

# Manor Road Round-up

## Welcome to our March 2024 Manor Road Round Up!

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

We have had a very busy Book Week, with a virtual visit from an author and lot of different activities. The entries for the wooden spoon character competition were amazing and so imaginative.

We have also had lots of fun taking part in British Science Week, with all the children involved in a variety of activities including the Big Plastic Count. This has been a real eye-opener, showing us how much plastic rubbish there is in and around school. Next term, we are going to be looking at ways we can help reduce this.

Over this term, our children have taken part in a whole host of sporting activities and competitions from dodgeball to cross country. We have had sports coaches helping us gain specific skills in cycling, hockey and multi-skills. We have had lots of sporting success this term and hope this will continue in the summer term. Thank you to all the staff and parents who have attended practices and events.

As we near Easter, our school grounds are again beginning to come to life. It has been lovely to see all the different signs of spring. Our bees have started to fly again and the chickens have been out and about sampling new shoots! Thank you to all the children and staff who have helped keep our grounds so lovely.

Over the term, the PTFA have been very active organising events, from Break the Rules Day at the start of the term to the Easter Bingo last week. This term, money has been given to replacing outdoor equipment and the new all-weather surfacing at the back of our Annexe building. We are very grateful to the PTFA for all their hard work.

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.



# 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 enjoy 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 favourite stories was Jack and the Beanstalk. The Giant came and gave us a visit so we had to work really hard to look for him and follow the clues. Another we enjoyed was The Paper Dolls. We made our own Paper dolls and made up new names. During Book Week, we did lots of poetry and read many books but our favourite were the Mr Men and Little Miss books. McDonalds Leyland donated a toy and a book each for all of the Reception children to enjoy which was really kind of them.



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 skills by playing on Hit the Button and also Numbots. We have been really impressed by how quickly some of the children can recall their passport facts. We have also enjoyed measuring how tall we are in comparison to September. We have all grown lots and lots!

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' and 'The Tiny Seed' as part of Science week. We even decided to grow our own beanstalks and now they are in the Ash playground growing nicely. Another fun activity was making stir fry for Chinese New Year and then dancing with our enormous Chinese Dragon which Thea's Mummy brought in for us to use.

We have enjoyed completing lots of Easter themed activities this week and 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 terrific 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 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 explored the four seasons and learnt about seasonal changes. They learnt how trees change and what animals do in each season. The children enjoyed a range of fun activities for Book Week including: listening to stories read by our amazing masked readers, a scavenger hunt around school, performing poetry for Pre-School and Reception and hot chocolate and storytelling for World Book Day!

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 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 learnt more about the sycamore moth linked to our non-fiction English unit. They learnt how to spot the differences between a moth and a butterfly, learnt the moth's life cycle and for our challenge they had to make a moth that would be able to camouflage in and around our school environment. I wonder if they can spot any moth/butterfly caterpillars this spring when they are out and about? The children also enjoyed joining Farm Live where they learnt all about a day in the life of a farmer and met some of the new baby animals born on the farm. In this fantastic interactive live activity, the children were able to ask questions and have them answered live on screen.

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 the biggest mountains in each country and famous landmarks in each capital city.

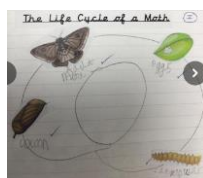
In History, the children learnt all about Queen Elizabeth II and King Charles III. They created their own portraits of our new king and they were fantastic! We have some very creative children in Elm!

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 fantastically well! Next step is to create their own mini game where things move when they are clicked on.

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.

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 enjoyed a fabulous Science Week 2024, where the children had a think and discuss what they thought a farmer might look like. We had a Live Online Visit to the farm to look at the life of a farmer and all the different jobs they have to do in a day. We used a plastic bottle to make water clocks and made a 3-minute timer.



Our materials investigations led us into our DT unit 'Textiles' which was to design a scarf for the Queen in The Queens Hat. We thought about comfort and durability by investigating the materials we had. We experimented with different joining and fastening techniques to find the most ideal. The children then design and made their scarves and tested them on a teddy to make sure they had enough pieces.

During Book Week, we enjoyed listening to and reading performance poetry. We used the Science theme of Seasons to write our own acrostic poems using S.P.R.I.N.G. We performed a performance poem all about cats for Yew Class and we enjoyed their lively, musical performance poem about dinosaurs. The decorate the Wooden Spoon Competition was an amazing success with some absolutely fabulous designs.



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, enjoy a walk and to be able to choose a book to with their friends!

In Geography, the children have been using atlases and maps to locate 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 have sung songs to help us remember the important vocabulary- names of countries, capital cities and landmarks.

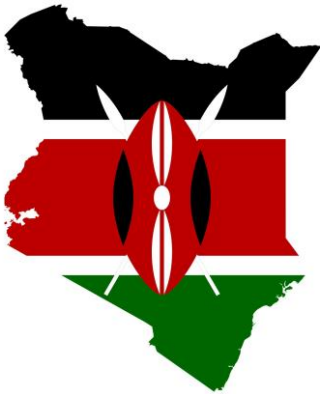
We had a lovely Art session with Mrs Barton as she shared her art work and taught the children different collage techniques to create a range of colours and textures using a variety resources. We have taken these skills on to create our own collage master piece with a London landmark theme.

It has been a jam packed term of lots of fun learning which the children have thoroughly enjoyed and we are all ready to recharge our batteries for the Summer Term.



# Yew Class

Finally, it feels as though Spring is on its way as we head towards the Easter break after another busy term.



In our English lessons this term, we have been busy linking our Geography work on Kenya, with our writing of a fact sheet about the country's rural and urban lifestyle, people, flora and fauna. We have also been practising our grammar skills involving adjectives, subordinating conjunctions and apostrophes for possession.

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 measures, including length, mass and temperature. We have learned how to measure these things, as well as solving word problems involving 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 had 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 bean and sunflower 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 to see if they need light.



British Science Week with the theme of 'Time' was a great success in Yew Class, as we enjoyed investigating pollution in the air in water by carrying out a test on water from a park and water from a busy road by adding a reagent to the water and observing changes. We took part in the Big Plastic Count as a class, too, creating a 'footprint' of our plastic recycling.

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 Angela Marie James, the poet, visited school online and entertained us with her 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.

I hope you will all enjoy a lovely, restful break over Easter and look forward to seeing you for our final, Summer Term.

# Year 3

In the first half term, we wrote our own traditional tales inspired by “The Happy Prince”.

For Science, we carried out various investigations into magnetic forces and, wondered what the Britons might have known about magnets as we found out about the discovery of iron, and leapt from Stone into the Iron Age and entered Celtic life.

In Maths, our focus was on multiplication and division, and we have been learning our times tables. Our dragon dance to our pentatonic compositions was a lot of fun.

During D.T. week, we investigated how different products use air pressure to make them work. Using tubing, bottles, balloons and syringes, we made our own pneumatic mechanisms and then created monster models to entertain Ash Class.

Highlights of the second half term included writing haiku poems during book week and guessing the identities of our masked readers. For Geography, we located the Ring of Fire with its earthquakes and volcanoes and made up our own volcanic dance routines.

During Science Week, we made our own seismographs and created ‘earthquakes’ to test their effectiveness. We investigated what soil is made from and had to rescue a few worms from drowning in the process. We also discovered how the three different types of rocks are formed by using very sticky sweets to replicate the processes involved and have learnt about fossilisation.



A highlight of this term was last week’s Manor Road Museum.

Year 4 transported us all to the wonders of Egypt and the intriguing Pharaohs. It was a successful morning where it was great to see the children sharing their enthusiasm and learning with you. They were very proud of their work and the wonderful home learning shows how powerful home and school can be when working together for our children. Thank you for your help and patience when making the artefacts and for supporting our event.

# Year 4

In English this term, the children enjoyed producing detailed descriptive writing. We used the Monet pictures that we have been studying in Art as our inspiration. Our colourful use of words was equally matched by our use of oil pastels in Art to create Monet’s Garden in Giverny and Van Gogh’s Sunflowers. Our final piece will be an impressionist’s interpretation of our school. Book Week was very memorable. A highlight was performing our poem “Today I feel...” by Gervase Phinn to Year 3- they loved it!

Our progress in times tables this term has been incredible. With the statutory times table test in the summer term, we will be ready for this when it arrives. TTRS is certainly helping our scores, so please continue practising with TTRS over the Easter break.

We have been learning about the digestive system and teeth in Science as well as creating a fun experiment in British Science Week to test the speed of a balloon. This caused great excitement! We even had chance to research three famous scientists who have contributed to this year’s theme of Time: Albert Einstein, Edwin Hubble and Stephen Hawking.

Our understanding of French and British landmarks and the physical and human geography of both countries has been the focus for our Geography lessons. Whilst in Music, we have been learning about Rock and Roll Music. We are now skilled at the Hand Jive and can help you “Rock around the Clock” at Easter. From the Year 4 team, we hope you have a relaxing holiday and an ‘egg-cellent’ and ‘cracking’ Easter!



# Year 5

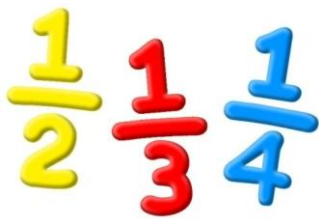
We don't know where this term has gone – we seem to have done so much in Year 5 in Spring Term!

We have started to read 'The Boy in the Tower', a mysterious novel about Ade, who lives in a community where buildings are falling. We've been doing lots of great book talk and activities linked to the story and can't wait to find out how it ends.

In English, we have been working on our 'Plastic Pollution' unit. This is building up for us to be able to write and perform a persuasive speech. We're hoping to read our speeches to the school to inspire them to get behind our mission of reducing the school's plastic waste. Most Year 5 children have joined a 'Kids Against Plastic' group which have organised a school litter pick, a local litter pick and we're now working on reducing the school's waste in general. Some children are even writing something up for the Whittle Parish newsletter – it's been amazing to see the children getting behind a really important message!



Book Week was great fun! We enjoyed performing the poem, 'The Magic Box' by Kit Wright, to Year 6. Using this poem as our inspiration, we wrote our own 'Magic Box' poem with fantastic results. We published our poems and have displayed them in the Year 5 corridor.



In Maths, we've been working on graphs and then fractions for most of the term. We have really been trying to make sure we log in on TTRS and are frequently at the top of the percentage list on each newsletter. This is brilliant to see as it really does have a huge impact on our learning in class, especially with fractions which rely so heavily on us knowing our times tables facts. We have also loved doing Fluent in 5 every day, which is 5 arithmetic questions which we answer in 5 minutes. We are seeing so much progress with these questions!

In Geography, we have been looking at the UK's energy sources, comparing different ways of obtaining energy as well as investigating renewable energy and calculating food miles too.

In History, we learnt all about the Mayans which linked to our work on North, Central and South America last term. We looked at where the Mayans lived, their religious beliefs and rituals, their number and writing system and even tasted some hot chocolate which had come from Mexico – it had mixed reviews, that's for sure!



In Science, we have finished our topic on 'Changing materials' and did a lot of work on reversible and irreversible changes. This involved the class organising lots of their own experiments and carrying them out independently which was great to see. We then moved on to our next topic of 'Animals including humans' and have nearly finished this unit. We have been looking at how humans develop from embryo to birth and throughout their life. It has been a really interesting topic and the children have learnt a lot!



During DT Week, we worked in groups on the design brief 'make a moving toy for a KS1 child'. Each group did research on what KS1 children liked and then worked on formulating a plan for their own toy. They researched moving toys and cams mechanisms, looked at how cams worked and what movements you could create from cams before deciding on their own toy. The results were amazing! We couldn't wait to share them with the rest of the class, the children in KS1, and our parents via Dojo.

In Art we, we created and explored the life and work of the artist Georgia O'Keefe. Throughout the unit of work, we had the opportunity to develop our art skills, with a focus on the use of oil pastels. For our final piece of work, we produced a piece of floral art inspired by Georgia O'Keefe. Our work will be displayed in our 'pop up' gallery next term.



At the start of the term, our RE unit was Hindu Dharma. As a class, we enjoyed reading and exploring stories with morals from Hindu scriptures. We learnt about the Hindu festival of Holi and the symbolism of the colours involved in this religious festival. We then moved on to learning about the miracles Jesus performed and discussed if something must be seen to be believed. The engagement from the class for both RE units was brilliant.

In PE, Chorley Sport Partnership came into school and worked with us to develop our dance skills. Alongside this, we got the opportunity to develop our skills in hockey with a focus on communication and teamwork. After the half-term break, we were able to apply the skills we have learnt so far this year to create our own invasion games.

As part of our PSHE curriculum, Key Charity came in to teach us about friendships and stereotypes. We particularly enjoyed writing a 'Friendship Soup' poem about the qualities of a good friend. The poems were displayed on our 'Proud Pegs' board. We have also been thinking about our feelings and emotions and strategies to help us manage them.



In Music, we have been learning about music from Africa with a focus on South Africa. To build on our singing skills, we have learnt a traditional South African call and response song called 'Shosholozza'. Next, we learnt how to play the song on a glockenspiel. We embraced our work in music and showed a fantastic attitude towards rehearsing and performing.

We've worked so hard this term and we're looking forward to a well-deserved break over Easter - enjoy everyone!





I'd like to start by saying a big thank you to all the children and parents for making my first term at Manor Road so enjoyable. The children have worked so hard this term and adapted to the change easily.

# Year 6

In Science, I think we all thoroughly enjoyed (and were equally grossed out by) our topic all about the human circulatory system. We had so much fun making models of the blood and dissecting hearts; however, my new blush trainers took the brunt of these rather messy lessons.

As well as our story writing based on the Paperman, Year 6 have completed some great non-fiction writing with a real life purpose. We wrote persuasive letters to the PTFA asking for some money to buy new playground equipment and we based our newspaper unit on our school, with a view to starting up a Year 6 newspaper club in the Summer Term. We'd love to get our first edition written and published by the end of the year. Watch this space!

In guided reading sessions, we have enjoyed reading and analysing Wonder. It has really opened up the children's eyes to how we view differences in others and how people might be treated for being 'different'. It has sparked interesting conversations, where children have shared their views about how different characters in the book treat the lead character 'Auggie' based on his looks. In most lesson, we have been focusing on picking evidence from the text to back up our ideas and opinions, looking for clues to tell us more about how a character is feeling by analysing their actions.

The children have shown great resilience in Maths lessons, working through some tricky areas of Maths including decimals, percentages, ratio and algebra. In every lesson, the children have developed new strategies and improved their problem solving skills, while working collaboratively and supporting each other.

We were lucky enough to have another visit from Mr Alker, who runs the debt awareness lessons. We had fun learning about gambling, using fake money to make bets, but were also shocked when hearing about real life people whose lives were badly affected by gambling.

Year 6 **LOVE** PE lessons. During our dance lessons, the children showcased some brilliant skills learning dance moves from various decades to create a great mashup 'Dance through the ages' final piece. All children worked hard and joined in well. We also loved our gymnastic unit where children improved and extended their gymnastic routines, introducing a variety of apparatus. During our outdoor lessons, we have been developing our rugby skills, playing a variety of rugby inspired games.

Spring Term plays host to 'Book Week' here at Manor Road. During the week, we spent some time reading books to our preschool children, which the little ones really enjoyed. Our English lessons were based around poetry with a focus on performance poetry. We were all a little nervous when it came to performing 'The Listeners' for Year 5, but every child joined in and read their part with great expression – some even experimented with different voices and some added actions.

Well done Year 6 – you've all worked so hard this term! I hope you all enjoy a happy and restful Easter 😊



# PTFA Newsletter

Registered Charity Number 1107072



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

We have had another really successful term raising  
**£3404.05**

We have loved seeing the children having so much fun, whilst raising money for the reception playground upgrades and making a contribution towards the newly refurbished outside area of the annex.

We would like to thank everyone who has given their time to help at these events during the spring term.

- Gift amnesty
- Break the rules day
- Milly's Smile collection
- Uniform sale
- Valentine's Disco
- Mother's Day pop up shop
- Easter Bingo

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 refreshments.

If you would like to join the PTFA 23-24 volunteer WhatsApp group please follow the link.

<https://bit.ly/ManorRoadPTFA>

Volunteers that can offer any level of support during the school year are very welcome.

## Ways to Contact Us

In person – leave a message with the office

By e-mail - [ptfa@manorroad.lancs.sch.uk](mailto:ptfa@manorroad.lancs.sch.uk)

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

