

Soar to Success—Self-Sufficient, Original, Attitude, Resilient



Manor Park
Primary
School

Newsletter
18th September
2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a wonderful week of sunshine and dry days which we have all thoroughly enjoyed. School life has settled very well into new routines and I would like to thank you all again for the support you are giving in helping us to do everything that we possibly can to maintain this very positive picture.

We have unfortunately advised you today that we have had our first positive case of coronavirus from a Year 4 child. The child is not displaying any symptoms, but we have had to isolate children and staff who have had close contact with the child as a precautionary measure. I would like to reassure parents that the school is safe and all children except Class 16, including siblings of children who are having to self-isolate, should continue to attend school as normal.

Whilst I fully appreciate how worrying this news can be to parents and very inconvenient to parents of children who are isolating, you will appreciate that situations such as these are out of our control. It is very important that we all continue to carefully follow Government advice and implement the measures designed to stop infection from being passed onto others. The risk to children of becoming very ill with the virus is extremely low and they are at as much risk of becoming infected out of school as in school. Public Health England have worked with us to isolate any direct contacts and since our systems are so stringent, this has been limited to one class and the two staff in that bubble. No other children or staff have had direct contact with the child and are therefore not at risk as a result of this case.

As you are aware, all children are working in a class bubble with their teacher and learning support assistant. They are remaining in these class bubbles for their lunch. The only time children have been mixing in a larger phase group has been for morning playtime and for 30 minutes at lunchtime before or after eating their lunch in their classroom with their teacher or in the dining room in class bubbles with SLT. We have made the decision to employ additional lunchtime staff and change staff lunchbreaks around, to tighten our procedures even further. This will enable us to limit children to year group bubbles at playtimes and for the part of the lunch hour where they were mixing in phase bubbles from Monday. All these activities are outdoors; however, we feel this will limit any possibility of any year groups having to isolate if there were to be a confirmed case in another year group. The only exception to the operation of year group mixing will be in after school clubs and CHAMPS sessions which will remain as phase bubbles, operating with very restricted numbers and staff allocated to bubbles.

We have worked really hard with our school catering company AIP to ensure that the meal offer at lunchtimes is exactly the same as before lockdown. All children have the offer of at least two hot meals, one of which is vegetarian, jacket potatoes with a variety of toppings or a choice of sandwiches with four different fillings. Every meal is enhanced with a choice of salads, bread and fruit from the salad cart which is served to children. A range of desserts with additional fresh fruit, complete the meal and drinks are available for children. All children from Reception to Year 2 have a free meal booked for them and we would strongly advise parents to take up this meal. If children in Years 3 to 6 would like to switch to a school meal, please contact the office for details. I can strongly recommend the quality and variety of these meals to you, as the meals are delicious and very healthy. Ensuring the quality remains as high as possible is a priority for the senior leadership team, who are on duty everyday and eat meals with the children.

Thank you for the applications that we have received for the position as parent governor. We have had two nominations and we will therefore be running a ballot to give all parents the opportunity to vote for the person they would like to represent them on the governing body. Further details and ballot papers will follow.

Advance notice that we will be holding our autumn term parents evenings as virtual meetings in the same way that we did in the summer. Please diary the evenings and further details will follow. If any parents are unable to access this system, please let us know in advance so we can support you with an alternative way to contact your child's class teacher. As children settle back into school it is very important that parents attend these meetings to share information on how your child has settled back into school, their mental health and well-being and any gaps in their knowledge that you may be concerned about. The dates for these meetings are October 20th and 21st, both with appointments available between 4pm and 6.30pm.

Can we remind all parents who have childminders, that if a member of staff informs you that your child has been taken ill, sent home or had an accident in school, it is your responsibility to pass this information onto your childminder as soon as you can, so they are fully prepared for picking up your child at the end of the school day with any requests that you may have for them. The only exception to this would be if your child had an accident at the very end of the school day when we would contact you and give the same message to childminders. We will notify CHAMPS of this information internally if there was an incident in school that parents have been informed about.

Please remember that we are doing everything that we possibly can to keep everybody in the school community safe, and that we are all here and readily available to parents if you want to have a chat about anything that you may be concerned about. These are challenging times for us all and I really value how everybody is working together so effectively to give all our children the education that they deserve and so desperately want. They are delighted to be back, are enjoying the positive vibes and friendships that surround them in school and have totally adapted to their new routines.

Take care, stay safe and enjoy the weekend. My best wishes to everyone.

Jill O'Connor—Headteacher

Spotlight on learning in school this week...

Nursery

The children in nursery are excited about all of their learning with their friends and teachers. They are enjoying exploring their new classroom and outdoor area.



EYEP

This week the children in EYEP have been looking at sorting and matching colours!



Year R



This week in Reception, we have enjoyed creating our own self portraits using a range of mixed media.

Year 1

This week as part of their 'The Wild Woods' topic Year 1 made Tree Boggarts! Tree Boggarts are mischievous creatures who live in the woods. Look out if you see a Tree Boggart because they have been known to cause trouble...



Year 2



Year 2 have been designing and making family crests out of clay.

Year 3



Children in Year 3 have been fantastic historians this week! They worked in teams to explore a variety of sources about Greek education and jobs, comparing the Athenians and Spartans.

Year 4



This week, Year 4 have been learning their times tables using the Super Movers dance videos.

Year 5



Year 5 have been learning all about the ancient Egyptian process of mummification, and we had a go at mummifying tomatoes!

Year 6



This week, Year 6 have visited Coventry Cathedral and Coventry Transport Museum to learn all about WWII and its impact on Coventry. We had a great time.

MANOR PARK NOTICES



There are a limited number of places available in some of our CHAMPS bubbles.

If you need to extend your child's day, with either breakfast, after school or a mixture of both, why not get in touch and see how we can help.

Please contact Mrs Buckley on 76501736 or at k_buckley@manorpark.coventry.sch.uk for more information