



MANOR JUNIOR SCHOOL

Motivation, Joy, Success!

Year 6 Spring Term Newsletter

Happy 2018

This promises to be a very busy and exciting term as we continue to increase our work in preparing for the end of Key Stage assessments including the SATs testing in May. We hope we can work together as a team in partnership for the benefit of your child so that he or she can achieve his/her best, enjoy school and be ready for secondary education. If you or your child has any problems, do not hesitate to speak to your child's class teacher in the first instance. A few moments at the end of the day can save weeks of worrying.



Mr Islam
6I
Room 14



Ms Maloney
6M
Room 15



Ms Steele
6S
Room 16



Miss Fergusson
6F
Room 17

Additional Teaching Staff:
Support Staff:

Mrs D Oliveira, Mrs Sagoo
Mrs Ahmed, Miss Davis, Mrs Joyce

Dates for your Diary

- ★ **Assessment weeks** These involve the children doing a complete set of SATs style papers so that they get to put into practice the strategies and techniques that they have been taught in as close as possible an atmosphere and environment to the real thing. The following are provisional dates:
 - Week beginning 29nd January
 - Week beginning 12th March
- ★ **DVD Night Thursday 18th January 3:30 – 5.30**
- ★ **Trip Museum of The Old Operating Theatre:** to support our study the Human Body and the history of medicine
 - ❖ Monday 22nd January morning 6S
 - ❖ Monday 22nd January afternoon 6F
 - ❖ Friday 26th January morning 6M
 - ❖ Friday 26th January afternoon 6I
- ★ **Y6 Parents evening Tuesday 6th February**
- ★ **HALF-TERM Holiday 12th -16th February**
- ★ **World Book Day 1st March** start thinking about your costume

25th January

SATs Parents Meeting

We will be holding meetings to inform you about the:

- ★ Arrangements for SATs this year;
- ★ How school and family can working partnership to support children;
- ★ Make recommendations for revision materials



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★ **DVD Night** Wednesday 7th March 3:30 – 5.30

★ **School DISCO** Wednesday 28th March

Advanced warning Summer term assessment

❖ **Mock week** –16th April first week back after Easter holidays.

❖ **SATs testing** week beginning **May 14th 2018**

❖ **Residential trip: Monday 25th – Wednesday 27th June**

End of Key Stage 2 tests

The end of Key Stage 2 assessment has two parts: formal tests which take place in May and are externally marked; and teacher assessment which is ongoing and based on the child's work throughout the year. There will be meetings in which we be explaining more about the tests and how the school and the parents can work with the children to support each one. Manor's approach when preparing pupils is to emphasise that doing one's very best is what is most important rather than result. With writing it is all assessed on the work produced through the year and there will be an increase in *Talk Homework* to help the children prepare. The final assessment for writing is not until the end of June.

Preparation for SATs and secondary education

SATs and the increased demands of the curriculum, physically growing with onset of hormones and the approaching move to secondary school are a challenge to children. The Year 6 team see a very important part of their role as being able to prepare our children for these events not just academically but emotionally too. Therefore, we will be teaching about: what anxiety is, what causes it and how we can recognise what we are experiencing and acting to both prevent and elevate it. This will include handling exam/ test situations, so they can negate the negative impact of stress, help them maintain their mental health and enjoyment of life. As well as develop learning behaviours such as concentration, managing distractions, perseverance and resilience which will help improve learning and performance.

In the very near future we will be offering pupils the chance to attend a self-study session in school on Tuesday and Thursday mornings starting at 8 am. Further information and application forms will be coming out soon, but basically it will provide an opportunity for children to have a quiet place to revise and study under the watchful, supportive guidance of a member of staff.



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The curriculum

Thinking skills

We will be focusing on using Edward De Bono's Thinking Hats to encourage pupils to use different approaches to thinking about a problem. The idea is that each coloured hat represents a way of thinking e.g. red – intuitive, emotional, gut reaction; yellow – advantages, positive aspects; black – disadvantages, caution; White – investigation, what you need to find out, question; Green – creative, finding a range of solutions; blue – reflective, making a decision.



Cross- curricular approach

Linking different subjects together in-order to make the connections and learning more cohesive is proving very successful and enjoyable so this approach will be deployed again. We will be using the question **“Are we healthier today than we were in the past?”** We will investigate this through the following topics: in science: *Healthy Bodies*, PSHE: *The World of Drugs*, and in History through *The history of Medicine and Disease* and the children will be encouraged to apply the different thinking approaches to help them.

Reading

Much of our teaching of reading and comprehension skills will be linked with the study of these novels and related texts. The class novel which will be start in the next week or so links with our science and history studies as it set during times of the plague – however, we are keeping the title a secret so as not to hinder the introductory tasks.

Reading at the end of key Stage 2 is far more than just reading the words – so we will not just be focusing on improving the children's ability to read the words but the following aspects:

- 1) Fluency, confidence and with increased understanding;
- 2) When reading aloud to engage their audience by adopting appropriate expression, tone etc.
- 3) Improving their ability to pass an opinion and validate this by referring to the text and where applicable quote parts of it to support their answer;
- 4) Develop further the skills of inference and deduction;
- 5) Improve the ability to compare texts. For these we will be developing the ability to explain, justify their viewpoint using both the text and their own experiences.



The children will bring home a variety of texts and books. It is essential that children are reading regularly at home and we ask that you sign their reading record book to confirm that they are doing so. Some of the tasks are reading sections in preparation for discussion and lessons. One of the most important ways that you can support reading is by discussing the texts, especially new or



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unfamiliar vocabulary encouraging them to look at the context it is used in and check by looking it up or asking Google. We have attached the recommended list of books for Y6 again or if they are still stuck for inspiration the please ask for more ideas.

Writing

Writing will be closely linked with the class novel and other subjects. We are continuing to focus on developing your child's *writer's voice* as opposed to a talking voice. Writer's voice is speaking in the style and with the choice of language they might use to communicate their ideas in writing.



We continue to stress the importance of joined handwriting as this is a requirement for reaching the Expected Standard for Y6 practising this is linked with their weekly spellings. The spellings to be learnt will help support other subjects and increasing their vocabulary. Please if possible ensure that they find out the meaning of any words they meet and do not fully understand the meaning.

Maths

We have now moved away from whole class teaching to groups and increased the number of lessons taught a week.

- ★ Children will continue to consolidate their knowledge of number facts; place value including fractions and decimals and using and applying their skills to solve practical problems.
- ★ There are still some children who do not fully know their tables with fluency and confidence ***and this is holding back their learning in other topics. It is essential that your child fully knows their tables so that they have rapid recall including when they are presented out of order.***
- ★ ***They also need to work to gain a comprehensive grasp of metric measures and converting from one to another, to increase their confidence*** eg 2.8kg to 2800g.
- ★ Developing test techniques and ability to work under time pressures.

Science

Studying 'Healthy Bodies' which includes how the body systems work eg the heart and the impact that exercise has on heart rate and why.



Humanities: The first half-term we are teaching the history of Medicine and Disease. Later, in the term in Geography we will be looking at islands.

RE and PSHE:

We will be learning about *Beliefs and actions in the World* (Human Rights) in RE including the work of the United Nations. Among the topics in PSHE we will be studying is: *'The World of Drugs'*, *'Human Rights'* and *'Being healthy'*. Clearly, these will link with our cross-curricular approach.



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ICT: Firstly, we will be learning more about data handling and **spreadsheets** through **Excel** using this to help investigate our cross-curricular topic. Then we will be studying **Internet safety**.

Homework tasks

On-line homework for Year 6 will be predominantly, additional support material with most tasks being paper based because this is the best preparation materials for preparing them for SATs. The quantity of homework will increase. There will be more SAT style questions including Grammar and Punctuation, Maths: arithmetic and reasoning papers and comprehension questions. Please encourage your child: 1) not to leave homework to the last minute - then, if they want they can ask for additional help; 2) make a good effort because it is easier to identify what help/support they may need.

Revision materials for SATs

Currently, we are investigating the materials that are available from publishers including those that are just about to be realised so that we can make recommendations as to what is the best to support your child with revision. We will also be trying to negotiate a deal so that you are able to buy them at a discounted rate. As soon as we have come to a decision we will inform you probably via a SATs meeting for parents. Unfortunately, until all the books are published, and we have received them, we cannot set a date.

Maths

Each Wednesday pupils will be set Arithmetic and/or a Reasoning paper to help them practise test style questions and keep previously taught topics fresh. Each group will also be given work to consolidate their learning in class.

Spelling, Punctuation and grammar: Every Monday your child will bring home a list of words to learn their meanings and to practise spelling nightly, using the *look, say, cover, write, check* method. There will also be a short supporting task designed to help increase their vocabulary, learning the meanings and spellings. At times there will be on-line activities to support learning. On Mondays children will be given a SATs style paper to consolidate their learning and practise test technique.

Reading: We also hope that your child will read daily and record a comment in their reading/homework diary. Obviously if your child is a fluent reader there is not the same need to hear them read however, giving them an audience to read a section of the book helps them practise their expression. Also, it would be beneficial if you can talk to them about what they have read, what they think about and, most importantly, why they have come to that opinion.

Every Wednesday an article which poses a question for debate is sent home which we want them to read and ensure they fully understand and look up any words they are unsure of, think and talk about, research, discuss with members of their family and then decide where they stand on the



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issue. Although there is generally no written response in school they have a comprehension to do which the assumption is that they will have a good understanding of the text; so that they can concentration on how to answer the questions. In addition, where relevant, children may be given comprehension tasks linked to their group novel.

Finally, a few reminders:

- ★ We strongly encourage the children to wear school uniform including black shoes, no necklaces or bracelets and if they have to wear earrings then tiny studs that they are able to remove for PE. We ask that you ensure all clothing and personal belongings are clearly labelled with the child's name.
- ★ It is vital that children bring a coat to school as it can become very chilly when outside.
- ★ Children need to have PE kit in school on the specified PE days (a combination of Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays).
- ★ Children do not need to bring valuables to school so please ensure they stay at home.