



MANBY LODGE INFANT SCHOOL

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HEADTEACHER: MISS M. MORRIS

Headteacher Newsletter – 2023 – 2024 - Number NINE - Friday 12th January 2024

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome back to the new school year. I hope that you all had a really good Christmas holiday. The children have come back well and seem settled. We've seen that they are used to school routines and are ready for learning and we're impressed with their attitudes.

There's a lot for me to share in this Newsletter, but it is all important – please read to the end!

Pupil Premium

With this newsletter we have sent out the Free School Meals and Pupil Premium Eligibility Form. We ask parents to please complete this form and return it to the school office to see if your child qualifies, so that our school can collect Pupil Premium Funding for them. Thank you.

Facing financial difficulties

We are working closely with [Weybridge Land Charity](#), who are keen to be able to offer help to any families who may be facing pressures, financially.



We are aware that this is personal information and would like to reassure you that if you do need support that you can contact us. You could speak directly to me or to Karen Saffer.

Weybridge Charity are working with the [Fuel Bank Foundation](#) to support families. **The fuel Bank Foundation specifically supports families who use a pre-payment meter.**

If you have any questions about how the Fuel Bank Foundation may be able to support you directly, please contact us via the school office.

All information shared with either one of us will be kept in the strictest confidence.



Parent Voice Meeting

Class Reps are invited to attend this term's Class Rep Meeting where we will discuss our new Behaviour Policy, as well as have a section designated for parents to ask the usual questions.

The date and time for the Class Rep Meeting is Thursday 25th January, 9.10am. We will send out an invitation to class reps as well.

If parents have something specific that they would like us to discuss at a future meeting, please make your views clear to your Class Rep. Thank you in advance.

Behaviour Policy (Proud Posts!)

We have finalised our Behaviour Policy and share it with you along with this Newsletter. Please take the time to read it. As a formality it will be approved by Governors at our next Children and Learning Committee meeting, but we are pleased with the way that we believe it will work. Staff have had the opportunity to feed into it, to ensure that they can use it operationally.

At the start of term, Mrs Saffer held an Assembly for Years 1 & 2 and talked about the removal of the Rainbow System. Classes had gently phased Rainbows out in the Autumn Term, but at the start of this term, we took down the rainbows and these are no longer used.

We asked the children if they knew when they had done the right thing in school and children could tell us. More information about exactly what we will do to manage behaviour in school is in the Policy – please read it.

We would like to talk through aspects of the Policy with Class Reps at our Parent Voice Meeting later this month. We think that it is comprehensive and that you won't have many questions, but it will be interesting to hear if parents will need any support backing up this policy, with children, were the need to arise.

Proud Posts

Last week for the first time on Friday, 3 children in each class were selected by their teacher for demonstrating one of the key 'behaviours' we expect to see in school (**Safe, Ready, Respectful**)

In Year R these children were given their 'Proud Post' in class. In Years 1 and 2 I gave out the Proud Posts in Assembly.



The children who received a Proud Post were all happy and understood why they had been chosen. If your child was chosen, I hope that you are also proud. Please ask your child to talk to you about other children chosen and how they too can be selected to receive a Proud Post. Three children from each class are selected each week, so we anticipate that each child will receive two or even three Proud Posts by the end of this academic year.

Adverse weather (Snow causing school closures)

It has not happened recently, but I thought that it would be worth highlighting our Adverse Weather Policy, available on our school website: [LINK to School Policy](#)



Key Dates

Please find attached Key dates for the rest of this term, and the Summer Term. They will also be available on the [Calendar](#) page on the website.

Parent Survey

Thank you so much for completing our Parent Survey in the Autumn Term. We will be analysing your responses as a Senior Leadership Team and I will be able to share the results with you very soon.



How do we support children's well-being and emotional needs?

1. PSHE Lessons and Circle Time

Apart from our weekly PSHE (Personal Social Health Education) sessions, teachers sometimes hold an additional Circle time if there is anything happening in class that means a response is appropriate. Circle Time is when the children sit in a circle and discuss a topic led by the Teacher. It is a good opportunity for children to share how they are feeling and listen to one another and understand different points of view from their own.

We follow the Jigsaw Scheme for our PSHE Sessions across the whole school. This link will take you to the Jigsaw PHSE Curriculum: <https://jigsawpshe.com/primary-pshe-england>

2. Emotional Literacy Support Assistant (ELSA)

We have two ELSAs that staff can make a referral to if your child needs to speak to one of them. You can find lots of information about our ELSA on our school website by following this [link](#).

Sometimes the teacher will suggest to parents if they feel an ELSA referral will help your child. Parents are also able to request a referral if they think that it will help their child, please speak to your child's class teacher in the first instance.

3. Zones of Regulation (ZOR)

We also use **ZOR** in every class. **ZOR** is a system designed to empower children to better understand how they are feeling.

Emotions or feelings are linked to a colour. For example – *Green* means contented, or happy – and (importantly!) ready to learn. Frustration or worry, or jealousy are *Yellow* emotions. *Blue* emotions are bored, or tired, sad, or hungry. *Red* is linked to being over-excited, or angry.

There is a display to show these colours and the linked emotions in all classes. From Year 1 upwards, children can move a photograph of themselves to a corresponding colour on a display in the classroom.

There is also a '**Toolbox**' of strategies children are taught to help them to get back into the Green Zone, if they are in one of the other zones.

Why don't you ask your children how the Zones of Regulation helps them in school?

4. Calm Down Area/Corner

Each class has a calming down area. For some children this might happen first thing in the morning, or after break time or lunchtime. Children can then return to their own table, or area to work once they are feeling better.

5. Worry Monster

In the Calm Down Area, each class has a Worry Monster, or similar mechanism so that children can post their worries or concerns. Children can put their worries into the Worry Monster or Box and know that an adult will check it regularly and speak to the child about the worry they have written about. Children tend to use this more regularly in Year 2.

6. Skilled staff

Most importantly, our staff are skilled at identifying and supporting children who present as unhappy, for whatever reason in school.

School Lunch information

In England all children are entitled to a free school dinner until the end of Year 2. Our school caterers are Twelve Fifteen and our School Lunch Menu changes twice annually. The menu operates on a 3-weekly cycle. Currently, children have a starter three times a week, and a dessert twice a week. Desserts on our Autumn/Winter menu include flapjacks, a chocolate cookie and apple sponge with custard.

I hope you will be pleased to hear that food contains hidden fruit and vegetables. For example:

- pizza bases contain hidden vegetables (carrot & courgette)
- flapjacks contain grated carrot and dried fruit which allows them to reduce refined sugar content and
- They use cocoa not chocolate which contains iron and other beneficial nutrients

We don't tell the children about all these hidden vegetables and fruit. I am sharing it with you now, so that you can decide if you want to tell your child or not. We hope that by sharing this with parents, it won't put children off their school lunches!

If your child has a Packed Lunch, then you may find our guide to Packed Lunches helpful, which you can also find on our [School Lunches page](#).

I hope that you all have a good weekend.

Kind regards,

Miriam Morris

