



Weekly

# NEWSLETTER



16 January 2026



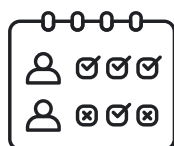
## Headteacher's Message

What an action-packed week it has been! In our assemblies this week, we delved into **The Rule of Law** as part of our **British Values**, connecting it to the rules we uphold at home and in school. The children effectively communicated the importance of rules in ensuring everyone feels safe and valued.

It has been wonderful to see so many students participating in the various enrichment clubs available this Spring term, including art, choir, construction, football, and TT Rockstars, just to name a few.

Mrs. Parrott and I thoroughly enjoyed launching our second **Passport Around the World Day** on Friday, where we both dressed in our finest captain attire to simulate a ferry crossing. The children then engaged for the rest of the day in learning about their selected countries of study.

*E Marks*



### Class Attendance

The class with this week's highest attendance is:



**Hummingbirds**



**Bears Class**  
68.59%



**Emus Class**  
97.04%



**Raccoons Class**  
96.03%



**Penguins Class**  
92.40%



**Elephants Class**  
89.39%



**Yaks Class**  
84.92%



**Geckos Class**  
92.86%



**Roadrunners Class**  
95.63%



**Macaws Class**  
90.48%



**Hummingbirds Class**  
99.26%

## Stars of the Week

### Reception

Bandile Nyathi  
Bonnie Walker

### Key Stage One

Auesteja Serbintaite  
Ceyda Kozlak  
Deividas Zeinalovas

### Lower Key Stage Two

Aleksander Narbutowicz  
Renars Verigo-Erenfrids  
Daniele Liugailaite

### Upper Key Stage Two

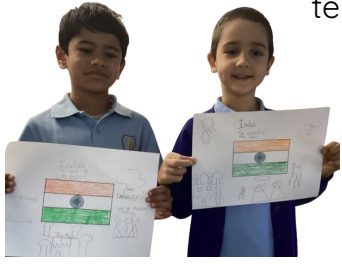
Delilah-Rose Cripps

Lucja Wojtaszek



# Vive la France

Reception children enjoyed learning about France through their play-based curriculum, which helped bring their learning to life. They explored geography by locating France on a map and learning about the French flag and its colours. The children discovered famous French foods and learned about well-known landmarks such as the Arc de Triomphe and the Louvre. As part of their language learning, they also practiced counting to ten in French, developing early language skills while having fun through play and exploration.



Year One enjoyed learning about India, where they explored key facts about the country and learned about some important festivals that are celebrated there.

They discovered famous landmarks, including the Taj Mahal, and learned why it is so well known. As part of their religious learning, the children focused on Hinduism, learning about the holy book, the Vedas, and listening to the creation story of Rama and Sita. They also enjoyed exploring Indian culture through movement by taking part in traditional Indian dance activities.



# BRASIL

Year Two enjoyed learning all about Brazil, beginning with discovering where the country is located in the world. They explored key facts such as the capital city, Brasília, and learned about Brazil's climate. The children found out about popular Brazilian foods and were fascinated by the country's amazing wildlife and animals, particularly those found in the Amazon rainforest. This learning was linked to art, where they created work inspired by the rainforest and its creatures. They also explored Brazilian carnival celebrations and learned about the traditional dance associated with this colourful and exciting festival.

# SOUTH AFRICA

Year Three enjoyed learning about South Africa, where they explored key facts about the country, including important landmarks and popular tourist destinations. They learned about the history and meaning of the South African flag and discovered how its design represents unity and diversity. As part of their language learning, the children learned greetings and how to count to ten in Afrikaans, developing an awareness of different languages and cultures.

They also created beautiful African plains and animal silhouette artwork, using colour and shape to reflect the landscapes and wildlife of South Africa.

## PASSPORT

### AROUND THE WORLD

#### MANOR DRIVE PRIMARY ACADEMY



# Spain

Years Four and Five enjoyed an exciting and engaging topic all about Spain, where they developed their understanding of the country's geography, including its key geographical features. They explored traditional Spanish cuisine and learned about the life and work of the famous Spanish artist Pablo Picasso, gaining insight into his unique artistic style. As part of their cultural learning, the children took part in a lively Flamenco dance session, experiencing this traditional form of Spanish dance first-hand. They also learned and performed a song in Spanish, helping to develop their language skills while deepening their appreciation of Spanish culture.

# Dates for your Diary

## School Events

**Parent & Child Art session**  
Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> January  
2.00pm

**Year 4 Macaws and parents**  
(no younger siblings)

**Parent & Child Art session**  
Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> January  
2.00pm

**Year 5 Hummingbirds and parents**  
(no younger siblings)

**Raccoons Class Assembly**  
Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> January  
2.30pm  
(Parents Invited)

## Term Dates

**Spring Term 2026**

**Half Term Break**  
Monday 16<sup>th</sup> February  
to  
Friday 20<sup>th</sup> February

**End of Spring Term**  
Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March



## Enriching Curriculum

### Nursery Team

This week in Nursery we have continued to develop our Winter topic. The children have been busy creating snowmen and winter sculptures using textured playdough, sparkles, glitter, gems and straws, and exploring a wide range of materials and textures. They layered recycled Christmas wrapping paper creating interesting collages, strengthening their fine motor muscles, tearing the paper into different sizes. Also, as part of our winter learning, we've been discussing what we need to wear outside in cold weather and why it is important to keep warm. One of our children even modelled the clothes whilst everyone named the items of clothing and described how they should wear them! We also began to design our Winter display board, firstly the letters heading which became beautifully sparkly! Then the children enjoyed cutting and creating glittery 3D snowflakes. The children develop their gross motor physical skills through our daily dancing and moving to music and songs. We also built a fun circuit of apparatus including climbing over and crawling under equipment, rolling over, pulling ourselves along on our tummies, balancing on stepping stones, travelling through tunnels and jumping on the small trampoline. These activities help to build strength, coordination and it was fabulous to see the children grow in confidence as they took on the challenge. Alongside all of this, we have been adjusting to some new routines and supporting our new children as they settle in. We are learning to help one another, share resources and work together.

### Reception Team

Reception have had a great week in school. We have been learning all about the Arctic and how different it is to where we live. We have learnt about Arctic animals, the weather and where people stay. We have used our learnings in our continuous provision, children have been making igloos, labelling different Arctic animals and creating fluffy Polar Bear pictures out of cotton wool. We have been trying really hard with our writing, using the sounds we have learnt to write some simple phrases! Well done Reception!

### Key Stage One Team

All of the children in KS1 have begun their new unit of gymnastic within their indoor PE sessions and in Computing the children have been exploring different tools to create artwork online. In Writing, Year One have been exploring how to use the conjunctions 'but' to expand sentences linked to their Writing text 'Beegu' and Year Two have been exploring different sentence openers to make their writing about Goldilocks and the three bears more exciting. In History, we have continued to explore the life of Mary Anning. During PSHRE the children have been learning about what 'personal information' is and who it can be shared with.

### Lower Key Stage Two Team

In Maths, Year Three developed their scale-reading skills by estimating and measuring the weight of different objects, while Year Four explored digit sums to investigate divisibility by 3, 6 and 9. In Writing, Year Three continued reading 'Escape from Pompeii' by Christina Balit, practising letter writing and empathising with the characters. Year Four finished 'The Winter's Child' by Angela Mcallister and used expanded noun phrases to add interest to their writing. In PE, Year Three built on hockey skills, while Year Four practised football dribbling and changing direction. In History, both years began learning about the Stone Age.

### Upper Key Stage Two Team

The children have had a busy and exciting week of learning. In RE, they explored the meaning of baptism and enjoyed role-playing a baptism ceremony, helping them understand its symbolism and importance. In Writing, they have been sharpening their grammar skills by identifying and using main clauses and subordinate clauses with growing confidence. The children have also been crafting newspaper articles inspired by the thought-provoking picture book 'The Island' by Armin Greder. The story has sparked rich discussion, and the class are thoroughly enjoying exploring its themes while developing their writing skills.