



## **'Love School, Love Learning'**

### **Our school values effort and 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.**

Spring 2017, Issue 1  
Sent home 10 February 2017

Rose Avenue, Hazlemere, High Wycombe  
Bucks. HP15 7PH

Email: [admin@manorfarm.bucks.sch.uk](mailto:admin@manorfarm.bucks.sch.uk)

Website: [www.manorfarmschool.org](http://www.manorfarmschool.org)

Telephone: 01494 814622

## A difficult start to the New Year

This winter has been one that has taken its toll on the health of staff. We have had a lot of staff illness both short and long term. This has been especially difficult in Y4 with 2 of the staff on long term absences. I have had to move staff around a little to address this, but hopefully staffing should be starting to return to normal over the next half-term. Getting appropriate and good quality 'supply' people in is not easy and as a result we have been stretched as a staff across the school. However Manor Farm Junior is blessed with high quality staff who have all played a part and made a contribution in getting us through this tricky time. A number of parents have been in touch to ask about staffing and have gone away appreciating that things have been difficult, but that we are addressing this in the best way we can.

There have been times when I could have perhaps communicated with you all a little better, so my apologies for that. I can only say that I have been dealing and juggling with so many issues. On a more positive front our Y6 'Young Voices' performed at the O2 Arena in London in January and had a wonderful experience at the event. Thanks go to staff who prepared and supported the group for this event, in particular Mrs Jones whose idea it was to get Manor Farm involved. Y3 went on a trip to the theatre in Aylesbury to see 'The Twits'. They had a great time. My thanks go to the Infant School who invited our Y4 and 5 pupils to attend a concert given by the RAF in their school hall. These events demonstrate how we strive to provide experiences that enrich the learning our pupils undertake with us. I believe strongly that the pupils should not always be taught in a classroom and be given the same 'diet' for learning day in day out. However, I have to add that we are not always receiving contributions for every child for the experiences we provide and we have had to make a lot of payments ourselves. In the current climate, with funding cuts, it could be that we will have to cancel some trips/visitors as we may be unable to pay for them. I know this is an unfortunate possibility, but it is one all schools are having to deal with. As a school we appreciate greatly the contributions you give for these learning experiences.

Mr. Sierant.



**TECHNOLOGY @ MANOR FARM:** As a school we are aiming to introduce more laptops for ALL children to use across the school. I want to get rid of our ICT suite which is not the nicest area to work in and has a lot of outdated PCs. In time, pupils will have access to a laptop in their own classroom

We currently have an experienced teacher, Mrs Tavender from the IT company Turn-it-On, delivering the computing curriculum to our Y5 and 6 pupils. This is proving to be a great success, with pupils having input from a specialist computing teacher. There is also a Computing Club, which Mrs Tavender runs, after school, on a Thursday.

**WE NEED YOUR HELP:** Homework plays a big part in your child's learning and helps consolidate their learning in school. We appreciate your support in making sure homework is completed and on time. The following tips are **TOP TEN GOOD HOMEWORK HABITS FOR YOUR CHILD**.

1. Find a quiet, comfortable place at home to use as a homework area.
2. Use a flat surface, a good light source and the right equipment (eg pens, pencil, ruler etc).
3. Be aware of modern teaching methods. Don't teach methods you used at school. It might confuse them.
4. Turn off the TV - you could have music on if they find it helpful (not too loud).
5. Discuss the homework with your child and how it links to work done in school.
6. Don't give your child the answer in order to get a task finished. Instead explain how to look up information or find a word in a dictionary.
7. Don't let homework become a chore.
8. Plan a homework timetable and agree a time when the homework will be done.
9. Give your child something nutritional to eat before starting homework.
10. Keep it fun and make it a time you both look forward to, through sharing the experience.

### **MID-DAY SUPERVISORS URGENTLY REQUIRED**

We need 2 people to take on the role of mid-day supervisors with us ASAP. The role involves being in school over the lunchtime period and helping with the supervision of the children while they are having lunch and while they are on the playground. The hours are 12:10 - 1:10.

If you are interested in this role, or perhaps you know someone else who might be, then please visit the school website, where you can find an application form under the 'Vacancies' tab. OR contact the school directly OR speak to me or a member of staff on the playground.

**RESIDENTIAL TRIPS:** Over the coming months our Y4, 5 and 6 pupils will be going on residential trips. This involves being away overnight for various lengths of time. A residential trip plays a part in a child's education by helping them to become more confident, to begin to develop independence, to build up resilience and develop their self-esteem. Children and parents sometimes get anxious over this. This is understandable. To be able to benefit fully from the experience, it is important and vital your child stays overnight on these trips, otherwise it defeats the whole point of going. We do keep you updated on how these trips are going through our website. Experience tells us that any child who is anxious comes back having had a great and enjoyable time. (Information on the Y4 residential will be sent to parents after half term).

### **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY: 2017**

Monday 20<sup>th</sup> February - Return to school  
Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> February - Y6 trip to Hazard Alley in Milton Keynes  
Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> March - Y5 'Echoes Rehearsal' @ Swan Theatre  
Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> March - Philthe Bag - Clothes collection  
Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> March - We are having our 'World Book Day'  
Monday 6<sup>th</sup> March - Y3 Ancient Egypt Day  
Monday 13<sup>th</sup> March - ARTS WEEK  
Monday 20<sup>th</sup> March - Y5 Echoes Concert - Albert Hall, London  
Friday 24<sup>th</sup> March - RED NOSE DAY  
Monday 27<sup>th</sup> March - We are hosting 'Able Maths Day 1'  
Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> March - We are hosting 'Able Maths Day 2'  
Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> March - Y5 Residential trip to Woodrow  
Friday 31st March - Break up for Easter  
**Please note all pupils return to school on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> April**



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

[www.manorfarmschool.org](http://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.