



MANBY LODGE INFANT SCHOOL

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HEADTEACHER: MISS M. MORRIS

Headteacher Newsletter – 2020-21 - Number TWENTY-SEVEN – Monday 19th July 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

This will be my last Newsletter of a very up and down year. It has been filled with challenges but also real success stories. I am so proud of the Year 2 children who will be leaving us on Wednesday. Despite two years' worth of real disruption to their learning, they have excelled. They demonstrate that they are ready for the next stage of their learning journey in many ways. While it makes us sad to say goodbye to each child, we are also extremely impressed by the independent, focused learners they have become. We know that for those of them with siblings we may still get to see them and we look forward to hearing about them settling into Year 3 and about the successes they will experience in Year 3 and beyond.

Thank you so much for all the support given from our Manby Lodge parents. Manby Lodge children are very special, but they are also lucky to have such supportive families. As a result of your support and us working together, our children achieve extremely well and are ready for the next stage of their education, be it at the end of Year R, or Year 2.

I am very sorry that we have had to direct Year R to isolate. We really hoped that it wouldn't happen. Thank you for taking on remote learning again, particularly at this point in the term! We all look forward to a better school year for all year groups from September 2021.

*****Simon Tarr, our Chair of Governors has added his own message to the end of this Newsletter – please don't miss it.*****

Covid reminder

The DfE guidance for how schools operate is applicable until 4th September. We do not yet know what the guidance will be, but we are likely to be able to share it with you in September.

Staggered drop-off / Pick up

We have decided to keep our staggered drop-off and pick-up times, although we have made the gap between time slots, slightly shorter. These timings will be in place from the start of the Autumn term and we will review it at the end of Autumn 1. We agree that the staggered timings support easier parking for parents who have to use a car.

We looked carefully to see if more classes had 'sibling links' across the school and we prioritised making sure that drop off and pick up works for as many of our families as possible. Timings for September 2021 will be as follows.

8.45am	Duckling	Hedgehog	Lion	Pick-up at 2.55pm
8.50am	Cygnets	Squirrel	Tiger	Pick up at 3.00pm
8.55am	Gosling	Fox	Leopard	Pick up at 3.05pm

Please contact us via the school office if you anticipate any problems with drop-off or pick-up. Thank you.

Summer Reading Challenge

We sent a link last week, but I want to encourage you to sign your child(ren) up to the Summer Reading Challenge. The Summer Reading Challenge 2021 theme is Wild World Heroes and has been developed in partnership with **WWF UK**, the world's leading independent conservation organisation and this year's Challenge will be a celebration of reading, nature and action for the environment.



The Summer Reading Challenge encourages children aged 4 to 11 to set themselves a reading challenge to help prevent the Summer reading 'dip'. Each year the Challenge, presented by **The Reading Agency** and delivered by libraries, motivates children to keep reading to build their skills and confidence. Children have to be a **library member** to take part, but participation is completely free, and they can collect special stickers and rewards along the way. The aim is to read up to six books, and children can read whatever they like from Surrey Libraries' excellent range, including eBooks and eAudiobooks.

Reading Competition

This week the winning class, with the highest %age, is **Leopard Class with 53%.**
Well done Leopard Class!



This means that the winning class this half term is **Leopard Class** whose rocket is in the lead. We have altered the prize slightly this half term, to reflect that Leopards will be leaving us on Wednesday. Each Leopard child will leave us with a brand new book to take home and enjoy.



Shine Assembly

We had to extend the length of our assembly today as there were so many children who we shared successes for. I'm delighted to share that Mrs Saffer gave out a total of **33 certificates!** Children in Year 1 & 2 listened avidly about what other children have achieved out of school, from swimming, gymnastics, ballet and football achievements, to learning to tie their own shoe laces, to being ready for the big move to Year 3, to collecting Brownie badges... to playing Peter Pan! One of our Year 1 children even took part in the Lancaster Challenge for the RAF Museum, cycling 150km over 4 months! It was wonderful today to hear about what our children achieve outside of school as we get to learn about our children's interests and skills and talents!

Crisp packet donations

Miss Blackburn has counted up the crisp packet donations. The grand total of **1346 crisp packets** will be sent off to make survival blankets for vulnerable homeless people.

Because it takes approx. 150 crisp packets to make one blanket, we will have provided enough crisp packets to make approx. **9 blankets.** Thank you for donating to this worthwhile project and for getting through all of those crisps!



York University Research

Thank you to the parents of Reception children who took part in the research project with York University and the Education Endowment Foundation, who were looking into the impact of the Covid-19 Pandemic on Year R children. Education has historically not been an industry which bases practice on research and evidence. Because we have been involved in this study, we will potentially help children to be supported in other schools, nationally, in future.



Thank you Class Reps and FOML

Thank you to Class Reps for sharing information from school, attending meetings and being your 'parent voice' and acting as a general go between school and parents. We really appreciate your input.

And to the wonderful FOML who have continued to plan and work to fundraise and to provide fun and exciting activities for our children another **huge Thank You!**

To Charlotte Dury & Emily McCormick who will both have children in Year 2 next year, and to Elaine Henderson, (who has been a part of the FOML for longer than I have been here as Headteacher, and whose son will leave Year 2 on Wednesday) - **We are so grateful for your efforts!**

The raffle has been a resounding success and 2,138 tickets were sold. I'm delighted to announce a profit of £1,924.

We look forward to the PTA General Meeting that we hold in September every year where key PTA roles will be agreed and where we will discuss money raised and how it has been spent.

Message from Simon Tarr – Chair of Governors

Dear All

What another surreal year it has been – I have to admit that this time last year I did not think we would still be facing such challenges to our normal life twelve months on.

What doesn't surprise me though is how in these challenging times the Manby Lodge Community has come together and continued to put the interest of all our children first.

Following on from Miss Morris's note may I also say a huge thank you to you all for your continued support – I know it means everything to Miriam and her team.

Throughout this year Miss Morris and her team have faced numerous challenges but at all times their priority has been to ensure the children are safe and that their school experience is as normal as possible. I acknowledge this has not always been easy and at times she has had to make hard decisions - reflecting the abnormal times we are facing. I and my fellow Governors are very proud of what Miss Morris and her team have achieved and I am sure you will all join me in thanking and congratulating them on the amazing job that they have done.

Sending best wishes to all Year 2 parents – I am sorry that your children's experience hasn't been quite what you would have expected but I hope you feel that they are well placed 'to be the best they can' as they start their exciting journey at Junior School.

Finally, to all our Reception and Year 1 parents, here's hoping that next year will be somewhere closer to normality and I look forward to meeting you all, both at the School and at Friends of Manby events.

Here's wishing you all a very happy and safe summer holiday.

Best regards
Simon Tarr

Have a super Summer Holiday everyone, and stay safe.

We look forward to September 2021 and seeing everyone back in school for the Autumn term, and welcoming our new Year R cohort!

Kind regards, *Miriam Morris*

