



Manorcroft Primary School

February Newsletter 2023-24

Curriculum Update:

This half term we have continued with our exciting launch experiences to inspire the children at the start of their cross-curricular projects. Y2 got the ball rolling with a trip off-site to RHS Wisley to launch their 'Scented Garden' project. The children had a great time (despite the long coach journey!) and were buzzing when they got back, keen to tell everyone about everything they had seen!

Y3 then followed with their 'Predator' workshop - the children were able to see different birds of prey up close, learning all about them as well as watching them fly. Then later in the week there was real excitement in YR when some dinosaurs came to visit. Anyone going past the Hall would have been forgiven for thinking that we had a T-Rex on the loose! Both workshops provided amazing hands on learning opportunities for the two year groups.

Not wanting to be left out, Y4 invited the dentist into school to help launch their 'Burps, Bottoms & Bile' project and Y6 were lucky enough to spend a morning working with Dr Metcalfe from Magna Carta School.

In two weeks' time our Y6 children will be busy again as they will be on their residential visit to High Ashurst out at Box Hill. The children will be away for the week taking part in a range of 'Outdoor and Adventurous' activities, such as climbing, quad biking, archery, high ropes, etc. A huge thank you to all the staff giving up their time to accompany the trip - we look forward to hearing all about it upon their return!

The Y6 residential is part of our planned programme of overnight experiences for children in KS2. Y3 will have the opportunity to take part in a sleepover in school, spending the night having fun with their friends; then Y4 are booked to go away in May on their 3 day residential experience to Hooke Court in Dorset. Finally, the last date in the diary is for the Y5 campout on the school field in the summer term. Lots to look forward to!

Virtual Exhibits:

Across the course of the academic year, each year group is taking it in turns to produce a digital presentation that can be shared with parents. Last half term it was the turn of Y2, Y4 and Y6 - their presentations were emailed out to parents on the last day of term. If you would be interested in seeing what other year groups have been learning about, then please follow the links on the [school website](#).

Y4 Bikeability Level 1:

Good luck to all the Y4 children taking part in their Bikeability L1 course this week - we hope you enjoy the experience!

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.

The [2024-25](#) term dates are now available too.



School Council Cake Sale:

Thank you to everyone who supported our School Council cake sale last week. We were overwhelmed by the generosity of parents for the sheer volume of cakes we received into school to be sold. Although the weather was slightly damp(!) the children did a fantastic job in selling everything at home time. They managed to raise £225.55, which they are going to split. Half of the money will be sent to the Shooting Star Children's Hospice and the other half will be used by the School Council to buy some resources on their wish list.



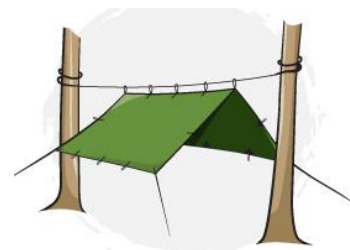
Staff Update:

At the end of last half term, we said a temporary goodbye to Mrs Donnelly and Miss Govey as both teachers were leaving Manorcroft to begin their respective 'maternity leaves'. Congratulations to both of them, as they have both welcomed baby boys into their families. Everyone is doing well and adjusting to family life.

We have also welcomed several new members of staff to our team recently. Miss Sturt and Miss Taylor have both joined our Learning Support Team and Miss Greene has joined the teaching team.

Woodland Skills:

Last half term our focus across the school was 'Den Building'. Every year group spent time outside designing and creating their own dens, using the resources in our forest area. Some of the creations were amazing and they varied in size from being a den for a teddy bear, right through to being somewhere that a large group of Y6 children could shelter. This half term the focus will be fire lighting - please check the letter that was sent home last week for the dates for each class.



Y6 SATs Books:

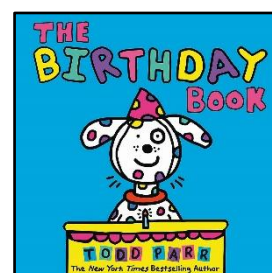
We have some last remaining copies of the Y6 CGP SATs revision books available to buy through the school office. We are able to sell these to parents at a discounted rate. Please log into [Scopay](#) to see all the different titles available and the prices. These books are a great way of revising the different concepts as well as offering opportunities to practise questions.

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.



8.40am Start:

A reminder that the school gates open every morning at 8.40am allowing 15 minutes for children to arrive before the register is taken at 8.55am. These 15 minutes are a key part of the school day and we strongly encourage all children to be in school as early as they can. This initial part of the day is used for 1-to-1 work, interventions, support and pre-teaching ahead of the first lesson.

Attendance:

As every parent is aware, children's attendance at school is statutory and is closely tracked. The Admin and Leadership Teams monitor any patterns in absence/lateness and we will contact parents directly if we are at all concerned. Sometimes, it's necessary to send home letters, invite families in for meetings or contact the Inclusion Officer at Surrey to escalate cases further.

If you need any support with attendance, however big or small, then please let us know. Our HSLW is available two days a week and has lots of advice and strategies.

Reporting Absence:

All absence must be reported daily. If your child is unwell, then we understand that this cannot be helped; however, you must contact the Admin Team with the full details so that this can be logged and monitored:

Tel: leave a message on the absence line by 9am (01784 432155)

Email: absence@manorcroft.surrey.sch.uk

Leave of Absence:

Permission for absence during term time will only be granted in exceptional circumstances and authorisation cannot be given retrospectively. All requests need to be submitted using the form available on the school website. Please note, family holidays are not deemed exceptional circumstances and therefore will not be authorised.

Persistent Absence:

If your child's attendance has fallen below 90%, then this is considered 'persistent absenteeism'. This level of absence is incredibly serious and is the equivalent of missing half a day of school a week. You will be contacted directly and required to attend an attendance meeting in school, where an action plan for improvement will be put in place. We have a duty of care to safeguard all children and all persistent absenteeism is reported to the Inclusion Officer at Surrey.

Further Information:

For full details about attendance, exceptional leave of absence, being fined by the local authority, etc. then please see our school [Attendance Policy](#) on the website.

Please note the following from the Education Welfare Service (EWS) Enforcement Team at Surrey:

Just to remind parents/carers that if they take their children out of school without authority for 5 or more days (which do not need to be consecutive), they will be liable to receive a penalty notice. Currently, the amount payable under a penalty notice is £60 per parent/carer, per child, if paid within 21 days. Thereafter the amount increases to £120 if paid between 21 and 28 days. If the penalty notice remains unpaid after 28 days, the Local Authority will consider a prosecution in the Magistrates Court. Please note that penalty notices are issued per parent/carer, per child, so a family of two parents and two children will receive 4 penalty notices.

Lateness:

Being late to school can also have an adverse effect on children. Not only is key learning missed, but arriving after the start of the day is unsettling and can lead to anxiety.

Did you know:

Being **5 mins late** everyday = **3 school days lost**
Being **10 mins late** everyday = **6.5 school days lost**
Being **15 mins late** everyday = **10 school days lost**
Being **20 mins late** everyday = **13 school days lost**
Being **30 mins late** everyday = **19 school days lost**



Contacting the School:

General Enquiries:

All general school enquiries, including any changes to pick-up arrangements, medication, school meals and questions about Scopay payments, must be made to the Admin Team:

Tel: 01784 432155

Email: info@manorcroft.surrey.sch.uk

Absence:

All absence must be reported daily:

Tel: leave a message on the absence line by 9am (01784 432155)

Email: absence@manorcroft.surrey.sch.uk

Teachers:

Each year group has a shared email account for supporting with Home Learning. If you have any queries about the tasks that have been set, or general, non-urgent questions for the teaching team, then please email the account. Please note, the accounts will only be checked once a day, during working hours.

YearR@manorcroft.surrey.sch.uk

Year1@manorcroft.surrey.sch.uk

Year2@manorcroft.surrey.sch.uk

Year3@manorcroft.surrey.sch.uk

Year4@manorcroft.surrey.sch.uk

Year5@manorcroft.surrey.sch.uk

Year6@manorcroft.surrey.sch.uk

Mrs Hitchen-Hoy & Miss Marshall

Mrs Cronan & Mrs Jordan

Mrs Cox & Miss Wakelam

Mrs Hayward & Mrs Whittingham

Miss Greene, Mrs Mehmedaj, & Mrs Woodin

Mrs Alden & Mrs Streeter

Miss Prout & Miss Redman

PTA Update:

The next big event is the 'Wonderful Women - Mother's Day Shopping Room' being held on Friday 8th March. All details and tickets are available on the PTA events website.



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 Twitter:

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



@Manorcroft



Your Speak out. Stay safe. certificate

Awarded to:

Manorcroft Primary

A massive thank you and a big well
done to all pupils for being such great
listeners and taking part in *Speak out*.
Stay safe. with Buddy.



Peter Wanless
Chief Executive

Date: February 2024

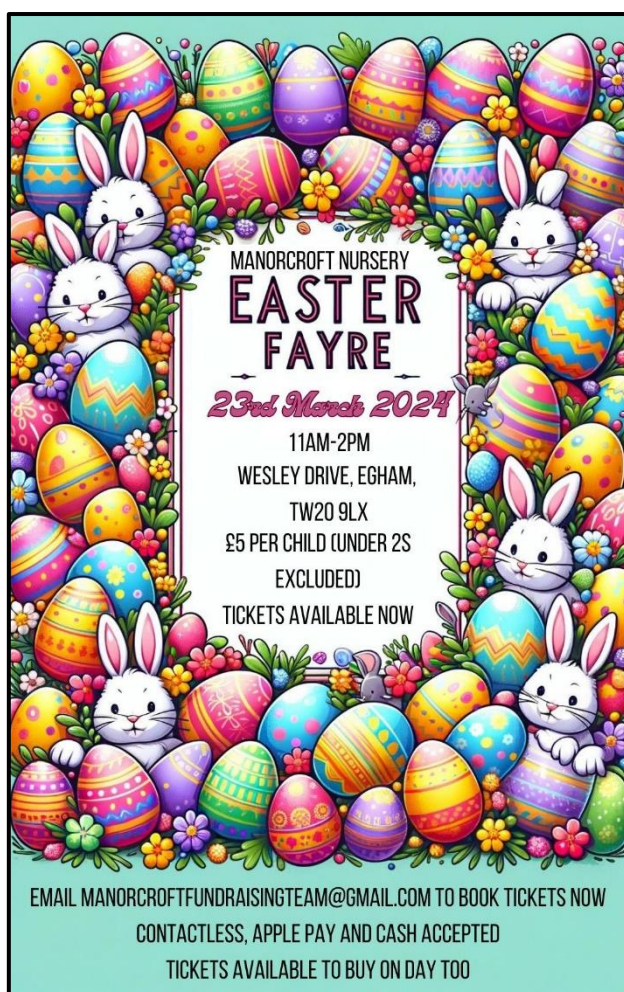
Thank you for
helping to keep
more children safe!



NSPCC

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EXCLUDED)
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CONTACTLESS, APPLE PAY AND CASH ACCEPTED
TICKETS AVAILABLE TO BUY ON DAY TOO