

In Touch



'Love School, Love Learning'

Our school values achievement;

knowledge gives us confidence and the ability to think with independence.

Our school allows us to excel in all areas;

new experiences broaden our horizons and give us the opportunity to be the best we can be.

We nurture a true sense of community;

we know how to behave and relate to others with kindness and respect, we are proud of our school AND understand we are part of the wider world.

We "love school, love learning" and are ready for the future.

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'KEEPING ON TRACK'

Winter has now ended and we welcome brighter days, which is something I believe that as a school we have been achieving for quite some time now. Education never stands still and there is a constant influx of new thoughts and ideas that we have to address. I was delighted by the number of you who attended our evening on AWOL (Assessment Without Levels) and for the positive feedback you gave us on how helpful and informative the evening had been. It would have been nice to have had even more of you attend to hear about what is a fundamental change that all schools in the country are adapting to. I am confident that our new assessment system, Learning Tracks, is a good tool that will enable us to assess how your child is doing and what progress they have made. As I said, education never stands still, and no sooner have we got a grasp on AWOL, when suddenly we are told that all schools will become an Academy by 2020!

There has been no phone call from Ofsted to say they are coming to re-inspect us, but this could happen at any time. In the meantime we have continued to work hard and to constantly look to improve all that we do. Outside moderation of us, by Bucks Learning Trust, continues to view us as a school that has improved.

Mr. Sierant

STAFFING AFTER EASTER

We have no changes to staffing taking place after Easter. However, in May we will be welcoming back Miss Weston who has been on maternity leave since September. Miss Jones has been covering the maternity leave and she will stay with us until the end of this school year.

WORLD BOOK DAY - We had a great World Book Day when the school was turned into Hogwarts and all the children and staff appeared as characters from the Harry Potter books. It was quite a sight! Thanks to Mrs Hillier for organising the day. If you go onto the school website, you will see hundreds of pictures of the day.



Reading is a key life skill for all pupils and we encourage them to read as often as possible. You can play a huge part in ensuring your child's reading improves by listening to them read, every day if possible, even if it is only for 10 minutes. This can make a huge difference. Please support us by listening to your child read.

REMINDERS

Could everyone please remember that a part of our school uniform/dress code, is that girls' long hair should be tied back and that no designer haircuts/styles are allowed for boys. Thank you.

PARENTAL QUESTIONNAIRE: In January I sent you a questionnaire (which was also available online). Thank you to those of you who completed this and returned it. Gathering information from you is important as we need to know your opinions of how we are doing as a school. The responses you provide help us to review and reflect on what we are doing and contribute to the overall School Development Plan. Headlines from the questionnaire include:

- 103 responses. The highest numbers since I have been at the school.
- The website is praised and is keeping parents informed of what is going on in school.
- Communication between school and home has got better. Due mainly to the website.
- You feel that the school has improved.
- Transition between the Infants and Juniors is done well.

There are also things that you feel we could improve:

- More information for you on assessment and pupil progress
- End of the day supervision at the back gate
- You don't feel *all* staff are approachable
- Information on how maths is taught would enable you to support your child with homework

There are some things for which we got conflicting views:

- Homework - some of you think we give too much especially in holidays, others think we don't give enough.

The results have been shared with all staff and governors. We do take on board what you say and we are looking into addressing the ways you feel we could improve. Your responses are important to us.

EGYPTIAN DAY - Year 3 had a day of being Egyptians, as a part of work they are doing in History. Staff and pupils wore a wonderful selection of Egyptian costumes. Again please visit the school website to see photographs



'GROOVY GREEKS' - Year 5 have been learning about the Greeks and went to the Swan Theatre to see a performance of the Horrible Histories 'Groovy Greeks. More details can be found on the school website.

'ENERGIZE' - A group of Y6 pupils performed at the Swan Theatre with other local schools as a part of the biennial 'Energize Project'. A big thank you to Miss Bartropp and Mrs Jones, for their hard work on this. It was nice to work with Y2 children from the Infants. The website has more details.

SPORTS RELIEF - Pupils across the school took part in our Sports Relief activity and managed to raise over £150 for this charity.

'PHIL THE BAG' - Thank you for helping us raise funds for school through your contributions. The money raised will help our school Eco Council to purchase plants for our hanging baskets next term.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

Tuesday 12 April - Pupils return to school
Wednesday 13 - Friday 15 April - Y5 at Woodrow
Monday 2 May - Bank Holiday, no school
Monday 9 May - SAT's week - Y6
Monday 16 - Friday 20 May - Y6 Residential
Thursday 19 - Friday 20 May - Y4 Residential
Friday 27 May - School closes for half-term
Monday 6 June - INSET Day - school closed to children
Tuesday 7 June - Pupils return to school



You can learn much more about what has been happening in school by visiting the school website.

www.manorfarmschool.org

There is the opportunity on the website for you to add your comments on what you see on there.

It is important for us to hear what you think about what we do for your children.