

A message from Steve Thompson, Headteacher

I hope that you and your loved ones are safe, well and looking forward to the holiday.

As the Spring Term comes to an end I'd like to thank you for your continued support. The first half-term presented with a number of significant challenges linked to the Omicron Wave but we were delighted to move towards something that resembled 'business as usual' this half-term. Whilst we're still operating with caution, it has been a real pleasure to welcome parents and carers back on to site for meetings and Special Assemblies. I had the pleasure of joining part of Pod 3's Red Nose Day assembly and the subsequent coffee morning; it was fantastic to see so many parents in the building! If you've not yet had the opportunity to attend an in school assembly or coffee morning please keep an eye out for future events.

As well as having parents back on site, we've had a number of important visitors, most recently; Jason Roberts, the founder of The Jason Roberts Foundation (and ex-professional footballer). Jason visited on the 24th March and enjoyed meeting and playing football with our School Ambassadors and School Council Members. We're delighted that a number of classes have also managed to go on curriculum linked trips to places such as London Zoo this term. We've seen an increase in the number of cases this past week so it's clear that Covid-19 hasn't disappeared, however, it is a real relief to be moving in the right direction.

This term, a handful of valued colleagues have moved on to pursue other opportunities, to be with family outside of London or to start families of their own. We will miss them dearly but have managed to appoint a number of excellent candidates in their place; one notable addition to the team is Tim Elliston. Tim joined us as an Assistant Head from a special school in Camden and has settled in exceptionally well. In addition to school staff, three new LAB governors have joined the team in recent times, these being: Nita Abubakar, Rebecca Turquet and Chris Smaling. We are in the process of updating our new website and will be adding info about our senior team and school governors in due course.

Your incredible children continue to inspire us and bring joy to our school community. I'd like to take the opportunity to say "Happy Ramadan" and "Happy Easter" to those of you who celebrate.

Manor Secondary Update

As many of you are aware, we are opening a Key Stage 3 provision in September 2022 based on the site of Newman Catholic College in Harlesden. The council has recently appointed contractors and we hope that site works will be underway in the near future.

As things stand, 22 Year 7 pupils will transition in September, eight of whom currently attend Manor School. We're in the process of getting to know the external pupils and we will be advertising for teaching staff for both sites over the Easter Holiday. Manor School's current senior leadership team will oversee the KS3 provision. We have excellent links with Newman Catholic College; we're very excited and delighted that we can support the Local Authority in helping to grow capacity in Brent. The Local Authority plans to build a permanent secondary school (in the Wembley area) and pupils who attend the Key Stage 3 provision will transition to the permanent site when it opens in 2024 or 2025.

Manor Term Dates

- End of Spring 2 half term: Friday 1st April 2022 (school closed: Monday 4th – Monday 18th April 2022)
- INSET day for staff: Tuesday 19th April 2022 (school closed to pupils)
- Start of Summer 1 half term: Wednesday 20th April 2022
- Bank holiday: Monday 2nd May 2022 (school closed)

Literacy update

This term, teachers across the school have begun using 'Little Wandle Letters and Sounds Revised' a new phonics and early reading programme that draws upon the latest research and best practice in this area.

Building upon all of the foundation work we do on focus, attention and early listening skills, Little Wandle gives us extra access to classroom resources, videos and a range of Collins Big Cat phonics decodable books to support progress in early reading skills.

As part of this term's launch of the programme, class teachers were asked to use Little Wandle baseline resources to match our subject specific learners to the correct level of activity and reading book. With this done, pupils are now enjoying engaging with the programme.

If you would like advice on how to support your child's phonics and reading at home, please speak to your class teachers who can recommend approaches and share books and ebooks. Similarly, if your child is still exploring the early stages of phonic awareness and reading, you can ask your teachers for ideas on how to explore environmental sounds, animal sounds, body percussion and book sharing at home.

You can also visit the Little Wandle resources for parents section of the website here.

<https://www.littlewandlelettersandsounds.org.uk/resources/for-parents/>

A message from our new PSHE and RSE Lead!

Dear parents/carers,

My name is Mina, I am currently the teacher in Birch class and the new Personal Social Health Economic/Relationships and Sex Education Lead (PSHE/RSE).

My teaching philosophy is that every child should be supported to develop the tools they need to establish their own mental, physical and emotional wellbeing in the class room and beyond.

In my new role, I will ensure the PSHE/RSE curriculum is continuously reviewed and adapted to meet the changing needs and priorities of our pupils, community and society, while reflecting our school ethos and core school values of 'Love, Learn, Laugh'.

The PSHE/RSE curriculum team, including myself, will continue to keep you updated through our newsletter with all the amazing and fun things that are or will be happening in our setting and are related to our subject area.

In the meantime, please feel free to contact me via e-mail (pshe@manor.brent.sch.uk) for any questions you might have regarding PSHE/RSE.

Wishing you all a restful and fun holiday!



Maths update and activities

We had a lot of fun engaging in maths activities throughout the term. We took advantage of the nice weather and did some outdoor maths lessons including measuring the distance we covered with a bike or counting how many times we jumped or went down the slide. Pupils had the opportunity to visit the

School Shop and experience a transaction differentiated to reflect their current level.

Our Life Skills Tutor oversaw the running of the 'Manor Eats Cafe' and it was lovely to see the pupils taking responsibility to take orders, prepare and deliver them as well as collect money and give change!

The maths curriculum team are getting ready for the upcoming 'My Money week' on 13-17 June and have planned lots of exciting maths and financial activities for our pupils. We have also booked a performance group to visit Manor School that will promote the fun aspect of maths by exploring counting, quantities and addition through dance!

Activities

Numeracy:

- **Quantities:** Go to the shops to shop your snacks for the week. Write down what you will need or make a list of photos of the items (e.g. 5 packets of crisps, 4 oranges, 3 juices, 2 apples and 1 brioche). Look at the picture and find the matching item on the shelf. With help count the items while you put them in your shopping basket. How many items did you buy overall?
- **Dice game:** Roll the dice and count the number of dots that you got. Do equal number of actions (e.g. jumping, clapping, rolling etc.).

Shape:

- **2D shape playdough fun:** Use your playdough to create the shape of a kite, window, door, wheel and a slice of pizza. What shapes did you make? How many sides do they have? Combine them to create a house or vehicle!

Measure:

- **Capacity:** Explore the amount something can hold. Think about which is the best bowl or plate to use for your cereal, porridge or toast every morning. Some containers might be too small and others too flat to hold enough porridge. Find one that is just right! Repeat with cups. What is the best cup to drink from when you are very thirsty?
- **Explore filling in and emptying containers of different sizes during water play.** Pierce some holes on the bottom of 2 plastic cups. What happens when you pour water into them? Draw a line near the edge of one cup and pour water until you reach the line so that it does not spill. Do the same when pouring milk or juice in a cup.

SMSC update

The Spring term has been busy for SMSC!

Our School Council members and School Ambassadors have been completing surveys and audits in the start of our process for accreditation of Rights Respecting Schools and Eco Schools.

Adam, from the Site Team, has been working closely with our Pupil Leaders so that they are prepared, when returning to their classes and Pods, to share and start the momentum of what we can do to become an Eco School.

All staff, have had an introduction to becoming a Rights Respecting School and with their pupils have been establishing a Rights Respecting board within their classrooms.

We look forward to seeing how our commitment to the Rights of the Child and being an Environmental Caring community becomes established in the Summer term.

The school has been celebrating special days that promote our diversity and inclusiveness with International Women's Day and World Down's Syndrome Day.

We celebrated Red Nose Day with comedy and laughter which included photos that made us look very old. Along with the laughter was the fundraising and important message of caring for those children who are facing poverty, war and homelessness. Children, parents and staff raised an amazing £181. Thank you.

Red Nose Day also coincided with the welcome return of our parents to our school after two years. Parents of Pod 3 children were invited to an assembly and morning tea. We look forward to welcoming back parents of children in the other pods during the Summer Term.

Wishing everyone a happy Spring break. For those who are celebrating – a Happy Ramadan and Happy Easter. Here is a selection of photos from some our activities this term!

RED NOSE DAY



World Down Syndrome Day



International Women's Day



Ramadan