

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



Manor Park
Primary
School

Newsletter
15th January
2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you are all keeping safe and well. We have settled into a new way of working, with learning in school and remotely going extremely well in all classes. I would like to thank you all again for supporting your children and the school in these very challenging times. We have been blown away by the quality of work that children are producing, their passion and enthusiasm for learning in these unprecedented times.

School has been open to children of critical workers as well as vulnerable children, since Tuesday last week. The number of children taking up places has increased significantly since the previous lockdown and we have around 200 children (21% of children from Reception to Year 6 in addition to nursery children) currently attending school. This increase in numbers is partly due to the government guidance extending the definition of both vulnerable and critical worker children. Further to an ongoing increase in the number of positive cases in the city, Coventry Local Authority has agreed a local position to enable schools to open safely during this lockdown period. Schools have been asked to revert to the current, locally agreed bubble size criteria of no more than 15 pupils. I will be forwarding you a letter from the Local Authority which all schools have been asked to distribute to parents outlining their position. Staff will continue uploading and responding to children's work across the day on Seesaw. Can I remind parents that it is statutory that all children engage in remote learning, and our main remote learning offer is on Seesaw. There is an expectation that every child completes all this work across the day. We will be flexible in the timings that children can complete this, but we do expect it to be completed. Staff will continue to follow up with parents any children who are not completing this work, including supporting families in any way that we can.

I am delighted to inform you that we have been working extremely hard for several weeks on a new live remote learning system on Microsoft Teams, which will allow your child to access live teaching from their class teacher throughout the day. All lessons will also be recorded so that your child can access them at a more convenient time or return to them if they wish to do so. This provision is in addition to the core teaching offer on Seesaw. There is no requirement that children access the live lessons on Microsoft Teams. The most important aspect of children's learning remains the work set on Seesaw in all subjects daily. We do hope however, that this added facility will further support and engage children (and parents!). We have trialled the new system with three classes this week, with exceptional parental feedback. We are now ready to extend this to all classes from Reception to Year 6 from Monday 18th January. Individual passwords will be sent to children today to enable them to access the system. Nursery including EYEP, will continue to work entirely from Seesaw. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any difficulties accessing the system or if you are facing any barriers which are preventing your child accessing remote learning. I would like to reassure parents that the children in school are doing the same work as those working from home. All teaching and support staff are teaching live from their classrooms in school to children in school and home-based children simultaneously. Our remote learning policy and updated risk assessment are now on our website for your information.

We have been delighted to distribute a large number of laptops to children who meet the government criteria. These have made a great difference to children who have not been able to access learning because of lack of access to IT equipment. A local company, The Speedy Bear, are accepting any old devices to refurbish, return to families or donate to other schools. All information is on their website <https://www.thespeedybear.com/>

We are extremely grateful to this company for supplying two of our children with devices. Please contact them directly if you believe they can support your family.

As part of our current school provision, teaching staff are all now having their PPA time on Wednesday afternoons. To support this, we are operating Manor Park University on Wednesday afternoons. Support staff will work with children in school to deliver this practical afternoon, as teaching staff will be working remotely. Wednesday afternoon is an ideal opportunity for your child to practise new IT skills; find further reading materials and read for pleasure; practise times tables and number bond facts or take time to develop other skills such as drawing, painting, baking or music. I hope that you will enjoy engaging with your child as they explore new interests and skills, during what will be a less structured afternoon in terms of school teaching content and feedback from staff.

Please remember that we are all here to support you through these difficult times. Do not hesitate to call or email any members of SLT or the learning mentor team if you need any help or advice. Children working from home will continue to receive daily online feedback on Seesaw from a member of staff. These children will also be contacted by telephone by a member of their class bubble staff in order to maintain the link between school and home. Staff members may be calling from home so please do look out for calls from private numbers. The purpose of these calls is for the staff to praise and motivate pupils with home learning, check on their well-being as well as check they understand how everything works online.

Rising 5 Admissions for September 2021

A reminder that if you have a child due to start school in September 2021 (date of birth between 1st September 2016 and 31st August 2017) the closing date for applications is Friday 15th January 2021. Please note that you will still need to apply for a place, even if you live in our catchment area or have other children who already attend our school.

Take care and stay safe. Have a wonderful weekend.

My very best wishes to everyone in school and at home.

Jill O'Connor—Headteacher

Spotlight on learning in school this week...

Nursery



This week in Nursery, we have been exploring space and learning all about the planets and astronauts. We have really enjoyed learning our new sound 'a' and writing number '3'.

EYEP

In EYEP, we have enjoyed doing little challenges and exploring different textures. We went on a texture hunt at home and described how things felt. Well done!



Year R



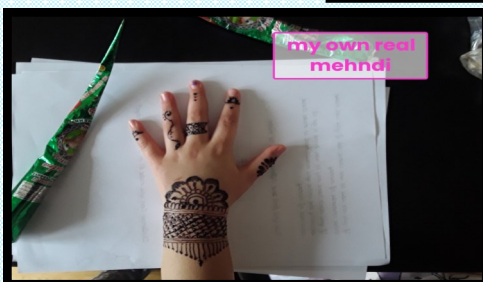
The children in Reception have enjoyed sharing the story 'If I Built a Car'. The children have enjoyed designing their own imaginary cars and using their designs to create models in school and at home. In maths, we have enjoyed finding 'one more' than a given number by using practical objects to help us.

Year 1

Year 1 children have had an exciting week learning all about reptiles! In art, they have been studying the animal drawings of the artist Rob Biddulph and have created their own line drawings of reptiles in a similar style. Fantastic art work Year 1!

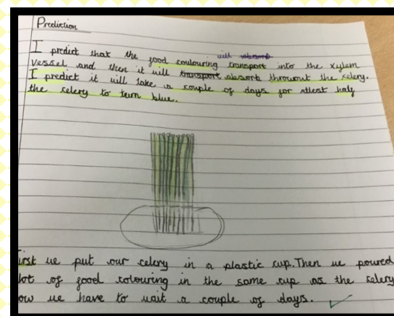


Year 2



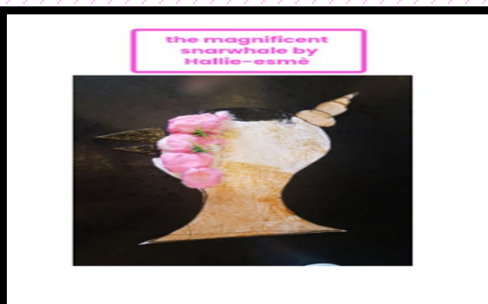
In our creative curriculum lessons, children have been learning about India as part of our 'Around the World' topic. In art, we researched and designed our own mehndi patterns. This is a beautiful example shared with us by one of our children learning at home.

Year 3



Year 3 have been finding out about water transportation in Science and have set up some fun experiments. The children in school wrote some fantastic predictions.

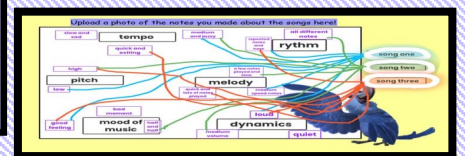
Year 4



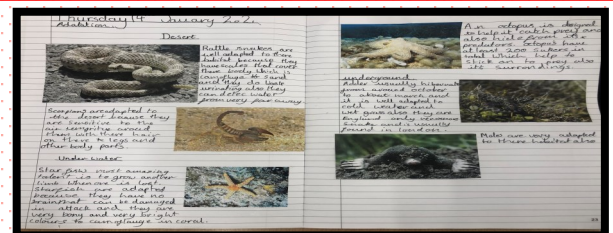
Year 4 have been learning about the ocean in their creative curriculum lessons this week. They had to design their own weird and wonderful sea creature and we've seen some amazing creations.

This is some work from Year 5 online. We have been looking at how music provokes emotion and different feelings, with a focus on the key elements that are the building blocks to creating effective compositions.

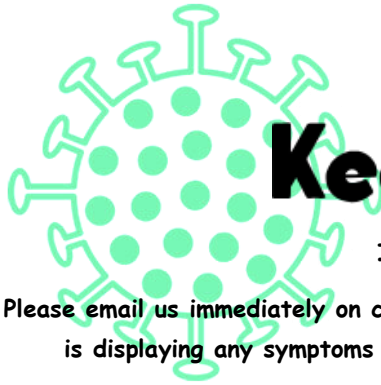
Year 5



Year 6



This week, Year 6 have been looking at adaptation. We have discussed the climate and features of different habitats and how animals have adapted over time to suit them. We have been so impressed with the fact files that have been created online and in school.



COVID-19 Keeping You Safe



If your child is attending school during lockdown:

Please email us immediately on covid@manorpark.coventry.sch.uk if your child or any member of your household is displaying any symptoms or has received a positive test including evenings, weekends and holidays.

In your email, please provide the following information which we require to enable us to follow up any cases:

Who has symptoms in your household?

Who has had a test & what is the result

Exact date & timings of symptoms & testing

Reminders

All parents are required to wear a face covering/ mask when on the school site & must adhere to the school one-way system.

School must be informed of any other absence of children who are attending school through the admin e mail

Children who are not attending school do not need to inform us of any covid instances in their family.