

Manor Primary School

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1st February 2016
(Letter 10)

Dear Parents / Carers

Well January flew by! We are well into the Spring Term now and the children and staff are all working extremely hard to make the most of this short term.



Monday was **World Religion Day** and the children were focusing on specific values that are held by particular religions. They looked at love, hope, being 'good', equality and service, and peace. They looked at these in the Christianity, Hinduism, Islam, Sikh and Jewish faiths. We are lucky in school to have a wide range of religions represented which means that the discussions that the children have can include children's personal experiences. It is a good opportunity for the children to think about the range of values that are common across so many religions, and to look at the similarities between their own beliefs and those of others. Thank you to Ms Fatomide for organising the day for us.

This Friday 5th February the School Council are organising this year's **UNICEF Day for Change**. You have had letters explaining what your child's class are doing and each of the classes has set a fundraising target to aim for. Last year's total was so amazing that I would be surprised if we could reach that again, but the children are keen to try! The day is kicking off with an **International Breakfast** which has worked well the last couple of times. I really look forward to tasting the lovely food that you will be bringing in to share. Last year there was enough that we were able to include some of the classes as well which was lovely. I look forward to seeing lots of you there.



On Wednesday we are trying something new. We are holding a **Home Learning Showcase** where some of the children will be invited to share their excellent projects that they have done at home this half term. There are so many great examples that we wanted to give the children a chance to show them off a bit, and for the children to be able to ask each other questions about what they have done and how they did it. It will be an opportunity for them to see the work of children in other classes and other year groups. Thank you to all of you who help the children with these projects at home.

Our **Year Fives** have been having **swimming lessons** for the last two weeks in the **Aquatics Centre in the Olympic Park**. We are really lucky to have this amazing resource on our doorstep and the children have loved the experience. We swapped to two weeks intensive swimming lessons instead of half an hour weekly for six months as it has a much bigger impact on the children's learning and confidence, and this is borne out by the great progress that they have made. Thank you to all the staff involved, and to the parents who were flexible about the late finish each day.



We have **Safer Internet Day** coming up next week on Tuesday 9th February. It is good to have a nationwide reminder for both the children and adults about how important it is to be mindful when using the internet, and how to keep themselves safe from any potential dangers. With ever increasing use of a range of gadgets that can access the internet the children need to understand how to be safe. We are in the process of organising for the police to come in and talk to the older children about this topic.

We are very close to being able to open up the **new playground** for the children. We have a plan for how to use both playgrounds most effectively, and are in the process of making sure that we have all the right equipment to be able to make sure that the children enjoy the time they spend outside. We are planning to have a **grand opening straight after half term**, and will soon be talking to the children about it in more detail.



A reminder that **Parents' Evening** is just after half term on Wednesday 24th February. **Mid-year reports** will be coming out to you in that week giving you information about how your child is doing so far this year. You will need an appointment for Parents' Evening, and in a change to previous years we will be sending out information about doing this before half term and not with the reports themselves. That letter will be coming out to you in the week beginning 8th February. We are aiming to have all the appointments made before we break up for half term, so would ask that you reply to this letter promptly. Thank you for your help in this.

Some dates for this term and next term for your diaries:

UNICEF Day for Change – Friday 5th February
Safer Internet Day – Tuesday 9th February
World Book Days – 3rd & 4th March
Whole School Music Concert – Friday 18th March
History Days – 23rd & 24th March
Parents' Evenings – February 24th (4-8pm); July 13th (4-6pm)



ASSEMBLIES

Chinese New Year (Buddhist) – Wednesday 10th Feb
Easter (Christian) – Tuesday 22nd March

Have a lovely week.
Kate McGee
Headteacher