



14th February 2025 - **Happy Valentines Day!**

What's been happening in school?



Parents' evening this week were really well attended. We had feedback that the dining hall was too small and a bit noisy so this time we moved to the Infant Hall which worked well. Last time parents said they would like to see their children's work so we had all their books for you to look through in the hall. I'm sure you are very proud of their achievements.



At Parents Evening we also hosted a number of services which families may find helpful. The dental service attended on both days. On Wednesday 12th we hosted the mental health service, the [Redbridge Empowering Parents Together](#) team and [professionals from Special Needs \(RIASS\)](#) and the [Redbridge Family Information service \(FIND\)](#). If you didn't manage to speak to them they can be contacted by clicking on the links above.

This week I have met with every teacher to look at pupil progress and barriers to achievement. The difference in these discussions from when I first came to Manford to now is astonishing, your children are making good progress because their teachers know them really well and have a clear understanding of what children need to know and be able to do, as well as ways of helping children to progress.

Keeping your children safe - Safer Internet Day was a focus this week. Years 3-6 joined in live lessons hosted by the BBC with a focus on recognising scams. Reception to Year 2 took part in a live lesson all about scams and phishing. The UK Safer Internet Centre have produced information for parents which you can find [here](#). Just to let you know, the most concerning internet safety issue at Manford relates to Whatsapp groups. These seem harmless but children type things, say things and send pictures of things which they shouldn't. Children under 13 are not supposed to have a Whatsapp account. [Here](#) is some information from the NSPCC about keeping your child safe on Whatsapp. There is a wealth of information on our website about different games and apps children might be using.

Our Year 4 classes have visited a synagogue in Gants Hill this week they told me it was very interesting and they learned lots.

Staffing changes

Miss Khan has been doing a great job working in Year 2 in Mrs Agyeman's absence and she is staying with us, apart from a few weeks when she has committed to some further training. We congratulate Mrs Akiva and her husband who are expecting their first child. Mrs Akiva is starting her maternity leave at Easter and I'm currently finalising plans for the summer term in 3A. Miss Colman in 3C started working part-time this year as she's taken on a post-graduate degree in Arts Therapy. She has now decided to focus on her training full time. We are very lucky to have recruited Ms Begum who will work with Mrs Anderson in 3C after the Easter break.

Parent Voice

On Monday you will receive a link to our annual [parent survey](#), the information you share is really important to us in making Manford even better. The survey will close on Friday 28th February.

Mrs Prasad is looking for parents to discuss the new [Behaviour Policy](#) before it goes to Governors for approval at the end of March. She is hosting a meeting at 9am on Thursday 13th March to share the new policy and get feedback. If you would like to be part of this group, please call the school office and let us know 0208 500 2143.

Staff training

On the INSET (In Service Training) day on 24th February, teaching staff will be very busy. In the morning we have arranged visits to other Redbridge schools so that we can learn from their expertise and success as part of our commitment to keep learning and provide the best opportunities for your children. In the afternoon we have training on radicalisation and extremism.

Fundraising

Our playground is used by every child and some of the play areas and equipment is really showing its age! I'm sure you would be shocked at the cost of replacing the wooden play equipment. We have been very lucky as our site team are very creative and inventive and have managed to patch, replace and repair equipment, saving us lots of money. However, the equipment is reaching the very end of its life. Our fundraising, such as discos, is allowing us to put money aside to save and replace our playground equipment.

Healthy Packed Lunches

The children enjoyed participating in a Healthy Eating Assembly from our caterers and were amazed at the fat and sugar content of chocolate, sugary sweets and crisps. As part of our commitment to promoting healthy habits and well-being, we would like to remind you of the importance of preparing balanced and nutritious packed lunches for your children. A well-rounded lunch not only supports their physical growth but also enhances concentration, mood, and energy levels throughout the day. Remember, balanced school meals are currently funded for every child.

We encourage you to include a variety of food groups in your child's lunch, such as:

- **Fruits and vegetables:** Fresh, seasonal produce provides essential vitamins and minerals.
- **Whole grains:** Foods like whole wheat sandwiches, brown rice, or whole grain crackers help sustain energy.

- **Protein:** Options like lean meats, beans, cheese, or tofu support muscle growth and development.
- **Healthy snacks:** Seeds, yogurt, or homemade energy bars are great alternatives to sugary snacks.

Please remember that limiting processed foods, sugary snacks, and drinks is key to promoting a healthier lifestyle. Providing a balanced lunch not only helps students thrive in school but also fosters habits that will benefit them for years to come.

School Uniform

As we continue to foster an environment of **respect, resilience** and **responsibility** within our school community, we would like to emphasize the importance of students wearing the full school uniform.

The school uniform is more than just a set of clothes - it represents a sense of belonging, equality, and unity among students. When all children wear the uniform as required, it helps promote a focused learning environment and minimises distractions that can arise from differences in clothing. It also instils a sense of pride in the school community.

By ensuring that your child wears the full uniform every day, you are helping them develop a respectful attitude towards school rules and encouraging a strong sense of responsibility.

We ask for your support in reinforcing this message at home and making sure your child adheres to the uniform guidelines. If there are any challenges in meeting these requirements, please do not hesitate to reach out to the school.

School Uniform:

Our uniform consists of a white polo shirt, navy blue sweatshirt or cardigan, grey or black skirt/trousers and plain black shoes, trainers are allowed as long as they are **completely black**. Polo shirts, sweatshirts and cardigans with the school logo embroidered on the front can be purchased online at <https://myclothing.com/manford-primary-school/6658.school> or Unistat in Barkingside High Street also sell these items.

Children will also require a book bag (or a small rucksack) to bring their reading books and homework to and from school and a PE bag which should be kept in school during term time. Book bags, rucksacks and PE bags can also be purchased online at <https://myclothing.com/manford-primary-school/6658.school> or from the Unistat shop in Barkingside.

PE Kit:

This consists of a plain white t shirt, plain black or navy-blue shorts and trainers. In addition, during cold weather, children may bring a pair of plain black or navy jogging bottoms to wear if PE is in the playground.

Dates for your diary

Monday 24th Feb - INSET day - school closed to pupils

Wednesday 26th Feb - Royal Albert Hall Festival rehearsal at Ilford Town Hall 9.30am-12pm

Friday 28th Feb - Parent Survey Closes

Thursday 6th March - World Book Day- get your costumes ready!

Monday 10th March - Under the Sea workshops, Reception, Years 1, 2 and 3

Tuesday 11th March - Choir trip to Royal Albert Hall

Thursday 13th March - Year 1 PHSE book look with Mrs Colfer

Thursday 13th March 9am - Parent Consultation with Mrs Prasad about the new Behaviour Policy

w/c 17th March - Year 5 working with Met Police on Driver Speeding

w/c 17th March - Right to be Safe week - focus on Young Carers

w/c 17th March - Phonics drop-in sessions Early Years and Year 1

19th March - Race Equality Awareness (REA) Coffee Morning

w/c 24th March - Year 5 working with Met Police on Driver Speeding

w/c 24th March Y5 Eid Assembly

Wednesday 2nd April - Year 3 Easter Assembly

Friday 4th April - Last day of Spring Term- close 2pm

Tuesday 22nd April - return to school 8.40am