

March 28th 2025

What's been happening in school?

Lots of great things!

Children in Preschool, Reception, Years 1, 2 and 3 enjoyed an 'Under the Sea' workshop which supported their classwork.

Our choir, supported by Miss Mandel and her sister had an incredible experience at the Royal Albert Hall. Thanks to Mrs Akiva and Miss Khan and everyone who has supported our choir to prepare for the event.



Mrs Prasad held a consultation with parents about the new behaviour policy. 7 parents attended and feedback was very positive in relation to the structure of the policy, but parents said they would like better communication from teachers when their children have 'reflection time'. We are happy to make these changes.

Year 1 parents were welcomed into school to look at the work their children have been doing in PSHE (Personal, Social, Health and Economic education). Mrs Colfer leads on PHSE in school. Next Term Mrs James will be holding parent drop-ins for the Relationships and Sex Education teaching coming up at the end of the school year. Dates and information to follow.

Year 5 have been out with the Metropolitan Police to learn about road safety, particularly relating to speeding drivers. They told me it was exciting and interesting. Year 6 are getting this opportunity later in the year. (Apologies to King Charles-I couldn't find the new badge!)



Our Y4 girls enjoyed a football event at Redbridge Sports Centre on Tuesday 18th March. We have a rugby event today (Friday 28th March).

Two phonics sessions for parents were held last week. A parent stopped me on the gate this week to tell me how useful they had found the phonics session.



Our colleagues at REA (Redbridge Race and Equality) held a coffee morning for parents on Wednesday. Numbers at our coffee mornings are going down-please let us know if you'd like us to plan a coffee morning about something you'd like to find out more about.

Chigwell School have donated a huge number of books which they no longer use-we're very grateful. Some of these will go into the library and some will go into class reading selections. This donation has come at a great time for us and even included a whole set of 30 copies of a Michael Morpurgo book which Year 3 will be studying next year. Our children enjoy reading and it's important to renew and change our book selections as often as we can. Many thanks to the team at Chigwell School.

Yesterday Year 5 did a great job explaining and showing us what Ramadan and Eid are all about in their performance. It was a thoughtful and informative presentation- well done year 5.



Transitions

Our Year 6 students have now found out which secondary schools they will be going to and the majority seem happy-there are still some changes and updates taking place. We will now start preparing them for this huge step-going to a new school and making new friends. Soon parents who have applied for spaces in Reception 2025 will find out which school they have been allocated. Once we have our notification from London Borough of Redbridge we will be contacting those families with welcome information ready for them joining us in September.

Budget setting and finances (sorry it's a bit long!)

I met with the Governors' finance committee last night who approved the school's budget for 2025/2026. They were impressed that we had managed to end 2025 in a stronger financial position than we had predicted at the start of the year. We always keep our spending focussed on what will have the strongest impact on preparing your children for great futures and this means difficult decisions. Once again, we are having to plan cuts and it's often the extra-curricular opportunities which have to be scaled back. In the parent survey there were a couple of comments relating to this. I know that you would like us to take the children on more trips-the hard fact is that parent payments for trips have to be voluntary. In the current financial situation, the school cannot afford to make up the payments that are not made. Some schools increase the cost of trips so that the extra income covers payments that are not made. This is effectively charging families who make the payments to cover the cost of families who don't. This is not something I would ever do at Manford. Of course, there are families who are in difficult financial circumstances and we work hard to support them.

We try and plan in-school activities and have a great resource called ['Now Press Play'](#) which gives children an immersive curriculum experience without leaving the building. Although I know there is nothing that can replace going on a bus or a train with your friends and visiting venues that our area and city have to offer.

School Lunches

At lunchtimes in the school canteen, the kitchen staff are throwing away lots of lunches each day. Today for instance, they had 25 dinners that no one came to eat. When pupils were asked why they didn't come in for their lunch they said we have brought in a packed lunch today. Each meal cost the school £2.37 so today we have thrown away £59.25 worth of food. We are asking parents to please cancel their child's school lunch that has been ordered in advance, if their child is bringing in a packed lunch instead. We really need to try and stop the wastage of food being thrown away. Thank you all in advance.

Dates for your diary

Monday 31st March Class Easter Egg Draws

Wednesday 2nd April Year 3 Easter Assembly

Thursday 3rd Winners of Easter Egg Draw take home Easter Eggs

Friday 4th April End of Term - school closes 2pm

Tuesday 22nd April Summer Term begins

Tuesday 22nd April Education Welfare Officer in School (Attendance Officer)

Tuesday 22nd April Year 4 swimming lessons start

Tuesday 29th April Preschool animal visits

Thursday 1st May Polling Day (Work on Google classroom except Year 6, Reception and Preschool who are in school as usual)

Friday 2nd May Governing Body in school all day

Week of 12th May Year 6 SATs (Government tests)

Friday 23rd May Half Term-School Closed

Monday 2nd June INSET DAY (**school closed for pupils**)

Thursday 12th June Class Photographs

Wishing you all a great Spring break and an enjoyable time with friends and family for those of you marking Eid or Easter.

