

4th March 2022



A message from our Headteacher: Jill O'Connor

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back after what I hope was a wonderful half term holiday. We have had a fantastic week in school with children and staff thoroughly enjoying our love of books and reading as we celebrated World Book Day on Thursday. Thank you for all your practical and financial support which ensured that this day was a remarkable success and memorable for the children. Do look at the Twitter feeds highlighting our school's participation in this great annual event.

Congratulations to Mr Kirby on the birth of his second son Joshua James, who made his entrance on February 23rd. Our best wishes are extended to Chris and his family at this incredibly special time.

You will be aware that there are new Covid guidelines which have been introduced as we gradually resume school routines which are far more in keeping with pre Covid times. Details of what this new guidance means for children are detailed below.

**Testing positive for Covid 19**

Those who test positive for Covid are no longer legally required to self-isolate, however if a person has any of the main symptoms of COVID-19 or a positive test result, the public health advice is to stay at home and avoid contact with other people. This also applies to children attending education and childcare settings. Staff and children who test positive will continue to be advised to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for at least 5 full days and then continue to follow the guidance until they have received 2 negative test results on consecutive days. We ask that parents continue to be vigilant for symptoms and access LFD testing should they wish to.

**Close Contacts**

Fully vaccinated close contacts and those aged under 18 are no longer required to test daily for 7 days and routine contact tracing will end. Children who are contacts should attend their education settings as usual. Children who usually attend an education or childcare setting and who live with someone who has COVID-19 should continue to attend the setting as normal. Where children are household contacts and continue to attend school, we would recommend regular LFD testing where possible and for children to stay at home until receipt of a negative result if they develop symptoms. Pupils can still access test kits by ordering online or through their local pharmacy.

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**Ukraine**

I am certain that you will agree that the situation in Ukraine is horrendous. Whilst we are geographically far away from the events, children in our school and community may have families or roots in the region and could be directly affected. The news and social media feeds are filled with the latest information, and some of it is very upsetting and worrying; and may not even be verified. Children listening and viewing distressing images can become frightened and fearful.

Here are some resources to help you think about how adults can support children with what they are seeing or feeling. Please read these links before sharing, to ensure that they are suitable for your child.

Supporting your child if they see upsetting content online about what is happening in Ukraine (Childnet)

<https://www.childnet.com/blog/supporting-your-child-with-upsetting-content/>

We should not hide from children what is happening in Ukraine (Schools Week/Children's Commissioner)

<https://schoolsworld.co.uk/we-should-not-hide-from-children-what-is-happening-in-ukraine/>

How to talk to children about what's happening in Ukraine and World War Three anxiety (Metro)

<https://metro.co.uk/2022/02/24/how-to-talk-to-children-about-whats-happening-in-ukraine-16163133/>

Help for teachers and families to talk to pupils about Russia's invasion of Ukraine and how to help them avoid misinformation (Department for Education)

<https://educationhub.blog.gov.uk/2022/02/25/help-for-teachers-and-families-to-talk-to-pupils-about-russias-invasion-of-ukraine-and-how-to-help-them-avoid-misinformation/>

How and when to talk to children about war, according to a parenting expert (Independent)

<https://www.independent.co.uk/life-style/children-war-talk-russia-ukraine-b2023695.html>

How to cope with traumatic news - an illustrated guide (ABC News, Australia)

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2014-12-23/illustrated-guide-cope-traumatic-news/5985104>

Talking with Children About War and Violence in the World (Family Education, US)

<https://www.familyeducation.com/life/wars/talking-children-about-war-violence-world>

Tips for parents and caregivers on media coverage of traumatic events (The National Child Traumatic Stress Network, US)

<https://www.nctsn.org/resources/tips-parents-and-caregivers-media-coverage-traumatic-events>

Have a wonderful weekend. Thank you for your continued support.

Kind regards Jill O'Connor Headteacher



### EYFS Phase: Nursery & Reception

Children and staff have had a wonderful return to school, with lots of fun learning and celebrations this week! The whole of Early Years has been buzzing with excitement, as we celebrated our favourite books and characters by dressing up and sharing lots of stories for children to join in with. Thank you for all your efforts in helping the children with their WBD costumes - they looked fabulous and really enjoyed our costume parade in the hall! It's been lovely to see children being very artistic in drawing and painting their favourite story characters. In response to reading 'The Smartest Giant in Town', Reception children have been busy creating their own concertina giants with split pins, which are impressive. Pancake making has also been another exciting event - the children thoroughly enjoyed their cookery this week and enjoyed the tasting part even more!

I have been teaching in Reception and Nursery this week and it has been a great pleasure to see how beautifully behaved the children are, using their manners and responding so positively to their learning. A super start to the new half-term, well done children!

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me on:

[s\\_jacoby@manorpark.coventry.sch.uk](mailto:s_jacoby@manorpark.coventry.sch.uk)

#### Learning in Nursery

The children in Wrens and Robins have settled back into nursery really well and have been enjoying our wonderful home corner.

This week the children have been celebrating Pancake day. We enjoyed hearing the story of Mr Wolf's Pancakes and sequenced the pictures from the story to retell it. We also topped and tasted some yummy pancakes! We have been roleplaying trains outside and even made our own tickets for the journey. The children looked fantastic on World Book Day and we enjoyed sharing both new and familiar stories together.

#### Learning in Reception

This week in Reception we have enjoyed exploring the outdoor environment making fairytale mud recipes for The Smartest Giant in Town.



### Lower Phase: Years 1, 2 & 3

We have had a brilliant first week back in the lower phase. On Thursday, we celebrated World Book Day and the costumes were absolutely incredible! Thank you for your hard work at home; lots of the costumes were extremely creative and original. The children spent the day reading, sharing stories, celebrating authors and completing creative projects based on their favourite characters. A great day was had by all the children and staff! Earlier in the week, Year 1 had a brilliant time getting messy with paper mache and created their own dinosaur eggs which they will design and paint next week. In Year 2, the children explored the school grounds for different plants and thought carefully about what plants need to thrive and why. The children in Year 3 learnt about carnivorous plants, such as the venus fly trap and cobra lily, and created some beautiful 3D posters to showcase their understanding of how these intriguing plants catch and digest insects.

As always if you have any questions or concerns, please contact me on:

[j\\_isherwood@manorpark.coventry.sch.uk](mailto:j_isherwood@manorpark.coventry.sch.uk)

#### Learning in Year 1

This week in art we have been making dinosaur eggs. We learnt about a technique called paper mache and we used this to cover our balloons.

#### Learning in Year 2

This week, the Year 2 children had their Mexican WOW day. We learnt where to find Mexico on a map and all about the different celebrations, including the Day of the Dead. We made our own Day of the Dead masks using oil pastels and created a self-portrait in the style of Frida Kahlo.

#### Learning in Year 3

This week, Year 3 have started our sponsored readathon, played 'The Masked Reader' and created book characters out of egg boxes!

## Upper Phase: Years 4, 5 & 6

Welcome back to school! I hope all of you have had a lovely half term with your family and friends. The children in the Upper Phase have come back to school with an abundance of enthusiasm towards their learning as always. It was wonderful to see so many fantastic World Book Day costumes this week ranging from Cruella to Matilda. The children enjoyed a fully day of reading activities to promote a love of reading including the masked reader, stories in a jar and story time rapping. Reading really is the most important part of learning as it opens up the imagination to a world of awe and wonder. It improves mental wellbeing and allows the children to access all parts of the curriculum. In school, we have a range of books for the children to enjoy and actively promote reading for pleasure on a daily basis. Please do continue to support your children with reading at home by listening and sharing books with them. We look forward to sharing all of the children's fantastic costumes with you on Seesaw and Twitter.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns then please contact me on:

[t\\_brown@manorpark.coventry.sch.uk](mailto:t_brown@manorpark.coventry.sch.uk)

### Learning in Year 4

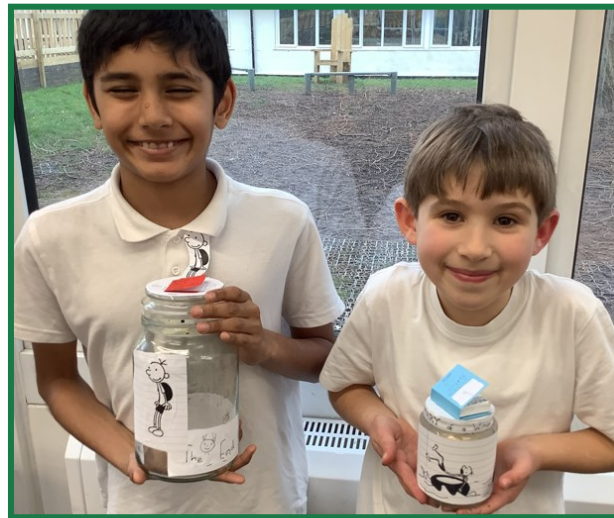
This week, Year 4 had an amazing day celebrating World Book Day. They especially enjoyed being creative and making their stories in a jar!

### Learning in Year 5

This week, Year 5 children have been enjoying Latin Music week! They have been looking at different Latin musical artists, types of instruments, styles/genres and the countries of origin. On Wednesday afternoon we met together as a year group for a Samba Drumming event led by Mr Ridgewell where they got to try some Samba rhythms on a range of percussion instruments.

### Learning in Year 6

This half term, Year 6's focus scientist is Carl Linnaeus. We have been learning about how important his work was, particularly in classification. We found out that he worked incredibly hard and his scientific process involved observing, recording information and making conclusions. We then produced some fantastic non-chronological reports based on his life and work. Well done, Year 6!





### Coventry Young Ambassadors

We are very proud of our Coventry Young Ambassadors who attended their training today. At the training, they learnt how to greet people proactively (considering how to say hello in different languages!), they discussed positive and negative body language and they thought about what to do in different situations such as dealing with a sick person or finding lost property. They are now eagerly awaiting their first event where they will put their new skills in to practice.



# S

*Self-sufficient*

# O

*Original*

# A

*Attitude*

# R

*Resilient*

### Nut Free School

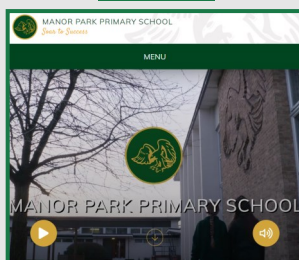
We have many children in our school that have nut allergies and even the smell of nuts can set off a reaction. Please can you ensure that your child does not bring any form of nut into school and please be aware that some chocolates and spreads also contain nuts.



### Social Media: School Website

Visit our website below:

[Website](#)



### Social Media: Twitter

View our Twitter for the latest updates and news below:

[Twitter](#)



Manor Park  
Primary School