



The Manor Church of England VC Primary School
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www.themanor-school.co.uk

The Manor Newsletter – January 2024

Dear parents/ carers,

I hope your child has had a successful start to school in 2024 and is excited about the year ahead at The Manor.

You may have heard that our new Scrapstore Playpod has opened and is being very much enjoyed by the children during their lunchtime play. The playpod is a purpose-built play facility full of scrap or 'loose parts' from Wiltshire Scrapstore. The scrap materials or 'loose parts' include anything from cardboard tubes, tyres, lengths of material, netting, rope, and much, much more. At lunchtimes, staff open the doors and the children are free to go into the playpod and take out anything they like to play with. These items of scrap can be played with however children want.



We have been working very closely with team from the Scrapstore in Lacock over the last few months and as well as helping us plan how the playpod can be introduced successfully, they have provided significant training for the staff in how they can support the development of play and make playtimes creative and fun. So far it has been a huge success with the children using the materials to make some incredible creations to support their playtime games.

Some of the children's comments about then playpod include:

- 'You can construct things and play with different people'
- 'I like being pushed in the barrels and being pulled in the suitcases'
- 'There are lots of different things you can do'
- 'I like dressing up'
- 'I like playing with the laptops, phones and keyboards'

There will be a meeting for parents about the playpod on Tuesday 6th February at 2.30 in school. This will be followed by an official opening and a chance for you and your child to enjoy using the playpod materials together.

Year 4 visit to The Roman Baths



The Year 4 children enjoyed a fantastic trip to the Roman Baths to support and enrich their class topic on the Romans. They had a tour of the Baths and took part in a workshop where they dressed up as Romans and created their own mosaics. The children then explored parts of the Roman Baths that are not normally open to the public and had the opportunity to dig like archaeologists and create Roman structures. Well done Year 4 and thank you to the PTA for your fundraising support in helping make the trip more affordable.

Year 6 residential



In February, the Year 6 children will be going on a week's residential trip to Home Farm in the New Forest in Hampshire. Last year's Year 6 had a very successful week there and we are hoping that this year the children will enjoy different activities including taking care of the farm animals, falconry displays and trips to the coast and motor museum. The visit will take place the week after the half term holiday and we are sure the children will have an amazing time.

Staff changes at The Manor

There are some new faces that you might see at The Manor in the weeks ahead while Mrs Hembury is on her secondment to another school. On Tuesdays, Wednesday and Thursdays we will be joined by Mrs Prendergast who is an Assistant Principal at a school in Swindon, and on Mondays by Mr. Edmonds who works as one of the teaching leads in the White Horse Trust. Mrs Prendergast and Mr Edmonds will be taking on some of Mrs Hembury's leadership responsibilities while she is away. You will regularly see them on the school gate in the mornings so please take the opportunity to say hello.

Just before the Christmas holiday we were delighted to welcome Miss Bell to our school office team at The Manor. Miss Bell will join Miss Evans in the office and will be working every morning on our reception desk. Over the last few months, we have often been short staffed in the office and we hope that with Miss Bell joining us, we can ensure that the communication with the school is efficient and professional.

Some parents are already aware that Miss O'Kane, our Year 1 teacher in Brimstone class, has some exciting news as she is expecting twins. We are all delighted for her and wish her every success in the months ahead. Miss O'Kane will continue to work with the children in Year 1 this term before starting her maternity leave in the summer.

Many of you will know that Miss Hammond is currently training to be a qualified teacher. As part of her training, she needs to complete a six-week placement at another school so she will be away for the rest of this term before returning to The Manor in March.

Jewellery

Recently we have had a few children wearing inappropriate jewellery into school. Please can we remind you of our policy around the wearing of jewellery:

- Children may not wear jewellery to school (except for small studs and watches) other than for religious or cultural reasons.
- Hoop earrings are not allowed as they are a risk during PE lessons and at playtime. During PE lessons, children will be asked to remove all jewellery or to cover up earrings.
- We do not allow headwear to be worn during class time or inside school buildings, except for religious or cultural reasons. Hairclips and hairbands should be plain and non-decorative. No make up to be worn, including nail varnish.

Parent Governor Vacancy

✨ Make a Difference Today! ✨

Don't miss this opportunity to be an active participant in your child's education. Together, we can shape the future of our school and create a positive, nurturing, and inspiring learning environment for all students.

Join us as a Parent Governor and be a part of something truly meaningful!

For more information or to express your interest, please email the school office admin@themanor.wilts.sch.uk

Our Chair of Governors – Toni Mills



My name is Toni, and I am Chair of Governors at the Manor school. I have been a parent at the school for 7 years and have a second child who joined in September. I was initially Co-Opted onto the Governing body in March 2022. Co-opted governors represent the wider community and can bring a wide range of skills to the board which helps support the school. I then more recently took up the role of vice Chair and stepped up to the role of chair in September. As a member of the Governing body, I am collectively responsible for monitoring the school's performance, and ensuring that it is providing the best possible education for its students.

All Governors are given champion areas to monitor across the academic year which include Safeguarding, SEND and Pupil Premium as statutory areas and 3 other areas of focus alongside the core statutory subjects. Our support involves meeting with subject leads and providing feedback at the governor meetings which allows the school to improve and make necessary changes. The constructive challenge we provide is essential in ensuring that the school is always striving to do better.

We are dedicated to ensuring that the school and the children who attend the Manor school receive the best support possible.

If you would like to know more about what the Governing body please do take a look on the school website under the 'About us' tab or by clicking this [LINK](#). You can also email chairofgovernors@themanor.wilts.sch.uk

Nut allergy

Please can we remind you that we have a child with a serious nut allergy in the school. Please ensure your child does not have nut-based products as part of their snacks or packed lunches. This includes products such as peanut butter and Nutella.

Diary Dates

Date	Activity
Wednesday 24 th January	Phunky Food assembly for the children
Thursday 25 th January	Reception and Year 6 weight and height checks
Tuesday 6 th February	Playpod meeting for parents at 2.30 and official opening
	Safer Internet Day
Wednesday 7 th February	Reception Class – Bone Discovery workshop
Thursday 8 th February	Year 3 and 4 – Future of tomorrow workshop
Friday 9 th February	Last day of term 3
Monday 19 th February	Children return for term 4
Monday 19 th – Friday 23 rd February	Year 6 children on a residential at Home Farm, Hampshire
Thursday 7 th March	World Book Day
Thursday 14 th March	Easter Service at St Michael's Church - 2pm
Thursday 28 th March	Last day of term 4

Future teaching training days when the school will be closed

- Monday 15th April
- Monday 8th July

Term dates in the academic year 2023-24

Term 1: Monday 4th September to Wednesday 18th October 2023

Term 2: Monday 30th October to Tuesday 19th December 2023

Term 3: Thursday 4th January to Friday 9th February 2024

Term 4: Monday 19th February to Thursday 28th March 2024

Term 5: Tuesday 16th April to Friday 24th May 2024

Term 6: Monday 3rd June to Wednesday 24th July 2024



MULTI-SPORTS HOLIDAY CLUB

CHILDREN AGED 5-11 YEARS
9:00 - 4:00

£20 PER DAY OR £50 FOR ALL 3

FEB HALF TERM @ BOWERHILL

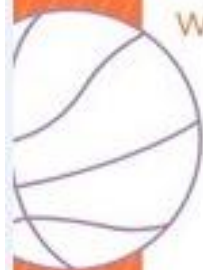
Tuesday 13th
Wednesday 14th
Thursday 15th

BOWERHILL PRIMARY SCHOOL
HALIFAX ROAD, BOWERHILL
MELKSHAM, SN12 6YH

TO BOOK VISIT
WWW.BOOKWHEN.COM/SPORTINGSENSATIONS



Sporting Sensations



Half Term Clubs



**MONDAY
12TH
FEBRUARY**

CODING - SPHERO INDI

• 1:15-2:15 • 4-6 Year Olds • £10



**TUESDAY
13TH
FEBRUARY**

CODING - LEGO SPIKE

• 9:00-10:30 • 6-8 Year Olds • £15



MATHS WORKSHOP

• 11:00-12:30 • 9-11 Year Olds • £15



**WEDNESDAY
14TH
FEBRUARY**

CODING - LEGO SPIKE

• 9:00-10:30 • 8-11 Year Olds • £15



CODING - SPHERO INDI

• 11:00-12:30 • 4-6 Year Olds • £15



**THURSDAY
15TH
FEBRUARY**

CODING - SPHERO BOLT MINI

• 9:00-10:30 • 5-8 Year Olds • £15



SCIENCE WORKSHOP

• 11:00-12:30 • 5-8 Year Olds • £15



**FRIDAY
16TH
FEBRUARY**

CODING - LEGO SPIKE

• 9:00-10:30 • 6-8 Year Olds • £15



SCIENCE WORKSHOP

• 11:00-12:30 • 8-11 Year Olds • £15



CODING - LEGO SPIKE

• 1:30-3:00 • 8-11 Year Olds • £15



www.achievio.co.uk/half-term-clubs



07478 538219

