

7th September 2018
(Letter 1)

Dear Parents / Carers



A very warm welcome back to you all after the summer holidays. I hope that you all had a good summer and enjoyed the really lovely weather that we had – it was a good year to holiday at home! We have some new families who have joined us, and I would like to extend an especially big welcome to you and to your children. I hope you all settle in quickly to our school community. The children are very quickly settling into their new classes. They all look happy and healthy, and ready to learn!

We have quite a few new staff to welcome this term.

Ms Gemma Karim has joined us as the class teacher for Year 5 Darwin. **Mr Matt Fortune** joins us to be the class teacher for Year 3 Dyson. **Ms Gosia Siedlecka** joins us to work as a teaching assistant supporting in Year 3 and in Year 6. We welcome them to Manor, and wish them as they start their new jobs. I am sure that you will quickly get to know them, and will welcome them too.



Ms Ritha Begum left us at the end of last term to take up a job closer to home in order to fit in with childcare. Ritha worked here for 8 years as a TA, supporting individual children across the school each year. She formed excellent relationships with both the children and their parents, and I know that her work was really appreciated by these families especially. I would like to thank her for all of her hard work, and her commitment to the children and to the school.


We were very sorry to see her go, and wish her all the very best in her new role.



In addition to the new staff joining us, a number of existing staff have taken on some additional responsibilities. **Mr Mohi Ahmed** is now the Healthy Schools Lead; **Ms Lucy Howarth**, **Ms Karen Creasey** and **Ms Sam Dempsey** are all now Senior Higher Level Teaching Assistants (HLTAs); **Ms Nasria Maudhoo** is now the Science Lead; and **Ms Noreen Mohammed** is the Deputy RWI (phonics) lead. I am looking forward to working with them to continue to move the school forward in each of these areas.

Congratulations to **Mr Jonathan Francis** who became a dad in August with the birth of Nathaniel. The family are all doing well, but say that they are very tired – I think that you will all know that feeling!

I am sure that you will join me in wishing them all the very best.



Senior staff will continue to be in the playgrounds at the beginning and end of each day, meetings permitting. If you have any concerns or suggestions that you would like to raise then please find us at these times. It works really well if you tell us of any problems early as then we can ensure that they are dealt with and sorted out quickly. This will hopefully prevent you or your children having any unnecessary worry!

School Priorities for this year:

Continue to raise attainment – the children do when compared to national figures, but we are always looking for ways in which we can improve this further.

Develop the new curriculum units – we will be combining subjects and using different approaches in order to make each unit as exciting and engaging as we can.

Develop the voice of the child – we will be providing more opportunities for the children to be involved in the running of the school and the decision-making.

Develop leadership skills – enabling staff to be more involved in the school's development and direction.



One of the changes that we have introduced this term is to **increase the amount of PE** that the children will be doing. They will now have **two sessions of PE each week** – one with their class teacher, focused on the PE National Curriculum, and one with Mr Archer, who will be focusing on coaching a range of skills in a variety of games. This will help prepare the children to be able to compete in a wider range of competitions – both in school and in tournaments. Mr Archer and Mr Ahmed have been working to ensure that the children are able to participate in as wide a range of competitions as possible.

We are changing the way we hold the **Festival Assemblies** this year. We will still be marking key festivals in each of the religions in whole school assemblies, but they will be led by the staff rather than the children. This term's festival assemblies will be: Yom Kippur (Jewish), Divali (Hindu) and Remembrance Day (multi-faith).

This change is in order to be able to introduce some **Sharing Assemblies** where each phase group will have the opportunity to showcase some of the work that they have been doing – to the rest of the school, and to families. You will be invited to these assemblies – they will be spread out over the course of the school year.



There will be an opportunity for you to come in and **meet your child's new class teacher**, and to find out more about what they will be learning across this year, as well as ways in which you can help and support their learning at home. We ran these sessions last year and they were very popular. More information will be sent out to you very shortly – the dates are Tuesday 18th, Wednesday 19th and Thursday 20th September.

Some dates for this term for your diaries:

<p>Meet the Teacher – 18th, 19th, 20th September OPEN DAY – Tuesday 25th September School Fundraiser Cake Sale – Friday 12th October Half Term – Monday 22nd – Friday 26th October Anti-Bullying Week – 12th – 16th November Children in Need Fundraiser – Friday 16th November OPEN DAY – Thursday 22nd November Food Festival – Friday 7th December</p> <p>Parents' Evenings – 18th-20th September; February 6th; July 10th</p>		<p style="text-align: center;">ASSEMBLIES</p> <p>Y5/Y6 Sharing Assembly – Friday 19th October Christmas Assemblies – 18th & 19th December</p>
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The Festival Assemblies this year will be led by the staff rather than the children.

Please see the school website for further dates.

We have slightly changed arrangements for some of the children for the start and end of the day:

Year group	Playground and entry door
Nur, Rec & Y1	Enter through EYFS playground and straight into classrooms through external classroom doors
Years 2 & 5	Line up in the EAST Playground – Leywick St side
Years 3, 4 & 6	Line up in the WEST Playground – Dining Room side

The children will line up at the start of the day and be collected from the same lines at the end of the day from the same playground.



It has been fantastic to see all of the children looking so smart in their school uniform. A reminder that we also expect the children to have the correct uniform for PE sessions. Uniform with the Manor logo on it is available from the main office. All other items of uniform are available at very reasonable costs from all the big supermarkets.

More information about school uniform is available on the school website.

Some **quick reminders** at the start of the new year:

- No jewellery to be worn, except a watch and small stud earrings. A necklace may be worn if it is religious, but must be kept tucked in. No nail varnish to be worn.
- No sweets or gum to be brought to school or eaten in school, including in the playground before 8:55am.
- If it is necessary for your child to bring a mobile phone in to school with them, it must be given in at reception for safe keeping.

Please feel free to come and see me at any time.
 In the mean time I hope you all have a good term.

Kate McGee
 Headteacher

