



# Manor School

## Autumn Newsletter 2023



### Head teacher's message

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we approach the end of 2023, I want to express my heartfelt gratitude for your unwavering support and commitment. The beginning of the school year has been marked by positivity and we recognise the crucial role that our wonderful families play in the success of our community.

I'd like to say a special "Thank You" to our Wembley Manor parents for their understanding and support during the ongoing building delays. The challenges we've faced have been testing, but I am delighted to announce that we will be ushering in 2024 in our new accommodation on the grounds of Newman Catholic College.

The presence of so many of you during meetings and special events has been heartening, especially during the recent Christmas performances. Your participation adds to the warmth of our school community.

In the spirit of giving, I want to express gratitude



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to those who have contributed to the incredible charities that we've supported. Your kindness and generosity makes a real difference.

As we enter the festive season, I wish you and your family joy and the warmth of togetherness. I hope that your holidays are filled with love, laughter, and cherished moments.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

**Steve Thompson - Head teacher**



# Friends and Family Association

This term our Family & Friends Association (FFA) have met regularly to make plans for events and activities to help support our pupils and each other. Some of you will have attended on Friday and possibly sampled some delicious baked goods and perhaps had a go at the raffle!

**Hot off the press...** The FFA with all the support of our wonderful family & friends managed to raise £271 on Friday alone.

The FFA meetings have moreover been a lovely social opportunity for our parents and carers to meet, share a hot drink, a biscuit, plan events and most importantly have fun.

In the New Year further events including a regularly scheduled 'stay and play in the sunshine garden' will be announced and added to the FFA Calendar. Please do come along and join us for these wonderful events.

**Angela Boast - Deputy Head teacher**  
**Sangita Varsani - Family support practitioner**



# Pupil voice, advocacy, and Neurodiversity

Pupils at Manor school and Wembley Manor this term have been meeting for regular and scheduled meetings to support the many autumn priorities we have had. For School Council this has involved ongoing charity and fundraising events as well as looking at the newly under revision 'Manor promise'. Ambassadors too have been involved in reviewing items and adding their 'pupil voice' to ensure new promise items have been added. The next steps now are for them to share these with all other pupils and staff. Please keep your eyes peeled for the newly revised 'Manor Promise' and the newly created 'Wembley Manor Promise' which lay out an exciting, ambitious and sequenced menu of experiences and opportunities towards Personal Development for all of our children and young people and will be launched across the schools soon.

At Manor School we celebrate Neurodiversity and teach our children and young people about what it means to be neurodiverse. A school improvement priority this year is: to support all pupils to better understand and celebrate their neurodiversity; equipping them with the language, skills and confidence to feel empowered.

We teach that Neurodiversity is about understanding that everyone's brain is different. Neurodiversity is a word used to explain the unique ways people's brains work. While everyone's brain develops similarly, no two brains function just alike.

Being neurodivergent means having a brain that works differently from the average or "neurotypical" person. It includes conditions such as Autism, ADHD, Dyslexia, Tourette's and many more. Instead of wanting everyone to be the same, neurodiversity says it's good that people think and learn in different ways. It's like saying, "Hey, everyone's brain is unique, and that's cool!" This idea helps make sure that all kinds of brains are accepted and included in our world.

**Angela Boast - Deputy Head teacher**



# Spiritual, Moral, Social, and Cultural



The Manor School Council have been very active this term. They are a group of 8 pupils representing all classes and who use their pupil voice to make improvements and ensure that the Rights of the Child are upheld. This term the School Council have been involved with writing a Child Friendly Behaviour Policy which will be introduced to staff and pupils at the beginning of the Spring Term.

The Autumn term is perhaps our busiest for raising money for charity and awareness of those less fortunate. We have had very successful fundraisers for Children in Need and Save the Children, as well as an enormous collection for Harvest with donations going to the Brent Food Bank. Thank you very much for your generosity.

**Catherine Harris - SMSC Lead**

## The Therapy Team

The therapy team had an exciting start to the academic year as we welcomed 4 new therapists to our growing team! Aisling (SaLT), Kassady (OT), Joelle (OT) and Allison (OT) have already all become valuable members of the therapy team and school community.

Our SaLT assistant Rebecca has resumed a rolling Makaton training programme for staff. This term, 5 members of our team completed Level 1 and 2 and are very enthusiastic about applying their learning! All of us were as thrilled as the pupils to welcome Singing Hands to Manor School. Singing Hands have an extensive catalogue so this holiday season, why not have a browse on their YouTube channel for you/your child's favourite song (Christmas or otherwise) and have a sing/sign along!





# Holiday activities

## Maths

### Christmas Cookie Shapes

When crafting Christmas cookie shapes – you can explore geometric concepts like shapes and sizes and even introduce counting as you create a delicious array of mathematical delights!



### Paper Chains

Get the festive fun rolling with Christmas paper chains that sneakily weave in maths – assign each paper ring a number fact or align them with vibrant colour patterns for a jolly numeracy twist!



### 3D Nets

Be creative by creating 3D shape gift boxes with your child, incorporating mathematical concepts by exploring shape features like faces, edges, and vertices.

### Code Breaker

Crafting a simple Christmas Code Breaker for your child, where they decipher clues to locate the Elf on the Shelf or unveil a hidden gift, making learning math magical and merry.

### Other Maths Home activities

- Baking a cake, which involves measuring and shaping.
- Singing Maths-related songs such as 'Ten Green Bottles'.
- Calendars can provide an excellent opportunity for learning about time and daily routines. Support your child in recording special events on a calendar and subsequently cross off the days as they happen, culminating in the special event.



**Samira Choaibi - Maths Lead**

# Holiday activities

## Engagement

### Snow

Hopefully we'll have some real snow to explore! But if not you can always make your own. Try mixing baking soda with water or hair conditioner. Or mix cornflour and water to make a gooey paste, then pop it in the freezer.

### Hanukkah

Use candles to draw on paper, then paint over it to watch the wax resist the paint. Then carefully light your candles with an adult to celebrate Hanukkah.

### Christmas

Bake some yummy gingerbread cookies with an adult, and cut them into different shapes. Or you could make a decoration for your tree using salt dough. Get crafty and make your own Christmas cards using handprints and footprints. Try turning your print into a reindeer, a robin, a sleigh, or any other Christmassy picture you can think of!

### Light and Dark

Dark evenings don't have to be miserable! Explore light and dark in your house. You could use fairy lights, torches, candles, or see if you can find other sources of light in your house. Watch your shadow on the wall, or have a go at making shadow puppets using your hands or cutouts- you could even put on a show for your family! Or wrap up warm and go for a walk outside with a torch.

**Ailish Casey - Engagement Lead**









# Holiday activities

## Personal, Social, Health and Economic






Completing a range of activities can help keep our mind healthy and our emotions balanced. By modelling these and supporting the children to engage we can teach them self-regulation skills and also remind ourselves how to look after our own mental health during Christmas.

 **Positive**
 **feelings**
 **Christmas**
 **activities**






  
**Physical**

 jumping, 
  stretching, 
  running, 
  swimming

  
**Emotional**

 time 
 with 
  friends, 
  family 
 and 
  favourite 
  toys







  
**Social**

 Trips, 
  turn-taking 
  games, 
  family 
  dinner

  
**Play**

 balls, 
  construction, 
  arts and crafts

  
**Engagement**

 Quiet 
  focus 
  (puzzles, 
  music, 
  books, 
  sensory play)

  
**Relaxation**

 bean bag, 
  lights off, 
  noticing 
  feelings

Eva Bourmpaki - PSHE Lead

# Holiday activities

## Literacy

- Using offcuts of wrapping paper, can your child wrap up some old toys?
- Ask your child to find Christmas Trees when out and about. Can they answer where questions “where is the star?” “Where is the red bauble?” etc.
- Draw a winter scene or complete a winter colouring sheet.
- Write a letter to Santa, or point to toys in a catalogue.
- Complete a Christmas or Winter word-search, you can find these on Discovery Espresso
- Read Christmas/winter stories together.
- Listen to Christmas/winter story audiobooks.
- Watch Christmas/Winter movies together.

**Aaron Lentner - Maths Lead**



## Diary Dates

- INSET day for staff: Monday 8th January 2024 (school closed to pupils)
- Term starts for pupils: Tuesday 9th January 2024
- Last day of half term: Friday 9th February 2024
- Half term: Monday 12th - Friday 16th February 2024 (school closed)
- Last day of term: Thursday 28th March 2024

## School payments

We will be going cashless from the January 2024.  
Further information and guidance will follow in the new year.