

Manor Primary School

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28th April 2017
(Letter 10)

Dear Parents / Carers

Don't forget that Monday is the May Bank Holiday and that school is closed for the long weekend. I am hoping that the weather improves and that it is a bit warmer for the weekend!
Please note that the school will now be closed on Thursday 8th June for the General Election.

As always this term will be a busy one. There are a lot of planned **events** which you have dates for and I hope to see many of you at lots of them. There are occasional changes (for example the Polling Day for the General Election) and we will keep you updated with those. Please keep a close eye on the website and the newsletters sent out.



The next whole-school event is the **UNICEF Day for Change** which is currently being planned for by the School Council. We have raised a lot of money for Unicef over the past couple of years, and the children have thought a lot about what the money is used for. They have really enjoyed taking on the responsibility for the fundraising and thinking about the difference that they have made to the lives of children across the world. I am looking forward to seeing the range of activities on offer on the day!

The children and staff in **Year 2 and Year 6** are working hard at the moment to ensure that they are ready for the **tests and assessments** that they will be completing next month. It has been a tricky year as the government have made a lot of changes to the assessment systems being done in schools, and indeed are continuing to make changes at this late stage. The staff across the school are all working to make sure that the children are as ready as we can get them for the tests and assessments, and the children all know that all we expect is for them to have tried hard and produced their best!



I hope that you have noticed the **improvements that are being made** in the playgrounds and the grounds. I particularly like the new planters that are now in the passageway between the two playgrounds, and am looking forward to seeing them grow! The school garden is starting to come to life again after the winter. Sheila is working with Chris, the site supervisor, and with lots of the children to look after it and to plant some new vegetables for the summer. If the weather is warm we will be able to harvest some things before the end of the term.

The new **After School Activities** have started. There are quite a range on offer and the children all seem very keen. We have a lot of new sports activities that are being run by Mr Archer, the new sports coach. He is looking for more opportunities for the school to get involved in sport outside of school and inter-schools competitions.



A reminder about **school uniform**. The vast majority of children are wearing uniform consistently which is great to see. The children's jumpers / fleeces should be navy blue, and should not have hoods. Shoes should be blue, black or dark brown – the next time you are buying shoes for the children I would ask that you bear this in mind. We do seem to have some very bright coloured trainers at the moment which are not what they should be wearing. The whole school wearing uniform helps to create a real sense of community and identity with Manor, which we think is really important. Thank you for your help in this.

It is lovely to see the children bringing in a cake or some chocolates to share with their class when it is their **birthday**. However, lately things seem to have got more and more extravagant with party bags and extra sweets etc. I would prefer it if it was kept quite low-key. If you do send in a cake please could it be pre-cut as this eases the distribution of it at the end of the day. Thank you for your understanding in this.



Some dates for this term for your diaries:

UNICEF: Day for Change – Friday 19th May
Science Week – 22nd – 24th May
POLLING DAY – Thursday 8th June – SCHOOL CLOSED
Sports Days – 11th – 13th July
International Food Fair – Friday 14th July
Transition Day – Wednesday 19th July

Parents' Evening – Wednesday July 5th

ASSEMBLIES

Eid-UI-Fitr (Muslim) – Wednesday 28th June
Leavers' Assembly – Friday 21st July

Please see the school date cards or the website for further dates.



Class photos will be being done as usual towards the end of the term – when the weather is better so that they can be done outside. I will keep you posted as to when this will be.

Kate McGee
Headteacher

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