



MANSFIELD PRIMARY ACADEMY

Newsletter January 2022

Principal's Newsletter 4th January 2022

Happy new year to all our families, I hope you have enjoyed the Christmas break with your children. I was so disappointed not all the Christmas activities were able to go ahead as planned, but I thank you for your continued support regarding the disruption caused by Covid.

As I write to you Covid is still unfortunately the topic in my head; we already have staff isolating due to testing positive over the Christmas holidays but we endeavour to keep open. I can only apologise for the one day closure towards the end of last year, but it meant we could finish the term successfully. We will follow the guidance given by the government and look at all options to keep face to face learning happening. Please remember Facemasks are to be worn inside any school building and we thank you for supporting us with this.

I would like to thank a few different teams of people who contributed to events in the last week of school. First, the PTA and Sam Roberts who raised a significant amount of money on the Christmas Fayre, this will be used to subsidise the cost of school trips. Secondly, I am thankful to 'Tracey's street Kitchen' who have been donating various foods which we store in reception, these are free to take, so please feel free to pop into reception and see what's available as it changes daily. Next, the 'Melissa Grace Hatton Foundation' for the visit of Santa at the Academy at the end of term, the children loved receiving their presents and there are also other activities planned for the coming year. Finally, I would like to thank Mr Bingley at TB sports for the food he gave to our families and the activities that were put on over the Christmas break. I hope those that accessed these had a great time.

Finally, we are pleased to inform you that our new reading schemes are operating fully. Your class teachers and teaching assistants can help you with any questions you may have. This information has been sent via Class Dojo previously, but this is some information below;

Within this newsletter you will find information on:

- **New reading and phonics schemes**
- **Attendance**
- **Future dates of events**
- **Uniform**



1 -

Please remember to follow us on twitter @MansfieldGAT where we regularly post pictures and information of what the children have been getting up to.

New reading and phonics scheme



I wrote to you to inform you of how reading really can make a difference to children's successes in school and beyond. I am happy to tell you that our new reading scheme, accelerated reader, is up and running. Children will no longer move through the colours as they have done in the past. Instead children will be tested each half term and be given a reading range for books they can read successfully. After they have read each book there is an accompanying quiz of 5-10 questions to ensure they have understood what they have read, this can be taken at home or at school. Mr Dean has sent a letter with all the information you need including logging on arrangements, this can be found on [Class Dojo](#). If your child reads a book that is not from our library, the chances are there will be a quiz which links to it.

To the support **Accelerated reader scheme** the school is also launching a new phonics scheme called '**Little Wandle**' in Key stage 1 and EYFS. I have been evaluating the current scheme and although our children can decode words, some really struggled to understand what they have read. Therefore using 'Little Wandle' scheme, children will have their daily phonics sessions as required depending on their year group, but this scheme has additional levelled decodable books directly attached to your child's ability. In practice what this means is they will receive 3 additional small group reading sessions each week, where they should become fluent in the language of the chosen book and reflect on the content by being able to answer questions. Each week they will receive a new book which will be sent home with them but not until they have read it **3 times** in school with an adult, the book is then to be returned each **Monday** when it will be passed onto the next reading group. An additional reading for pleasure book will be sent home for those accessing the 'Little Wandle' scheme. This scheme has been approved by the DfE as systematically teaching children to read. ALL staff including myself have been trained in its administration as early reading is the biggest factor in improving future perspective job opportunities and social mobility. There will be some children in Key stage 2 who have some sessions on the scheme to raise their confidence in their own ability and

re-learn some of the teaching sounds as required. The Scheme also has a whole host of resources to support staff and parents with teaching reading including videos to support learners which could be used if we have to move to remote learning.

ABSENCE



The School requires you to **contact the office before 8:30am** if your child is going to be absent for any reason. We will **no longer** be allowing absence to be communicated via Class Dojo as this can be missed by the office, who has to send information off to relevant agencies. Please phone the school on **01623 624709** stating your child's name and reason for absence. If we do not hear from you, we will attempt to call you, if there is no answer we will have to come out to **your house** to ensure the child is safe via a welfare check.

Thank you for your cooperation with this!

Dates for Diary



More and more dates for events have been added and some dates unfortunately have had to be moved.

Please keep looking at the School Calendar¹ on the website as we aim to keep this as up to date as possible.

January 4th - INSET day

January 5th - Children return

January 22nd - Captivating creature visit (in school) EFYS

February 8th - Safer Internet day

February 11th - Last day of term

February 21st - INSET day

February 22nd - Children return

February 24th – Years 5/6 Yorkshire wildlife park

March TBC – Sherwood Forest – Years 1 and 2

March TBC – Museum in Mansfield – EYFS

March 3rd - World book day

March 30th - Easter Disco

March 30th - Mr Mulligans Adventure Golf - EYFS

March 31st - 100% attendance award

¹<https://www.mansfieldprimaryacademy.org/calendar/?calid=1&pid=3&viewid=1>

March 31st – Parents evening

April 1st - Last day of term

April 18th - Public Bank Holiday

April 19th - Children return

May 2nd - Public Bank Holiday

May 5th - World environment day

May TBC - Year 2 SATS

May 9th-13th - Year 6 SATS

May 17th – PJ day EFYS

May 25th-27th - Year 6 residential to Kingswood

May 25th – Royalty day EYFS

May 27th - Last day of term

June 6th - Children return

June TBC - Phonics screening Years 1 and 2

June TBC - Year 4 multiplications check

June 14th - Gulliver Kingdom Dino experience day EYFS

June 17th - Year 2 Camp Out

July 1st - Key stage 1 Year 1&2 Sports day

July 4th - Key stage 2 Years 3&6 Sports day

July - Year 6 – TBC Golf trip Nottingham via train Reward

July TBC –EYFS airport careers day

July 13-15 TBC - Year 4 seaside residential to Whitby

July 21st - 100% attendance award

July 22nd - Reports to parents

July 25th - Year 6 leavers trip

July 26th - Year 6 leavers assembly

July 26th - Year 6 evening activity

July 27th - Last day of term

Uniform



Our school uniform stockist is Crystal Knitwear, based on Pelham Street just around the corner from school. You can make appointments to visit the premises or order online. See our website for further details by clicking on the link below/copying and pasting the link to your internet browser.

<https://www.mansfieldprimaryacademy.org/page/?title=Uniform&pid=47>

If you have any questions or concerns, please call the office on **01623 624709** or send them an email to admin@mansfieldprimaryacademy.org²

²<mailto:admin@mansfieldprimaryacademy.org>