



MANOR FIELDS PRIMARY SCHOOL  
Penningtons  
Bishop's Stortford  
Hertfordshire  
CM23 4LE  
admin@manorfields.herts.sch.uk  
www.manorfields.herts.sch.uk  
01279 757193

Ms Tina Jarman  
Head Teacher

January 2016

Dear Parents

**Happy New Year!!**

May I wish everyone a very Happy New Year! Although the Christmas Holiday is one in which we can relax, meet up with family and friends – or even fly off somewhere to enjoy a holiday – we are now back to reality and, after starting with 2 very packed training days, the staff are hitting the ground running!!

The children's first assembly was about New Year's Resolutions and Individual Liberty – the 'Value' for our assemblies this term. We talked about the opportunities that a good education and good choices provide for us – both now and for the future – and how fortunate we are to have individual liberty to make our own choices.

I am sure you would all extend a warm welcome to our new Year 4 teacher, Miss Cooper and to our returning INCo, Mrs Mann. We would like to wish Mrs Knox all the best for her upcoming maternity leave and look forward to seeing her back next year.

### **Reading Books**

Last term, Miss Stott and a team of staff and parent helpers dedicated a lot of time to sorting, colour coding and organising all the school books into 'guided' and 'independent' reading books. The children's individual liberty is being reinforced by giving them the opportunity to choose their own reading books to practise reading at home.

I want to outline this change and the rationale behind it so that you may understand the difference between 'shared', 'guided' and 'independent' reading.

**Shared** – the teacher will select a high quality passage from a book, poem, piece of non-fiction text to read with the whole class and use it for teaching specific objectives and skills.

**Guided reading** – a book/text will be chosen that is above the reading band/ability of the children in the group and it is in this focused session that reading skills, including vocabulary extension, inference, deduction and decoding will be explicitly taught.

**Independent reading** – children will select a book in which they can read at least 95% of the text so that they can practise their reading skills **AND** read for pleasure. Many children like familiarity and will select a known book to re-read. This is perfectly acceptable as they are **reading for pleasure!** (even though it can be challenging for you to hear the same story repeatedly!) They can read to a toy, sibling, themselves as long as they are practising reading.

Reading and comprehension are not achieved by racing through a colour band to move to the next one. Please trust that during guided reading sessions, your child/ren are being taught how to read and develop their comprehension skills. We ask that you encourage your child to read for pleasure and that you also read to them – a library book or perhaps your favourite childhood stories.

There is a parent information session led by the county Advisor on Tuesday, January 12<sup>th</sup> at 7pm to expand on this further.

There is a slip attached if you wish to attend and have not already returned one.





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### Communication

I am hoping that the new website will be going live within the next month and that you will be able to access information more readily and easily. Thank you again for your patience. We endeavour to keep you informed in timely manner of all events and do so through different media. Parentmail is used to send messages and information to a wide audience quickly; letters are sent to classes and/or specific groups. Notices are also sometimes put in the class window. We hope that all these methods keep you up to date and know that as soon as our website is up and running information can be more easily accessed.

### Please can I remind you of the forums for communication:-

**Illness / Absence** – please call 01279 757193 and select 1 or via parentmail.

**Dinners/finance** – please call 01279 757193 and select 2 or email [finance@manorfields.herts.sch.uk](mailto:finance@manorfields.herts.sch.uk)

**Learning / comments / feedback** – either contact the teacher directly to make an appointment or e-mail [parent@manorfields.herts.sch.uk](mailto:parent@manorfields.herts.sch.uk) and your communication will be forwarded.

**Requests for meetings with Headteacher / Deputy Head teacher** – via e-mail [parent@manorfields.herts.sch.uk](mailto:parent@manorfields.herts.sch.uk) or telephone the office 01279 757193 and select option 3

**Requests for meetings with SENCo/INCo** – email [inclusion@manorfields.herts.sch.uk](mailto:inclusion@manorfields.herts.sch.uk)

**Request for leave of absence/holiday** – forms can be emailed upon request (until the website is live) or a hard copy can be located in the front foyer.

### Home learning

Unfortunately, only 1 parent volunteered to join a working party on home learning and another parent kindly gave some feedback. I was most surprised as, based on the feedback from the parent questionnaires and having spoken to several parents, home learning appeared to be an area causing concern. As it appears that you are happy for the leadership team to address this matter without your direct involvement, I shall seek further opinions through a questionnaire later this term.

### Annual Reports and reporting on assessment/achievements.

This year we have made the decision to write and send out your child/s detailed annual reports in the Spring term for years 1-6, followed by a summary report at the end of the academic year. This report will have the next step targets on and, as it being sent out at this point in the year, it enables both school and home to work on these in the summer term before the final end of year assessment.

There have been a lot of changes in the education system over the last couple of years – a new curriculum, SATs replaced by tests, reporting without levels. This can be very confusing and daunting for parents and we recognise that there are concerns about knowing how well your child is attaining and achieving. A letter will be sent out with the reports explaining how we report without levels and the language used to report this.

### E-safety





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**Head Teacher**

I attended a very informative and quite shocking conference on child sexploitation, grooming and abuse using social media. It is a very prevalent situation of which we should be very aware. Many children have access to tablets, phones, computers and can be in a situation where they are on the receiving end of such awful behaviours. There are also children and adults who hide behind media to harass and abuse others – instances of nasty texts and messages sent without perhaps a full understanding of the impact on the recipient. With this in mind, and because I have a duty to keep parents informed of the dangers, I shall be holding an information session later this term to share what I learned at the conference.

**Assemblies**

In response to several requests, and because I believe it is very important to establish good links between home and school, we will be organising 'show and tell' class assemblies in the Summer term for parents to come and watch and find out about their child's learning. As soon as the dates and times have been finalised we will let you know via newsletter and class letter.

Looking forward to a productive and successful Spring term.

Yours sincerely

*Tina Jarman*

Ms T. Jarman  
 Headteacher

**I/we would like to attend the Reading Meeting on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> January at 7.pm**

**Name..... Child's name and class.....**

**Number of places required:**

**I/we are not able to attend.**

**(please delete as applicable and return to the class teacher)**

