

20th November 2018
(Letter 5)

Dear Parents / Carers

We have had lots of events in school already this half term which the children have enjoyed. It has been nice to see parents attending as well – the feedback has been very positive.

On Friday 9th November, **Year 5 and 6** held the first **Sharing Assembly** of the year to showcase the incredible learning that has taken place so far this term. Throughout the afternoon, they were visited by children from the other year groups and a number of curious parents. Year 5 presented lots of impressive learning from their 'Amazing Amazon' topic, including paintings, adventure stories, board games, campaign letters and a range geography work. Year 6 presented a wide range of learning from their 'Incredible Inventions' topic, including art work, PowerPoint presentations and dances inspired by different inventions. They also shared some of their learning in science and maths, including Mathletics demonstrations. Both year groups had some activities to test their visitors, including a palm oil game and a mirror writing challenge, which were both fun and informative! Year 5 and 6 would like to thank all the parents and carers who came to visit and hope you enjoyed the afternoon as much as they did.



We marked **Remembrance Day** last week, with an assembly for all the staff and children led by the Year 6 staff. The children were great, and obviously were very clear about why we were remembering. Tasnim and Wafee in Year 6 read the poem In Flanders Field extremely well, and it was a fitting end to the assembly. Thank you to all who bought poppies, and donated to the Royal British Legion's Poppy Appeal.

We marked **Diwali** with a whole school assembly led by the Y3 staff. Our children have a unique opportunity to learn about each other's religions and celebrations, and I am always impressed how much some of them know! To all who celebrated Diwali, I hope that you had a lovely time with friends and family.



Last week, we took part in the annual national **Anti-Bullying Week** – this year's theme was '**Choose Respect**'. We took this opportunity to reinforce one of our school's key values. The week started with children and staff wearing odd socks to represent the fact that we are all different – it was great to see so many sporting their odd socks. Classes discussed the importance of respect and how to manage conflicts, seeking help where necessary. Classes have created posters that will be put on display to showcase the children's learning and understanding. We'll be posting pictures of these on our website very soon.

On Friday, classes across the school enjoyed an afternoon of exciting challenges in order to raise money for **BBC's Children in Need**, a charity which helps disadvantaged pupils all over the UK. This year, we also had a talent show that the children could enter to display their special talents. We were all treated to a great show that included acts such as ballet dancing, singing, karate and boxing demonstrations and impressive magic tricks. Thank you to everyone who entered to raise money for this worthwhile charity.



The staff also raised money by taking part in BBC's Children in Need Duck Race – congratulations to Ms Khadijah who chose the winning duck!

Don't forget to check out our blogs to see highlights of our fundraising events.

(Please note, due to swimming lessons, Year 3 and 4 didn't take part in the talent show this time, however, they will be having their own talent show before the Christmas holidays.)



A reminder that we have our second **Open Day** of the term this week – Thursday 22nd November. We have set it up slightly differently this time, so that there are many reasons for you to visit even if you came in for the last Open Day before half term. As well as spending time in class with your child, there are some information sessions led by both staff and children to help you to understand some of the things that we are doing in school.

There is a Virtual Reality opportunity, a phonics and early reading session, how to use Education City to help your child at home, presentations from both the Children's Leadership Team, and the Digital Leaders.



There will be the opportunity to have a tour of the school if you are newer to Manor, or if you are just interested in seeing what is going on in other year groups.

As you know we made the decision to have the **International Food Festival** in December instead of in the summer. This will be happening on Friday 7th December. More information will be coming out about it soon, and I hope that you will all join in with this event, and bring a dish in for the festival that reflects your heritage. Mr McGee is already planning what he will cook for the event!!

Even though we are not having a Christmas Fair this year, we will still be having a **Christmas Raffle** to raise money for the school. There will be lots of great prizes as usual – a children's raffle and an adult's one too. The prizes will go on display soon, and tickets will be available from the main office.

The winners will be drawn in the last week of term.



Plans and rehearsals are already underway for the **Christmas Assemblies**. We will be having one performance for the Nursery and Reception children, and another one for the KS1 and KS2 children. The children have been very enthusiastically auditioning for the main parts, and are really keen to take part. There is a lot to do over the next few weeks – lines to learn, songs to practise, costumes and props to make.... Tickets will go on sale closer to the time – I hope to see a lot of you there, I am sure that you will enjoy the performance!

Photography at School Events

Much stricter laws are now in place about personal data and how it is used and kept (GDPR). You will be aware that we have sent home letters asking for specific permission as to the taking of and use of photos with your child in it. We do not have full consent from all parents which means that we have to be very careful when taking photos at school events, making sure that we are only photographing those children that we have permission for.



As a result of this we will not be able to allow parents to take photos at performances and events.

The school will take photos, and will be able to share these where we have permission to do so. We will also provide an opportunity for parents to take a photo of their own child at the end of a performance.

A reminder that we are now offering **30 hours places** to children in the Nursery. We are fortunate at the moment to be able to accommodate this, and hope that it will offer an extra degree of flexibility to parents who are working, or who are wanting to return to work. We will be running it very flexibly, and hope that we will be able to suit the needs of anyone that is interested in this offer. There is more information coming out to you about this today. If you would like to talk to us about it, or have any questions then please come into the office to ask. We look forward to this starting.



Some dates for this term and the first half of next term for your diaries:

OPEN DAY – Thursday 22nd November
Food Festival – Friday 7th December
Christmas Lunch – Thursday 20th December
OPEN DAY – Wednesday 16th January
Whole School Arts Project – 21st – 25th January
School Fundraiser – Friday 1st February
KS1 Sharing Event – Friday 15th February
Parents' Evenings – February 6th; July 10th

ASSEMBLIES
Christmas Assemblies – Wednesday 19th December



Please see the school website for further dates.

As it finally looks as if the cold weather is settling in, can you please make sure that your child has appropriate clothing in school – warm coat, hat, scarf & gloves. A reminder please to make sure that it is all named.

Kate McGee
Headteacher

