



# Mansel Messenger

*Perserverance ~ Determination ~ Positivity ~ Resillience*

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

May 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have successfully completed another highly active, yet rewarding half-term. We take immense pride in the exemplary dedication, particularly demonstrated by our Year 2 and Year 6 students during their SAT examinations. Then by all of our children through their determined work all year, and the sports day event which was a tremendous success, it was heartening to witness a significant number of parents and guardians cheering on the children.

As we eagerly anticipate the upcoming half-term, it appears that better weather conditions are on the horizon. We kindly request parents to ensure that their children apply sunscreen before school and bring sun hats to wear during break and lunchtimes. In warmer periods, children are permitted to wear tailored shorts; however, we would like to clarify that cycling shorts do not conform to our school uniform policy. Cycling shorts may be worn underneath a summer dress if required. Acceptable alternatives are tailored shorts of either black or grey colour and of appropriate length. We sincerely appreciate your cooperation in adhering to our uniform policy.

## Curriculum and Enrichment

### Nursery

In the nursery, we have been having fun exploring and investigating the garden. We have all planted 3 sunflower seeds and are watching them grow. These will then be going home with each child during the week of the 22nd of May to continue the awe and wonder of a growing flower. Our 2 year olds have created their very own shape biscuits, they were super yummy!

We have had great fun celebrating the King's coronation. We created bunting and all made a crown to help us decorate the nursery and ourselves ready for a special coronation picnic cafe. We shared many different King stories; our 2 favourite stories were 'The king's pants' by Nicholas Allan and 'The king's coronation' by Marion Billet.

### Year R

In Year R we have been learning all about people who help us. We had a very special visit from the fire service. We got to see the amazing protective fire gear and learnt all about fire safety. In history, we have learnt about significant people! We did lots of fun activities linked to the king's coronation! We even had a street party! We loved making all the decorations and learning about our new King. This half term, our role play corner has been a party for the King and we have been pretending to have a tea party for him. We have been learning all about plants and planting seeds. Our new focus is on minibeasts, we have been going on minibeast hunts, looking at minibeast books and solving minibeast themed problems solving questions in maths.

## **Year 1**

Have you seen what has happened in our school hall? Well, let us tell you... The Super Veg were stuck due to Evil Pea! In writing this term, we have been creating our very own Super Veggies! We have described our Super Veggies using wow words and our best language choices. In Maths this term, we have been learning about fractions. First, we found fractions within shapes and then we found fractions of amounts. We used lots of different practical resources to support us in finding half and a quarter. In History, we have been learning about Castles, we particularly enjoyed learning about the defensive features of Castles. In DT, we are going to be designing and creating our own Castle based upon our learning in History. We are so excited to start creating these using recycled materials!

## **Year 2**

During our topic learning, Year 2 thoroughly enjoyed learning all about the Great Fire of London that happened in 1666, which they deemed to be 'a very long time ago'! We were shocked to learn that they didn't have fire engines or fire fighters back then so the people who lived there had to help fight the fire! In Science, we have been learning about minibeasts and their habitats. In the next few weeks we will be going on lots of minibeast hunts... we can't wait to see what we find! We will be starting a new writing topic in May all about the story 'The Day the Crayons Quit.' We are keeping our fingers crossed that none of our stationary quit! In Maths we are beginning to learn how to tell the time, we are time experts, particularly with 'o'clock' and 'half past' and we are continuing to practise our quarter past and quarter to!

## **Year 3**

Can you imagine being abandoned in a desolate park in the middle of the night? This term, year 3 have been using their imagination to consider how Edward Tulane (a character from our writing topic) felt when this happened to him. The children have explored different techniques to build tension and engage our reader whilst using a range of features from their creative toolkits. We have been excited about sharing their pieces with their peers to show how they've used their own voice to build suspense. We are looking forward to sharing our final pieces with the year 4 adults and children.

## **Year 4**

There is no planet B! Year 4 have shown an inspirational amount of passion towards climate change. During our unit in writing this term, we have been learning all about climate change and completing research to deepen our understanding of the dire issue that plagues our planet currently. The children were hooked in by 'Greta and The Giants' by Zoe Tucker and they quickly realised that us humans are referred to as the giants - which understandably devastated them. The children have been using their research, their new learning and new passion to create a powerful and inspirational speech to address our man-made climate issue and to raise awareness.

## **Year 5**

Year 5 have been exploring different types of measurement in maths. We have been out using the trundle wheels, measuring the school field to see just how big a kilometre is! We have learnt to accurately read scales using grams and kilograms, as well as estimating the capacity of a jug. We are now able to convert accurately between the different units of measurement. In writing we have become gadget designers. We have learnt all about the spy genre and why a spy needs gadgets. Next time to see an ordinary, everyday object don't be fooled! It may well be a state-of-the-art spy gadget.

## Year 6

We are incredibly proud of all of our children's skills, abilities and incredible passionate personalities here at Mansel Park. We are all so proud of all the children for their hard work, dedication and resilience during this year. As you are aware, Year 6 have been very busy preparing and sitting their SATs. We thank you for being their calm and supportive space. I am sure you will join us in commending them upon all of their efforts and achievements on their time here at Mansel Park beyond the academic measure of SATs. We look forward to celebrating their primary achievements in a variety of ways over the coming months. During the upcoming half-term, our students will engage in rehearsals for a full-scale production, which we eagerly anticipate sharing with you at the culmination of Summer 2.

## Coronation of King Charles III

A huge thank you to our lovely kitchen team for putting together a wonderful picnic to celebrate King Charles III's coronation on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> May! The lunch hall was filled with beautiful handmade decorations created by our children. In addition, each pupil received a certificate and celebration badge to commemorate the special occasion that we hope they will look back on fondly. We also hosted a Coronation assembly in the hall with our very own 'Royal Variety Show!'

## Sports Day

We extend our gratitude to the parents who attended and showed their support for our students. The presence of numerous parents cheering on the children was truly heart-warming. The day commenced with an assembly of our school houses, marking the beginning of a day brimming with sporting events. The morning kicked off with a range of activities, followed by an exhilarating series of races, including relays and sprints. We are delighted to announce that Resilience (Red) house emerged victorious after a remarkable display of athletic prowess. Congratulations to all the participating students for their commendable efforts, and we sincerely hope that everyone thoroughly enjoyed the event.

## Fire & Rescue Service Visit - Year R

On Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> May, Year R were visited by the Hampshire & Isle of Wight Fire & Rescue Service. We had lots of fun learning about smoke alarms, how to phone 999, how to spot a firefighter in their uniform, and much more to ensure we are keeping safe in our homes!



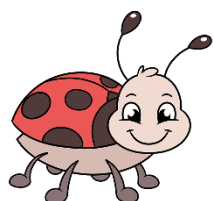
## Non-Uniform Day

We held a non-uniform day on the last day of Summer 1 term, on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> May. Each house chose a local environmental, wildlife or animal welfare charity to raise money for: Hampshire and IOW wildlife trust, HART wildlife trust and Southampton National Park City trust.

We raised a total of £83.85 for the following charities:

- Resilience raised a total of £20.45 for HART wildlife trust
- Determination raised a total of £17.35 for Hampshire and IOW wildlife trust
- Perseverance raised a total of £24.65 for Southampton National Park City trust
- Positivity raised a total of £21.40 for HART wildlife trust

Thank you for your continued support.



## Ugly Bug Ball

In Year R, we have been exploring fiction and non-fiction books about different bugs to decide which our favourite is. Then on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> May, our Year R's had their Ugly Bug Ball! The ball was buzzing with so many creative costumes – you all looked amazing!

## Eco News

This term, the children have been very busy in our school garden. As the weather is getting warmer, it is the perfect time to start planting many fruits and vegetables outside. The children are very much looking forward to watching them grow before harvesting them and giving them to the school kitchen to cook for lunch. The eco committee has also been busy planting a variety of flower seeds in the planters outside the front of the main office. We hope these will begin to flower in the next month or so - so keep your eyes peeled! We are very excited to begin preparations for our Parent Planter community food patch ready for Great Gardening day. We hope that you are continuing to help the seedlings sprout at home, ready for planting and harvesting later this year!

## Skern Lodge Residential 2024

I am delighted to tell you that Y5 pupils have been invited to attend a residential trip to Devon in 2024, when they are in Y6. We are offering the trip early so that parents can spread the cost over monthly instalments. We hope this helps in some way

On Monday 15th May, we held an information meeting for parents interested in sending their children on the trip. If you have any other questions concerning the trip, or funding, please do not hesitate to ask.

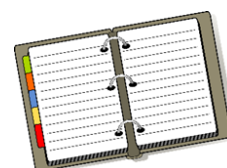
## Tea, coffee and biscuits morning drop-in



Thank you to those who have attended our coffee mornings. The next one will be on **Thursday, 18<sup>th</sup> June** and will be held outside at the front of the school. 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. Amy Laverton our Emotional Mental Health Practitioner will also be in attendance to meet you all. We do have an open-door policy, but hope that this regular slot will enable more of our families to come in and share any positive or development items that you may have.... or just pop in to say hello!

## Dates for your Diary

- 29<sup>th</sup> May – 2<sup>nd</sup> June – Half Term
- Tuesday, 6<sup>th</sup> June – 13<sup>th</sup> June – Scholastic Book Fair
  - Friday 9th June - Gardening Day
  - W/B Monday, 3rd July - Year 6 Bikeability
  - W/B Monday, 10th July - Year 6 Skern Lodge Residential Trip
- Friday, 21<sup>st</sup> July – Break up for the Summer Term
- Monday, 4<sup>th</sup> September – Inset Day
- Tuesday, 5<sup>th</sup> September – Pupils return to school



Have a wonderful Half Term

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Gerida Montague'.

Gerida Montague

Executive Headteacher