

28th September 2018
(Letter 2)

Dear Parents / Carers



It was lovely to see so many of you in school on Tuesday for the **Open day**. I hope that you enjoyed your time in the classrooms, and found it useful. The children really enjoy having you all in with them. We will be doing more Open Days this year to give you as many opportunities as possible to come in to the classes and work alongside your child. The next Open Day will be in November, and on that day we will be offering you the opportunity to eat lunch with

your child as well. A big thank you to all who attended.

We say goodbye and good luck today to **Emily Smith** who starts her maternity leave in preparation for her new arrival. I am sure that you will all join me in wishing her all the very best in her new role as mum! We look forward to meeting the baby when she visits later on.



We are in the process of sorting out the **After school activities** for this term, and a letter will be coming out very shortly with more information about what is on offer, and how to apply for the clubs. As you will be aware the finances in schools at the moment are extremely tight, and as such we will now be making a small charge for some of the clubs. This will need to be paid at the start of each term. We have kept the charge as low as we can. I am sure that you will understand why we have had to do this.

I am pleased that many of you came to the **Meet the teacher** sessions that we had last week, and I hope that you found the information useful, and gave you a clear idea of the expectations for your child for this year. There are many new changes that have taken place, and some new initiatives that we are undertaking, and it will help you to help your child knowing about these. I would like to have seen more parents at these sessions. If there are specific areas of the curriculum or of school life that you would like more information about then please come and talk to myself or another member of the SLT and we can then ensure that the sessions that we run are what you want.

MEET THE
TEACHER!



Healthy Schools

One of the initiatives that we will be working on this year is **Healthy schools**. Mr Ahmed is taking the lead on this, and has a team of staff working with him. The aim is to ensure that as a school we are doing all that we can to promote healthy living and positive choices, and to teach the children about why this is important. It will cover a wide range of aspects – sport and exercise, diet and eating, mental health, healthy relationships... The aim is to achieve 'Healthy Schools' status as a recognition that we are doing the very best in this area

for the children.

As part of this, we have taken the decision to not allow the children to have **birthday cakes** in school. This is because of the sheer number of cakes this adds up to if every child in the class brings one in for their birthday. Hopefully this will also relieve the burden for parents of providing this for the class. Some of you will already know of this decision as we included it in the information shared at the Meet the Teacher sessions.





We have slightly changed the way we award merits to the children. Friday's assembly is now called the **Star of the Week Assembly**. One child from each class is chosen for a specific reason from the week, and they bring a piece of work or an explanation to the assembly to be able to share this in more detail. This work is then put on the Manor Stars display in the Middle Hall for the following week, and their star is added to the display for the term. The children have really enjoyed this, and have enjoyed receiving the piece of work at the end of the week to take home.

As you will have seen from my previous letter, one of the priorities for us this year is to increase the opportunities for the children to feed directly into the running of the school, and the decision-making. We have set up a **Children's Leadership Team** (replacing the School Council), and the KS2 classes have all elected their representatives for this. The **Digital Leaders** will be continuing their work that they started last term, and have already been on a visit to Apple to help them. We have a new **Newsletter Team** that will be working on the half-termly children's newsletter that is produced and sent out. If you ever need extra copies of these to give to friends, families or neighbours then please just ask. We are also in the process of recruiting some **Playground Leaders** that will work with us to make sure that the children's playtimes and lunchtimes provide them with the opportunities that they would like.



Each of the groups has a display board in school where they will be promoting the work that they are doing, and will use it to collect in more information from the other children.



Those of you who came to Open Day may have seen or spoken to Paulette who runs the **Academy Achievers** programme. Sessions are run here at school each Saturday, and during the holidays. We are currently working with Paulette to extend some further opportunities into the school day.

Leaflets about Academy Achievers are available from the main reception, and you can speak to any of us to find out more information. The children who attend, talk very enthusiastically about what they do.

Some dates for this term for your diaries:

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

Parents' Evenings – February 6th; July 10th



ASSEMBLIES

Y5/Y6 Sharing Assembly – Friday 19th October
Christmas Assemblies – 18th & 19th December

The Festival Assemblies this year will be led by the staff rather than the children.

Please see the school website for further dates.

It is incredible how quickly September has gone! As we move into the colder weather, please ensure that the children have appropriate clothes in school for play and lunchtimes.

Have a good weekend.

Kate McGee
 Headteacher

