

Manor Primary School

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7th October 2016
(Letter 3)

Dear Parents / Carers

As you know, as a whole school we have been looking at the values that we think are most important. This has involved all of the staff and the children and we will be using this to develop a set of **Manor Values** that will be at the heart of everything that we do.

The values that have been chosen as being most important to us are:

COMMUNITY, DETERMINATION, EXCELLENCE, RESPONSIBILITY & RESPECT.

The children are all starting to learn about these values and will be able to tell you what they mean and what we are all doing to live these values in school.

Over the coming weeks we will be giving out certificates to the children who are best representing these values.



Don't forget that it is **Open Day** for all parents next Wednesday 12th October. It is an opportunity for you to come in and spend part of the day (or the whole day!) in your child's class to see how it is that they are learning. We are sending home timetables for you today so that you are able to come for a specific session if that is what you want to do. If you would like to join us for lunch on Wednesday then please let the office know by Monday. We always have a huge turnout for Open Day which is lovely for the children, and I look forward to seeing lots of you in school on that day.

The children are all becoming familiar with our new maths scheme – **Maths No Problem**. It is very challenging and the children are working really hard to rise to that challenge. They seem to be enjoying it which is really important. There are lots of practical resources available that the children are learning to use. For some children it is a real change for them to use equipment as they are used to trying to do the maths in their head. It is good to see in class how well some of the children are able to explain what they doing and how they have worked it out. We are expecting this new approach to really help to raise standards, and for the children to make good progress.



We also have **lots more reading** going on in school – you know that another of our priorities is to improve the standards of reading across the school. The children are enjoying the new whole class reading lessons, as well as the **Drop Everything And Read** and **class novel** slots. The children need to be able to read much trickier texts by the end of Year 6 to meet the new higher expectations from the government, and we have changed a number of lessons in order to be able to improve this.

The **Home Learning Challenges** for this half term are starting to come in to school – and there are some very impressive looking ones! We asked the children this term to include some writing as part of their project. This could be a letter, a poster, and explanation, an article, an encyclopaedia entry.... The aim is for the children to produce a really high quality piece of writing about something that they are really proud of, or are really interested in. We are looking forward to seeing lots of this writing in school.



We have had an **athletics challenge** going on in school today – involving children from Years 3, 4 and 5. This was led by Ms Miller from Eastlea and some of her sports leaders and is designed to develop the children's skills and expertise. The children very much enjoyed the challenge, and it was good to see some of our past pupils coming back as Sports Leaders.

Some dates for this term for your diaries:

OPEN DAY – Wednesday 12th October
Black History Celebration – Thursday 20th October

Half Term – Monday 24th – Friday 28th October
Maths Challenge Day – Monday 31st October
INSET DAY – Monday 7th November – **SCHOOL CLOSED FOR CHILDREN**
Christmas Fair – Friday 16th December (3:15pm)

Parents' Evenings – November 30th; March 22nd; July 5th



ASSEMBLIES
Diwali (Hindu) – Wed 19th Oct
Remembrance Day – Fri 11th Nov

Christmas (Christian) – Mon 19th & Tues 20th Dec

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

The last week of the half term is a busy one with Year 4 leading our **Festival Assembly for Diwali** on Wednesday 19th October at 1:30pm, and our Black History event on Thursday 20th PM. There will be more information about the **Black History event** coming out shortly. I look forward to seeing lots of you at both of these.

Have a good weekend!
Kate McGee
Headteacher