

Nut reminder- please remember that we have children in school who may have life-threatening reactions to nuts. Do not send nuts to school in any form please.

What's been happening in school?

On 28th November we hosted a Governor Development Day. Most of our school Governors spent the whole day in school to help them better understand their role and give them a chance to experience first-hand the policies and procedures in practice. They reported that the day was very beneficial and particularly commented on the calm classrooms, good behaviour and manners from the children and the amount of pastoral and emotional support we provide to ensure that your children thrive.

Christmas Lunch was very tasty this year once again. Thank you for supporting the event with Christmas jumpers. The staff in the kitchen work very hard to provide healthy meals and I thank them for their efforts.



Swimming has been brilliant for the children in Years 3 and 4. The pool at Coppice was warm 'like a bath' and apart from some soggy socks and lost underwear the children have had a great time. The swimming teachers were excellent. Having escorted groups up and down to the pool the progress many of them have made is really impressive, some children have gone from never swimming to being able to swim unaided. There has also been a focus on swimming safety, water rescue, icy lakes and ponds etc which hopefully the children will never need to use, but could be invaluable to one of them in the future.

If you bought your child a swimming hat and know you won't use it after their lessons, we are happy to take donations of these!



Year 2's Fire of London workshop was great and really helped bring this History topic to life for the children. There's more information from Ms Clarke and miss Chowdhury at the end of this newsletter.

Punctuality has really improved since our Education Welfare Officer and SLT have been on the 'late gate'. Many thanks for your efforts. Work in class begins at 8.40 with lessons starting at 8.50 so it's really important that children are in class ready to learn at 8.50am

You said we did



A couple of parents reported that the cheese sandwich meal option was popular with their children and asked if we could have it back on the menu. I have actioned this for the new menu.

Trips and visits have been going really well and have been extremely well supported by parent volunteers and families not just paying for their own child but also including a donation towards the trip for other families. This idea came from the parent forum and is making a difference so many thanks. We've only had to cancel one trip so far due to lack of payments-Year 5's trip to see 'The Wizard of Oz'.

Movie night has proved very popular, we have started consulting the children on the improvements to their playground so that they are involved in how we spend the money you've helped us to raise. We're hoping to run a 'bedtime stories' night linked with World Book Day next March.

Clubs and after school provision with Sporting4schools has been going really well. The sessions I've seen have been high quality and the children have enjoyed them. We will be continuing to work with Sporting4schools after the Christmas break-they haven't uploaded their new timetable for Manford yet, but [here's the link](#) ready for when booking opens.

Our new music lessons are also up and running with Focus Music. They offer piano, violin and guitar and I'm sure they have space for new children to join. [Here's the link.](#)

Messages and reminders

School uniform-we relaxed uniform for Years 3 and 4 to make swimming easier but everyone will be expected to be in full school uniform again when swimming finishes. Please note-leggings are not part of our school uniform and trainers should be completely black.

Absence in term time is creeping up and our Education Welfare Officer is monitoring every child who drops below 90% attendance or is regularly late for school and missing out on learning. Next week I'll be giving out the bronze 100% attendance badges for children in Years Reception to 6

Parent English Course starts after Christmas. Registration is on Monday 15th December at 9.15.

The deadline for applying for Reception places for 2026 is 15th January. If you do not apply before this you are much less likely to get a place in your preferred school.

Year 5 Residential deposits are now being taken via parentmail. The deadline for the £50 deposit is 9th January 2026. If you missed the meeting with Mrs James but would like to find out more about this fantastic opportunity, please contact the school office who will ask Mrs James to get in touch with you.

Job opportunity-we have started a contract with a new cleaning company (PCS) who are currently looking for cleaners for Manford Primary. The hours are 5pm-8pm daily with a rate of £12.41/hour term time only. Please contact aault@thepcsgroup.co.uk or sjones@thepcsgroup.co.uk for more information.



Dates for your diary

Mon 15th Dec- Year 5 start swimming

Mon 15th Dec- Y4 Assembly

Mon 15th Dec- Year 3 trip to Science Museum

Tues 16th Dec- Choir going to sing Carols at Pinewood Home

Tues 16th Dec- Preschool Christmas celebration 2pm

Wed 17th Dec- Movie Night after school

Thu 18th Dec- Year 2 Nativity performances

Thu 18th Dec- Year 6 visit to Imperial War Museum

Fri 19th Dec- School closes 2pm- no after school club

Mon 5th Jan- School reopens

Tues 6th Jan- Education Welfare Officer in to check attendance registers

Fri 9th Jan- Deadline for deposits for Y5 who want to go on residential

Mon 12th Jan- Keeping Up with the Kids English course for parents begins

Tues 10th Feb- Safer Internet Day, workshops booked for KS2 and parent information session from with external provider 9am-10am

Year 2's history adventure

On Tuesday 9th December, *History Off the Page* were invited to Manford to deliver a Great Fire of London day for our year 2s. In the morning, a variety of activities were organised for them to experience what London was like in the year 1666, before, during and after the Great Fire. Our children had the chance to be a part of a bakery, where they made their own bread using wheat and water and become barber surgeons. They were provided with tools and medicine used in 1666! They also became ink makers, weavers and leather workers. The children and staff thoroughly enjoyed the process of making candles using real bee's wax! In the afternoon, they had the opportunity to be archaeologists. They dug up remains of objects burnt after the fire. Overall, it was a very eventful and insightful day! A huge thank you to all the parents who helped with running the workshop. Without you, the day would not have been a success and ran smoothly. Who knew you had such hidden skills!



