MANOR GREEN SCHOOL

Excellence for All

Head's Weekly Newsletter

Issue 9
6 November 2015

Dear Parents, Carers and Colleagues

Welcome to the first issue of this term's Head's Weekly Newsletter.

I hope you all had a great break and that returning to school and work has been a pleasure! For me personally, Monday 2 November has many meanings. It is, every year, without exception, a gloomy day, with cold mornings and dark afternoons. You might wonder how I could possibly remember it....

In Poland, where I come from (and other countries where the Roman Catholic Church is a dominant political force), it is an All Souls' Day. Unlike the cheerful and party-like Halloween, All Saints' Day (1 November) and All Souls' Day (2 November) are somber and reflective. Families gather together to visit the graves of their relatives; some much loved ones and others, whom they have never even met. For families which are openly agnostic or atheist, this custom transcends its religious roots and has, over the years, become a cultural event with all public institutions closed for the two days for the paying of respects to the fragility of life. Many say that the way a society treats its dead says a lot about its commitment to humanity in general. If it is true, it is nice to think that time is made to "see each other", to reflect, to smile or shed a tear, in remembrance of those no longer with us. For me - a very heartwarming thought on a misty, cold 2 November this year made turning 40 on a Monday, and first day back at work, a lovely experience! :-) A very current thought, too, as more and more of us wear red poppies remembering those who passed away in conflict, my personal thanks go to Ruth Kinns, whose wonderful crocheted poppies are simply wonderful. I know I will keep mine forever!

How a society treats its most vulnerable is also known to be a decent measure of its humanity and today marks the 20th anniversary of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 coming into force. This landmark law has revolutionized our society and, whilst there is still a long way to go to full equality of opportunity, it is something to be proud of and grateful for.

Kind regards and best wishes for the weekend ahead!

Ania Hildrey
Headteacher

Welcome and Congratulations

Welcome to
Jack William Burnett
who arrived at 10:51pm on
Wednesday 21st October
weighing 6lb 12oz

Our congratulations to
Rebecca and Ian!

Welcome to
Laurence Peter John Knox-Hall
who arrived at 6.48pm on Sunday 25th
October weighing 71b 12oz

Our congratulations to Neil and Amy and to
Elliot on the arrival of his baby brother!

HEALTH AND SAFETY AWARENESS WEEK

23—27 November 2015
Some useful links:

http://www.childnet.com/parents-and-carers
https://www.ceop.police.uk/
https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/
http://www.nspcc.org.uk/

Governors' Spotlight

Gwenda Lilley, Chair of ACE Committee

I was born and brought up in North Wales and moved to London, aged eighteen, where I completed a Degree course in Chemistry and a Post Graduate Certificate in Education. I have taught in both the state and independent sectors and I am a team inspector for the Independent School Inspectorate.

I retired three years ago but missed the classroom and the children so I applied to become a volunteer at Manor Green School. I had been loosely involved with Holyport Manor for a number of years but a late friend and colleague, Elizabeth Hawkes, used to speak passionately about her wish (as the Education Cabinet Member for RBWM) to have a purpose built special needs school in the borough. Sadly Liz died before Manor Green opened but I often think of her as I walk around the school.

I was delighted to be asked to become a Governor at MGS and I am the Chair of the Ace Committee.

I am also a Governor at Cox Green School and I am a board member of a charity which encourages young people to set up mini trading companies: Young Enterprise.

I enjoy travelling especially to visit my daughter and two little granddaughters in California.

School Notices

BLYTON CLASS TEACHER: We are pleased to announce that Jennie Moore (previously teacher of Briggs class) will be the class teacher for Blyton until Easter 2016. Welcome back, Jennie—it's great to have you onboard again!

STUDENT FLU VACCINATIONS: Please ensure you have returned your consent forms by Monday 9 November 2015 for the vaccinations which take place on Wednesday 11 November 2015.

WEBSITE INFORMATION for parents/carers: You can now find information on a variety of topics on our website on the About Us page:

http://www.manorgreenschool.co.uk/Parents

Term Dates 2015-2016

Term 1 starts on 3.9.15

Term 1 ends on 23.10.15

Term 2 starts on 2.11.15

Term 2 ends on 18.12.15 @1:30

Term 3 starts on 6.1.16

Term 3 ends on 12.2.16

Term 4 starts on 22.2.16

Term 4 ends on 24.3.16 @1:30

Term 5 starts on 11.4.16

Term 5 ends on 27.5.16

Term 6 starts on 6.6.16

Term 6 ends on 21.7.16 @1:30

Please note:

Year 11 leavers finish on Friday, 24 June 2016

All other leavers, including school transfers andKS5/Post 16 students finish on Wednesday, 6 July 2016

Attendance at school

Attendance at school is essential for students to progress and achieve. Ensuring that students attend school is the legal responsibility of their parents or guardians.

The school is obliged to promote 100% attendance of its students and report any concerns regarding poor attendance to the Local Authority.

As the Headteacher of Manor Green School, I have no legal right to authorise term-time absence, apart from absences related to exceptional circumstances.

Please note that holidays do not fall into this category, however compelling the reasons for booking them in term time...

House of the Week (9)

I am pleased to report that the winning House for the week is:

WEIR

1st Storey	=	1372 pts
2nd Peacock	=	1294 pts
3rd Simmonds	=	1253 pts
4th Weir	=	1229 pts

Good luck to all students for next week!

Stars/Students of Week 8

Primary Department's Stars

Sumehra Zahir, Ross Little, Charlie Smith, Alethea Simmons, Alex Matthias

Secondary Department's Students

Charlotte Halls, Angelina Stanley, Albie Dalton, Rhys Hazell, Soroush Bagheri, Nathan Young, Megan Jones-Allen, Charlie Joslin, Tara Edgley, Lukas Berghouse, Joshua Lamb, Joshua Cotterell, Saquib Riaz,

Therapeutic Learning Support's

Zaim Rizvi, Vartan Yousofian

Key Diary Dates—Week 10

Mon 9 November 2015	12:00-13:30	MGS Friends' Association in Parents' Room. All welcome
Wed 11 November 2015		Remembrance Day
		Students' Flu Vaccinations
Thu 12 November – Fri 13 November 2015		RBWM Senior Leaders' Conference
Fri 13 November 2015		Children in Need Fundraising Day
	09:00-11:30	Coffee & Chat in the Parents' Room
	09:30-10:00	KS3 Zephaniah assembly

WINTER LUNCH MENUS

The three weekly menu is attached to this newsletter. It is also available, together with recipes, from our website: http://www.manorgreenschool.co.uk/Catering-and-Free-School-Meals

CHILDREN IN NEED
Friday 13 November 2015

This will be a non-uniform day and you are encouraged to dress up as your hero (£1 donation). Please remember to bring in extra spending money

INFORMATION

(flyers are only attached electronically unless otherwise stated)

Thames Valley Police: Winter Burglary Campaign

Reading FC: Down Syndrome football sessions are run every Tuesday. Contact Craig Peters on 0118 907 2160 or at CPeters@readingfc.co.uk for more information. www.readingfc.co.uk

National Autism Society: link to newsletter: http://nas-email.org.uk/YA3-3QN66-46HTKGDPEB/cr.aspx

caterlink
feeding the imagination

Autumn Menu 2015

Week		Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Week 1 2/11/15 23/11/15 14/12/15 18/01/16 08/02/16 07/03/16	**Main**	Beef Bolognaise with Spaghetti	Chicken Enchiladas	Roast of The Day	Chicken Tikka Masala	Catch of the Day or Salmon Fishcake
	Vegetarian	Vegetable Risotto	Shepherdess Pie	Mixed Vegetable Loaf	Butter Bean & Cauliflower Cheese	Roast Vegetable French Bread Pizza
	Dessert	Eves Pudding	Bread & Butter Pudding	Carrot & Sultana Cake	Oaty Peach Crumble	Rice Pudding with Mixed Berry Sauce
Week 2 9/11/15 30/11/15 4/1/16 25/1/16 22/2/16 14/3/16	**Main**	Pork Sausage & Mash	Chicken Neapolitan Pasta with Spinach	Roast of The Day	Beef Lasagne	Catch of the Day
	Vegetarian	Lentil & Sweet Potato Curry	Mixed Bean Cassoulet with Cous Cous	Vegetable & Butter Bean Cobbler	Sweet and Sour Quorn with Noodles	Bean and Lentil Burgers
	Dessert	Banana Loaf	Pear & Berry Crumble	Lemon Drizzle Cake	Apple Flapjack	Chocolate and Beetroot Brownie
Week 3 16/11/15 7/12/15 11/1/16 1/2/16 29/2/16 21/3/16	**Main**	Chilli Con Carne with Rice	Chicken & Vegetable Hotpot	Roast of The Day	Turkey Jolloff	Catch of the Day
	Vegetarian	Quorn & Vegetable Stir Fry	Macaroni Cheese	Vegetable Toad in the Hole	Vegetable Wrap	Spanish Omelette
	Dessert	Peach Upside Down Cake	Sticky Toffee Apple Crumble	Chocolate Oaty Square	Crunchy Plum & Vanilla Crumble	Pear & Ginger Muffin

THAMES VALLEY POLICE

WINTER BURGLARY CAMPAIGN

As the nights get darker and the clocks go back, please be aware that burglary's do increase and your local Neighbourhood Team would like to give you some crime reduction advice for the coming winter months ahead:

- Ensure that windows and doors are closed and locked when you are out. Don't leave small windows open believing them to be safe.
- Keep all external gates and garages locked.
- If you want to leave windows open while you sleep, fit window restrictors so they cannot be fully opened, or make sure they are not large enough to allow access to a burglar.
- When out in your garden ensure that windows and doors to the front of the house are secure. It only takes a second for someone to get into your home and take things without you noticing.
- Do not leave valuables on display in front of windows or in reach of open windows or doors.
- Ensure that all garden equipment and tools are securely locked up in a shed and out of sight. Tools can be used by the potential offender to break in to your home.
- Consider fitting outside security lighting or a visible alarm to help deter burglars. Even using pea shingle or gravel on a driveway and spiky plants in garden beds can help.
- Don't leave any keys near entry points where they can be 'fished' or 'hooked' out through the window, letter box or cat flap.
- Ensure any internal handle operated locks on UPVC doors are fully secured with a key. Do not leave the keys in the lock.
- Use timers for lights inside your house if you're not going to be in, never leave the house in complete darkness.

Five top tips on home security for a crime-free Christmas:

- Property-mark presents and valuables with your postcode, house number or name,. Make a note of all model numbers and serial numbers of all electrical items.
- Keep presents out of view – placing presents in plain view of windows will only draw attention to your house and its contents.
- Be cautious when using social media such as Facebook – do you really want to advertise that your home is empty by showing you are somewhere else or having a countdown to your holiday?
- Invest in a timer to open and close your curtains or turn on your lights or, better yet, ask a family member or neighbour to pop in and do it at random times of the day so a potential thief does not see an exact pattern.
- Dispose of boxes and rubbish discreetly. Leaving boxes outside will give away the fact that you have new and valuable items in the house.

Thank you from your Neighbourhood Team.