



# Mansel Messenger

*Perseverance ~ Determination ~ Positivity ~ Resilience*

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

September 2023

Dear Parents

Welcome to the first Newsletter of this academic year and a warm welcome to all of our new families who are joining us and all who are already part of our Mansel Park family. We are looking forward to continuing to build strong relationships that focus on making the very best provision for the children within our care.

We try to send out a regular newsletter keeping you informed of events and news. Please make sure you read it and keep it somewhere safe as it gives advance warning of school events, closures and term dates.

We send letters and reminders via text or email using Scopay and all correspondence can be viewed on our school website. Please make sure you update us if you change your phone number or email address so that we can update our records.

## Curriculum and Enrichment

### Nursery

A great big welcome back to our nursery friends this term! We have been getting to know our new nursery friends and families and welcoming them to our Mansel community.

We are extremely proud of our older nursery children who have proven to be great role models to our younger newer children. They have been very helpful in settling our children, inviting them to explore our environment and follow the routines. They are very good at knowing our three simple golden rules for 'how to be happy at nursery' –

- 1) Be kind and friendly to everyone.**
- 2) Share the toys and play nicely with them.**
- 3) Talk to your friends and listen to what they say.**

We have seen lots of kind and friendly behaviour with lots of sharing and taking turns.

### Year R

Our Year R teachers and our lovely teaching assistant in Year R have been blown away with how polite, kind and settled the children have been. The children have learnt all about our routines of the day and they have been playing and exploring in all of our areas. The home corner, water tray and construction area are definitely our class favourites. We have been learning to retell the story of Goldilocks and the Three Bears and the children are great at putting on the different voices that the characters make. We are going to be learning about the numbers 1 to 10 and how we can make these numbers in lots of different ways. Our topic focus is going to be "All about me" and we cannot wait to learn about all of our class favourites and things that we like to do and play with at home. We are going to be starting to learn our sounds in school and look forward to embarking on the reading journey!

## **Year 1**

Year 1 have made a positive start to the term with everybody coming in beautifully in the mornings and ready to start the day. Year 1 have been learning about place value in Maths and practising their counting to 20. In English, we are beginning to write sentences about pirates. Our goal is to write the scariest pirate description and the winner will receive a head teachers award. Also in the afternoon, we have really enjoyed learning to draw animal patterns in Art and investigating maps in Geography. Well done Year 1, great start to the year!

## **Year 2**

Year 2 have had a marvellous start to their time in year 2. We have been set the challenge from George; who needs us to come up with a recipe to make his wicked Grandma a nice, kind and caring Grandma just like he has always dreamed of. We have been using nouns, adjectives and verbs in our writing and made it more interesting by including adverbs, time words and conjunctions.

In Maths, we have been learning about place value, building upon our knowledge of tens and ones. Year 2 have also been amazing at learning their 2 times tables and have blown our Year 2 teacher's socks off with their times table tests on Fridays!

Science has been fun with making rice dance and lava lamps. We have been working on our questioning skills just like real scientists.

In Geography we have visited London in our Capital city topic - we have been thinking about why we would like to visit and also how to persuade others to go. We have learned a great song to help us remember the capital cities of the United Kingdom.

## **Year 3**

WOW! What a great start to the year! All the children in Year 3 have been learning their numbers from 100 to 1,000 and so far they have been 'Marvellous Mathematicians!' Keep up the excellent work Year 3! Alongside Maths, the children have been learning about rocks, the UK and how to be a good neighbour. The discussions that have been going on in class have been superb, so much great vocabulary is being used. I can't wait to see what else Year 3 continues to thrive in this autumn term. Year 3 have been excellent at becoming devious characters in their writing unit where they have completed some imaginative character descriptions about the farmers.

## **Year 4**

Year 4 have settled in excellently. We have had an exciting start to the year and the children have been very eager about our writing topic. The children have been enthusiastic about (and petrified by!) Miss Trunchbull! They have made amazing progress in using the creative toolkit and have made a good start in writing a character description.

The children have used their retrieval skills to develop their understanding of place value. They have been efficient in partitioning and are really enjoying using base 10 and dienes in lessons. Everyone has loved starting the addition unit using the most efficient method adding numbers up to four digits. Year 4 are thoroughly enjoying P.E so far this year completing football and gymnastics.

## **Year 5**

So far in Year 5 we have made leaps and bounds with our learning. We have been finishing with place value in Maths and are ready to move onto exploring addition. In Guided Reading, we have been using different techniques to explore new vocabulary and discover new exciting books such as 'Running Wild' by Michael Morpurgo and 'The Wolf Wilder' by Katherine Rundell. We have been investigating what makes a setting unnerving and trying to replicate those effects ourselves. In history we have been learning the chronology of 'The War Of the Roses' and how to critically assess a source of information. We know this will help us be

architects of a better world, allowing us to look at information and news sources through an educated lens, working out what is fact or opinion and why we are discussing cutting edge issues of our present and future.

## Year 6

Year Six has had a phenomenal start to the year! We are so pleased with the attitude for learning displayed by the children- their focus and hard work is already abundantly obvious. We have started our first topic on Twisted Tales where an old fairy tale gets an unusual twist to the plot. We have also worked hard to motor through a great many of the initial topics of place value and number properties including the value of a digit's position and rounding any number up to and into the millions. Our World War Two topic is well underway, as is our science project on light and how we see things. In addition to all of these things we have now filled the positions of House-Captains, Vice-Captains, Class Councillors, School Councillors, Librarians, Reading Ambassadors, Play Leaders, Eco-team, E-Cadets and other positions of responsibility throughout the school. Well done everyone!

## Allergies

We have a number of children and staff with severe nut allergies. With this in mind, we do not have any nuts or nut products at snack time or in packed lunches. These include peanut butter, Nutella or Pesto (which contains Pine nuts). These can be a major cause of anaphylactic shock in some adults and children. Your care and support in this is greatly appreciated.



## Uniform

A big thank you to all parents who have sent their children in the correct uniform. Our children are looking very smart. Uniform is an important part of our culture and our children certainly look very proud to be part of the Mansel family. Shoes/trainers need to be pure black (including the soles) with no logos.

Can we also remind parents that children are provided with cups and water in class and therefore do not require water bottles. Thank you.

## PE

Please ensure your child has their correct PE kit in school for the day they have their lesson. Ideally they need to leave their kit in school and take home to wash at the end of each half term. May we also remind parents that all stud earrings need to be removed on PE days or taped prior to them coming to school. We are no longer able to tape children's ears or supply tape at school.

### PE days:

|           |               |
|-----------|---------------|
| Monday    | Year 1        |
| Tuesday   | Year 5        |
| Wednesday | Year 6        |
| Thursday  | Years 3 and 4 |
| Friday    | Years R and 2 |

## End of the day

In order to ensure the safe handover of children at the end of the day, please let the office know any alternative adult/s you give permission to, to collect your child/children by 3pm. This allows the office to pass any messages on to teachers before the end of the day.

## School meals

We encourage all of our children to have a hot school dinner, whether they are infants or juniors.

We have worked very closely with the school council, children and our caterers to ensure that the food offered is home cooked and delicious. We regularly chop meals off the menu and add new tastier options. All of our teachers eat a school dinner. We have a third 'Jacket potato with filling' option for those who do not like our meat or vegetarian option.

Our menu is available to view on the City Catering web site -

<https://www.citycateringsouthampton.co.uk/summer-three-choice-gm-school-menu>

If your child is going to arrive late to school and they wish to have a cooked meal at lunchtime, we would be grateful if you could let the office know in advance by telephone. Unfortunately, if your child arrives after 9.30am, and we have not been notified, your child will receive a "spare" meal. Always best to be on time, or phone ahead.

## Safety Reminder!

A gentle reminder, please can you ensure that children or adults do not ride bikes and scooters on the school playgrounds.

We again politely remind you that dogs are not permitted on the school site – this includes being held in arms. Thank you.

## Coffee morning

Thank you to all of you who have attended our coffee mornings. Mr Lodge is really looking forward to seeing you on the next one - Thursday, 5<sup>th</sup> October - it will be held outside the school office, weather permitting. 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. We also have our uniform available so please come on down and take a look for some great condition uniform.



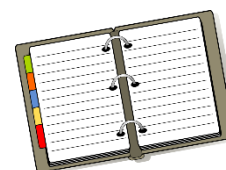
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## Flu Vaccination

The school nursing team will be with us on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> November to administer the annual flu vaccinations that are available for all children (Year R – 6). Further information will be sent out to parents shortly.

## Dates for your Diary

- Thursday, 12<sup>th</sup> October – Year 6 Price Waterhouse Cooper Visit
- Tuesday, 17<sup>th</sup> October – Year R and 6 height and weight checks
- 23<sup>rd</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> October – Half Term
- Tuesday, 31<sup>st</sup> October – Deadline for secondary school applications
- Tuesday, 31<sup>st</sup> October – Portrait and Family Photos
- Friday, 10<sup>th</sup> November – Open morning for September 2023 Year R Intake (10am)
- Monday, 15<sup>th</sup> January 2024 – Deadline for Year R applications
- Friday, 8<sup>th</sup> December – INSET day
- Tuesday, 12<sup>th</sup> December – Year 5 & 6 Pantomime trip to Mayflower Theatre
- Thursday, 14<sup>th</sup> December – Year 3 & 4 Pantomime trip to Mayflower Theatre



Best wishes



Gerida Montague

**Executive Headteacher**