

16th December 2022

Manor Park News



A message from our Headteacher: Jill O'Connor

Dear Parents and Carers,

Congratulations to our wonderful, newly formed choir, who have worked so hard together this term to celebrate their enjoyment of music and singing. Their hard work culminated in an opportunity to participate in a Christmas city music concert at the Central Methodist Church on Monday evening, along with children from many other schools. The event was a great success and was thoroughly enjoyed by all those children and parents who attended. Thank you to parents for encouraging and supporting their children in the choir. We are delighted to have a school choir to complement the wide range of musical opportunities that are on offer to all our children.

We had a great day on Tuesday during our Let's Investigate science days, with children across school engrossed in practical scientific investigations. Thank you to parents for supporting children with their outfits, which really contributed to the day. Some amazing scientific discoveries were made. Do check out the report in the newsletter to capture some of the fun and excitement of the day.

Children and staff really enjoyed a wide range of end of term Christmas events this week, including parties, the PTA movie night and a spectacular Christmas dinner on Thursday, which was also our Christmas jumper day. The Christmas lunch was very kindly donated by one of our families for all children who are not entitled to a free or universal school meal to enjoy. This was to ensure that no child missed out on this celebratory meal during these financially difficult times. On behalf of the whole school community, I would like to pass on our appreciation to the family for their very kind generosity. The meal was greatly enjoyed by everyone.

A big congratulations to the Engineers who are this half term's house winners. They were rewarded with a virtual reality sleigh ride and gingerbread men decoration session on Wednesday which they all loved.

This term has proved to be another very successful and enjoyable time, with tremendous learning and all children demonstrating our personal qualities as they SOAR to Success. I would like to pass on my appreciation to our wonderful children and staff who have worked so hard to make the term so successful. Thank you also to parents for all your support in all areas of school life, which we really appreciate.

Next term will be another action-packed exciting learning journey for all children. We will be starting our revised dining room experience with the

Dates for the term

Tuesday 3rd January

First day of Spring term

Tuesday 10th January

PTA Meeting 9.00am

Friday 13th January

Class 4 Assembly

Friday 13th January

Class 9 Assembly

Monday 16th January

Year 1 All Things Wild Trip

Wednesday 18th January

Year 4 Sealife Centre Trip

Thursday 26th January

Year 6 Polar explorer workshop

Friday 3rd February

Class 17 Assembly

Friday 3rd February

Class 20 Assembly

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introduction of two set dinner sittings and children seated with their friends at the same table each day.

Can we please make a request to parents that children no longer bring in pencil cases after the holiday. Children in Key Stage 2 are bringing in a lot of personal equipment which is causing a number of problems with things going missing. Children are provided with everything that they need in school so there is no need for them to bring any equipment into school. Thank you for your co operation in this matter.

We are today saying goodbye and good luck to Mrs Hill as she leaves us to start her maternity leave. We will of course let you know any baby news as we hear it. Our best wishes are extended to Mrs Hill and her husband at this very special time. Congratulations are also extended to Miss Earle who is getting married on New Years Eve and will return to school as Mrs Scott in the new year. We wish her a wonderful day.

Finally, all that is left for me to do is to wish you all a wonderful Christmas holiday spent with families and friends. I sincerely hope that Santa comes.....

Best wishes for a very happy and healthy new year. School will re-open on Tuesday January 3rd 2023 ready for an exciting new term. Please note that Monday 2nd January is a national bank holiday and school will be closed to all children and staff on this day.

Happy Christmas everyone. My best wishes to everyone.

Jill O'Connor Headteacher

S

Self-sufficient

O

Original

A

Attitude

R

Resilient



Manor Park
Primary School

Learning in Nursery

This week we have been carrying on our topic of Christmas. We loved making some reindeer food for Rudolph. We used our fine motor skills to spoon the oatmeal into the bags then sealed them and are keeping them safe until Christmas Eve!



Learning in Reception

For our 'Let's Investigate Day' we explored different ways of how to make pretend snow and then we discussed which we thought was the best.



Learning in Year 1

Year 1 had a great 'Let's Investigate' day as they explored the best materials to use for earmuffs. The children explored which material insulated a cup of water best and use them to make their earmuffs.



Learning in Year 2

This week in Year 2 we investigated which exercise would be best for Santa to keep him healthy! We tried 5 different exercises and looked to see which one raised our heart rates the most!



Learning in Year 3

For our Let's Investigate Day, Year 3 looked at different forces and experimented with different materials. First, we made chains out of different materials and tested them with weights to see which was the strongest. Then we investigated the theory of forces, actions and reactions. We used balloons, straws and wires (and our breath) to see which shape balloon travelled the furthest and the quickest along our test wire.

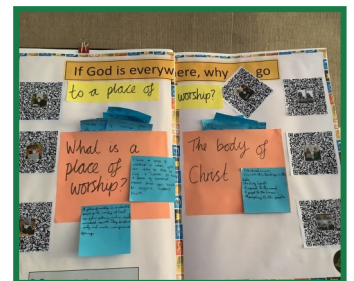


Learning in Year 4

This week Year 4 have been learning about Hinduism. We enjoyed learning about the festival of colour, 'Holi', and created a piece of artwork to represent how it is celebrated.

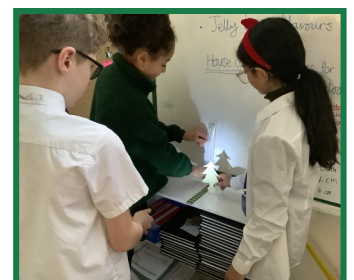
Learning in Year 5

For RE day, Year 5 learned about different places of worship for different religions. The children also compared and contrasted what it's like to pray at home and at a place of worship.



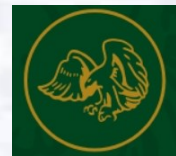
Learning in Year 6

In Year 6 this week we have covered a variety of subjects in our learning: asking questions about Buddhism and what it means to be a lay Buddhist and a Buddhist monk, exploring how shadows are created and how we can manipulate light using mirrors. We created our own puppets to retell the Christmas story through shadow puppetry which was a lot of fun!





Let's Investigate



Reception

For Reception's Let's Investigate Day we have been experimenting with different ingredients to create the best snow. We made our own predictions and then we carried out our experiment! We described the best kind of snow, talking about how it felt and smelt. We found that shaving foam and PVA glue worked the best closely followed by flour and shampoo. It was so much fun.



Year 1

Are you needing to keep your ears nice and toasty in this cold -7 degree weather? Well Y1 have been testing out different materials for which would make the best earmuffs.



Year 2

Are you wondering how Santa stays healthy up in the North Pole? Year 2 have been investigating the impact of different exercises on their heart rate and decided on the exercise that would be best for Santa to keep him fit and strong. They also looked at the amount of sugar and calories in different foods and drinks and designed a healthy plate of food for him to eat so he has plenty of energy to deliver all those presents!



Year 3

Wondering what Santa's sleighs reins should be made of? Not Year 3! They investigated the best paper for Santa by putting different weights on the end and measuring when they broke.



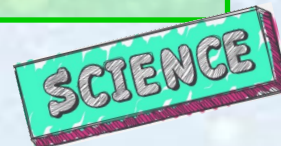
Year 5

We have been investigating the best surface to cause the least amount of friction for Santa's sleigh. The children tested different materials on ramps and compared the time it took their sleigh to get down it.



Year 4

For our 'Let's Investigate Day' Year 4 investigated what reaction occurred when candy canes were put into different liquids.



Year 6

We've had a fantastic and fun time applying all our learning about light from this term. We completed a range of tests changing the distance from the light source (the variable) to discover the best distance to create the most effective puppet shape.



Manor Park Choir

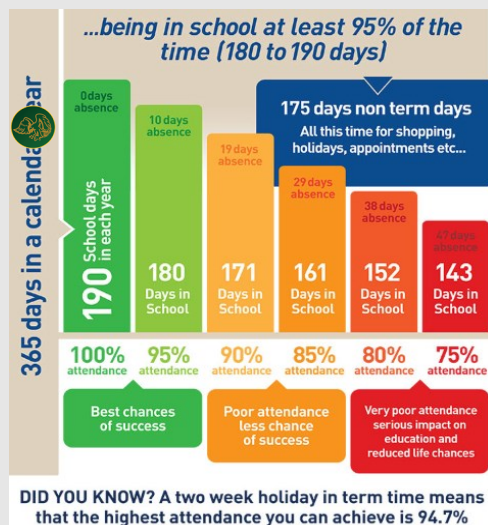
On Monday night our wonderful Manor Park choir gave a standout performance at Coventry Music's Christmas concert at the Central Methodist Hall. Well done to our fabulous singers for their confident contribution!



Attendance



Congratulations to **Class 3** who achieved **92.3%** attendance this week..



Pokémon Cards

Please can we remind all parents that Pokémon cards are not permitted in school. We have been dealing with increased incidents of disruption and upset amongst pupils regarding Pokémon Cards.

Thank you for your understanding.

Eco Council

The Eco Council would like to be a recycling centre for Christmas cards! Rudolph's Recycling will be during the first 2 weeks back in January; you will be able to bring your old Christmas (or any other cards you may have!) and ensure they are recycled properly.

There will be a box in the main office where children can take them.

We will stop collecting cards on Friday 13th January 2023

We look forward to helping you be able to recycle your cards!

The Eco Council



End of term update from the Governors

After an incredibly busy term the Christmas holidays are upon us already! Congratulations to all the children at Manor Park Primary School for their many achievements this term culminating in a series of wonderful shows and performances as part of the end of term activities.

As well as all the exciting activities shared in the weekly newsletters and on the school twitter feed of life in school the governors have been busy behind the scenes carrying out their monitoring roles throughout the term to ensure that the school is safe, adhering to the guidelines issued from the Department of Education and holding the senior leadership to account for their actions and decisions. As governors we have scrutinised and approved multiple policies and are proud of how the school has managed to balance the risks and continued to safely deliver the curriculum and provide the children with a range of exciting experiences.

After six years as Chair and eleven years on the Board Sarah Leigh has stepped down from her role, with Debs Ridgewell and Becky Carr being elected as new Co-Chairs of Governors. We also welcome two new co-opted Governors, Martin Vickery and Moe O'Sullivan both of whom bring a wealth of skills and experience to the school, plus Hayley Davison joins as staff governor. We thank Sarah for all her hard work during her time on the Governing Board.

We would like to say thank you to everyone including parents/carers, children and school staff who continue to support life at Manor Park Primary School to allow children to thrive in their learning.

On behalf of all the governors, we wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a happy and prosperous 2023.

Becky Carr and Debs Ridgewell
Co-Chairs of Governors

Ice Safety

Following the tragic situation in Solihull, can we please ask that you share the following communication with colleagues and parents:

Many aren't aware of the dangers of frozen water; it may look solid from the surface but will not hold your weight and could crack when stood on meaning that you become trapped under the ice. The Royal Life Saving Society UK has devised these safety tips about the dangers of frozen waters.



When water is frozen and the cold weather sets in these are a few safety tips to take note of:

1. Teach children not to go on to frozen lakes, ponds, canals and reservoirs under any circumstances. Children and pets are particularly at risk when tempted to play on the ice formed on open water during cold weather.
2. Pets should be kept on leads when near frozen water and owners should refrain from throwing objects onto ice for them to retrieve.
3. Bystanders should shout reassurance to casualties without endangering themselves. Make sure help is on the way by phoning the emergency services (call 999 or 112).
4. Do not walk or climb onto the ice to attempt a rescue and certainly don't get into the water, you may become the next casualty.
5. If someone can't climb out of the water, it is not advisable, as many people think, to move about in the water to keep warm while waiting for help. Instead they should conserve their energy by keeping as still as possible.

If you see someone fall through the ice:

1. Shout for assistance; get help also by phoning the emergency services (call 999 or 112).
 2. Do not walk or climb onto the ice to attempt a rescue.
 3. Shout to the casualty to 'keep still' and offer reassurance to keep them calm.
 4. Try and reach them from the bank using a rope, pole, tree branch, clothing tied together or anything else which can extend your reach.
 5. When reaching from the bank, lie down to avoid being pulled onto the ice - this spreads your weight more evenly.
 6. If you cannot reach them, slide something which floats, such as a plastic bottle or football, across the ice for them to hold onto to stay afloat whilst help is on the way.
- If the casualty is too far away, do not attempt to rescue them. Wait for the emergency services while calming and reassuring the casualty.