



MANORSIDE
ACADEMY

Friday 9th September 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

We express our deepest sympathies for the passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. Her dedication to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and to her other realms and territories is unparalleled and we thank her for her service.

Our school will observe the mourning period whilst continuing to support our pupils, families and staff. Unless otherwise stated, please assume any scheduled activities and events we have arranged will continue as planned. Our school will be keeping pupils informed of news about these events as part of assemblies and class activities. If you think your child may be experiencing particular upset due to the passing of the Queen, please do let us know so we can provide additional support if needed. Once we have clarity over the day of the funeral and whether it has any implications regards a closure we will keep you informed.

We have had a special assembly today and will be working with the children over the next 2 weeks sharing the history of our great Monarch.

The children have made an excellent start back to school, all settling well into their new classrooms and demonstrating high expectations as per our Mantra.

I have spoken to Miss Beer, she sends her best wishes and is pleased to hear that the term has started well. I have passed on all your well wishes to her for a speedy recovery.

Communication

Communication is about a 2-way system of respectfully sharing information and the start of a new year is always full of anxieties and questions, which we will always endeavour to do our best to answer and reassure. However, it has come to my attention that a minority of parents continually take to social media to make unpleasant comments and cause unnecessary distress and anxiety to other parents. There are staff on the gates every day, twice a day; class teachers available to you at the end of every day; and you have the option of emailing the office for information. The newsletter is another way that we share information. Please use these forms of communication so we can all work together to create a happy school for your children to learn and grow.

Phase Leader Roles

Phase Leader roles have been in place at Manorside for many years now and this is also a structure I have in all 6 schools in the Primary Sector in AAT. It is a leadership role of more than one year group, supporting development of all the children and staff, challenging staff and holding them accountable for their work. They are also there to support you in the communication chain.

The Phase Leaders are as follows:

EYFS Ms Cross (Maternity leave - Mrs Rowe covering)

Manorside Academy

Sian Thomas, BEd (Hons), CEO - AAT

Alexandra Prout, BA, Director of Primary Education, NLE

Sarah Beer, BA (Hons), Principal, SLE

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Years 1 and 2 Mrs Cuff

Years 3 and 4 Mrs Hallums (Maternity leave - Mrs Blake covering)

Years 5 and 6 Mrs Cooper

Curriculum

You may have heard from the children that our curriculum has been adapted to make it more exciting and interesting and targeted at filling the knowledge gaps that the past 2 years of Covid has left behind. Our assessments have shown that knowledge gaps are apparent in all year groups so we have worked on producing a curriculum that is fit for purpose to meet the needs of all our children for where they are in their learning journey now.

You will not be surprised to know that Reading remains a high priority in all year groups. We will be expecting children to be reading at home every day. Whilst we have some super readers, we give all our children a book band book to match the reading level. Please support their reading progression by hearing them read every day.

Homework

Reception

Children will bring home a Bedtime Story each Monday to be returned on a Friday. These are to be read to children to foster a love of reading.

To begin with, children will bring home an initial sounds book once they have started their phonics lessons. They will need to practise four sounds a week.

A weekly learning page will also be sent home to share learning for the week and provide suggestions of things you can do at home to support your child.

Year 1

Children will bring home a Bedtime Story each Monday to be returned on a Friday. These are to be read to children to foster a love of reading.

Children to read their phonics Book Bag Book at home at least 3 times a week. This will be changed each time they change book in their phonics lessons, usually on a Monday.

5 Spellings sent home on a Monday to be tested on a Friday.

Maths homework book sent home on Monday and returned on a Friday.

Children can choose to make use of Numbots and Phonics e-books.

Year 2

Children will bring home a Bedtime Story each Monday to be returned on a Friday. These are to be read to children to foster a love of reading.

Children to read their phonics Book Bag Book at home at least 3 times a week. This will be changed each time they change book in their phonics lessons, usually on a Monday.

10 Spellings sent home on a Monday and tested Friday.

Maths homework book sent home on Monday, back Friday.

Children can choose to make use of Numbots and Phonics e-books

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Year 3 & Year 4

Children to read their school book band book at home at least 3 times a week.

10 Spellings sent home on a Monday and tested on a Friday.

Times Tables homework sent home on a Monday and returned off a Friday.

Children can choose to make use of TTRS.

Year 5 & Year 6

Children to read their school book band book at home at least 3 times a week.

10 Spellings sent home on a Monday and tested on a Friday.

Maths homework book sent home on a Monday and returned on a Friday.

Children can choose to make use of TTRS.

PE Lessons

To support households with the rising cost of living i.e. washing clothes and to make the timetable more simplistic for the children we have put PE lessons on one day each week for years 1 to 6. There is less disruption to the timetable, giving the children a longer and more dedicated PE lesson. All Primary children must have at least 2 hours of PE a week - our children now have this. In addition to this, we have changed the offer of activities on the playground to include basketball, hockey, football and fitness with more activities to follow.

Children are required to come to school in their PE kit on the one day they have PE.

Reception: Tuesday and Thursday for both classes (2 sessions over 2 days).

Year 1: Thursday

Year 2: Wednesday

Year 3: 3MW Wednesday, 3AP Thursday

Year 4: Friday

Year 5: 5RS Monday, 5ZF Tuesday

Year 6: 6LW Monday, 6RC Tuesday

Breaktimes

We provide children in Reception - Year 2 with a fruit snack each day. Children in Year 3-6 are encouraged to bring a snack for morning break, this can be fruit, vegetables or a cereal bar, which will need to be kept separately from their lunchbox. If your child is in Reception - 2 and you would prefer to send your own fruit, vegetable or cereal bar snack, that is fine.

We want to get the children outside as much as possible during their breaktimes so please ensure that they always bring their coats.

School Lunches

If you would like your child to have hot school lunches, you must order by midnight on Tuesdays. If no selection is recorded you will need to provide your child with a packed lunch. It is possible to book ahead to October, if this is something you would like to do. We do not order 'spare' lunches and we are unable to hold spare food, so please ensure you have provided either an ordered lunch or a packed lunch.

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Volunteers

If you think you could spare a few hours - or more, please get in touch with the office and we can sign you up as a volunteer. As you know schools are very busy places and we need any help available. I have worked with volunteers in the past and they have progressed to be employed members of staff. We would love to hear from you.

I wish you and your family a peaceful weekend.

Best wishes as always
Mrs Prout

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