



Mansel Messenger

Perseverance ~ Determination ~ Positivity ~ Resilience

Mansel Park Primary School, Culver Close, Southampton. S016 9HZ

December 23

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to the final newsletter of 2023. It has been a busy year and, as always, our children and families have astounded me with their work, support, determination and positivity! At this very special time of year it is so important to pause and take time to reflect.

This month has been filled with lots of Christmas celebrations which will be covered in this newsletter!

Curriculum and Learning

Nursery

At nursery during December we have been celebrating Christmas. The children have had the opportunity to make a child-led christmas card using a variety of sparkles and special gems, decorate a pine cone, learn new Christmas rhymes ready to share on our party day, listen to a range of Christmas stories and decorate our very own Christmas tree. Don't panic, the children know that our nursery tree is magic and the only tree they can touch and decorate each day.

We would like to thank all the parents that attended their termly progress updates (parent chats), it has been lovely to share your child's development with you. If you have missed your child's appointment please speak with a member of the nursery team to reschedule. It is really important that we share your child's progress with you each term.

Year R

During this term, Year R have been spending time embedding our expectations and behaviours for learning. We are becoming amazing at walking in a line, finding our names and getting changed for PE.

In writing, we have been thinking about writing letters and wish lists for Santa - we are so excited for Christmas! We are able to write the sounds we can hear in words and assign meaning to them. We are continuing to work on writing all of our sounds in CVC words in preparation for writing captions!

In maths, we have just finished learning all of our numbers individually to 10. Now that we have this knowledge, we are working on how we can use these numbers to add and subtract. We cannot wait to explore this more in January.

During our foundation learning, we have been exploring different types of malleable materials - we have made salt dough, as well as playdough, and we have used different tools to manipulate them. Additionally, we have been exploring key events in history and in geography we have used the story

'Stickman', by our author of the term - Julia Donaldson, to navigate a map. We even made our own Stickmen!

Finally, we have ended the term with our Christmas performance. Thank you all so much for coming to watch us. From our team in Year R, we wish you a very happy and safe Christmas.

Year 1

In Year 1, we have been working really hard in all of our subjects. We have really enjoyed our writing unit where a penguin came to school! During this unit we learnt about adjectives and verbs, it was important we learnt this skill as it would be needed in our final outcome. We used all our creative tools to create a Found Poster for the penguin... can you spot them around school? In our geography lessons, we have been learning all about our local area and maps and we have used this knowledge to help Paddington get around Millbrook. We have learnt about physical and human features of our local area which we have had to explain to Paddington. We have loved learning about the amazing things in Millbrook!

Finally, in maths we have been continuing to develop our number knowledge and have recently been learning all about different shapes. We have been learning to name, sort and create patterns with 2D and 3D shapes. Make sure to ask us their names over the Christmas holidays!

Year 2

It's been an eventful time in Year 2, and we're thrilled to share some highlights of your children's recent learning experiences.

This half term, our little explorers have been immersed in the captivating world of rainforests as part of their geography learning. From understanding the layers of the rainforest to discovering the incredible diversity of flora and fauna, your children have become budding rainforest experts. They've even delved into specific animal habitats, exploring how creatures adapt to the unique conditions of their surroundings.

In writing, our Year 2 students have let their imaginations run wild with a delightful writing project. Each child has crafted a diary entry as a cheeky elf for a day. It's been heartwarming to witness their creativity unfold as they bring these mischievous characters to life. Be prepared for lots of laughter and entertaining stories when your child shares their diary with you!

In maths, our young mathematicians have been sharpening their skills by adding across the next ten. Using interactive activities, games, and real-world problem-solving, they've been mastering this concept with enthusiasm. It's incredible to see their confidence grow as they tackle mathematical challenges with curiosity and a can-do attitude.

In science, we've taken a closer look at how animals adapt to their habitats, particularly those in the rainforest. Through research projects and hands-on activities, the children have explored the remarkable ways in which creatures have evolved to thrive in their environments. Their presentations and displays showcase not only newfound knowledge but also a deep appreciation for the animal kingdom.

Year 3

This term, during our writing lessons, we have been looking at the text, *Guess who's coming for dinner?* This has inspired us to write our own invitation to persuade guests to come to our luxurious mansion. We also used this as inspiration for our next write which was a recount from two different characters' perspectives. Lastly, we are finishing up the term by writing a magical snowy setting description using *The Snowman* as our inspiration.

In maths, we have been learning the grid method to help us multiply larger numbers together. This has built on our learning of our multiplication tables, and a conceptual understanding of multiplication. We have been applying our understanding of multiplication in deep and advancing tasks where we made links between repeated addition, multiplication and division. The children have also challenged themselves to learn their times tables and recall them as rapidly as possible with a particular focus on the 3, 4 and 8 times tables.

Year 4

This half term year 4 has been super busy! In writing, we have been looking at how to show emotions, rather than tell our readers how a character feels, through retelling a chapter of 'My Brother Is A Superhero.' We have used powerful verbs and adverbs to describe actions and we even got to pretend to be a superhero saving a bus that was out of control.

Maths has seen us focusing on multiplication and division. We have discussed the commutativity of the times tables and explored how different questions can have different interpretations.

In history, we have been learning all about what the Romans did for us, how Boudicca was a powerful woman and leader during this time and what made Britain such a popular place to invade.

Electricity has been our focus in science, we have made working circuits, explored insulators and conductors and discussed how to keep ourselves and others safe from the dangers of electricity.

Year 5

In Year 5 this half term we have written persuasive speeches about being stewards of our world and protecting the oceans. The children were very passionate about encouraging people to care for our planet! We have also designed a new version of Santa's sleigh with some modern luxuries and they have written an explanation text to accompany this.

In maths, we have worked on multiplication, and then area and perimeter of shapes. Many children now have a secure understanding of their times tables and strategies for multiplication, which has helped them to be successful. This will also benefit them in our upcoming division and fractions unit.

In history, we have been looking at the image of Elizabeth I and her role in defeating the Spanish Armada, and in Science, the children have been completely engaged in trying to understand the solar system, coming up with some really deep questions about the universe. Next term, we will be studying the Victorians in history and in science, plant reproduction and animal life cycles. During R.E., our focus has been on the deeper meaning of advent and the role of John the Baptist. They have had a fantastic half-term and we wish you a restful and peaceful Christmas, and a Happy New Year!

Year 6

This half term, our young learners have embarked on a thrilling journey into the world of fractions. With pencils in hand and eager minds, our students have been enthusiastically exploring the concept of fractions, unravelling the mysteries of numerators and denominators. From simple shapes, to real world examples, the children have been delving into the fascinating realm of mathematics.

We're thrilled to share some exciting news from our budding writers at Mansel Park. In recent weeks, our enthusiastic young minds have been hard at work, unleashing their creativity and harnessing the power of words. The children have been engaged in crafting inspirational non-chronological reports, pouring their hearts and imaginations onto paper. From tales of perseverance to stories of kindness and bravery, each report is a testament to the unique perspectives and boundless creativity within our students. The topics explored range from personal heroes and role models to the incredible journeys of historical figures who have left an indelible mark on the world.

We can't wait to see what spring term has in store for us in growing our knowledge.



Christmas Nativity Performances

We were delighted to welcome so many of our parents into school to watch the children in their Christmas performances. I think you will all agree each and every pupil shone in their own special way. A big thank you to all the staff that spent weeks organising and helping the children rehearse to make it a spectacular show for us all to enjoy!

Christmas Pantomime

Lots of Year 3, 4, 5 and 6 children had a truly magical time visiting The Mayflower theatre to watch this year's pantomime, 'Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs'. All the children were really well behaved and absolutely loved the show. It is such a special trip and a really lovely way to end the term. Not to be left out, Year R, 1 and 2 had a visit from Outside the Box Productions who put on a wonderfully enjoyable performance of Sleeping Beauty for the children, in the run up to Christmas.

Christmas Dinner

A huge thank you to Michelle and her team of wonderful cooks for creating lovely fresh food every day for our children and staff! Christmas dinner was delicious this year, as always! All the staff and children had a wonderful time eating their delicious Christmas lunch, on our final day of term.

Christmas Jumper Day

All of the children and staff looked wonderful in their festive jumpers on Christmas Jumper day on 15th December. Thank you to all the families who sent in a donation for the local food bank, your continued support is very much appreciated.



Year 5 MAST Mayflower

Our Year 5 pupils were extremely lucky to receive free tickets to see Horrible Histories: Terrible Tudors at the MAST Mayflower on Thursday 7th December. This was an amazing experience and all the children had a wonderful time!

A Polite Reminder – P.E kits

Whilst the majority of parents make sure that their children have bought in their P.E. kits, there have still been a number of children that have not bought them into school. During P.E. and after school clubs it is very important (for reasons of hygiene and safety) that children have a change of clothing. We wouldn't want any of our children to miss out on the fun.

The P.E. days for each year group are as follows:

Monday: Year 1

Tuesday: Year 5

Wednesday: Year 6

Thursday: Year 3 & 4

Friday: Years R and 2

Pupils are required to bring plimsolls or trainers and a pair of navy blue or black shorts or black tracksuit bottoms to school in a drawstring bag, clearly marked with their name on. With regards to P.E. t-shirts, children are encouraged to wear their house colours:

Determination – Yellow

Positivity – Green

Perseverance – Blue

Resilience - Red

As with all school uniform, it is essential children have the correct clothing to ensure it is fit for purpose as well as smart. Thank you for your continued support.

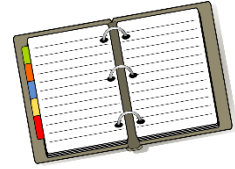
After School Clubs

Clubs will be running throughout the academic year on a termly basis. The spring term after school clubs will begin Monday 8th January 2023. We will allocate every child a space within one or more chosen clubs following submission of the form. We will try our best to provide an opportunity for all children to take part in a club, with a minimum of one child's choice in order to be fair. We will also organise a waiting list for oversubscribed clubs.

Please sign your children up if they wish to attend as we have limited spaces. We have sent out the sign-up forms and the Google Form link. Please come into the school office if you require assistance with booking your child into clubs and we will be more than happy to help.

Dates for your Diary

- Friday, 15th December - Break up for Christmas holidays
- Tuesday, 2nd January – Back to school
- Tuesday, 2nd January to Friday, 5th January - Year 5 and 6 Bikeability
- Thursday, 4th January – Coffee morning
- Monday, 15th January – Deadline for Year R applications
- Wednesday 17th January - Teddy Bear Hospital Workshop - Year R
- Monday 12th February - Friday 16th February - Half term
- Monday 8th - Friday 12th July - Skern Lodge Residential - Year 6.



And finally...

I am so proud of every member of our school community. There has been so much hard work and joy this term. Our children have been absolutely wonderful to work with. It has been a privilege to lead our hardworking, dedicated school family.

Wishing you all a safe and happy Christmas holiday and a wonderful New Year!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gerida Montague". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Gerida Montague
Executive Headteacher

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul Lodge". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Paul Lodge
Head of School