



Mansel Messenger

Perseverance ~ Determination ~ Positivity ~ Resilience

Mansel Park Primary School, Culver Close, Southampton. SO16 9HZ

January 2024

Dear Families,

Welcome to my first Newsletter of 2024! I do hope that you all had a wonderful Christmas and New Year. The staff and children have returned to school eager and excited for the new year.

Local Community: School traffic update

As you may be aware, two children from our school community were involved in a car accident on the crossing on Mansel Road West. This was a traumatic event for those involved and upsetting for those who witnessed it.

Staff as well as other members of our school community acted swiftly to support the girls and ensured that they were watched over until the emergency services arrived.

We have had an overwhelming volume of calls asking for updates since Thursday and thankfully both are doing well and are back in school after a restful weekend.

All teachers were briefed on Friday about the incident and sensitively addressed this with their classes through a road safety discussion.

This event has made us as a school community reflect on three key things:

- We **urgently** need a safe Zebra or Pelican Crossing at this point to support both our school and our Partnership School Holy Family. This would protect over 800 children and their families.
- The roads around school are busy and often overloaded with traffic. If you can walk to and from school, please walk.
- The community which we serve is wonderful! We are very proud of the parents and staff who acted so quickly to the incident. We thank you all for thinking of those in need and keeping our children at the centre.

Luckily, there was no fatality this time. The driver was driving slowly and the children were lucky to escape with a visit to hospital. Both children and driver were seriously affected by this event. It is very clear that a Pedestrian / Zebra Crossing is essential to protect our families from Mansel Park and Holy Family, as this incident could have been much worse.

Please support us in our mission to get a safe Zebra crossing for both of our schools and protect over 800 children by emailing your concerns and support for a crossing to your local councillors:

Alan Whitehead – MP for Southampton Test - whiteheada@parliament.uk

Councillor Christian Cox - Councillor.C.Cox@southampton.gov.uk

Councillor Steven Galton - Councillor.S.Galton@southampton.gov.uk

Councillor Jeremy Moulton - Councillor.J.Moulton@southampton.gov.uk

Councillor Sally Goodfellow - Councillor.s.goodfellow@southampton.gov.uk



Year 6 Residential to Skern Lodge

Year 6 are becoming very excited about the residential to Skern Lodge in July. Many parents are paying in regular instalments and I would like to thank you for ensuring these are up to date. Full payment needs to be made by 30th March 2024 as Skern requires payment at this time.



Bikeability

Year 5 and 6 took part in bikeability from January 2nd to 5th. We hope that this was an educational and fun experience for the children. It is so important that children are staying safe when riding their bikes, especially when there are busy roads around. We were very impressed by how much the children's confidence grew throughout each session! Well done to the children who took part!

Coffee Morning



Thank you to all of you who have attended our coffee mornings. We are really looking forward to seeing you on the next one - Thursday, 1st February 24. We hope this will be another way to drop in and have an informal chat and cup of coffee or tea with a member of the senior team.



May we also remind you that we will be putting out some pre-loved uniform, cleaned and in good condition, free of charge. Any uniform donations are also welcomed. Thank you for your continued support.

Year 1 "Tall Trees Trail"

The Year 1 children have been learning about The Gruffalo this January so on Tuesday 30th, Wednesday 31st and Friday 2nd they went on an exciting trip to The New Forest to explore nature first-hand! The children visited the "Tall Trees Trail" in Brockenhurst. This was an amazing opportunity for the children to see the towering firs and redwoods - some of the tallest trees in the New Forest! Thankfully, we didn't see any Gruffalos along the way!



Curriculum and Enrichment

Nursery

In nursery this month we have been welcoming more new friends. It has been lovely watching the current children show their kind and caring manners 'nursery love' towards our new friends. We really are one big happy and loving nursery family. Please say a warm welcome to our new friends and their parents if you see them at the beginning or end of the nursery day.

We have been exploring winter this month and the story 'the three little pigs'. It has been the perfect weather to really help us explore and engage in hands-on experiences with the recent freezing temperatures, we even experienced a little snow! Our 3 and 4 year old friends loved exploring the pretend snow and creating snowmen using the fine motor skills in the playdough. Our 2 year old friends have also been looking at winter too and have explored ice paint, arctic scenes, cold water,

pretend snow and a selection of winter books as well as many more activities. Our 3 and 4 year old friends have absolutely loved exploring the traditional tale 'the three little pigs'. We have been practising our best 'big bad wolf' voices and 'little pig' voices when exploring the story with Sam.

The practitioners at nursery are continuing to support the children with developing their self-care and independence. The nursery practitioners are promoting the 'whoosh and swoosh' method when putting on a coat. Please ask a member of the nursery team to show you how to use this method at home.

Nursery have a growing collection of unlabelled clothing, **please** label your child's clothing so we can safely get them back to you. If you have lost an item of clothing please ask a nursery practitioner to look through the lost property with you.

Year R

In Year R this month we have been learning all about Chinese New Year! We have learnt about The Great Race and how to get ready for Chinese New Year. This has led to some fantastic exploring of our Chinese New Year home corner. The children have been practising cleaning for the new year, wearing lucky red clothes and cooking some delicious food. We have also been making cross-curricular links by focussing on ordinal numbers in maths and writing captions about Chinese New Year.

This month we have also introduced our new home reading planet challenge and we are so excited to be giving out our first home reading certificates very soon!

Year 1

This term we have been learning about The Gruffalo. Over the weekend, a mysterious creature had entered our library and caused mischief! It had stolen our books, made a mess and eaten our snack. However, the creature left some clues such as purple prickles, poisonous warts and knobbly knees. Using our inference skills, we concluded that it was The Gruffalo that came to school. We then learnt about the features of a Wanted Poster and wrote our posters to warn the members of MPPS.

In Maths we are learning about the numbers 10-20. We have been representing them, adding within 20 and now subtracting. We are becoming very confident now when facing mathematical problems within 20.

In Geography we have been learning about Kenya, we found out its a country in Kenya. We have been learning about the climate in Kenya, life in the Masai tribe and also life in Nairobi. It was very interesting to see the similarities and differences!

Year 2

This half term, our little explorers have been immersed in learning about St Lucia. They were very excited when they were given tickets and travelled there by aeroplane. They learnt all about the physical features in St Lucia such as volcanoes, rainforests and sandy beaches. The children thought about how it was different to Southampton.

In writing, our Year 2 students have let their imaginations run wild when writing a suspense story about Moz the monster. Each child has created a character and a spooky setting. We have learnt lots of tools along the way to build tension such as short sentences, rhetorical questions and sound effects.

The stories are amazing and they cannot wait to share them.

In maths, our young mathematicians have been introduced to multiplication and division. They have learnt many methods to solve these problems such as arrays, grouping and sharing. They have been applying their understanding of multiplication in deep and advancing tasks where they were challenged.

Year 3

So far this half term, Year 3 have become historians, scientists and poets!

In History, we teleported back in time to Ancient Egypt and discovered a tomb. A tomb full of unique artefacts which raised many questions about whose tomb it may have been. We entered the tomb, guided only by torchlight, but we couldn't stay in there for long because poisonous gases had built up over the years. We used our investigative skills to explore the artefacts inside and make inferences about their uses. This included inferring that the tomb must have belonged to the great King Tutankhamun!

We truly have gained a lot of knowledge this half term as alongside building our knowledge of Egypt, we have established a deep understanding of refugees and the traumatic journey that they endeavour. Using this knowledge, we were able to understand their lives and show empathy towards them. We have created a variety of active and descriptive poems to convey an emotive message which relates to this.

Year 4

This half term year 4 have been taking us on an adventurous journey in their writing. They have fully immersed themselves into an unknown character, and adventurous setting, with a clear focus to scare our reader! They have been using figurative language to create a spooky setting with the focus on Dragular Whitby. The children have loved having such a creative topic this term!

In addition to this, the children have been involved in an incredibly exciting history topic being The Vikings! The children have been analysing sources to find out information about this Age! There has also been a focus upon King Alfred being a key historical figure during this time in history! The children have been becoming experts in Longships and are able to label and define each part! Therefore the children have a good understanding of the impact the Vikings had on the rest of the world!

The children have been using their multiplicative knowledge to explore our new topic being Perimeter! The children have loved using shapes and visual representations in their maths lessons, and this is shown through their incredible progress!

Well done year 4 for another incredible half term!

Year 5

In writing this term, Year 5 have been exploring the rugged, beautiful and dangerous wilderness of Alaska. They have immersed themselves in the topic, imagining themselves soaring through the air in a small aircraft, or traversing the USA's largest state on foot, overcoming myriad obstacles along the way. They have written some excellent recounts, and are currently writing their own survival stories based on Bear Grylls' "The Way of the Wolf".

In Maths, Year 5 have learned about division and have made excellent progress with this, applying their expertise to a range of challenging question types. They have now moved on to learning all about fractions, and have solved questions to do with finding equivalent fractions.

As historians, year 5 have been learning about life for children in the Victorian era, and have been comparing this to their own lived experiences, finding some similarities and many differences! They particularly enjoyed seeing photos of Southampton from this time period, and were able to recognise some still-visible locations and landmarks.

Well done Year 5!

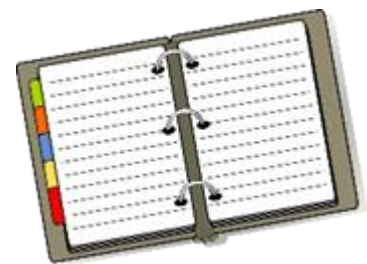
Year 6

Year 6 have been working hard on their Macbeth narratives. They have been immersed in the play of Macbeth and have written some engaging pieces about 'The witches on the heath'. The second half of the year group have visited Into-University and have completed their STEM week. The whole year group visited Winchester Science museum and they all represented themselves and the school impeccably. In maths, the children have been learning about the relationships between fractions, decimals and percentages and now focusing on area and perimeter. The children have also been preparing for their SATS exams by attending booster sessions for maths and reading. They are all working incredibly hard and we are very proud of them all.

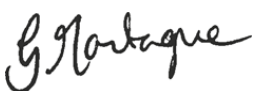
IntoUniversity 

Dates for your Diary

- Thursday 1st February - Coffee Morning
- Tuesday, 6th February - Year 3 & 4 Poetry Performance
- Wednesday, 7th January - Year 5 & 6 Poetry Performance
- Friday, 2nd February - Year 5 Fire Safety Workshop
- Monday 12th February - Friday 16th February - Half term
- Thursday, 22nd February - World Thinking Day
- Thursday, 7th March - World Book Day
- Monday, 11th March - Wednesday, 21st March - Incredible Eggs
- Friday, 24th May - Where's Wally Fun Run (information to follow)
- Wednesday, 11th June - Scholastic Summer Book Fair
- Monday 8th - Friday 12th July - Skern Lodge Residential - Year 6.



Kind regards,



Gerida Montague