



Manor School

Autumn Newsletter 2025/26



Head teacher's message

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we come to the end of 2025, I want to share my sincere thanks for your continued support and partnership. The start of this academic year has been overwhelmingly positive and it is clear that the encouragement you give at home plays an important role in the success and wellbeing of our pupils.

It has been wonderful to see so many of you at meetings and school events, particularly during the recent Christmas performances. Your involvement brings a real sense of warmth and community to Manor School. In the season of giving, I would also like to extend my appreciation to everyone who has contributed to the charitable causes we have supported this year. Your generosity has made a meaningful difference to others.

We continue to emphasise the importance of regular attendance, as it is fundamental to each child's progress.

With this in mind, please do continue to check the term dates on our website and plan holidays accordingly. Our whole school attendance currently stands at 92.8%, which is encouraging, although still short of our 94% percent target.

As we move into the festive break, I wish you and your families a joyful and restful holiday filled with love, laughter, and special moments. We look forward to welcoming pupils back to school on Wednesday 7th January 2026.

I hope you find the rest of this newsletter both informative and enjoyable to read.

Merry Christmas, Happy New Year and see you in 2026!

Steve Thompson - Head Teacher

Neurodiversity / Pastoral

The children have settled extremely well into their classes, and we have seen growing confidence, stronger relationships and increasing engagement in learning across the school. Pupil voice remains impactful as we continue to harness views from our Junior Leaders and pupil Ambassadors. Most recently helping us to carry out a 'heat survey' as part of a collaborative wider review to inform school leaders.

It has also been wonderful to welcome so many parents and carers into school this term. Our informal drop-in coffee mornings and more structured training sessions such as the Level 1-4 Makaton trainings have provided valuable opportunities to connect, share experiences and learn together. Of particular note has been the shift towards additional sessions that not only support families in meeting the needs of their children, but also encourage parents and carers to prioritise their own well-being and resilience. This holistic approach with the school Pastoral team and our Community partners working together feels especially important.

This work further links directly to our School Improvement Priority of Wellbeing and Resilience, where our focus is on strengthening pupils' emotional wellbeing through our fantastic PSHE offer with bespoke CPD training this term further bolstering consistent implementation. We know that by supporting pupils, families and staff in this way, we are creating the conditions for children to feel safe, understood and thrive.

Angela Boast - Deputy Head Teacher





Early Years

Pupils at Manor School Early Years Centre have settled well into the school routine. This term, they have been learning to build positive relationships with the adults and their peers. Pupils are learning self-help skills and are beginning to show understanding of how to take care of their belongings by hanging up their coats on their pegs and tidying up resources when activity time has finished.

Each class have enjoyed learning about autumn. They have explored the changes in the season from autumn to winter. We have also been making Christmas decorations to decorate our classrooms and Christmas trees.

Our parents have been very supportive in developing partnerships with us to support the pupils. All parents attended our Home School Conversation meetings and it was wonderful seeing so many parents attend our first Coffee Morning. A heartfelt thank you to you all staff and parents in helping us make such a positive start to the pupil's education.

Wishing all a wonderful break and we look forward to seeing you again in the new year.



Mala Neves - Early Years Lead



Parent Liasion

It has been a pleasure meeting our new children and families this term. We're delighted that so many of you have attended our wellbeing-focused Coffee Mornings and other parent training sessions. We truly appreciate your time and involvement, and we hope you've found these sessions helpful and supportive.

A huge thank you to all our parents and carers for joining us at the Christmas assemblies and for taking part in our Family and Friends Association (FFA) raffle and bake sale.

A special thank you goes to the wonderful members of our FFA, who worked incredibly hard to make the Christmas event such a success. Thanks to their efforts—and to your generosity—we raised an impressive £400 through the raffle and bake sale!

We truly appreciate your support, and we can't wait to see you at more events next term.

A big thank you to TESCO Extra (Wembley), TESCO Express (Kensal Rise), Granville and Three Trees Family Wellbeing Centres for their kind donations!

Please see this list of useful links:

- <https://www.brent.gov.uk/localoffer>
- <https://www.barnardos.org.uk/what-we-do/services/brent-out-hours-support-line>
- <https://brentpcf.org/>
- <https://disabilitysportscoach.org.uk/get-active/community-clubs/club-brent/>
- www.sufra-nwlondon.org.uk
- www.sportattheheart.org

Sangita Varsani - Family Support Practitioner





Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education

This has been an exciting term for PSHE! We were accredited with the 'Gold' award for our participation in the TfL Travel for Life programme. Over three years we delivered various activities and consultations to teach our pupils and staff the benefits of safe, active and sustainable travel (e.g., cycling, walking and public transport).

Our fantastic pupils and travel ambassadors are now leading the way and making an impact on our school community and London! To celebrate our award we hosted some wonderful cycling instructors who taught our pupils how to ride a bike and how to improve their cycling skills. It was great to see our pupils progress from beginners to cycling independently including braking and turning corners.



Home-learning suggestions for the Holidays:

- Create a daily journal: write down 2 things that were hard and 2 things that made you smile at the end of every day.
- Spend time with your favourite people: you can bake cookies together, decorate a Christmas tree, sing your favourite songs.
- Stay active: you can go on Christmas walks involving spotting Christmas trees, lights, etc.
- Practise using public transport for longer journeys: use an Oyster card to tap onto a bus or train, take your favourite toy with you for comfort and count the stops on your journey!



Eva Bourmpaki - PSHE Lead

Literacy

Hello Families, my name is Alex and I am the new Literacy Lead Practitioner for Manor School. Before taking on the Literacy Lead role I was the Computing Lead, and you may have met me at the Curriculum taster session for parents last year. I am excited to be leading a new subject area, maintaining and developing the fantastic Literacy teaching and learning Manor School offers.

Since taking on the role I have been dropping in to classes to get a better understanding on all the wonderful and unique ways Literacy is taught across the school. I saw a fantastic multi-sensory approach to teach describing a setting in a writing session, lots of different and creative ways of teaching phonics and engaging story telling sessions utilising props, songs and music.



Suggested holiday activities:

- Write/type a letter to Santa, or a family member telling them things you enjoy doing.
- Read lots of Christmas or winter themed books.
- Keep a diary of different activities you have either by writing or drawing.
- Share a favourite book or song with a family member.

Alex Oldham - Literacy Lead



Maths and STEM

We have had a very strong and exciting start to the academic year in Maths and STEM, with lots of wonderful learning happening across the school. Pupils have been exploring, investigating, and showing brilliant curiosity as they engage with practical activities across science, technology, engineering and maths.

The STEM team has a fantastic programme of projects and themed weeks planned for the coming months, and we can't wait to share more with you as they unfold.

To end this term, we celebrated our whole-school STEM Week with a creative and energetic theme: Build a Snowman! Pupils took on the challenge with great enthusiasm, designing and constructing their own snowmen using a range of materials. Many groups explored eco-friendly choices, carefully considering which items could be reused or recycled. Alongside the building fun, classes engaged in thoughtful discussions about the rights and respect that should be given to their snowperson, linking creativity with values and responsibility.

At-home idea: You might like to continue the theme by exploring STEM skills together. Try planning a snowperson design as a family, talking about what shapes you will use, how you will balance the parts, and which materials would be strongest. This encourages problem-solving, creativity, and early engineering thinking in a fun and simple way.

Samira Choaibi - Maths and STEM Lead



Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development

In October, our school proudly celebrated Black History Month with the theme "Standing Firm in Power and Pride." Pupils participated in a variety of activities, including learning about influential figures in Black history as well as an inspirational drumming workshop with Iroko Drummers.

As part of our commitment to social action, our school community generously donated food and essential items for our Harvest collection. We supported the Children in Need appeal and the 'Save the Children' Christmas Jumper Day raising awareness and helping those who need it most.

Our Junior Leaders excelled in their roles as Change Makers. As part of their ongoing efforts to improve our school and community, they have completed important surveys to assess heating issues in the school, particularly during the warmer months. They wrote a letter to Brent Council to support the School Street Scheme, which helps reduce traffic and improve safety around our school. Additionally, the Junior Leaders had the opportunity to meet with Roxanna Glennon, Head of Brent Inclusion, to discuss safety concerns in and around Brent. We have been set a task, so watch out to see what happens.

We celebrated Diwali with lovely assemblies and class activities. During the Advent season with a focus on Hope, Joy, Peace, and Love our Christmas Concerts were a highlight bringing our school community together in song, reflection, and celebration.

Our warmest wishes to all who celebrate Christmas. To everyone, we wish a safe and happy holiday. Thank you for your continued support, and we look forward to all that the new year will bring!

Catherine Harris - SMSC Lead





Therapy Team

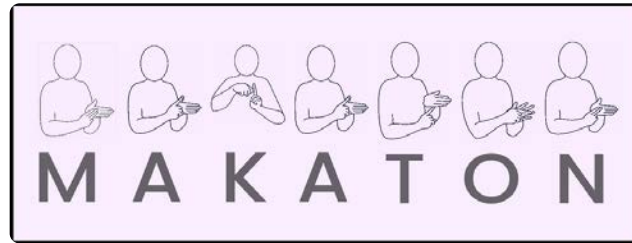
As the Trust grows, so does the therapy team - this term, we were happy to welcome our new Occupational Therapist Georgia.

Over the term, we have delivered various training aimed at maintaining and enhancing therapy provision. Both the Speech and Language Therapy (SaLT) team and Occupational Therapy (OT) team provided whole staff training for all schools reviewing the SaLT and OT service delivery model that reinforced our collaborative and embedded approach. The therapy team also delivered various bespoke trainings for schools. This included training on making visuals for communication and learning, early language learning and interaction, and optimal use of alternative and augmentative communication (AAC), delivered by the SaLT team with the aim of impacting and enriching our delivery of communication targets across all schools, staff, and families. Training delivered by the occupational therapy team included promoting independence in self-care occupations and supporting feeding with neuro-divergent individuals.

We hope you all enjoy some quality family time over the upcoming holiday break.

The Partnership Trust Therapy Team





Makaton Friendly Status – Some Exciting News!

We are delighted to announce that **Manor School** and **The Avenue School** have officially achieved **Makaton Friendly Status**.

This accreditation recognises our commitment to creating communication-rich environments, where signs and symbols are used consistently to support all pupils. This milestone reflects the hard work of staff, the enthusiasm of our pupils, and the dedication of everyone involved in promoting accessible communication.

We thank all the teams who contributed by completing training, developing visual supports, and embedding Makaton into everyday practice. This is a wonderful achievement, and one we are incredibly proud to celebrate as a Trust.

Pupil Support and Engagement

This term, pupils across the Trust have been increasingly confident in using Makaton to:

- Make choices throughout the school day
- Participate in whole-class teaching, group work, and circle times
- Engage enthusiastically with the Trust-wide Sign/Phrase of the Week
- Support emotional regulation, expressing feelings such as happy, sad, help, or finished
- Sign spontaneously in social settings, such as the dining hall or playground

Class teams have observed and praised improvements in expressive language, confidence, and social interaction for many pupils. Classes have also enjoyed signing activities such as songs, stories, and games, which have further boosted enthusiasm and skill development.

We celebrate the hard work pupils have put into using Makaton this term. Their engagement has been central to achieve our Makaton Friendly Trust status, and we are incredibly proud of them.

Looking Ahead to Spring Term

Next term, we will continue building on this momentum by:

- Providing more staff training to support consistent use of signs and phrases
- Maintaining standards for Makaton Friendly accreditation at Manor and The Avenue School
- Supporting Wembley Manor towards becoming a Makaton Friendly school





Diary Dates

Christmas
 Holidays
 countdown
 calendar

On Friday
 19th
 December
 school
 is finished.
 No school on:
 Saturday
 Sunday

Monday
 Tuesday
 Wednesday
 Thursday
 Friday
 Saturday
 Sunday

Monday
 Tuesday
 Wednesday
 Thursday
 Friday
 Saturday
 Sunday

Back to school
 on Wednesday
 7th
 January
 2026

[Click here for a printable PDF!](#)



Autumn recap 2025

Manor School

Autumn 2025
End of term recap

www.manor.brent.sch.uk