

Manor Road Round-up

Welcome to our March 2023 Manor Road Round Up!

Welcome to our Spring edition of the Manor Road Round Up. As usual, we have had a very busy term with lots to tell you about!

Our school grounds are again beginning to come to life. Our bees have started to fly again and the chickens have been busy laying lots of eggs! We are really looking forward to making further improvement to our grounds over the forthcoming months and can't wait to see all the sunflowers we planted for Down Syndrome Awareness Day grow and flower.

All of the school councils have been very busy including planning events for the Coronation, tidying the school grounds and taking part in a local litter pick with other local schools. Thank you to all the children and adults for giving up their own time to help with these events.

Our children have again taken part in a whole host of sporting activities and competitions from gymnastics to netball, cross country to athletics. We have had sports coaches helping us gain specific skills in dance and many other skills.

We have had several visitors into school over the term, including road and fire safety talks and visits from the police and ambulance services. Our Book Week was concluded by a fabulous visit from the poet Ian Bland!

Over the term the PTFA have been very active, organising events including the Valentine's Disco, Mother's Day Pop Up Shop and Easter Bingo. Money raised will go towards purchasing a climbing cube for children to play on at breaktimes and lunchtimes.

As ever we would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your ongoing support and we very much hope you all have a lovely Easter holiday.



Ash Class

Ash class have been having lots of fun. With friendships and routines in place, the children have been engrossed in a variety of different topics.

We have also worked really hard on our learning. We love to read and especially phonics sessions! The children are blowing us away with their fluency and now the children are reading every book three times, they are really enjoying and understanding their stories. We have read many exciting stories including a mixture of fiction and non-fiction. One of our favourites was 'Jack and the Jellybean Stalk' where we got to experience what it was like being Jack and eating all of the delicious jellybeans! The writing that came from the book was fantastic and the children enjoyed acting out the story outside. The children also enjoy a weekly visit to the library as well as sharing a book with their friends at the outdoor library. We loved reading 'Supertato' and 'The Runaway Pea'. The children keep shaking the book as they think the evil pea might fall out and cause some mischief!!



In maths, we have been consolidating our knowledge of numbers to 10 with a deep understanding of the composition of each number. We have been focusing on recognising, ordering and especially number bonds which links to addition and subtracting. The children have been really keen to show off their addition skills by answering simple addition sums and extending this into their play. We have more recently started looking at measure and we enjoyed making 'measuring feet' to measure items around the classroom.

On Wednesdays, we have been doing lots of baking. Mrs Trueman has been helping us to weigh and measure out the ingredients before we mix them together. Our instruction writing has also improved by completing a great unit called 'How to make a mug cake' in English.

Our main topics have been based around animals and Spring. We have read many, many stories which give children the language skills to repeat and retell. The class especially enjoyed reading 'Oliver's Vegetables'. We challenged the children to try new fruits and vegetables and we were really impressed with the photos sent in! Another favourite was making stir fry for Chinese New Year and then dancing with our enormous Chinese Dragon which we collaboratively made with Pre-School!

We have enjoyed completing lots of Easter themed activities this week and trying some hot cross buns as well as trying our skills on the balance bikes!

We hope everyone has a lovely break and we will see you all after Easter!



Elm Class

What a superb term Elm Class have had! The children have worked so hard this term to achieve all their targets and have grown up so much.

In their swimming lessons the children have made so much progress! They have learnt how to push and glide from the side of the pool, how to swim on their back/front for 5 metres (some longer) and how to jump into the pool safely. They have also been learning about water safety including, pool rules and what the different coloured flags mean at the beach.

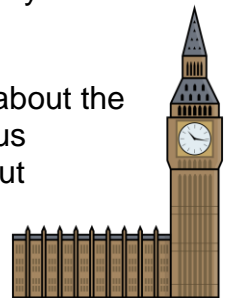


In English the children started the year with, 'The Queen's Hat'. The children had fun following the Queen around famous landmarks in London. She also visited London Zoo and for one of our experience days the children enjoyed a lovely trip to Blackpool zoo. In our second unit the children were transported into space where the character in the story met an alien friend. Along the way the children learnt lots of fun facts about the moon on one of their experience days.

In maths the children have been learning how to solve missing number problems, applying skills they have been taught as well as learning how to count in 2's, 5's and 10s. They have explored 3D shapes and patterns and have learnt how to measure with non-standard and standard units. In their latest unit the children have moved onto numbers to 40. They have been using the dienes to make these numbers and split them into the correct 10's and 1's. The children have also been comparing greater numbers and using language such as, 'more', 'less', 'smaller' and 'greater'.

During our Science lessons the children have been looking at seasonal change and the changes that happen around school during Winter into Spring. The children went on a signs of spring nature hunt and were able to spot lots of clues around our school grounds that spring is just around the corner! The children also looked at different materials and they used their knowledge to create a soft warm scarf for the Queen in our story in their DT sessions. They explored and tested materials to see if they would be suitable for a scarf. The children then tested these on our model. In science week the children explored and learnt all about their finger prints and how unique they are. They were also 'engineers' exploring how to make a strong and study bridge.

In Geography the children have recapped the continents of the world and learnt all about the countries and capital cities in the United Kingdom. They have been looking at famous sights and landmarks in each capital city. The children took part in a fun lesson about Northern Island with our trainee teacher Miss Forsythe, who showed the children around her farm in Omagh.

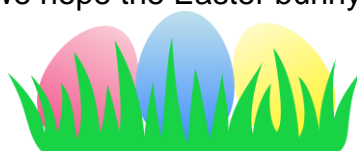


In Art the children have been looking at collages and have been creating different landscapes using different collage materials in the style of Andy Burgess. Look out for these beautiful landscapes on dojos!

In our computing sessions the children have been learning how to 'code'. This involved the children programming instructions into a program to make things move around the screen. The children did fantastic! Next step is to create their own mini game where things move when they are clicked on.

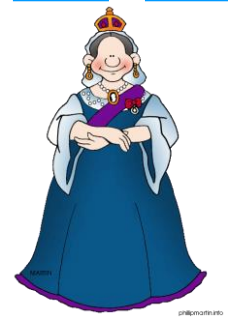
Elm class have also enjoyed planting sunflowers and joining in with a fun workshop for 'World Down Syndrome Day.' The even learnt a Bruno Mars song with Makaton signs. It was great fun!

We are really proud of how hard the children have worked this term and hope they all have a well-deserved rest! Have a lovely Easter, we hope the Easter bunny visits your house!



Oak Class

Oak class have had a very busy term. In science the children have been sorting and grouping materials and investigating their properties. They've been introduced to a range of different scientific vocabulary used to describe their properties e.g soft, hard, rough, smooth, durable, comfortable, and how this makes them fit for purpose. We talked about the important inventions that had happened during the reign of Queen Victoria and shared the book called Queen Victoria's Knickers and the role she played in the design and wearing of knickers.



We enjoyed a fabulous science week where the children had a think and discussing about what they thought a scientist might look like. We discussed the different scientific jobs you could do. On one day we looked at being a Forensic Scientist and investigated finger prints. We tried different methods to see our finger prints. We then used ink pads to do each and look at which pattern each child had. The next activity was to use science to investigate pitch in music, this involved the children using cardboard boxes of different thicknesses of elastic bands and pencils. They investigated what happened to the pitch of the sound if they moved the pencil up and down the box under the elastic band. I wonder if the children can show you and explain what is happening?



The book Queen Victoria's Knickers and our materials investigation led us into our DT unit 'Textiles' which was to design a pair of knickers. The children used the idea from Queen Victoria to design and make a pair of knickers fit for purpose now. We thought about comfort by investigating the materials we had. We experimented with different joining and fastening techniques to find the most ideal. The children then made paper mock ups to test if they were fit for purpose.

During book week as a class we enjoyed some performance poetry from Michael Rosen and we also had a fabulous visit from Ian Bland a local Poet. He shared his poetry and the children joined in. The children also had a go at writing an alphabet poem as a Y1 group. We laughed a lot and had a lot of fun.

We have continued our visits to Clayton Green Library where the children have been busy reading books and writing reviews to collect stickers, cards and certificates along the way. This is a fabulous opportunity for the children to get out of school and enjoy a walk and to and share it with their friends.



In Geography the children have been using atlases and maps to the United Kingdom, the four countries and the seas and Oceans surrounding them. We have enjoyed looking at capital cities, landmarks and interesting facts. We also had the pleasure of Miss Forsyth, who is from Northern Ireland telling all about her home country and traditions she enjoyed as a child and now.

It has been a jam packed term of lots of fun learning which the children have thoroughly enjoyed.

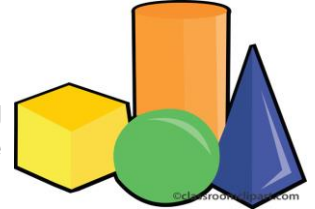


Oh my goodness- another term gone already as we head rapidly towards Easter!

In our English lessons this term, we have written a non-fiction instruction text about how to make a bird feeder and, linking with our Geography work on Kenya, we have written a fact sheet about the country's rural and urban lifestyle, people, flora and fauna.

Our Geography unit this term has further focused on the contrasting location of the area of Kenya around Nairobi. We have really enjoyed finding out about the human and physical features of the landscape, engaging with videos shown through the eyes of Kenyan children and comparing their lives and homes with our own.

Maths No Problem this term has focused on 2 and 3D shapes, recognising and describing their properties, including the nets of the 3D shapes, making patterns with them, and, in the case of 2D shapes, learning how to translate and rotate them.



In Science this term, we loved linking our History work about the UK's space history with our DT unit on designing and building a lunar buggy. We received a letter from Major Tim Peake, who has been having trouble with his 'astro-nappies' for travelling to and from the International Space Station, asking us to find a suitable, waterproof material. We used our knowledge and understanding of the properties of a range of materials to help us to carry out a test to find the most appropriate material for future nappies.

In History, we focused on the development of Space exploration in the UK, learning about the first British woman in space, Helen Sharman, and our most recent British space adventurer, Major Tim Peake.



Our second Science unit has focused on plants and we have been putting our Biology skills to good use, dissecting fruits to find their seeds, observing the inside of broad beans closely, and germinating our own seeds in bags on our classroom window! We have also investigated what seeds need to grow and stay healthy besides water by placing some in a cupboard and others in the fridge.

British Science Week was a great success in Yew Class, as we enjoyed investigating what happens to bread when touched with clean or unwashed hands, designing posters for this year's topic of 'Connections', and making 2D shapes from bottle top lids in a geometry/ science investigation.

We also loved celebrating Book Week in Yew Class, having great fun reading, writing and performing a plethora of poetry, dressing in our pyjamas for a snuggly, hot chocolate reading session, swapping books, and making wooden spoon characters. We had enormous fun when Ian Bland, the poet, visited school and entertained us with his fabulous workshop.

In Computing, we learned all about the International Space Station and how it is supported by a plethora of computer systems, and recently, we have been learning how to program algorithms in order to create simple apps.

In our P.E. this term, we have made great progress with our basketball skills, learning how to bounce a ball, dribble it with control and beginning to apply tactics in simple game scenarios.

As we now head towards our Easter break, I would like to thank you all for your support over another busy term and wish you a wonderful, hopefully relaxing Easter holiday!

Year 3

During the first half term, we leapt forward in time from the Stone to the Iron Age, where we learnt about life in a hill fort and followed traditional designs to build our own roundhouses. We found out about how seasons were celebrated how some of these celebrations still exist today. In science, we devised our own investigations involving forces and magnetism, making sure we made our tests fair. Before half term, we investigated pneumatic systems and used our skills to create moving monsters, showing good resilience and teamwork.

In English, we made ourselves thoroughly miserable reading "The Happy Prince" and tried to recreate this emotion in those reading the stories we wrote in response. For poetry week, we had fun writing kennings with visiting poet Ian Bland and humorous instructive poems, inspired by John Rice.

In Maths, we have been multiplying and dividing two-digit numbers and working with different units of measure.

In the second half term for science and geography, we have investigated rock formation by heating, squeezing and melting chewy sweets and tested the qualities of different rocks. This has helped us write an explanation of how the three main types of rock are formed in English. We found out about volcanoes, plate tectonics and earthquakes and made our own seismographs to measure vibrations. We also discovered out about how fossils are formed and will be creating our own fossil printing blocks during art week.

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

Year 4

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. We are now confident using compasses to locate different countries and can use four figure grid reference to locate features on a map.

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 the shell of an 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 factual tours linked to the water cycle. These were fantastic and such fun to complete. We now know how to use a chatty and informal tone whilst still providing our reader with true information. We have also written poems during 'Book Week'. These poems were based examples of kennings shown to us by our author Ian Bland. This week was very enjoyable and the children loved performing their poems to one another and even to other classes. Our final topic in English has been novels linked to the story 'The Whale' written by Ethan and Vita Murrow.

Our guided reading for this term has been Max and the Millions. We have really enjoyed reading this book and have even had a letter from the author in the past telling us about his future books. When reading aloud, we now use expression and intonation and ensure that we are listening carefully to others at all times.

We have had a very successful term and look forward to Summer.

Year 5

We have had another impressive term of learning in Year 5!



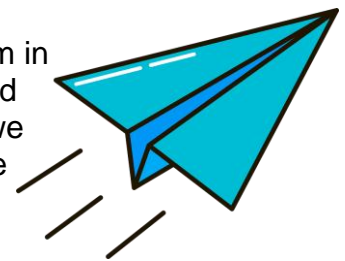
Our English lessons have focused on non-fiction speech writing on the theme of "Plastic Pollution". The children have been shocked and outraged at single-use plastic in our oceans. This has prompted many lively discussions and a genuine interest in how we can protect our earth through recycling and more careful use of plastic. In fact, we have been so inspired that we decided to use the theme of pollution to shape our Art Still Life Unit. Fantastic talent and enthusiasm have been on display through our sketching and painting and we will be inviting you in to school next half term to view our Gallery entitled: Nature Under Threat.

Book Week was a highlight of the term and our performance poetry to Oak class took them on a railway journey as we performed Robert Louis Stevenson's poem "From a Railway Carriage". We were "All aboard!" the train enjoying the speed and rhythm through words and actions.

Booster sessions have been running twice a week this term, focusing on Maths and more recently spelling. These have been fun learning opportunities and we have seen an increased confidence in spelling, not to mention the superb spelling table tennis moves!

Year 5 has shown great resilience to succeed in Maths, tackling tough word problems, grappling with graphs and finally finishing with fractions. Everyone has given their very best in every lesson and we are ready to face Book B when we return after Easter.

We love Science! We have enjoyed many Science experiments this term in our 'Changing Materials' unit, from thermal insulating, to evaporation and filtering and scratch tests. Another highlight was Science Week where we learned about forces by designing parachutes and taking part in a whole class paper aeroplane experiment- this was great fun!



In History we explored the lives of the Maya civilisation, in Geography we have looked at the distribution of natural resources, including energy and the food miles our food takes before it reaches us. We have sung, performed and played South African music in our Music lessons, investigated search engines in Computing, learned about Islam and Christianity in RE and shown great skill and teamwork in hockey and dodgeball in PE. Wow! It has certainly has been a busy term and the children have earned a well -deserved rest.

Thank you for your support this term and I hope you have a wonderful, restful Easter.



Year 6

Year Six have been working really hard this term. In PE, we completed a unit of football. This was very fun and the children took part in lots of game scenarios. This half term, we have done a bit of tennis and outdoor adventurous activities; however, the weather hasn't been kind of us so we played some dodgeball matches when we couldn't do PE outside. The children really enjoyed this.

We have had amazing attendance at our morning boosters, with around 28 children coming into school for extra lessons. I'm sure this will make all the difference when we come to our actual SATs. In March, the children took part in a mock SATs week. I was impressed with their effort during these tests, and it was great to see more children passing this time.

In guided reading, we have been reading a book called A Monster Calls. Every lesson, we answered a pre-reading question. Then we read the chapter and answered three comprehension questions. Doing this most days, has had a positive impact on our reading progress. Recently in English lessons, we have written a horror story. These stories were very scary and I know that the children enjoyed this unit.

In design technology, the class learned about bread and how to make a fresh loaf. We all baked a loaf of bread each. When I had 35 children all kneading dough at the same time in the classroom, I did wonder what I had done, but I've got to say that it was very rewarding. Thank you to the parents for bringing in the ingredients, equipment and baking the loaves at home. It was a great team effort.



Year Six have got to be one of the best classes ever at doing extra jobs. Thank you to all of the children for always remembering to do their jobs. I even have a team of lunch time helpers who do lots of filing and keeping my stock cupboard tidy. Thank you so much! I hope you all have a wonderful Easter break. Don't eat too many eggs!



PTFA Round Up



Registered Charity Number 1107072

Thank you so much to everyone for their generosity and support during the Spring term.

We had a really successful term raising over **£2,000**
There will be a little more to add to that with the final count from the Easter Bingo.

Our team has loved seeing the children having so much fun, whilst raising money for the trim trail equipment.

Events that have taken place this term

- Amnesty box – for gifts and Christmas jumpers
 - Valentine's Disco
 - 3 day uniform sale
- Mother's Day pop up shop
 - Easter Bingo

A big thank you to the PTFA team and helpers, a lot of hard work goes in to planning, organising and running the events, all of which we can't do without you.

Please get in touch if you would like to join the team as we get ready for the Summer term events, including Beach Disco, Father's Day, Summer Fairs and Sports Day.

Ways to Contact Us

In person – leave a message with the office

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

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