



MANSFIELD PRIMARY ACADEMY

Newsletter 22nd February 2022

Principal's Newsletter February 22nd 2022

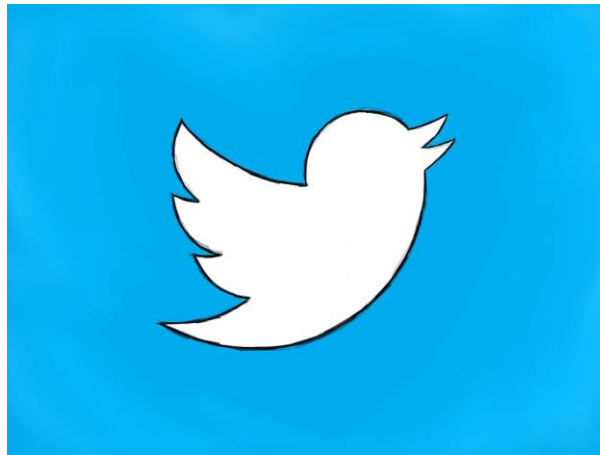
As we start the new half term and the announcement from Boris Johnson it feels like we are moving away from the Covid restrictions and implications of the last half term. It was a difficult period at the academy since Christmas where we have had high numbers of staff and children isolating, as many as 15 staff were absent at one period and in such a small school, staff worked extremely hard to keep the academy open. Some classes had significantly reduced numbers of children over the past few weeks and this was very noticeable, especially in upper key stage 2 where some classes were running at nearly 60% capacity due to the numbers having to isolate. As I am fortunate to have such good staff, we managed to stay open by moving people around, where other schools across the area were having to move to remote learning. I would like to say thank you to you all for understanding that this has been a difficult period and we will hopefully be returning to full strength with staff in their correct classes.

Mr Kirkland who started with us in Year 5 and helped within other year groups has unfortunately moved on to work elsewhere as the distance he travelled became too much, but we wish him well for the future. However, we have secured the teaching of Mr Hughes after a successful interview selection, He will be teaching full time in Year 5 supported by Miss Leggott. Mrs Raval has also left the academy and we have recruited another welfare officer (attendance and family support) Miss Yeomans who currently works at Queens Elizabeth's Academy who will start here with us on 7th March. When she starts I will be introducing her as you enter school from the main gate so come and say hello.

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**
- **World Book Day**
- **The Curriculum**
- **Residential updates**
- **Lunch arrangements**
- **Attendance and late arrivals**
- **Future dates of events**
- **Uniform**



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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. Although, we have only been using the scheme for 6 weeks, our children made an average of 3 months improvement in reading age, which I am sure you will agree, is a significant improvement. I thank you as always for those that take the time to read at home with your children and I will commence drawing our £5 reward vouchers again this term.

To support the **Accelerated reader scheme** the school has also launched 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 the '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 linked directly attached to your child's ability. This means each child 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 can be accessed at home with them but not until they have read it **3 times** in school with an adult, the access to this online service will be sent by your class teacher on 'Class dojo' in the coming days. Children will also take home an additional reading for pleasure book which you can read with them.

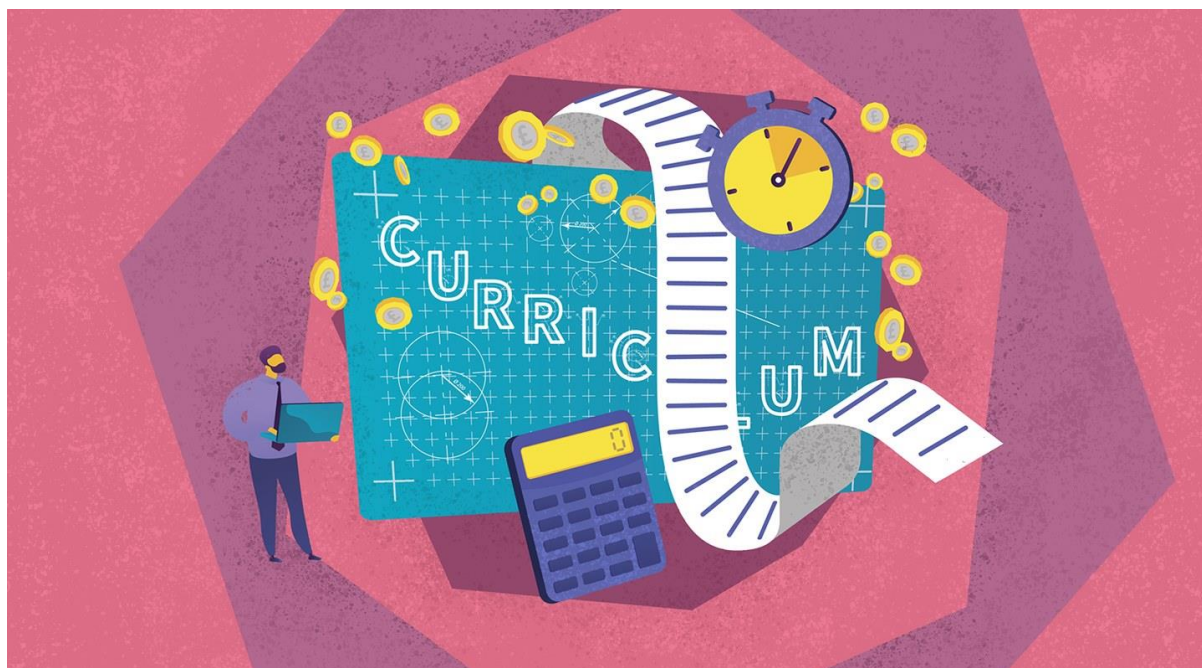
This scheme has been approved by the DFE as it systematically teaches children to read. ALL staff including myself have been trained in its administration as early reading is the biggest factor in improving future perspective job opportunities and social mobility. There will be some children in Key stage 2 who have some sessions on the scheme to raise their confidence in their own ability and re-learn some of the reading 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 ever have to move to remote learning. Parents will have access to the sounds, videos and teaching resources if you want to do extra sessions with your children at home, these will again be sent by your class teacher on 'class dojo'.

World book day 3rd March 2022



This year we are celebrating the 25th year of World Book Day. As part of the world book day celebrations we will be dressing up as our favourite book characters as with previous years, however, instead of each child receiving a £1 voucher which often gets lost, we are endeavouring to provide each child at the academy with a book of their choice, class teachers will be speaking to the children about this. We will also be running other events along side this and Mr Dean will be sending out more information in the coming days.

The Curriculum



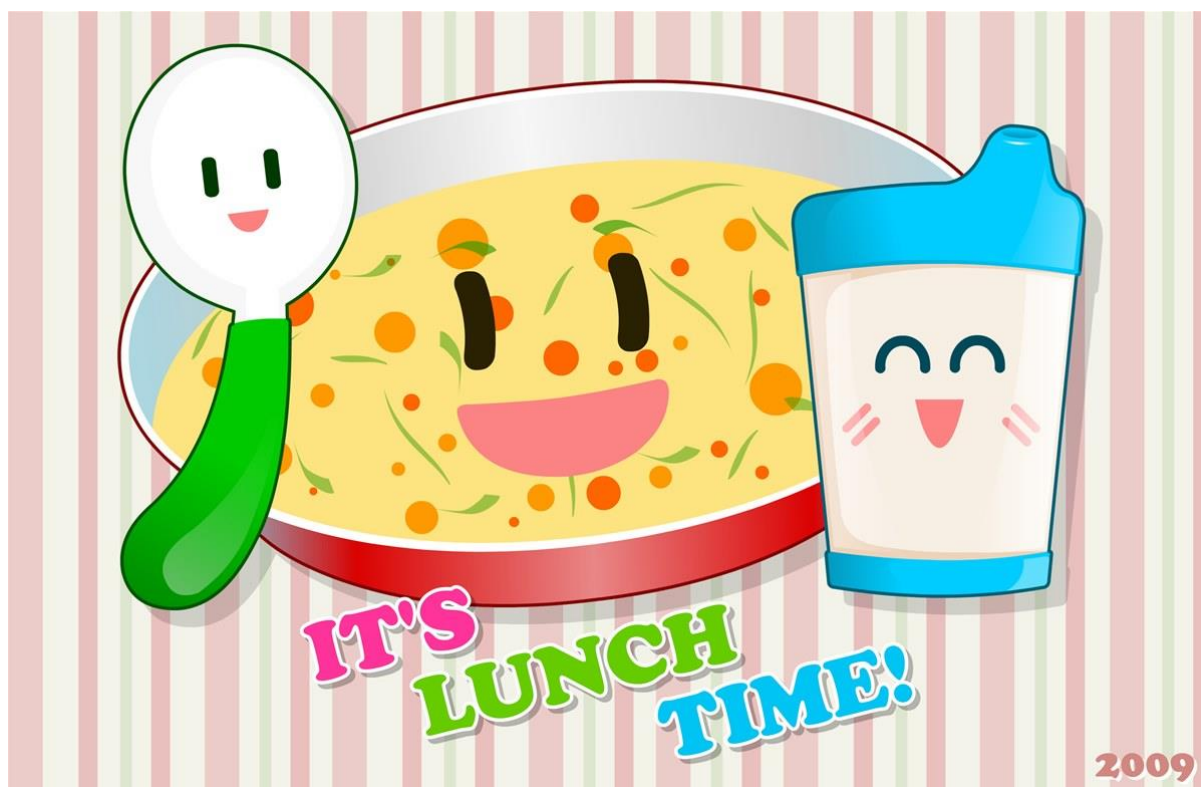
The curriculum is everything we teach the children throughout their time at the academy. Although, I have spent my first few months focusing on the quality of reading, the staff team have been working hard to provide a full and varied curriculum which teaches all subjects to prepare the children for secondary school and providing a vocabulary rich exciting learning experiences. We have established our core values, the 3 R's, Respect, Responsibility and Resilience which will be at the heart of everything we do. I will be sending out a questionnaire in the coming weeks to gain your thoughts on our current offer and what other opportunities you would like your children to receive in the future. Please be honest as your views are very important to us!

Residential Trips update for years 4 and 6



When I began back in September, we quickly started to arrange trips and offer residential breaks for the children. Unfortunately, we have had lower than expected numbers take up the offer of these experiences. I will extend the dates until the 1st March to inform your child's Teacher that you would like your child to take part in these. If we do not have the numbers we will unfortunately have to cancel these but we will look to offer something else in their place to experience. All those who have already paid will receive a full refund.

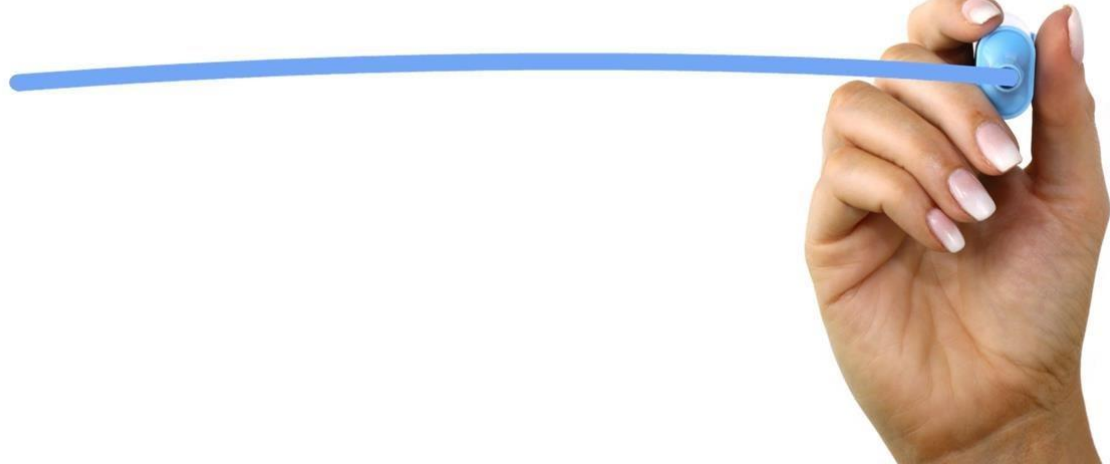
Lunch Time arrangements



As we communicated last half term, all lunches need to be pre-booked on 'ParentPay' . You have to order these one week in advance and the child will receive only what you have ordered. We will no longer have spare food onsite for children that change their mind. If you forget to order, we will ask you to bring in lunch for the child as again we will have no spare food. If you have any questions in ordering the food or accessing the menus, please contact the office who can assist you.

Attendance

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, class 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. Although, our gates stay open past 8:45am, please remember this is the start of the school day (8:40am for those in Foundation), we have had some children arriving at 8:55 or later. If you require support with morning routines for your child please speak to the class teacher.

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 Calendar](#) on the website as we aim to keep this as up to date as possible.

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 reward

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 - 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 us an email to admin@mansfieldprimaryacademy.org