun to source costumes. Specific information will be emailed out to each year group involved, so please check your emails carefully. There are a limited number of seats available to each family and these will be allocated on completion of the online form/s.

Tuesday 5 th December, 9.30am - Y1 & Y2 Christmas Play	Y1 parents only to watch
Wednesday 6 th December, 9.30am - Y1 & Y2 Christmas Play	Y2 parents only to watch
Tuesday 12 th December, 9.00am - Y4 Carol Concert	Y4 parents only to watch
Thursday 14 th December, 9.30am - YR Nativity	YR parents only to watch

Tomorrow an overview of all Christmas dates will be sent out to the whole school - please check this to make sure you haven't missed anything (Christmas lunch, Christmas jumper day, post box, PTA shopping room, etc.)

Earrings:

Jewellery is not allowed in school (rings, bracelets, necklaces, etc.) and ideally, we would like children not to wear earrings. However, we understand that sometimes that is not practical. If they are worn, then the following rules must be adhered to:

- They must be small, plain silver/gold studs - no hoops, diamante/fashion or drop earrings are allowed
- Earrings are **not allowed** to be worn for any PE lesson, therefore children must be able to take them out independently (taping of ears is not an option)
- Please avoid having ears pierced during term time, as children end up missing several weeks of PE whilst they heal - PE is a statutory part of the curriculum

Parents Evening Survey:

Thank you to those parents who completed the recent survey about Parents Evenings. The responses were fairly evenly split between continuing to hold them virtually or moving back to face-to-face appointments. Just to clarify, whichever option we choose, the appointment will still only be 10 mins long.

Some parental responses seemed to indicate that they would prefer to meet teachers face-to-face as they would get a longer session- this is not the case. As you'll appreciate, there are 30 children in the class and teaching staff are already working an additional 6 hours to facilitate the two evenings - we will not be extending their evening commitment.

The Leadership Team will carefully consider the survey responses and a decision will be made early next term about the February sessions.

Pets As Therapy (PAT) Dog:

Some of your children may have come home recently talking about meeting and spending time with Belle, a PAT dog belonging to our Home School Link Worker (HSLW). PAT dogs are commonly used in schools to help support children with anxiety, social skills, reading and companionship. The idea is to bring a smile to a child's face. All dogs are 'temperament assessed' before being allowed to take part in the scheme and we're very lucky that our HSLW has her own dog registered with the charity.

She will be visiting school once a month and we will set up a rota for children to spend a short amount of time with her. Belle will not be roaming around the school; rather she will be based in the Inclusion Room as a safe space. Rest assured, if your child has any anxiety around animals, and specifically dogs, then they won't come into contact.

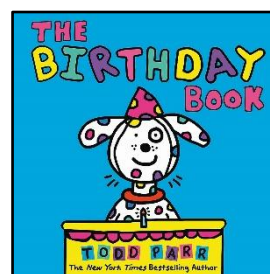
Reading Resources:

As all parents and carers know, we have spent a huge amount of time and money investing in a new phonics scheme, supported by brand new reading resources. Disappointingly, a number of these new books have either been lost or damaged recently. We understand that accidents happen, however all damaged resources need to be replaced so that we can continue to deliver the reading curriculum. Instructions will be emailed out and all payments need to be made through Scopay.

Birthday Books:

A great way of supporting the school's reading resources is buying a 'Birthday Book' when it's your child's birthday. This is a completely optional idea for parents, but is something we hope families may wish to consider supporting instead of sending sweets into school. However, please understand that there is no requirement to send anything into school when it's your child's birthday!

As a 'Birthday Book' arrives in school, it is labelled up with a special bookplate and presented back to your child in assembly. They are then able to take it back to their classroom book corner to share with their friends.



Please see [Latest News](#) on the website for full details.

PTA Update:

Don't forget to buy your discounted tickets for Peter Pan at Woking for Thursday 14th December. All details and tickets are available on the PTA events website.



Coming up:

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| • Mufti Day (coloured raffle items) | Thursday 24 th November 2023 |
| • Elfridges Shopping Room | Thursday 8 th December |
| • Woking Pantomime Tickets | Thursday 14 th December |

If you're interested, there are also several ongoing ways to support the school online:

- **PTA Lottery** - weekly tickets cost £1 and one lucky person wins a cash prize each week - [Your School Lottery](#)

- **The Giving Machine** - when shopping online, if you go through the [Giving Machine](#) website first, the PTA will receive on average 3% of your total spend.
- **Easy2Name** - everything in school needs naming, and if you use this company, the PTA receive 20% from each order.

Further information can be found on the school [website](#).

Follow us on X (formally Twitter):

Keep up-to-date by regularly checking the school website and following us on X!



@Manorcroft



Respect Responsibility Resilience

School uniform fund

Need help with the cost of school uniforms?

If your child needs a school uniform, you may be able to receive some financial help.

Who can apply for a **voucher**?

- 1 Household annual income below £33,000.
- 2 Savings below £6,000.
- 3 Must be liable for Council Tax.
- 4 From nursery age up to school Year 11.



SCAN ME

Get more information on eligibility, and how to apply for funding by scanning the QR code or visit:
www.runnymede.gov.uk/benefits-support/household-support-fund

