

1st February 2019
(Letter 6)

Dear Parents / Carers

At last we have reached February – January seemed to last a very long time! A lot has happened in the first month of the term, and lots more is planned for the rest of it.



Last term, the children took part in a **Selfie Workshop** where they learned about the history of photography as well as learning about the equipment used in professional photography. You will have received proofs of the photos with the option to purchase. I am sure you will agree that the children did a fantastic job in taking a range of very striking, professional looking photographs.

A team of Year 6 children visited The Queen Mary University of London on Saturday 26th January to take part in a **Lego League** coding tournament. The team have been working after school to develop their coding skills to programme the 'Manor-bot' to take part in space themed challenges. On the day, the children gave presentations to university lecturers and worked as part of a team to solve problems and combat challenges. It was a pleasure to see how confident and articulate the pupils were when presenting their projects as well as working together to find solutions to their tasks. A huge well done to Manor's Lego team for taking part. This project was run in partnership with Academy Achievers who hold sessions at our school on Saturdays. And a big thank you to Mr Buckley who gave up his Saturday to accompany the children and parents to this event.



On 14th January children from Y1 and Y2 took part in **KS1 Mini Olympics** at Newham Leisure Centre to compete against 10 other schools in a range of different sporting events. We came 7th out of the 11 schools which Mr Archer was very proud of! The children had a fantastic time, and represented Manor School really well. Well done to all.

Also that week on the 15th January Y4/Y5/Y6 took part in an **Athletics Challenge**. Two of the coaches from our sports partnership came to school to put the children through some gruelling athletic challenges, in order to compare us to other schools! We won't know the results of this for a little while as they are working their way around all of the local schools. The children really loved this, and there were some impressive performances. Well done to all of them.

Through our sports partnership with Cumberland and Eastlea Ms Miller has now trained up sports leaders in both Y5 and Y6 who are now running **multiskills competitions** for the younger children. Their achievements in these sessions will be celebrated later on in the year with an event at Eastlea School.

The Great Ocean Clean Up - A very current news topic that you will have either read about or have seen on TV recently is about the damage that single-use plastic is having to our planet – more notably to the oceans. The whole school has taken part in an English and Art project to help tackle this important issue. Children across the school wrote to various audiences, including parents, our school dinner catering company, members of parliament and even to the Prime Minister – we look forward to hearing back from the letters we sent to see what they think about the children's ideas and their suggested solutions.

The **Whole School Art Project** looked at the diverse ways in which different artists have celebrated the sea. Each year group studied a different artist and identified the features of their work. They then learnt some new painting skills before creating their own painting in the same style as the artist. All of the children made an individual image each and then worked together to create one collaborative piece which are displayed in the outside area which links the two playgrounds.



The children also made a sea creature from plastic bottles. These have been combined to symbolise the damage that is done to the sea by waste plastic in particular. These are hung from umbrellas in the top hall to remind us all that we need to think carefully about the plastic we use. We'll be adding images of these to our school website very soon.

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On 25th January Y6 went to Stratford Circus to watch the National Theatre's production of Shakespeare's *A Winter's Tale* as part of their English work. It was an amazing performance. The children had really enjoyed learning about the play in the run up to the performance and really rose to the challenge of understanding a very complex story all in Shakespearean English!



On Friday 25th January, **we welcomed educators from Peru** who visited our school to see how we are innovatively using virtual reality to support our children's learning. I'm sure your child has told you about how our headsets are offering them new ways of learning. Our guests spoke with Mr Buckley about why we use the devices and what impact we have seen in our children's learning and were very impressed with the work that children had completed when using the devices. Our visitors also had a tour of the school, led by our head boy and head girl, Wafee and Tasnim – the guests were very impressed with all of the work on display around the school as well as how well behaved and good mannered the pupils

are. Our guests also visited Year 3 to see the use of virtual reality first hand and speak with Mr Fortune and the children in the class to see how they felt virtual reality was benefitting them. It was a very positive visit and we look forward to see how we have helped support the use of virtual reality in Peru!



Mid-Year Reports will be coming out soon, and **Parents' Evening** is on **Wednesday 13th February**. It will run **from 1:30 to 6:30pm**, so school will be closed for the afternoon. Children will need to be collected at 1:00pm. Letters will be coming out shortly that will enable you to book an appointment to speak to your child's teacher, and we look forward to seeing you all in school on that afternoon.

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. If you would like to talk to us about it, or have any questions then please come into the office to ask.



Next week is Children's Mental Health Week where the focus is on positive wellbeing and being healthy both inside and out. The children will be doing work on this in school next week, but many of the strategies will be things that they are able to do outside of school as well. It ties in nicely with Safer Internet Day, and the work around children keeping themselves safe online. Some more information for parents will be sent out next week.

It is **National Safer Internet Day** on Tuesday 5th February. This year's nationwide theme is about giving consent online. The school's Digital Leaders will be delivering an assembly to the school about this as well as learning activities taking place in classes. Our curriculum focusses on online safety regularly but Safer Internet Day offers us the opportunity to reflect on our pupils' wider use of the internet and technology. Whilst the internet offers many benefits, it is important that children's use is carefully monitored so that parents and carers are fully aware of what their children are doing online as well as how much time children are spending online. We understand that it can sometimes be difficult for parents to know if a game is suitable for their child to be playing. A great website, www.pegi.info provides information on game content and provides age limits for their use. You may be surprised to know that a very popular game with children, **Fortnite**, is rated suitable for 12 years and over due to the violence that is portrayed.



Safer Internet Day 2019 | Tuesday 5 February
Together for a better internet

Also happening next week...

The Year 3 children have a unique opportunity when they visit the Petrie Museum as part of their unit on Egyptians. This is a Museum of Egyptian archaeology, and it is not always open! The children are very excited about going after all they have learned so far about Ancient Egypt.

The Debate Team, made up of children in Y5 and Y6 are going to the first round of the Newham Debate League. This consists of over 20 schools competing against each other in successive rounds, all competing to be top of the League at the end of the year! It is good this year to have Y6 children debating alongside the Y5s who are newer to the challenge. The boys football team have a match against New City which they are excited about. Fingers crossed for some goals!



The School Choir are still practising hard for their performance as part of **Voice in a Million** later on this term. They have the incredible opportunity to perform at Wembley Arena as part of a choir of thousands. They are working hard with Ms Hardwick and are looking forward to the performance of a lifetime!

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

Safer Internet Day – Tuesday 5th February
KS1 Sharing Event – Thursday 14th February
World Book Day – Thursday 7th March
STEM Week – 11th – 15th March
Music Concert – Friday 15th March
Comic Relief – Friday 15th March
Y3 & Y4 Sharing Event – Thursday 4th April
Parents' Evenings – February 6th; July 10th



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.

Have a lovely weekend.

Kate McGee
Headteacher

