

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



Manor Park  
Primary  
School

Newsletter  
22nd January  
2021

Dear Parents and Carers,  
Happy Friday!

I hope you are all keeping safe and well and that you have had a lovely week in these very strange times. We have a lot to remain optimistic about as the vaccine rollout continues to gain momentum. I hope that you are continuing to find pleasure in daily activities and are enjoying family time with your children.

Learning in school and at home continues to be really successful, with our live teaching developing well. I would like to acknowledge how hard the staff are working to ensure that every child receives the very best teaching and learning that they can possibly offer. I am very grateful to them for working round the clock to continually adjust their practice and work in new ways. I am sure that you will agree that we are so lucky to have them.

We are all so impressed with the success of live teaching on Teams and the efforts that children and parents are putting in at home. Almost every child is engaging in daily teaching and learning and the positive interaction between staff and their classes is a wonderful support to everyone. We are constantly evaluating and improving the model we have in place. The work of all leaders and classroom-based staff is entirely focused on this provision. As we continually add to the number of live teaching sessions on Teams, we are adjusting aspects of our remote learning. Please find attached a letter explaining these changes, which will take effect from Monday 25th January. Please refer to our remote learning policy on the website for further information.

We will be re-starting whole school assemblies this week, which will be streamed to classes on Wednesday afternoon at 3pm as part of our Manor Park University offer.

What a busy week we have had in school. Work has started on the final phase of the roof which the local authority is financially supporting us with. Once this phase of work is completed, the entire roof will have been replaced. We are extremely grateful to the local authority for their support in ensuring this essential work is completed, which will significantly extend the life of our school. Our SSO team are working hard developing the reception outdoor learning environment with exciting new additions, which will be ready for the children to explore on their return to school. Miss O'Sullivan, one of our admin staff will be leaving us on Friday to start an apprenticeship in accountancy. We will really miss her and thank her for her wonderful contributions to the school and the invaluable support that she has given to the office.

We have made the decision to postpone the parents' evenings which were due to take place on February 9th and 10th.

They are now scheduled for 18th and 19th May. We hope that this change of date will offer greater support to parents. Staff are continuing to make regular calls home to parents during the school closure, so please discuss anything with staff at these times if you would like to know how your child is performing.

Finally, due to the smaller number of children who are attending school, we are adjusting the opening times of the gates. From Monday the gates will open between 8.35am and 9am and between 3.15 pm and 3.30 pm. Families are able to drop children off and collect them at any point within this timeframe, to support your working pattern. Any children arriving after 9am will be classed as late and will need to enter school through the school office.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you need anything or we can help in any way at all. Have a wonderful weekend.

My very best wishes to everyone  
Jill O'Connor—Headteacher

# Spotlight on learning in school this week...

## Nursery



This week in Nursery we have been exploring cold environments. We have enjoyed learning all about polar bears and Arctic animals and even made our own polar bear using paint and sponges. We also had fun learning positional language and stuck penguins on, under, above and beside our igloos.

## EYEP

This week, we have been exploring the Arctic and we have made our own snow!



## Year R



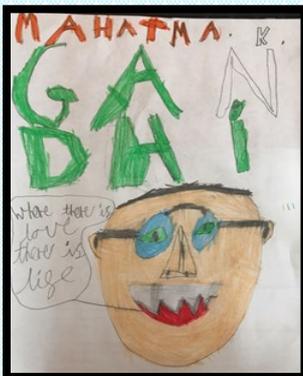
This week in Reception, our learning has been based around the story about the famous pilot, Amelia Earhart. We created story maps to help us remember the main events in the story. We have also enjoyed role-playing going into a travel agent to book a holiday!

## Year 1

Year 1 children have been learning all about birds in their exciting topic and have created some fantastic bird masks based on their observations. Super art work!



## Year 2



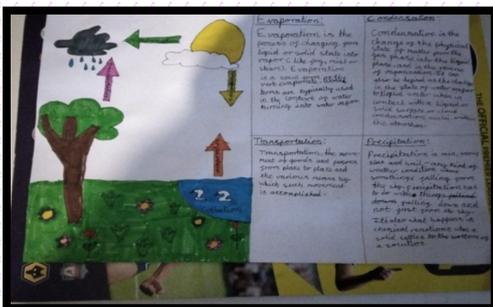
Year 2 are continuing to learn about India and have been researching the leader Mahatma Gandhi who helped the poor and believed in love and peace. Children learning at home produced some fantastic posters and they also found some inspiring quotes by Gandhi to share with us all.

## Year 3



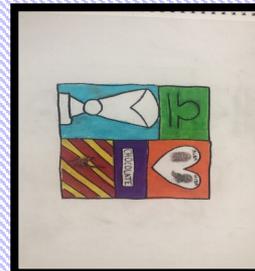
As part of our learning in English, we have been learning about poetry. The children took inspiration from Michael Rosen's 'Chocolate Cake' and attempted to perform it in the same style, as well as writing their own poem about their favourite food.

## Year 4



This week in their creative curriculum studies, Year 4 have been learning about the key parts of the water cycle - evaporation, condensation, precipitation and transportation.

This week, Year 5 looked at a South American artist, "Joaquin Torres Garcia," who created art based on symbols. We created a piece of art representing ourselves through symbols considering people, places or things that are important to us.



## Year 5

## Year 6



This week, both at home and in school, Year 6 have enjoyed completing several activities during Manor Park University. We have learnt many new skills: sign language, origami, learning the piano, baking, drawing and many more activities. Super work Year 6, we are so impressed with how hard you're continuing to work!



# 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.



DOES YOUR CHILD OR  
YOUNG PERSON HAVE  
SPECIAL NEEDS?  
HOW ARE YOU DOING?

Get in touch with us if you would like an invite to our Virtual Coffee Morning using Microsoft Teams App (we can help you with this). Meet other parents in a similar situation. Share with others in a friendly, non-judgemental environment, together with a member of staff from SENDIASS and Carers Trust Heart of England.

**VIDEO LINK**

**COFFEE MORNING**

THURSDAY 4<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2021  
(10:00AM -11:30AM)

To request an invite and for further information contact:  
SEND Information Advice and Support Service  
Tel: 024 7669 4307 or email: [iass@coventry.gov.uk](mailto:iass@coventry.gov.uk)



Dear Parents/Carers,

Thank you so much to all of our families for the overwhelmingly positive response to our launch of live teaching via Teams this week. The children have engaged well across the school and this way of teaching has enabled teachers to give the live input and feedback to support pupils' learning.

As with all new routines that we've had to adapt to in the past year, we are constantly evaluating practice to ensure it is best for everyone. Having listened to parental and staff feedback from the first week of Teams learning, we need to let you know about a few changes to the current practice to maximise learning and promote good wellbeing.

- Cameras can be switched on at the beginning of the lesson so the children can say hello. The teacher will record some lessons for those that cannot access them live. Teachers will let children know when these are being recorded and will then turn cameras off before recording. When a lesson is live but it involves discussion and child input, cameras can be on and this will not be recorded.
- Teachers will be available during lessons for live input and chat through Teams throughout the normal timetabled lesson times. Children can ask for help, or a teacher may ask a group of children to work in a small group via Teams with an adult. This reflects our usual in-class practice.
- Teachers will be looking at all work that is uploaded but we are having to reduce the amount of written feedback via Seesaw. Feedback will be given either on Seesaw or verbally during the live sessions. This feedback could be given as a whole class, groups or individually where needed.
- Families upload work at different times, and we understand that this is how people are working at the moment. However, if work is uploaded after the end of the usual school day, teachers may not view it or respond to comments until the following day.
- Four afternoons a week will have live or instructional teaching and interaction from the class teacher. Wednesday afternoons will be reserved for Manor Park University activities and staff will not be available for chat during this afternoon.
- To ensure children maintain a stamina for writing, longer pieces of writing at the end of unit of work will need to be handwritten. This can then be photographed and uploaded for the teacher. If any parents would like exercise books for the children to work in while at home, we will leave some in the main school entrance that you may come and collect.
- If children are engaging in online lessons, then they will not receive a weekly phone call home. Phone calls will be made where a pupil has not had any live contact with their teacher.

If you have any questions or feedback regarding remote learning then please contact Mrs Sanders at [deputy@manorpark.coventry.sch.uk](mailto:deputy@manorpark.coventry.sch.uk)

The children are all doing an amazing job in such difficult times. We are truly grateful for the support given to us by our families and hope that we can return to a 'normal' way of working in the not too distant future.

Sophie Sanders  
Deputy Headteacher