



Mansel Messenger

Perseverance ~ Determination ~ Positivity ~ Resilience

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

November 2023

Dear Families,

Welcome to our November newsletter! We are moving into our second half of the term and the children are all working extremely hard. Within this newsletter details of Christmas performances, pantomimes, Christmas celebrations and more will follow. The weather is starting to get very cold, so please remember to bring coats into school for play and lunch times!

Lest we forget

Thank you to those who purchased a remembrance item from our office, your support is greatly appreciated and your donation will go towards a wonderful cause: The Poppy Appeal, Royal British Legion. At Mansel Park we raised a total of **£152.18!**

A two-minute silence was held at 11 o'clock on Friday, 10th November. We offered our prayers for all who serve, or have served, in the forces and their families. The children also made some beautiful poppies which were display outside the school office.



REMEMBRANCE DAY
Lest We Forget

Curriculum and Enrichment

Nursery

Nursery have been exploring the season 'autumn' and all the festivals and special occasions that it includes. We had great fun exploring our autumn treasure bags together, we found so many treasures, we had; leaves, pumpkins, conkers, fir cones, acorns, sticks, berries and so much more. Thank you for supporting the children with this activity at home.

We have also explored Diwali and fireworks, this time of year can be so colourful in the sky at night and it has been great to involve the children in recreating their own fireworks that they have seen. We have celebrated the festival 'Diwali'. Diwali is the Hindu festival of light and is also celebrated in other Indian religions, it symbolises the victory of light over darkness.

At nursery we love to explore and develop a love of reading, we encourage the children to read at home with our books at bedtime. At nursery we share a special time daily where we listen to a story read by the nursery grown ups. Our current favourite is 'The leaf thief' by Alice Hemming and Nicola Slater. The silly squirrel thinks the animals are stealing his leaves but the leaves are falling from the trees due to autumn and the wind. Please continue to explore the love of reading at home, it is so important for the children and will help develop their communication, language and extend their vocabulary.

Year R

This term in Year R we are learning about different religions and cultures and their special celebrations such as the Hindu festival of lights - Diwali, and the Christian celebration - Christmas! We will be doing lots of cross-curricular activities to fully immerse ourselves in this learning experience. Over the last few weeks we have been learning about Diwali by exploring our Diwali themed home corner, and making decorations in the creative area.

In writing we learnt all about the story of Rama and Sita and looked at some photographs of people celebrating Diwali and discussed the beautiful colours, lights and lanterns. We have used our phonic knowledge alongside our understanding of Diwali to write a shopping list to help us prepare for the celebration.

Year 1

In Year 1 we have been learning about the different seasons. In Science we went on a seasonal walk where we explored the changes in the trees and leaves. We then wrote our own Autumn Poem during our writing lessons. We used the stem sentences 'I can see...' 'I can hear...' 'I can feel...'. We learnt about adjectives and generated our own adjectives to describe what we could see. Some children decided to extend their ideas by using conjunctions!

In Maths, we have discovered subtraction. We have been looking at real world problems that use subtraction and solved these using concrete resources. Afterwards, we learnt how to pictorially represent subtraction number sentences. We really have enjoyed the practical nature of this unit! Next, we will be exploring the more abstract concepts of subtraction.

Year 2

In Year 2 we have been learning all about animals and their habitats in Science. We are focusing on the ocean, desert, polar regions and rainforest, thinking about what animals live there and why they are suitable for their habitats. We have been really enjoying finding out lots of fun facts! One of our favourites is that polar bears have a layer of fat to keep them warm in their cold habitat which is called blubber.

Has your stationary ever got fed up with the way you treat them and written you a letter of complaint? In writing, we have been pretending to be different bits of stationary that we have in our classroom, writing to our owners and complaining about the things that they do to us. The glue sticks are furious that we sometimes leave their lids off, the rulers are FED UP of being used as musical instruments and the chairs cannot stand it when we swing on them and they get the blame for our injuries. Whoops!

Year 3

Bones, bones, bones, that's our skeleton! This song is certainly stuck in our brains (inside our craniums) after our science lessons so far this half term. We have loved discovering more about our bodies and so far we have developed knowledge around the name of our bones and muscles.

In writing, we have adopted the role of the devious, sneaky Dr Hunter who is inviting the innocent, unsuspecting animals to his manor for a 'glamorous' stay. We have loved convincing the animals to

attend through our persuasive invitation which has included ambitious and formal language. We are certain that our writing will persuade them to attend!

Year 4

In Year 4 we have been exploring the telekinesis powers of Star Lad in the book 'My brother is a superhero' in our Writing unit. The children have been preparing for their recount by making up their own actions and rhymes as a class to remember the sequence of events.

In science we have been learning about electricity! The children have explored what dangers there are with electricity and how they can identify and prevent any hazards. They are truly experts and have been able to label each room of the home where electricity is used and have been giving tips on how to keep safe. We can't wait to carry on with this unit and set up our own circuits in the upcoming weeks!

Year 5

Year 5 has been exploring our solar system and learning all about the planets, the moon and the sun during our science lessons on space. We are finding everything we can out about space before we have to report back to NASA at the end of the unit to help them on their mission!

In writing, we have been creating a persuasive piece about the problem of plastic pollution in our oceans. We have been shocked to discover how much damage is being caused to our oceans because of plastic, and have become passionate about communicating this through our writing. We have thought about different persuasive techniques we can use to encourage the reader to make a change, and how we want the reader to feel.

Year 6

In Year 6 we have been learning about WW2 and this term we have looked into what it is like for civilians and children of Britain. When the Blitz happened in 1940, children were evacuated to be protected from the bombing. They would live with a foster family in the countryside away from the attacks. We are also currently learning about what it was like for women in WW2 and how it differed from women in WW1.

In writing we have started our new unit of 'Be the Best'. We have been looking at people who inspire us as well as motivational language to write our own piece on why that trait is so important to have and how we can encourage that trait in others. This is a very special unit to us here at Mansel Park because it relates to our house teams: Perseverance, Resilience, Determination and Positivity. We are going to make sure to include all of our different sentence types as well as our non-negotiables and motivational quotes.

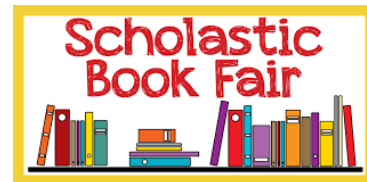
Showcase Musical Concerts

Showcase invited our Year 3 parents to watch a small musical concert to celebrate the children's progress in their instrumental lessons this term. We hope that you enjoyed the opportunity to hear your child/children play some wonderful music on Monday 27th November.

Our Year 4 musical concert will be held on **Monday 4th December at 3pm**. The Year 4 team looks forward to seeing you and sharing the musical experience with you.

Scholastic Book Fair

From Tuesday 21st November until Tuesday 28th November our school welcomed the Scholastic Book Fair into our school. Thank you for your support of the Book Fair, this helps our school to continue purchasing new books and resources and we hope that it continues to encourage our pupils to keep reading!



MHST Mayflower Studios

On Monday 27th November, the Year 6 pupils were extremely lucky to have the opportunity to visit the MHST Mayflower Studio. The children were able to see the play-script they had written in school come to life thanks to the wonderful Solent University students! We hope this experience was enjoyable and gave them a great insight into the performance arts.

Reading Ambassador Trip to Central Library

On Monday 20th November, our ambassadors from all five partnership schools met with Southampton Library Service staff who gave them a fantastic insight into the role of a librarian, how the library works and the organisation that goes into Southampton's libraries. All ambassadors returned to Mansel Park to discuss ideas for our partnerships libraries. They all worked incredibly hard and had an amazing time!



Christmas Countdown

We have lots of exciting Christmas celebrations to look forward to. Please find below an outline of the upcoming events.

Pantomime time - Oh yes it is!

Monday 11th December – Year N, R, Year 1 and Year 2 – Panto (in school) – Sleeping Beauty

Tuesday 12th December - Year 5 and 6 - Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs at the Mayflower

Thursday 14th December – Year 3 and 4 – Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs at the Mayflower



Phase Christmas celebrations & decorations

Children will be singing their favourite Christmas songs and sharing some of their work outcomes from this half term. Due to hall space restrictions, a maximum of two adults per child can be accommodated at these events and no ticket will be required.

There will also be an opportunity to purchase/ make a donation for Christmas decorations made by your children, please bring cash!

All events will begin at 2.45pm and finish for the end of the day.

Monday 11th December – Years 3&4

Tuesday 12th December – Years 1&2

Wednesday 13th December Year R (In the YR base)

Thursday 14th December – Years 5&6

Christmas Discos

After the success of the discos held at the end of the last academic year, we are pleased to offer a Christmas celebration disco! Letters and invitations have been sent out to parents, tickets will cost £2.50. Each disco will take place from 3.30 – 4.45. Please ensure you have completed a permission slip and paid via SCOPAY.

Monday 4th December – Year 1&2

Wednesday 6th December – Year 3&4

Thursday 7th December – Year 5&6

Christmas Lunch and Christmas jumper day

On Friday 15th December, our kitchen staff will be preparing a delicious meal for us all to enjoy together. Ordering information for Christmas lunch will follow.

We have incorporated our Christmas day fundraising efforts into the Christmas lunch festivities and thank you in advance for your donations. Your child can wear their Christmas jumper on this day.

Nursery celebrations

This year at Mansel Park Nursery we will be having a Christmas party for every child to enjoy. This is an exciting time for the nursery children and grownups. The party will be held on **Friday 15th December**.

Each nursery child will receive a party invitation detailing which allocated party time your child has been invited to. We are looking forward to sharing this experience with your child. Each child can attend wearing a party outfit, dressing up outfit or a Christmas jumper to get into the festive spirit.

During our party we will play party games, share some party food and then finish with a special Christmas rhyme time. We would like to invite each child's parents/carer to join us for our special Christmas rhyme time to finish. This will be held in the nursery and we hope you bring your singing voices with you.

We ask for a voluntary contribution towards the party food/drink of £1 per child, in advance. No need to provide any food/drink yourselves. Thank you.

Dates for your Diary

- Monday, 4th December - Year 1 & 2 Disco
- Wednesday, 6th December - Year 3 & 4 Disco
- Thursday, 7th December - Year 5 & 6 Disco
- Thursday, 7th December – Coffee morning
- Friday, 8th December – INSET day
- Monday, 11th December – Outside the Box production of Sleeping Beauty performance in school for Year R, 1 and 2
- Monday, 11th December - Year 3 & 4 Phase Christmas Celebration
- Tuesday, 12th December - Year 1 & 2 Phase Christmas Celebration
- Tuesday, 12th December – Year 5 & 6 Pantomime trip to Mayflower Theatre
- Wednesday, 13th December - Year R Phase Christmas Celebration (in YR Base)
- Thursday, 14th December – Year 3 & 4 Pantomime trip to Mayflower Theatre
- Thursday, 14th December - Year 5 & 6 Phase Christmas Celebration
- Friday, 15th December – Christmas Dinner Day
- Friday, 15th December – Non Uniform (Christmas Jumper) Day
- Friday, 15th December - Nursery Christmas Celebration
- Christmas Break
- Tuesday, 2nd January 2024 – Back to school
- Tuesday, 2nd January – Friday, 5th January – Bikeability Year 5 and 6
- Thursday, 4th January – Coffee morning
- Monday, 15th January 2024 – Deadline for Year R applications

