



# MANOR JUNIOR SCHOOL

Motivation, Joy, Success!

## Year 4 Autumn Term Newsletter

### Welcome to Year 4!

Welcome to Manor Junior School and to Year 4. We are sure that your child will have a very happy, successful time with us. It will also inform you of the various units covered in the different areas of the curriculum.

We look forward to everyone involved in your child's education working in partnership so that they can achieve their very best and enjoy their time with us. We are always available at the end of the school day to deal with any concerns that you or your child may have. Our experience shows that a few moments dealing promptly with an issue can save weeks of worrying.

The Year 4 team comprises:



**Mrs Russell**  
4R  
Room 2



**Miss Sparke**  
4S  
Room 3



**Miss Waka**  
4W  
Room 5



**Mrs Beveridge**  
4B  
Room 6  
Year Group  
Leader



**Miss Holder**  
4H  
Room 1

### Important dates

- Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> September – Community Picnic at 3.30pm-4.30pm
- Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> September – Upney Baptist Church 4H, 4W, 4R
- Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> September – Upney Baptist Church 4B, 4S
- Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> October – Parent consultation evening
- Year 4 will be going to the cinema on the 12<sup>th</sup> November
- Year 4 Harvest Festival Assembly will be during the week beginning **8<sup>th</sup> October**. A letter will go out soon with further details about Harvest.

## Curriculum

At Manor we anticipate the Curriculum will be a curriculum of excellence encompassing the aims, values and ethos of the school, and is delivered with a high regard of pursuing high standards and enjoyment. The Curriculum has been designed to encompass the following the 3 I's approach; an integrated, inspiring and independent thinking approach.

Integrated –The primary programmes of study advocates learning experiences which are relevant, purposeful, and worthwhile. If experiences are to engage children, they need to be shaped by children's interest and enthusiasm. This means choosing themes and topics that will stimulate children's thinking and integrating other subjects so that children are able to make links across subjects.

Inspiring- The aim of the inspire aspect is to bring out the arts in the curriculum, encouraging our children to be artistic and becoming increasingly aware of the diversity and evolving society we live in and celebrating the rich culture in our environment.

Independent thinking- De Bono Thinking Hats



### **De Bono Thinking Hats**

De Bono theories are the pedagogical theory that we base our curriculum on here at MJS. It provides children with a systematic method of thinking in a completely new and different way that provides them with the skills and tools to think independently, be inspired to apply their learning and think innovatively. Children have been learning how to separate thinking into six distinct categories. Each category is identified with its own coloured metaphorical "thinking hat." By mentally wearing and switching "hats," our children learn to easily focus or redirect their thoughts, their learning discussions, or the entire lesson. Our children are learning to work as teams and to develop a collective mental capacity that enables them to tap into the collective wisdom of their classmates and function well together. Our learning theory of de Bono's six thinking hats applied across the curriculum helps children to:

- Discuss and debate issues in a considered way without emotions or egos making bad decisions
- Avoid the easy but mediocre decisions by knowing how to dig deeper
- Increase learning and even more important -be more effective
- Make creative solutions the norm
- Maximize and organise their thoughts and ideas
- Get to the right solution quickly and with a shared vision

## **English**

In Year 4 each English unit will focus on promoting reading and continue to develop the children's understanding of what they have read independently or as a class.

The children will:

- be using dictionaries to check the meanings of words.
- discuss how Authors have used words and phrases to capture the reader's interest.
- identify themes, make predictions and participate in clear reasoned discussions about books.

Most importantly we will use the text to help develop the children's writing skills whilst focusing on their evaluating and editing skills. During the first half of the term our main text is *The Iron Man* by Ted Hughes. During the second half of the term we will be reading *Greek Myths* by Marcia Williams.

## **Handwriting**

The children will have handwriting lessons to help develop their cursive handwriting. Please encourage your child to use cursive handwriting at home, especially for all homework tasks.

## **Maths**

- The children will develop strategies to find pairs of numbers that total 100 by adding to the next multiple of 10.
- They will consolidate their knowledge of numbers and place value up to 10,000.
- They will develop their multiplication and division facts up to 12.
- They will learn how to find fractions of amounts.
- Tell and write the time to the minute on analogue and digital clocks.
- Double and half 3-digit numbers.
- Identify equivalent fractions.

## **Science**

In the first half of the term we will study the Electricity, we will be making circuits and testing our handmade switches, as well as thinking about the safety implication of using electricity. To link to our Eco school status we will be thinking about where our energy comes from and what from and what we can do to help save electricity. During the second half of the term we will have an eco-focus of waste and how this has an impact on our environment, we will be collecting data to of hoe waste is managed in our school, looking particularly at the types of rubbish we throw away and how we can reduce this.

## **Computing**

The children will learn to how to develop visual ideas and to realise these ideas using ICT, learn to use ICT tools appropriately and will select areas of an image to cut, copy and change. They learn to export their work to other packages and import images from sources such as clip art, scanner or digital camera. In the second half term, they will learn how to use a data base effectively and collect information so they can input their own data.

## **3Is Curriculum**

Our topic theme for this half term is '*Should we always be cautious in life?*' This thought provoking topic, will allow the children to use 'De Bono's thinking hats' to structure discussions and channel their thinking. We will be looking at what worship is and what it means to people with different faiths and religions, this will be followed up with a trip to the local church where the children will be looking at the features of a church to enhance the learning done in class. DT this half term has a heavy link with science, the children are creating robots with an electrical component, they will create a brief, compare robots using the thinking hats

and design and make their own robots using a variety of materials. Throughout the term children will develop their knowledge of music by performing, listening to, responding and evaluating a range of music.



Next half term our topic theme is *'What was the journey of the Greeks and how did they influence us?'* In History we will be researching what life was like in Ancient Greece, how they lived and the things they did for entertainment. We will be looking at Greek sculptures and architecture and replicating it and creating some of our own. In RE we will be learning about Pilgrimages and other journeys.

### **Modern Foreign Languages**

We will be recapping what we learned in Year 3 then focusing on colours, days, months of the year and simple sentences.

### **PE**

Sports for this term include focusing on invasion games where the children will have to work as part of a team and tennis skills including how to hold a racket properly and how to serve.

## **Homework**

### **Spellings**

Every Monday your child will bring home a list of spellings to practise nightly, using the look, say, cover, write check method. These spellings are linked to the spelling rule taught each week or they may be linked to topics we are learning about. Children are tested on these words each Friday.

### **Reading**

We expect your child to read daily and record a comment in their reading record. We encourage children to record these comments themselves to reflect on their learning, however, we do still wish to see comments being made by adults who they are reading with. This comment can be about their favourite part in the story, a prediction as to what may happen next or a reflection as to why they liked/ disliked the story they have read.

Bug Club- <https://www.activelearnprimary.co.uk/login?c=0>

The children also have an online allocation of books to read on Bug club. Online activities include questions linked to what they have read and children's responses are used to assess their understanding of the text.

Children also receive weekly comprehension homework.

### **Maths**

Mathletics- <https://community.mathletics.com/signin#/student>

Children receive online homework on Mathletics which is linked to the learning that has taken place in class that week. This is allocated online on a Wednesday and should be completed by the following Tuesday.

A weekly family Maths challenge will be given to children on Mondays. The aim of this activity is for the children to involve family members to share their love of Maths and overcome challenges together. Children in Year 3 and Year 4 will complete the same challenges weekly.

## Homework Summary

<b>Monday</b>	English comprehension, spellings, Maths Challenge (all to be completed by Friday)
<b>Wednesday</b>	Mathletics (To be completed by the following Tuesday)
<b>Ongoing</b>	Bug Club

### **Flipped Curriculum Homework**

Each half term your child will come home with a booklet about the next half term's 3is curriculum focus. There are options for different types of homework to complete. This homework will ensure your child is prepared for the term ahead and gets the most out of their lessons. Dates are specified within the leaflet.

Should you experience any difficulties logging into any of the online resources, please let your child's class teacher know. Flipped curriculum return dates are specified on each flipped curriculum leaflet.

### **Reminders**

- Bring a coat to school daily.
- PE kits will be kept in school and sent home during the half term for washing.
- Please name your child's clothing and belongings.
- Do not send anything valuable to school.
- Bring in a water bottle each day.

If you have any concerns, 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.



Don't forget our community picnic which will be held on **Tuesday 26th September at 3.30pm-4.30pm.**

Please bring some food, refreshments and a blanket. A sample of a dish from your culture would be great to share. Come and have fun with friends and family. It will be a great way to welcome everyone to a new term at Manor Junior School.

## Suggestions of how to enrich your child's learning:



1. See a play in a theatre
2. Attend a professional concert
3. Visit an art gallery
4. Visit a museum
5. Attend a sporting event in a big venue
6. Do a 'backstage' tour at a sporting venue or theatre
7. Paddle in the sea
8. Visit London
9. Visit the nearest big city
10. Visit a factory
11. Travel on a train
12. Visit a national park
13. Visit a farm and learn where our food comes from
14. Go on an outdoor residential
15. Climb a hill
16. Make a speech
17. Design a web page
18. Do something that benefits others
19. Learn from failure
20. Go bird watching

### Year 4 – Recommended book titles

The Enchanted Wood  
Five on a Treasure Island  
Diary of a Wimpy Kid  
The Arrival  
Charlotte's Web  
The Wolves of Willoughby Chase  
The Adventures of Tintin  
Stig of the Dump  
Truckers  
Matilda  
Varjak Paw