

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



Manor Park  
Primary  
School

Newsletter  
29th January  
2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

The children in school thoroughly enjoyed the snow at the beginning of the week and a wonderful range of snowmen could be found in the school grounds. They are continuing to work hard in school in their class bubbles. I hope that children at home enjoyed their snow experiences and that online learning through Teams and Seesaw continues to go well. The staff are incredibly impressed with the quality of work that children are producing and their conscientious attitude to accessing daily remote learning. We are continuing to work hard in accessing and distributing laptops to our vulnerable children who are struggling to access devices during this period of school closure. We are also offering support to families who have new devices or who are new to Teams and would benefit from some help in getting set up. Please let us know if we can help you with this at all.

At the beginning of this week, the government made self-administered (use at home) lateral flow devices available to all staff who work in schools.

Since the beginning of term, all staff have been encouraged to access lateral flow testing at centres within the community and many have been doing so. However, the new lateral flow testing devices will make this testing easier and more efficient. Along with the other protective measures we are taking, this is another layer in helping us to help make school as safe an environment as possible for everyone.

Up to one in three people who have Covid-19 have the virus without symptoms so could be transmitting the virus unknowingly. Tackling the pandemic requires identifying asymptomatic, infectious individuals. By increasing the availability of testing, we will help to reduce the spread in schools and within the community in general.

I am writing to inform all parents and carers of this for two main reasons:

- 1) To keep you up to date with our continuing efforts to keep the community safe
- 2) To inform you that with increased testing comes the possibility of increased positive results being returned (and thus an increase in instances of us asking children and staff to self-isolate).

If a staff member receives a positive result from a lateral flow test, they will then book a PCR test to confirm this. All in-school contacts will have to start a 10-day self-isolation period from the date of the positive lateral flow test and will need to complete this unless the subsequent PCR test returns a negative result. We will keep anybody affected up to date with all information required as soon as it is available to us.

We understand that when we must ask people to self-isolate it brings many challenges. We continue to work carefully on our social-distancing practices in school to reduce close contacts as much as possible and minimise the impact of positive cases whenever they do occur. However, I am sure you will appreciate that, whilst this new initiative could provide challenges in some instances, it is very important that we play our part in this new national project to help combat the spread of COVID-19.

Goodbye and good luck to Miss O'Sullivan who leaves us today to take up her new apprenticeship. She will be greatly missed by all of us.

We are once again adjusting the times that gates will be open. As we have a reduced number of children attending school, we will no longer be operating the wave system of entry by surname. We will also revert to the usual school day times, with teaching starting at 8.55am and the school day finishing at 3.30pm. From Monday 1st February, gates and classroom doors will be open from 8.40am to 9am each morning. Children can enter school at any point during these times. Gates in the afternoon will be open from 3.25 pm to 3.50 pm and children should be collected as close to 3.30pm as possible.

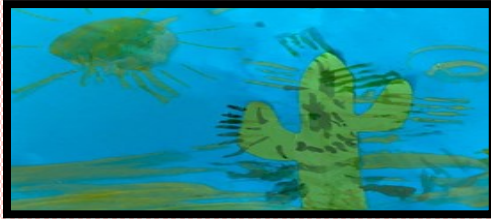
A reminder that school will be closing on Thursday 11th February for the half term holiday, as Friday 12th is a staff training day. There will be no remote learning during the school holiday. We will re-open to vulnerable children and those of key workers on Monday 22nd February when remote learning will also resume. You will no doubt have seen the government announcement that primary schools are not allowed to re-open to all children after the holiday. The proposed earliest re-opening date is currently March 8th. Remote learning will of course continue daily during the whole period of lockdown. We are very disappointed in this delay to the full re-opening of school as we cannot wait to welcome all children back.

I hope you are all keeping safe and well. My very best wishes to everyone in school and at home. Keep smiling.

Jill O'Connor—Headteacher

# Spotlight on learning in school this week...

## Nursery



The nursery children have enjoyed learning all about the desert at home and in school. We learnt all about some of the animals who live there, special plants that grow in deserts called cacti and even made our own cacti shadows. We also enjoyed learning how to write the number '5' and the letter's'.

## EYEP

This week we have been exploring the desert and the animals who live there through shadow projections!



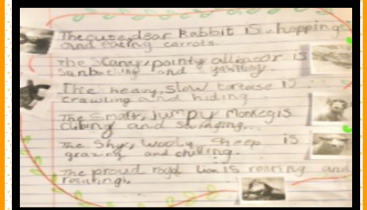
## Year R



This week the children in Reception have been learning about hot air balloons, the different parts and how they work, both in school and at home. We have had so much fun designing, labelling and making our own.

## Year 1

Year 1 have been developing their poetry writing skills in English this week. They have produced some wonderful animal poems, which they have enjoyed performing both at home and at school. Super poets!



## Year 2



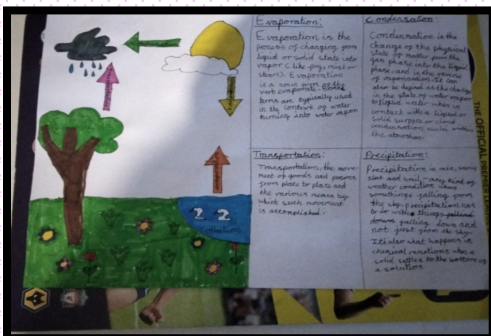
Year 2 have enjoyed learning all about the British royal family in our 'Around the World' topic, both in school and at home. In school, the children enjoyed learning about each member of the royal family and then created a shared family tree. Well done Year 2!

## Year 3



As part of our learning this week, Year 3 learnt about the artist Giuseppe Arcimboldo. In his work he used fruits, vegetables, animals, books, and other objects to resemble human portraits. The children at home collected items to create their own portraits.

## Year 4



This week, Year 4 took inspiration from Hokusai's 'The Great Wave off Kanagawa' to create their own versions of the famous work of art.

## INDIGENOUS CIVILISATIONS



## Year 5

Children in Year 5 researched the ancient Inca civilisation of Peru and presented their work beautifully both in school and at home.

## Year 6



This week, Year 6 have created some Northern Lights inspired artwork using watercolours. They used a variety of techniques and colours to create their skies and have produced some incredibly beautiful work. Well done Year 6!





# COVID-19 Keeping You Safe



If your child is attending school during lockdown:

Please email us immediately on [covid@manorpark.coventry.sch.uk](mailto: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.

## SNOW DAY AT MANOR PARK



# Every little helps

## If you need us, give us a call

We have a limited number of food parcels donated to us weekly by a Coventry charity called Langar Aid. If you feel you would benefit from one of these parcels please contact [d\\_perkins@manorpark.coventry.sch.uk](mailto:d_perkins@manorpark.coventry.sch.uk). You do not need to prove eligibility or be entitled to free school meals.

In addition to food parcels we are able to offer you stationery, books, paper and pens/pencils to help with your child's learning at home. A number of our families have been issued with laptops on loan to help their children access online learning, if you are struggling with a lack of/or unreliable devices please do contact [a\\_healy@manorpark.coventry.sch.uk](mailto:a_healy@manorpark.coventry.sch.uk).

Parents who need support navigating our online learning platforms can receive help and guidance from a link governor in school.

We are now sending vouchers electronically for families eligible for free school meals.

Our pastoral team are catching up with parents with weekly phone call check ins. You can also contact your teachers daily with any issues or concerns. Please do contact them if you need to on the school number or via seesaw.

Children's mental health week is taking place on 1-7 February 2021. This year's theme is 'Express Yourself'. The children will be discussing the very important topic of mental health in their learning next week. For more information on children's mental health week, please visit <https://www.childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk/>

As we all get to grips with a new way of learning through Teams and Seesaw, we are aware that there will inevitably be some technical issues. One of our governors, Steve Cooke, has very kindly offered to support families to enable remote learning to run smoothly. Steve will be available for live chats on Monday mornings and Wednesday afternoons and can be contacted either by emailing [technical@manorpark.coventry.sch.uk](mailto:technical@manorpark.coventry.sch.uk) or calling the school on 02476 501736. If you need immediate support at any other times, then please let us know and we will endeavour to help as quickly as possible. Please email all technical support queries to this email address, which will be monitored throughout the week, to allow teachers to continue with the teaching and learning.



# Pupil Premium

## Is your child missing out?

Your child could be missing out on free school meals and extra support. The covid-19 pandemic has hit families hard, with many sadly losing jobs and valuable income. There is no better time to check if your eligibility for free school meals and pupil premium has changed. Even if your child is currently in years Reception - year 2, and receives universal school meals, you should still apply. Applying is quick and simple, just ensure you have your national insurance number handy and click here: <https://www.coventry.gov.uk/applyforfreeschoolmeals>

Every successful claim is worth £1300 per year for our school, we use this funding to plan and support learning opportunities for our children. To claim pupil premium and free school meals you need to be in receipt of the following (if you are not sure you should apply anyway):

Income support

Jobseekers allowance (income based)

Child Tax Credit (not Working Tax Credit) with income less than £16,190

Guaranteed element of State Pension Credit

Employment and Support Allowance (income based)

Asylum Seekers Support

Universal Credit

Coventry City Council have temporarily extended free school meal eligibility to include some children of groups who have no recourse to public funds, with household income less than £7,400

Children of Zambrano carers

Children of families with no recourse to public funds with a right to remain in the UK on grounds of private and family life

Children of families receiving support under Section 17 of the Children Act 1989 who are subject to no recourse to public funds

Failed asylum seekers supported under Section 4 of the immigration and Asylum Act 1999.

**Pupil premium. Better for your child. Better for your school.**