

26th January 2018
(Letter 9)

Dear Parents / Carers



I hope that some of you saw the **ITV Lunchtime news** on Wednesday when they were reporting from Manor School! It was part of an item about the benefits of providing Free School Meals to all KS1 children. As you know, here at Manor, and across Newham we have extended that and provide free meals to all of the children, not just the infants. This is because we feel that it is important for the children to have a hot meal in the middle of the day. You know how hard we work to encourage the children to eat healthily and in a balanced way, as well as try new foods, and those of you who came to the Taster Session that we had last term will agree with how tasty the meals are! Some of the children were interviewed and did the school, and you proud.

Excellent publicity for Manor Primary!

We are currently part of a project funded by the **Big Lottery** – called **Headstart**. It is based around building the children's resilience. It looks at the many ways in which this can be taught across the curriculum, as well as working with small groups of children and classes. So far we have a group of children who are the **Headstart Champions** who are working together to look at ways in which we can build on and improve what we are doing in this area. We also have a group of children called the **BounceBack Group** who are developing strategies to use themselves, and with other groups. This project is funded to run for 4 years so we have a lot of opportunities to do exciting work.



We have had a busy fortnight . It started by marking **World Religion Day** on Monday 15th January. The children all spent some time on that day, and across the week thinking about religion – their own and that of others'. Our children are very knowledgeable about RE – about the range of religions. It is lovely to see them talking to each other about what is important to them, and about the similarities and the differences there are. It is so important in this time, living where we do, for there to be respect between the different faiths, and our children demonstrate this brilliantly.

STEM Week has been busy. There have been trips, teaching sessions, investigations, explorations. This is the first time that we have marked STEM week, and we have lots of ideas of what we can do going forward. The children have enjoyed it, and are looking forward to sharing some of their learning with other classes this afternoon.



We held a **Maths Workshop for parents** on Wednesday. It was designed to familiarise parents with the new maths teaching that we do – Maths No Problem, and to explain how you can help your child at home. We are all familiar with the feeling that maths is taught differently to when we were at school, and this is certainly true of the new system that we are using. Thank you to the parents who attended – the feedback was very positive, and it seemed to be useful. If you have any questions about the maths then please ask your child's teacher, or talk to Ms van der Westhuizen or Ms Collins.

Many of you will be familiar with Abbey Gardens, the community garden that is on Baker Row near Abbey Road DLR. Some of you, I know, attend their gardening sessions and the events that they run. We are keen to create some links with them, and to get the children interested in gardening. Some staff are going to be meeting with them to see what we can do to forge some good partnership work. Watch this space.



Last week we had all of the governors in for their half termly **Governor Visits Day**. Each group of governors was in for a few hours, looking at specific areas of school life, and working with senior leaders to ensure that they know all that they can about how the school is doing, and what the school needs to do to continue to move forward. They spent a lot of time asking tricky questions – making sure that they are satisfied that all is going well.

If you have any questions for the governors then please leave them at the main reception where they will be passed on.

Some dates for this term for your diaries:

Anti-Bullying Roadshow (KS2) – Monday 5th February
100 Years since Women won the Vote – Tuesday 6th February

World Book Day – Thursday 1st March
Music Concert & Comic Relief – Friday 23rd March



Parents' Evenings – March 7th; July 11th

ASSEMBLIES
Nirvana Day (Buddhist) – Wed 7th Feb
Holi (Hindu) – Wed 7th March

It is lovely to see that the days are starting to get longer, and there is a bit more sunshine around. Have a lovely weekend!

Kate McGee
Headteacher

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