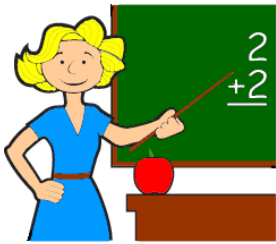


Manor Road Round-up

Welcome to our April 2020 Manor Road Round-up!

Welcome to our termly Manor Road Round Up. As you can imagine, this is not quite the end to the term that we planned but we thought that we would still share with you what has been happening in school since Christmas. This term has been another busy one and now the sun is shining, the wet, cold and dark days of the start of term seem a long time ago.



Since January, we have introduced changes to the way we teach our curriculum. We have blocked subjects so that each class is teaching specific subjects at certain times. We have looked at our existing planning and modified it to personalise it more to the needs of children and our school. We have also looked more closely at how we can ensure that children learn the specific knowledge and skills required in the National Curriculum. The development of the curriculum will be ongoing over the next year, but we hope by teaching in this way children will gain more purpose and enjoyment from their learning. For further details on this, please see our updated Curriculum Policy on the school website.

In addition to staff working hard to redesign the curriculum, we have again promoted lots of additional opportunities for children. We have taken part in two choir competitions and again got through to the finals of the Last Choir Singing for the third year in a row! We have also competed in several sporting competitions getting through to the finals of the Sports Hall Athletics. We have had visits from the Fire Safety Officers who spoke to children in Year 6 about road safety and Year 2 about safety in the home, including a little role-play exercise of how to safely leave the home before ringing 999. Our Year 4 children also undertook their Level 1 Bikeability training.

The PTFA have had a busy term with the Valentine's disco and a Mother's Day Pop Up Shop. Members of the PTFA also met with the School Council to discuss ideas for re-developing the Compass Garden at the front of the school. This will be the School's Council's main project over the next year and they have got lots of ideas in the planning.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Mrs Grundy for organising the entertainment by Taz on the day school closed, and to the other parents who donated money and sweets. This was a wonderful way to make the last day at school for a while a happy time for the children.

We must also thank Mr Gibbs and Homebase for their generous donation of plants for our school grounds. These will certainly make our school grounds look glorious!



Unfortunately, we do not know when school will be back to normal but I know all our staff are committed to trying to ensure that children continue to have learning opportunities at home. We very much value everything that you are doing as parents to enable this to happen.

I hope that it won't be long before school is back running as normal but in the meantime I hope everyone stays safe and well.

Ash Class

What a busy and exciting term this has been!

We started the Spring term with our Traditional Tale theme by asking the question, 'Are all traditional tales set in a wood?' The children listened to and retold lots of 'traditional tales' familiar to them and heard some new ones. The children made story maps, dressed up and took part in drama activities, including hot seating some of their favourite characters. They developed their confidence in storytelling and had a go at writing their own stories. We definitely have some future actors and story writers in our Foundation Stage! The children concluded that not all traditional tales are set in a wood but a lot of them are.

In the second half of the term we moved onto Superheroes starting with the story 'Supertato'. The children looked at real and fictional superheroes and people who help us. They enjoyed turning our role play into a police station and we had a visit from a real life policeman, PC Goodison, who talked about his role; some of the children even got a chance to try on his uniform. The children wrote thank you letters to PC Goodison and sent them. The children also wrote letters to their parents to say why they are their superheroes and had a go at writing their addresses on envelopes and then posted them. We hope you liked them! As part of Book Week, the children also wrote a letter to Sue Hendra, the author of 'Supertato', to say how much they enjoyed her books. We also did some Superhero PE too!

We couldn't do our 'Supertato' showcase as we weren't in school but we still asked you to have a go at home. We had some really creative ideas! Here are some of the 'Supertatos' that were made:



In Maths, the children have been shape detectives learning all about 2D and 3D shapes. They have made repeating patterns using natural resources outside and have been looking for symmetry in nature around the school grounds. They have learnt some new mathematical language related to measures, e.g. longer, shorter, taller, shorter, heavier, lighter, full, empty, half full etc. They had fun making their own scales using empty milk bottles and compared objects around the classroom, as well as enjoying filling bottles in the water area outside and matching the labels: full, half full and empty. We also did a challenge to find out who was the tallest in the class. The children used string to measure each other and then we compared all the string to find the tallest and shortest in class.

Thanks for all the hard work you have done and are continuing to do at home.

Keep safe and we will see you soon.

Elm Class

This term in Elm Class we have been having lots of fun!

In English, we have been learning about Traditional Tales and there was a giant beanstalk that grew outside the Key Stage 1 area! The children wrote letters to the giant asking for the class fairy back. Luckily, our letters were good enough that he sent her back! We have been doing lots of Talk for Writing this term to help children orally compose their sentences before writing.



In Maths, we have been doing word problems with addition and subtraction and focusing on our Maths Passports. This is something that we would like to improve in Year 1. We are now working on multiplication and division.



In History, we learnt all about Queen Elizabeth II. The children really enjoyed being royals for the day when they invited parents and carers in for afternoon tea! It was a very regal affair!

In Geography, we have been learning about the U.K and the countries in it. We tasted foods from each country and used Google Maps to compare Chorley to London. Mrs Paul, our new student teacher brought in traditional Scottish attire. A quaiiche and a kilt certainly captured the children's attention! We also had an Irish afternoon on St Paddy's Day where children wore something green and did some Irish dancing, crafts and read about the Giant's Causeway.

Oak Class

During the first half term we launched into our new personalised curriculum. In History, we began our focused topic of Queen Victoria which all the children loved; this lead us into reading 'Queen Victoria's Knickers', a great story about the Queens interest in wearing knickers and her role in making them popular. We covered rhyming words, exclamation marks and developing sentence writing with the use of joining words. We then moved onto sharing Oliver Twist so we could compare the daily life of children during the Victorian era. The children wrote diary extracts comparing life, in history, between rich and poor children. We enjoyed our first DT project week where we used the idea of Queen Victoria's Knickers as a design idea. The children learnt a variety of practical skills to plan, make and evaluate their own design.



After half term our English topic was launched with the visit from Sean Perkins, a local author and illustrator. He shared his career path with the children and did workshops with the Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1 children. Sean modelled how he drew his characters so the children could have a go at drawing their own. We have moved onto innovating the text and are having a go at writing our own short stories. We also began using 'Flying with Phonics' which has helped the children add 'tails' and 'flicks' to their handwriting. Pancake Day gave the children the opportunity to write their own instructions while Mrs Atkinson made and served them with pancakes. They learnt about imperative verbs and how to be 'bossy' when writing or giving instructions.

In RE, the children have been learning about Easter and what Christians believe in. Our Geography topic began with us looking at the Union Jack Flag and which countries flags make up the united flag. The children have researched and discussed the capital cities and iconic buildings that can be found in each country.



In Yew class this term, we have been studying stories with a familiar setting in English, using Michael Morpurgo's Mudpuddle Farm series of stories. We used 'talk for writing' strategies, including role-play using puppets and retelling stories in different ways to help us to develop our own farmyard stories.

Yew Class



We have also been learning how to write non-chronological reports, which we linked to our History work on British astronauts, Helen Sharman and Tim Peake. We thoroughly enjoyed researching the astronauts and creating our information texts for a book which now has pride of place in the Infant Library.

Since Christmas, our Maths topics have included fractions, money and ongoing daily mental maths revision of topics such as multiplication and division using the Top Marks Daily 10 website.

In Computing, we have been learning how to code simple games using algorithms in Espresso Coding and Espresso Python. We also learned about internet safety for Safer Internet Day in February.

In Geography this term, we have been focusing on contrasting locations, comparing rural Kenya with Clayton-le-Woods. Using this topic, we have further developed our map-reading skills and locational knowledge, as well as understanding the terms physical and human geography. We enjoyed comparing our daily lives with those of a little girl living on a farm in rural Kenya; we were surprised at how many jobs she did around the home and on the farm!

For Science this term, we have been learning about plants and germination, thoroughly enjoying planting bean courgette and sunflower seeds in plastic bags to see if they could germinate without soil. We were very pleased to see that they could! We also enjoyed planning an investigation into whether seeds can germinate without light.



As part of our World Book Day celebrations in early March, KS1 was lucky enough to have an inspirational visit from the young Manchester author/illustrator, Sean Perkins, who spent the day with us, reading his stories about the mischievous cats, Oscar and Ben, and talking to the children about his work.

For the spring term, Year Three's topics have been "The Iron Man" and "Rocks & Volcanoes".

Year 3



In the first half term, we investigated Iron Age roundhouses and made our own models. We also played detective to find out about Boudicca. We wrote our own exciting Stig and Iron Man stories and carried out various investigations into magnetic forces.

During D.T. week, we made good use of the pneumatic products brought in from home and investigated how each one worked. We explored using tubing, bottles, balloons and syringes to make our own mechanisms and then created our Iron Man models to illustrate our stories.

In Maths, we have been learning a lot about fractions and are busy climbing up the TTR ladder.

Highlights of the second half term included finding out about the Ring of Fire with its earthquakes and volcanoes. We used chewy sweets to make the three different types of rocks (sedimentary, metamorphic and igneous) and also made an erupting volcano with bicarb and vinegar.



We are finding lots of exciting things to do at home or school at the moment and wish everyone all the best.

Year 4

During Spring Term, our lead subjects have been History, Geography and Science.

In History, we looked closely at the achievements of the earliest civilisations. We learn about 'Ancient Sumerians, Ancient Egyptians, Indus Valley and the Shang Dynasty. We then studied in more detail Ancient Egypt and the impact the civilisations have on our world today.



In Geography, we spent time looking into features of human and natural geography in and around France. We used the internet and maps to research climate, landscape, cities and famous landmarks.

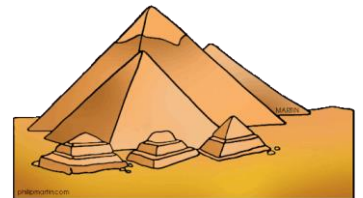
In Science, we have been looking at animals including humans. We investigated the types of teeth animals and humans have and looked closely at the diets of herbivores, carnivores and omnivores. We are now able to discuss the digestive system and talk about the vital roles in which the large intestine, small intestine, stomach and oesophagus play.



To look carefully at the affect various liquids have on our teeth, we carried out an investigation using eggs and various liquids such as vinegar, sugar water and toothpaste. We had to evaluate how the liquids changed shell of the egg imagining it was the enamel on our teeth. We identified from our results, that substances containing sugar and acids are very dangerous for our teeth.

In English, we have written our very own novels in the style of 'Gulliver's Travel.' We also sent a letter to the author of our Guided Reading book 'Max and the Millions' during book week and received a response! This was very exciting and made our hard work worthwhile.

Linking to our History topic, we produced holiday brochures for Egypt. We spent lots of time researching hotels, landmarks, restaurants and activities in Egypt and used a range of descriptive language to make these eye catching and interesting.



Towards the end of school, we managed to fit a short unit of poems in. Before we closed for our difficult time, we created Kenning Poems and spent time sharing them with one another and guessing the noun described.



Year 5

The Spring Term has gone so quickly. The children have all been working so hard in all subjects. I am so impressed with how much progress the children have made since the beginning of the academic year.



In February, to tie in with our Design Technology theme week, the children cooked dolma (stuffed peppers) with cacik (Greek yoghurt with garlic, cucumber and dried mint). This is a dish inspired by Mrs Pisirici's time living in Turkey. The dish was really health and the children all had second helpings, with some even having third helpings – Mr Astley included!

We had a visit from two local police officers who came in to talk about online safety and the importance of privacy settings on social media. I thought the children were very mature in this lesson.

About half of Year Five are in the school choir. In March, the Manor Road Choir went to the Marine Hall in Fleetwood to take part in the regional heat of the Last Choir Singing competition. We would like to say a huge thank you to Mrs Bridge for all her time and efforts with the choir and an even bigger thank you to the children for their hard work. This was a night to be remembered.

In Year Five, we are very lucky to have a parent helper: Mrs Nutter. Thank you so much to Mrs Nutter for giving up your time to come in and support the children on a weekly basis. The whole of Year Five really appreciate you giving up your time to come in.

Year Five really enjoyed World Book Day and thank you so much to all of the parents and children for their effort with their costumes. I was particularly impressed with Jessica, Maisie and Sophie W's costumes. On a separate note, it was lovely to watch Jessica play the piano during one of our school assemblies.

The children also had a visit from the Lancashire Music Service. They have been learning songs ready for a concert called Chorley Big Sing which is later on in the year. There are some complicated songs to learn but the children are doing so well. I know we have particularly enjoyed performing the Haka.



Well done to every single child for working so hard and thank you for being such a pleasure to teach. You all work so hard and produce a good amount of work, to a good standard, every single lesson.

I hope you all have a lovely Easter. Don't eat too many eggs... 😊



Year 6

It's been a busy term in Year 6!



In English, we've covered William Shakespeare, read Romeo and Juliet and written our own versions based on Gnomeo and Juliet. As a challenge, most children based their own version on two animals; they made for excellent reading and are now on display in the library for the rest of Key Stage 2 to enjoy!

We moved on to reading 'Off Side' – a book based around football - by Tom Palmer. The book is partially set in Ghana so we have learned a lot about Ghana and football too. We have been learning about Fairtrade products and why it is so important to pay a fair price for goods. This linked in really well with Geography which was human and physical geography. We focused on Africa with this and learnt a lot about the physical and human geography of Ghana and Sudan in particular!

In History, our focus was Vikings. We started the topic off with a parent showcase where we all made Viking longboats. They were amazing! The children loved spending time with parents and grandparents and their creations far exceeded expectations. It was the perfect start to get us excited about our topic, especially as we are a class that love art and design! Later on in the topic, we learnt all about settlements, Alfred the Great, daily Viking life, Lindisfarne and weaponry. At the end of the topic, we held a competition where children had to design their own Bayeux Tapestry. The children really enjoyed showing off everything they'd learnt!



In our DT week, we looked at cooking a savoury dish. We decided to link this to our Viking learning and used it as an opportunity to cook a Viking dish. We investigated and dissected Viking poo to figure out what Vikings ate! The results were really interesting and we ended up making a Viking fish stew and some Viking flatbread. We followed the flatbread recipe independently and weighed out all ingredients before kneading the dough and baking. We chopped up all of the stew ingredients and showed off lots of different cutting techniques. Even though the stew didn't look great, we polished it all off and really enjoyed it. The flatbread was a bit more 'marmite' with some of us loving it and some of us thinking it was a little bit dry! We really enjoyed the DT week and it finished off our Viking topic perfectly.

In Maths, we've been working hard on arithmetic. We've been playing Kahoot quizzes in teams too which have been fun! We've also covered ratio, measures, algebra, volume and even shape this term.

It might have been an abrupt end to the term for us but I hope everybody is safe and well. I'm looking forward to us all being together again and having a great end to the term that Year 6 deserve!



Manor Road Music

On Thursday 12th March, the Manor Road Choir went to the Marine Hall in Fleetwood to take part in the regional heat of the Last Choir Singing competition. This was a fantastic night and we won the heat again and are once again in the final! For obvious reasons, we are awaiting news about the final and are looking forward to being able to get busy rehearsing again.

We would like to say a huge thank you to Mrs Bridge for all her time and efforts with the choir and an even bigger thank you to the children for their hard work. Mrs Bridge said "The children were professional, slick and made everyone incredibly proud. I've been privileged to be able to work with them, and I hope they are all singing at home!"

Many members of the choir also represented our school at the Chorley Schools Sports Partnership Singing Competition, performing 'Reach Out'. Although we didn't win on this occasion, we were very proud of our choir.

School Council News



The School Council have been continuing to work on the development of the KS2 Chill out Zone. They launched a competition for pupils to put forward design ideas. We had a range of excellent suggestions from pupils and prizes were given out for the winning entries.

The School Councillors presented all of the ideas to the PTFA at their last meeting. It was decided that various fund raising events would take place to raise money, including a Chill Out PJ Day. The Summer Fair would take the form of a festival and be organised by Mrs. Conway and Year 6, as an enterprise project. Any funds raised by the PTFA, would also be used for the development of the Chill Out Zone.

In light of the Coronavirus outbreak, all of these events will be postponed until it is safe to return to our normal way of life, but in the meantime it is an exciting project for the school as a whole to look forward to working on.

Governors Matter

My name is Nick Hodson and I am the Chair of Governors at Manor Road Primary School.

As you will be aware, school is not operating in its usual way at the moment due to the Coronavirus situation, and we are unsure when we will be able to fully open again. All the teachers have either sent home a pack of work for children to complete or have been posting daily learning activities on the Class Dojo pages. After Easter, this will change slightly, with all teachers uploading a daily Maths and English activity, along with suggestions for other activities. These are just suggestions and in no way compulsory. Children can do any of these activities at any time during the day so, if you are working from home, please don't feel under pressure to get everything done first thing in the morning.

I am very proud of all the work our children have been doing over the past two weeks, and the efforts being made by parents to support their children's learning during these difficult times. The teachers all look forward to your posts and photos on the Class Dojos and this is a great way to stay in touch over the coming weeks.

Finally, I would like to thank every member of staff at Manor Road for their fantastic efforts and continued hard work.



PARENT, TEACHER AND FRIENDS ASSOCIATION

Registered Charity Number **1107072**

Thanks to your generous support we have had another successful term of fundraising raising **£2,025.07** and joined forces with the School Council to update the compass garden.

We started off the term with the amazing news that thanks to all of your help we had won **£1,000** from Asda's Green Tokens. Some of the PTFA helpers went to collect the cheque.



In January we brought back the Gift Amnesty Box – thanks to all of those who donated duplicate gifts for us to use at future events. Before half term we held our annual Valentines Disco with a changed format with parent Guy Barker running the Disco and ex pupil Lewis arranging dances. Both infants and juniors had a great time and we raised an amazing **£760.67**. We had an army of parent helpers supporting with decorations, stalls and tidy up – thank you as we couldn't do it without you! Special thanks go to Guy and Lewis for the entertainment, and Julie who arranged the whole event.



We loved the response from children to the Mother's Day Gift Bags last year, so this year we decided to hold a Pop-Up Shop that children could attend in school. The PTFA purchasing team was quickly mobilised, with goods purchased and evenings spent making key rings or putting poems in photo frames.

The day itself was in unprecedented circumstances, but our helpers set up in the annex in the morning and welcomed each year to our shop during the afternoon. We hope that the children were excited to give their presents on Mother's Day. Thanks to all helpers involved in the ideas, purchasing and running of the shop. We raised an amazing **£264.40**. We had some chocolates that we didn't sell so given the current circumstance we donated to NHS staff and to neighbours around school on Fiddlers Lane.

This term we have agreed to fund £366.64 on new portable cookers for school and they are in the process of being ordered. In addition we have started working with the School Council on the Compass Garden which will be our focus for fundraising. As you will have seen from Mrs Gillbanks updates, School Council ran a competition for ideas for how this can be transformed to a KS2 Chill Out Zone. We had the pleasure of joining a School Council meeting where the ideas were presented. Our next step is to take the ideas and form a design that can be implemented in a phased approach over the coming months and years, but to do this we need your help please. **Are there any parents who specialise in landscape design or design that can take the ideas and come up with a design?** Please contact the PTFA using the e-mail address below.

Thanks to all those who have helped out at PTFA events this term making the events so successful and enjoyable – it's really appreciated and we can't do it without you. So far this school year we have raised **£4,883.18**.

Ways to Contact Us

By e-mail - ptfa@manorroad.lancs.sch.uk

By facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/ManorRdPTFA/>