

# Mansel Park Primary & Nursery School



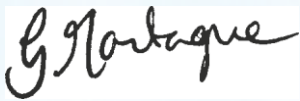
**Newsletter:  
February 2024**

# Mansel Park Primary & Nursery School

## Newsletter: February 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been a very busy half term and Spring is on the way with daylight increasing each day - keep an eye out for flowers starting to bloom around our school grounds! There are some special events coming up such as our 'Incredible Eggs' in Year 2 as well as World Book Day which will take place Thursday, 7th March and the children and staff will be dressing up as their favourite book character! We are also excited to continue welcoming you all to our in school workshops and coffee mornings.



Gerida Montague  
Executive Headteacher

### Dates for your Diary:

- Monday 4<sup>th</sup> March – Active travel assembly: The big walk & wheel initiative
- Thursday, 7<sup>th</sup> March - Coffee Morning
- Thursday, 7<sup>th</sup> March - World Book Day
- Monday, 11<sup>th</sup> March - Wednesday, 21<sup>st</sup> March - Year 2 Incredible Eggs
- Monday 11<sup>th</sup> March – Year 2 – Pip & Pap phonics workshop
- Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> March – Year R – Pip & Pap phonics workshop
- Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2024 – Y1 – Y6 Children's Reports out to parents.
- Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March – Year 2 – Pip & Pap phonics workshop
- Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March – Southampton School Cross Country competition
- Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> March – INSET day
- Week commencing 25<sup>th</sup> March – Parents' evenings
- Friday 29<sup>th</sup> March – Bank Holiday – School closed
- Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April – Start of the Summer Term
- Friday 19<sup>th</sup> April – Year 2 – Marwell Zoo trip
- Monday 13<sup>th</sup> May – Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> May – Year 6 SATS
- Friday, 24<sup>th</sup> May - Where's Wally Fun Run (information to follow)
- Wednesday, 11<sup>th</sup> June - Scholastic Summer Book Fair
- Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> June – Friday 7<sup>th</sup> June Year 4 Multiplication Tables Check
- Monday 10<sup>th</sup> June – Friday 14<sup>th</sup> June – Year 1 Phonics Screening Check
- Monday 8<sup>th</sup> - Friday 12<sup>th</sup> July - Skern Lodge Residential - Year 6.



# Curriculum Enrichment at Mansel Park



## Year R Gingerbread Men Baking



Last week Year R had the exciting opportunity of baking Gingerbread Men. Before we could bake we learnt about how to stay safe when we cook, especially thinking about washing our hands. We used our maths knowledge to help us measure out the ingredients, and used our muscles to stir the mixture. We each had a ball of dough and we used a rolling pin and cutter to make our gingerbread men. Our favourite part of the process was decorating our gingerbread men with icing and raisins!



## Year R Teddy Bear Hospital

Year R has been very busy this half term and have also had a visit from Teddy Bear Hospital. This is a friendly, fun and diverse society whose aim is to educate children and alleviate their fears of going to the doctors.

## Fire & Rescue Service Visit - Year 5

On Friday 2nd, February, Year 5 were visited by the Hampshire & Isle of Wight Fire & Rescue Service for a fire safety workshop. We had lots of fun learning about fire risks and how these can be reduced, the main causes of fire in the home, how to spot hazards, and much more to ensure we are keeping safe in our homes!

Remember: **STOP, DROP AND ROLL!**



## World Thinking Day Girl Guides & Scouts



On Thursday, 22nd February our children and staff celebrated "Thinking Day" with Girl Guides and Girl Scouts all around the world - there are over 10 million girls and women in the organisation across 156 countries!

We would like to thank those who wore their uniform into school, this was a lovely way to showcase their commitment and dedication towards the international movement.





February 2024

Year R

Dillon, Nyaya, Sonny, Jadon, Ubaid

Year 1

Reggie W, Lacey G, Emily, Jason, Joseph, Louie

Year 2

Junior, Isabella, Jaden, Ronnie, Skyla

Year 3

Darlia, Domas, Charlie, Lexi, Alex, Caitlin, Lola

Year 4

Jesse-Lee, Chloe G, Evie, Violet, Daisy, Joey, Coralie

Year 5

Lorelei, Hans

Year 6

Parsa, Chloe, Jana, Colby, Jasmine, Jocie, Willow,  
Harley



# Postcard Heroes February



## Nursery

Jude L, Coby W

## Year R

Sonny, Hunter

## Year 1

Ava, Daniels

## Year 2

Freya

## Year 3

Aiden, Elsie

## Year 4

Leo, Evie, Skylar I, Tyree, Bobby

## Year 5

Dolly, Mabel

## Year 6

Elif, Cienna-Mae, Dylan, Evie, Jaiden, Junior,  
Ella-Rose, Bonnie, Darci

Congratulations



# ECO Updates

Continuing with our latest progress report, the enthusiastic participation of children within their respective houses has resulted in an abundance of crisp packets being brought in for our eco-friendly initiative. The response has been overwhelming, highlighting the collective commitment of our school community towards making a positive impact.

Our dedicated eco team is currently working tirelessly to process and prepare these crisp packets for their next phase, ensuring that they are transformed into insulated sleeping bags for the homeless. This intricate process involves thorough cleaning, meticulous sorting, and creative repurposing, showcasing the eco team's passion for both environmental sustainability and addressing homelessness.

The collaborative effort between the children and the eco team not only reflects our school's commitment to social responsibility but also underscores the power of community engagement. Beyond just collecting materials, this initiative is fostering a sense of unity, purpose, and environmental consciousness among our students.

As we embark on this journey, we extend our heartfelt appreciation to everyone involved in bringing crisp packets to school and contributing to this meaningful cause. Your dedication is instrumental in creating a positive impact on both the environment and the lives of those in need.

Stay tuned for further updates on the transformation process, and let's continue to work together towards a more sustainable and compassionate future.



# House Competitions Update for Spring 2



Welcome back! We hope you're as enthusiastic as we are to kick off another excellent term of House Competitions. The excitement that our children have around these events is what makes them memorable and enjoyable. As always, our competitions are divided into three exciting categories: Knowledge, Charity, and Sports. Let's dive into the details of what each competition has in store for you.



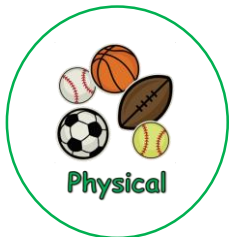
## **Knowledge Competition**

Knowledge is the key and this half term it is all about maths! We will be taking part in a maths olympics where we can practice our arithmetic skills and recall these at a quick pace to be able to compete with others.



## **Charity Competition**

We believe in giving back to the community, and this half term we are looking at fundraising ideas for how we can support the NSPCC charity in safeguarding children. As well as this, we are going to be creating an art piece for a local library to inspire others to read and have an impact in making our local community a vibrant and inspiring place.



## **Sport Competition**

This half term, we are thrilled to be running 5-a-side football competitions within our PE lessons. We are already excited about this opportunity to demonstrate our football skills and competitive streaks. Watch this space, we could have a future footballer here at Mansel Park.



## **Reminders**

*But that's not all! Remember that attending school and reading five times a week will earn valuable House Tokens. These tokens can tip the balance in favour of your house, so make sure reading diaries are brought into school daily. We can't emphasise enough how much everybody's participation and dedication to the house competitions matter. Stay tuned for updates, announcements, and more exciting details as we embark on this term's journey. Best of luck to all the houses and may the odds be ever in your favour!*



## School Council Focus – Sustrans – Big Walk & Wheel initiative



As you will be aware from recent correspondence from Mansel Park, road safety is very prominent and something that we are keen to work on a support in the local community. Mr Lodge and Mr Grace met with the travel team from the Local Authority this half term and are very excited to work on some travel to school initiatives starting with the Sustrans big walk and wheel!

Sustrans Big Walk and Wheel inspires pupils to make active journeys to school, improve air quality in their neighbourhood and discover how these changes benefit their world. Sustrans Big Walk and Wheel is open to all primary and secondary schools in the UK, including SEN/ASN/ALN schools. It is free to take part and there are daily prizes to be won. On each day of the challenge, schools compete to see who can get the highest percentage of their pupils walking, using a wheelchair, scooting or cycling to school. Your school's best five days will determine your final position, but you can log journeys on all ten days if you wish.

**The launch assembly for this wonderful initiative will take place on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> March supported by the School Council team and a Local Authority representative.**

**Thank you for supporting your child's cycle or scoot to school!**







# Mansel Park's beautiful, nurturing Nursery

## Lunar New Year

During Lunar New Year week, our 3+ year old friends had great fun at a special cafe where we used our chopsticks to eat a variety of regular cafe snacks. We really tried hard with our fine motor development to use the chopsticks as tweezers and control them to reach our mouths. We explored Lunar new year story books, listened to the story about 'the Chinese new year' and the animals of the Zodiac, created our own dragon faces, and used red and yellow to create marks.

Our 2 year old friends had the opportunity to taste rice noodles. We encouraged them to smell it, lick it, nibble it, then eat it if they thought it was yummy, it is safe to say the majority thought the noodles were "YUMMY!". We also explored mark making using red and yellow as these are lucky colours during Lunar new year. We had great fun pretending to be a dragon during our dragon dance too.



## Friendship week

During our friendship week our 3+ year old friends have been looking at how to be a kind friend? Identifying those friends who make us feel happy and loved. We have read the 'Go away bird' by Julia Donaldson and Catherine Rayner, as well as 'Pip and Posy - The new friend' by Axel Scheffler. These stories have been really helpful and the children have been able to identify why the characters are sad and respond to questions such as "What could you do to help them become Happy?" or "what would you say to help?"

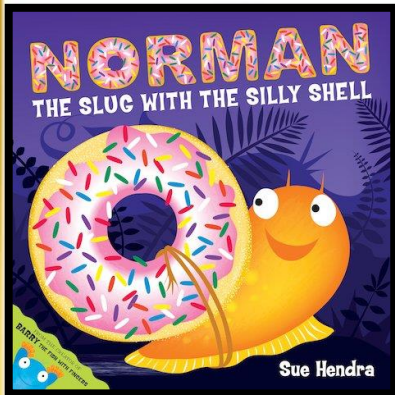
In our provision we have created our very own 'kindness cafe' with fancy tea party resources. We have also been talking about our special people at home. It has been lovely to listen to the children discussing their families with their friends.



# Writing

## YR Writing:

In writing we have been writing story maps for The Gingerbread Man - we have gotten really good at retelling stories! We have begun thinking about writing instructions - we are looking forward to learning about The Disgusting Sandwich and writing sandwich making instructions.



## Y1 Writing:

We have had a special visitor from Norman the slug who wants to be a snail! We have used our five senses to generate adjectives to describe the different shells for Norman to try. We are now moving on to generating adjectives to describe different emotions. This will lead on to retelling the story of Norman the slug, putting together all the amazing writing skills we have learnt so far.

## Y2 Writing

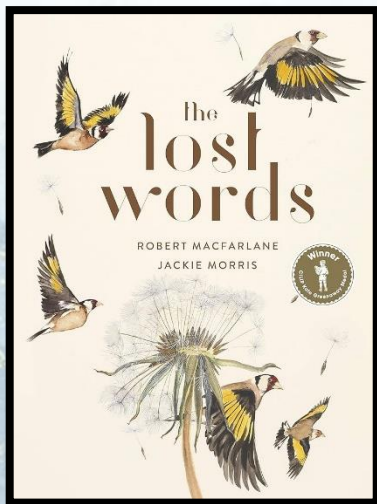
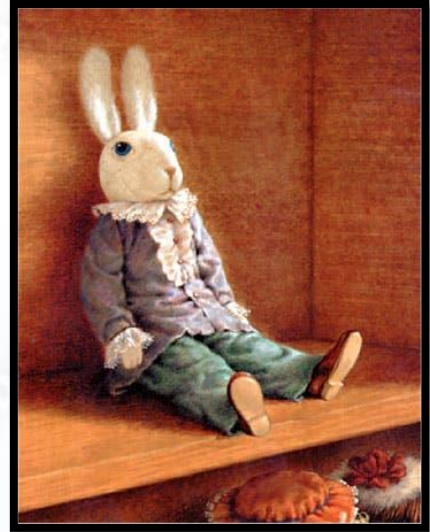
Join us on our magical journey in writing this term as we explore mythical beasts of legend and our imagination. We will be becoming just like Newt Scamander and creating our own non-fiction fact file about a mysterious creature that we have created. In the process we are learning lots of new and exciting words to extend our vocabulary. Later in the term we will be writing a story about mythical creatures as well. This is a great time to read them some bedtime stories about Greek myths, Harry Potter or Percy Jackson stories.



# Writing

## Y3 Writing

We have been on a journey with Edward Tulane in our writing unit so far this half term. We have empathised with the emotions that he felt as he embarked upon his traumatic journey where he bounced from owner to owner. Currently, we are exploring powerful verbs, adjectives and show me, don't tell me so that we have a range of ambitious language to describe the adventure that Edward has been on. We will be creating a diary entry to showcase these features and demonstrate our progress with cohesion.



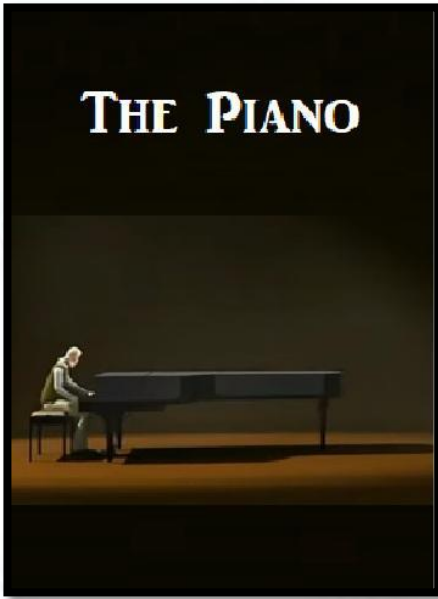
## Y4 Writing

We are excited to announce that our upcoming writing unit will delve into the remarkable wonders of the world through the lens of poetry. In this unit, children will explore the beauty and awe-inspiring nature of various wonders, ranging from natural landscapes to wonderful animals. One of the poetic forms we will be focusing on is the acrostic poem, where students will have the opportunity to craft their own poems inspired by these wonders. Through this creative exploration, students will not only enhance their writing skills but also develop a deeper appreciation for the world around them. We look forward to witnessing the imaginative and heartfelt poems our students will create during this enriching unit.

# Writing

## Y5 Writing

Year 5 have made a fantastic start to writing this term, beginning a new unit based on the short film "The Piano". So far, the children have acted out "flashbacks" from the film, including memories of World War Two, and have planned their first piece of writing based on this. We will be focussing on this topic throughout all of Spring 2 term, and we can't wait to see the wonderful writing that Year 5 produce!



## Y6 Writing

In our recent writing sessions, we've delved into the world of Shakespearean drama, specifically focusing on the timeless classic, Macbeth. Our young writers have been hard at work crafting their own monologues inspired by the characters and themes of Macbeth. It's truly been a joy to witness their imaginations at play as they explore the complexities of ambition, power, and the consequences of one's actions.





Mansel Park Primary School – February 2024