

1<sup>st</sup> March 2019  
(Letter 7)

Dear Parents / Carers



**CONGRATULATIONS!!!** Some lovely news to share with you is that Mrs Dunn had a little baby girl, Fearne, at the very end of January. They are both doing well. Also Tina, one of our lunchtime staff, had a little baby boy, Lenard, during half term. Again, both are doing well. We are looking forward to meeting both new arrivals – the children especially so!

I am sure that you will join me in sending our congratulations and our best wishes to both families at this exciting time.

I hope that you received our first **Safeguarding newsletter** which we sent out in February. Thank you to those parents who took the time to thank us for it, and tell us that they had found it useful. The intention is for these newsletters to go out monthly, and for each issue to have a different focus around safeguarding the children. If there are any specific areas that you would like more information about then please let us know and we can include that in a future edition. If you have any questions about anything in any of the safeguarding newsletters then do please talk to one of the Safeguarding Team to ask them.



We took part in **Safer Internet Day** this year- a world-wide event to ensure safe and responsible use of the internet. Classes took part in discussions around the responsibilities that we all have as internet users. Three of our school's core values of community, respect and responsibility were discussed. What became clear throughout the discussions is the significant amount of time that some of our children are spending on devices playing games. It is really important that parents are aware of the content that these games have. Often, the game appears innocent but due to the online element, some of the discussions between players contain inappropriate language. If you have any questions in helping keep your child safe online or would like support in learning about setting parental controls on your devices, please see Mr Buckley.

Thank you to all of you who attended **Parents' Evening**. It was a busy afternoon / evening, and it was good to see so many of you there. I hope that you found it useful, and now have some good ideas about what it is your child now needs to be focusing on in the second half of the school year. Thank you to all of you who took the time to leave a Google review for the school – it was a pleasure reading them, the comments were really heart-warming.



Don't forget that we have another **Open Day** coming up shortly which is an opportunity to once again see Manor in action! We have altered the date of it as we wanted it to coincide with STEM Week (more on that below). This half term, this will be on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> March. As this is our STEM week we will be offering you the opportunity to learn more about this important area of the curriculum. We'll be holding an information session at 9.30am and this will be repeated at 2pm – we hope to see as many of you there as possible. Of course, as always, you're very welcome to spend some time (or even the day) with your child.

If you would like to stay for lunch, please book and pay at the school office no later than Monday 11<sup>th</sup> March.

**Please remember that you are very welcome to invite other members of the family as well as any friends you feel are interested in learning more about our great school.**

This week, **Year 5** are visiting one of London's most famous landmarks - the Tower of London - as part of their Crime and Punishment Topic. The Tower was previously one of the country's most notorious prisons and, whilst there, the children will have the opportunity to explore what life was like for prisoners throughout history.

**Year 4** are very fortunate to have been invited to take part in Mission X, at Eastlea Community School. This is an amazing opportunity for the children to experience a very fun, exciting and challenging project. They will explore the science involved in space travel, including fitness and nutrition to tie in with their 'You Are What You Eat' topic.

Just before half term, **Year 3** were very fortunate to explore the University College London's Petrie Museum of Egyptology all by themselves. We frequently visit museums at Manor, but rarely do we get the place to ourselves! The children were fascinated with the artefacts and had many questions when working beside two fantastic curators. As they were on their own, they were even shown a very special 'secret staircase'. Please see the Year 3 blog on the website for pictures of the event.



As you may be aware there have been a high level of children off school over the past half term due to some sickness bugs that have been prevalent. A very big thank you and well done to those of you who have managed to avoid these, and whose children have attended well! Obviously a child cannot attend school if they are vomiting or if they have a high temperature or fever; but a reminder that coughs and colds should not prevent them from being in school. If you have any concerns about your child being well enough to attend school, if you speak to a member of staff we are happy to keep an even closer eye on them that day and let you know if they get any worse and need to go home. Often we find that they perk up as the morning progresses.

## Coming up –

Music Concert & Comic Relief – **Red Nose Day** is just around the corner and we will be doing a range of fun and exciting activities to develop the children's understanding of this charity's work and raise money for a great cause. One of the fundraising events on the afternoon of Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March will be our not-to-be-missed annual **Music Concert** - so save the date. Classes will be fundraising for comic relief on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March. In addition to the day we are selling red noses. These will be available to purchase for £1.25 from the office from Monday 4<sup>th</sup> March. Please be quick as we only have a limited number of these. Further information will be sent out informing you of the events taking place to raise money for this great cause.

# COMIC RELIEF



You may have noticed a **'pop-up' book shed** that has appeared in the playground. This shed is full with books for the children to enjoy at break times and lunchtime as well as to take home to read. The children have responded very positively to this addition to the playground. The shed has been gifted to us for half a term from the London's Children Book Project. Please encourage your child to visit the book shed - all books are labelled so that they can be correctly returned to the shed and not the other reading areas around the school.

The timing of the book shed fits well with **World Book Day**. This year, we will be celebrating this day on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> March. It is a great opportunity for your children to dress up as their favourite book character and celebrate the joy of reading. Please remember that you do not have to go and spend a fortune on a ready-made costume; the charm of this day is in being creative and using the resources you already have around your home to create your costume whether that is a hat, an iconic object or a full blown costume, the day is more about having fun and celebrating our love of books together. As well as dressing as their character, we would like the children to go 'in-role' as their character.

Look out for the staff efforts as well – it's always a treat! We'll be holding a Character parade on Friday morning at 9.15am which parents are very welcome (and encouraged) to attend.

**STEM Week** (science, technology, engineering and maths) is happening in the week beginning Monday 18<sup>th</sup> March. During this week there will be a real focus on these subject areas as we raise their profile with the children. There are plenty of exciting activities and opportunities planned for the week. This day is also this half-term's open day and so a great opportunity to come and see the amazing learning that goes on in these areas and even join in yourselves.



Last half term, you will remember that we had an **art project** with the focus of **'The Great Ocean Clean Up'**. The children and staff worked incredibly well to think of creative ways to illustrate the damage that single use plastic is having on the ocean as well as portraying the beauty of the seas. These projects give us a great opportunity to work as a whole school community to raise awareness of real-life issues. As well as creating their own paintings of the sea, the children worked collaboratively to update our stunning outdoor art area (the path that links the two playgrounds). If you have not yet had a look at the new paintings, please take the time to look.

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

**World Book Day at Manor** – Friday 8<sup>th</sup> March  
**Open Day for parents** – Monday 18<sup>th</sup> March  
**STEM Week** – 18<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> March  
**Music Concert** – Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March – PM  
**Comic Relief** – Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March  
**Y3 & Y4 Sharing Event** – Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> April  
**Parents' Evening** – July 10<sup>th</sup>



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.

Have a lovely weekend.

Kate McGee  
Headteacher

COMMUNITY  
DETERMINATION  
EXCELLENCE  
RESPONSIBILITY  
RESPECT