

Manor Road Round-up

Welcome to our March 2026 Manor Road Round Up!

Welcome to our Spring edition of the Manor Road Round Up! It's been another busy and exciting term, with so much to share.

After a very wet start to the year, it's lovely to see our school grounds coming back to life. We've been busy getting our newly renovated allotment ready for planting next half term—something the children are really looking forward to. We're hoping to use what we grow in school and even sell some at our Summer Term Farmers' Market. And of course, we're all wondering... will our duck return to nest again while we're on holiday?

Our School Council has been working incredibly hard, including organising today's International Day of Happiness celebrations. The children have had a fantastic time learning new skills, getting creative with crafts, and enjoying music together.

There has also been plenty of sporting activity this term, with children taking part in everything from gymnastics and netball to cross country and athletics. We've also welcomed specialist coaches into school to help develop skills in dance and other areas, which has been a great experience for everyone involved.

We've been fortunate to welcome a number of visitors into school too, including sessions on road and fire safety, as well as Compass Bloom workshops, all of which have enriched the children's learning.

Our PTFA have been as busy as ever, organising a range of fun events such as Break the Rules Day, the Neon Disco, the Mother's Day Pop-Up Shop, and Easter Bingo. The money raised will go towards new play equipment for breaktimes and lunchtimes—something all the children will benefit from.

As the term comes to a close, we are delighted to welcome back Miss Otto from maternity leave—it's lovely to have you back with us!

We also say a fond farewell and a huge thank you to Mrs Valiant, who is retiring after more than 20 years at Manor Road. Your dedication and care have made such a difference, and you will be greatly missed.

Finally, we wish Mrs Lewis, Mrs Kerfoot and Miss Evans all the very best as they move on to new adventures. Thank you for everything you have given to our school community—we will miss you all and hope the future brings you happiness and success.

As always, thank you so much for your continued support—it really does make a difference. We hope you all have a wonderful and relaxing Easter holiday!



Pre-School

This term, our Pre-Schoolers have continued to grow and flourish – not only in size but in their personal, social and emotional development. We have welcomed new children to our group and formed friendships that will no doubt continue through until Year 6!



The small splattering of snow back in January gave way to lots of excitement and opportunities to learn about cold places on our planet and animals that live in them. We even learned where to find the Arctic and Antarctic on a globe! We had lots of fun using our creative skills to make penguins, explore ice and make polar bear themed snacks. Our Winter themed Stay and Play session was well received by our parents and we had a lovely afternoon having fun and being creative.

Thanks to Mrs Atkinson, we have been able to enjoy PE sessions with Mrs Rothwell which we have really enjoyed, and we also got to take part in Bikeability sessions too which was great fun. We look forward to more sessions with Mrs Rothwell next term.

Thanks to Hayley from Lancashire's Wildlife Trust, we managed a trip to Back Lane Woods in the first half of this Spring term and we really enjoyed learning about woodland animals and birds. It was a great afternoon in the fresh air and it stayed dry!

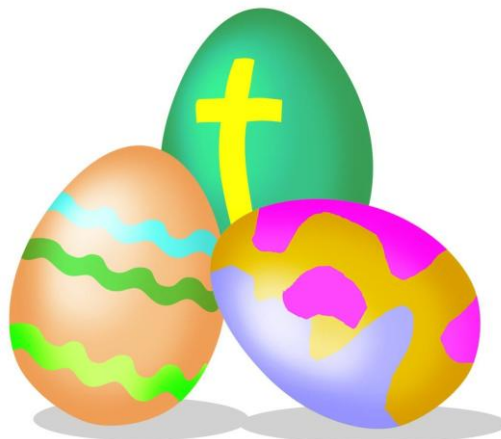


Albeit a short term, it's certainly been a busy one! We've had very welcome visits from our friends in Year 1 and Year 2 who came to share their stories with us, we visited the children in Year 3 who showed us their fabulous moving models, we've celebrated Chinese New Year, Shrove Tuesday, Valentine's Day, World Book Week, Mother's Day, Science Week, Easter, International Day of Kindness and a trip to Windmill Farm thrown in for good measure too! Phew!

We look forward to moving into the summer term (a final one in Pre School for some of us!) and hope for long sunny days when we can get out in our lovely garden and enjoy some nice weather.

Have a lovely Easter break everyone!

Love from Mrs Maloney, Miss Bickerstaff and Mrs Byron



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 love both indoor and outdoor provision and have been really happy with the slightly warmer weather!

We have also worked really hard on our learning. We love to read and story time is always really special in Ash Class as the children are always so engaged. They love using their imagination and letting it run away with them! 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. The children have been getting raffle tickets every time they read three times or more which is really helping with progress. 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 took the class fairy, Arabella. We have also been reading lots of non-fiction books too. The children have been working hard on their writing too this term with early morning writing every day, writing for a purpose and writing in provision. We especially enjoyed tasting magic beans and describing them!

Children's mental health week was a lovely opportunity for us to hold a spa day for the children. The children relaxed and spent the day having treatments and relaxing in their pjs!



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. We have been learning how to identify a repeating pattern as well as create a pattern of our own. We have been working hard on our passport objectives and now we are focussing on counting backwards as well as numberbonds. We have enjoyed matching our numberbond partner during carpet time.

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 'Jasper's Beanstalk' and another fun activity was tasting noodles for Chinese New Year and then dancing with the Chinese Dragon! We have done lots of work leading up to our trip to Windmill farm. We have done lots of art and crafts and made every animal we think lives on a farm.

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

Wow – what a fantastic half term we've had in Year 1! The children have been absolute superstars and we are so proud of everything they've achieved. Here's a little round-up of all the fun, learning and adventures we've packed in...

Maths - We've been busy little mathematicians! The children have been, adding and subtracting within 20, learning number names, getting to grips with days of the week, calendars and months of the year, exploring 2D and 3D shapes, measuring length and height and counting in 2s, 5s and 10s.

English - Our budding authors and readers have been working hard on, their non-fiction animal fact files and seasonal books. Writing their own "That's not my..." stories for our preschool friends and dressing up for Book Week (we loved seeing all those amazing costumes!) They performed our class poem (Changes by Julia Donaldson) in assembly with such expression! It was lovely to also welcome our parents, carers, aunts, uncles and grandparents for our Brew & Book morning – thank you for coming to share stories with us.

SPaG - We've been learning how to use exclamation marks and question marks and the suffixes -ed and -ing (turning words into past and present actions!)

Science - In science we have explored, the seasons, everyday materials and even went on a lovely walk to Bluebell Woods to spot signs of spring – lots of great detective work!

DT - The children became designers and makers, creating scarves for King Charles III – so much creativity and careful joining on materials.

RE - We learned all about Ramadan and Eid with Mrs Ghulam – thank you for helping us learn about these special celebrations.

PE - We've been practising our throwing and catching skills and we've started swimming – such brave and brilliant efforts from everyone!

History - We learned all about Queen Elizabeth II and her life – lots of great questions and thoughtful discussions.

Geography - We explored the United Kingdom, learning all about Capital cities and famous landmarks and the children loved spotting places they'd visited!

Computing - We've started learning how to code using Espresso coding lessons – some amazing problem-solving happening already! They are also now very quick at logging onto the laptops with their own log ins.

What a jam-packed half term! The children have worked incredibly hard and grown so much in confidence and independence. They are more than ready for a well-earned Easter break.

Have a lovely rest, enjoy some Easter fun and activities, and we can't wait to see you all back refreshed and smiling next term!



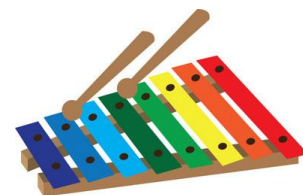
Oak Class

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 2026! This year's focus has been 'Curiosity'. We have used our Seasons topic to look at the changes around us locally, focusing on the questions asked by the children to further their understanding and learning, as well as looking closely at the questions asked by the adults within the class to guide that learning.

Our materials investigations led us into our DT unit 'Textiles' which was to design a scarf for King Charles II. We thought about comfort and durability by investigative 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 to make sure they had enough pieces.

During Book Week as a class we enjoyed listening to and reading performance poetry, we used the Science theme of Seasons to learn performance poetry to perform to the school. We have been learning to play the glockenspiel in Music so we had a go at playing the notes for London's Burning put sang a song about planting and growing a seed. We listened to 3 similar stories entitle If I had animal hair, If I had animal teeth & if I had Animal ears. We used a photograph of the children for them to add animal hair, teeth and ears to their picture. We got some very unusual looking children!!



We have enjoyed a lovely walk around the local area in the sunshine to have a look and the changing season. The children used their observation skills to spot signs of spring, listened carefully for the different bird song that we could identify on an app and enjoyed the warm sunshine on our faces.



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 will be looking at different collage techniques to create a range of colours and textures using a variety resources. We will use these skills 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

Oh my goodness, what a busy term we've had! So much learning and plenty of extra curricular activities, too.



In our English lessons this term, we have been busy linking our science work on plants with writing a set of instructions for growing sunflower seeds. We have also been practising our grammar skills including adjectives, subordinating conjunctions, imperative verbs and time adverbials.

Our Geography unit this term has centred around the area of Kenya around Nairobi, contrasting it with our local area of Lancashire. We 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 solving word problems, and working with money, learning about the different denominations, counting and adding amounts of money and solving word problems to find change.

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 told us that astronauts getting ready for the Artemis Project are having difficulties with their 'astronappies' for travelling to the Moon, 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 often-overlooked, very first British person 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 into practice, dissecting fruits to find their seeds, observing the inside of runner beans closely, and germinating our own sunflower and bean seeds in on our classroom windowsill. 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.

THE BIG PLASTIC COUNT

British Science Week with the theme of 'Curiosity' was a great success in Yew Class, as we enjoyed taking part in the Big Plastic Count, raising our awareness of plastic pollution, monitoring air pollution levels, and carrying out Explorify 'Odd one Out' activities.

We also loved celebrating Book Week in Yew Class, having great fun reading, writing and performing a wonderful range of poetry, holding a Book Swap and Book and Biscuit event for families, dressing in our pyjamas, and designing alternative book covers for our favourite stories.

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 coding lessons.

In our P.E. this term, we have made progress with our gymnastics skills, combining travelling movements with balances and jumps to make simple routines. We also had fun creating dance routines on the theme of 'Explorers', using mime and exaggerated movements.

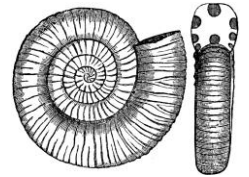


I hope you will enjoy a lovely, relaxing break over the Easter period and look forward to welcoming you all back for our final, action-packed term in Year 2!

Year 3

During the spring term, we wrote our own twisted fairy tales inspired by “The True Story of the Three Little Pigs”, wrote reports on rocks and volcanoes, and enjoyed writing and performing nonsense verse. In maths, our main foci were multiplication, division and measures.

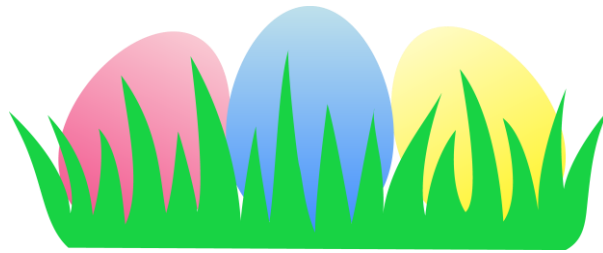
For science, we carried out various investigations into forces and magnetism. In the second half term, we explored how different types of rocks are formed, making our own out of chewy sweets, and also learnt about fossilisation. Linked to this, we found out about volcanoes and earthquakes and asked why people live near the Ring of Fire.



We jumped from the Stone into the Iron Age in history and explored what life was like for the Celts ready for the arrival of the Romans next term.

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 pre-school and the infants.

We have been improving our dodging and marking skills in P.E. as well as our ability to work as a team.



Year 4

Spring Term has flown by, and the children have worked hard.

We have completed some fantastic pieces of work in English. Firstly, we produced newspaper reports based on a peculiar visit at Manor Road and once complete, we shared these with each other in class. We have then created short mystery stories and finished off with adventure stories based on Roald Dahl, BFG. The children have really enjoyed writing their stories and we even got to watch the film.



During the Spring Term, we have been learning all about contrasting regions and their physical and human features. We kept our learning local and researched the Lake District as one of our areas of focus. We can now discuss the differences between physical and human and can compare how regions are different due to their climate, weather, and land type.

Science has been learning all about humans and animals. We can now label the digestive system and discuss of the various organs. We know all of the human teeth and can compare the teeth of various animals.

We have learnt about habitats to complete science this term. We are able to identify living and non-living things, discuss where they live and how they adapt to survive and lastly, classify animals according to their characteristics.



In D&T, we have hand sewn pencil cases. The children were careful when planning their designs and created some fantastic end products. These products were evaluated against our product criteria and children were able to consider changes they would make in future.

In Art, we are just finishing off our fine line, textured art work in the style of Rob Miller, a local artist.

In Maths, we are continuing to plug and gaps and challenge ourselves. We still often recap learning from Year 3 to ensure we are confident and lots of children are attempting challenges each lesson when they finish their work.

The children are now able to tell the time, calculate time durations and handle fractions with confidence.

Another good term in Year 4! Well done :)

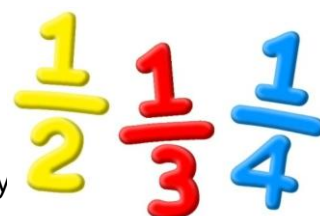


Year 5

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

In English, we have read 'Ice Palace' as a class and used the text as a basis for our writing. The children enjoyed creating and performing poetry as well as writing narrative descriptions, diary entries and debates. It provided lots of opportunities for drama-based lessons which Year 5 love! We moved on to our narrative poetry topic of The Highwayman by Alfred Noyes, which has provided some fantastic opportunities for descriptive writing.

In Maths, we've been working on graphs, fractions and decimals for most of the term. We have really been trying to make sure we log in on TTRS each week! 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. We have also been completing weekly practice and making lots of progress with these too which is amazing!



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 Science, we have finished our topic on 'properties and changes of 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!

A highlight of the half term for us was Konflux Theatre coming in to work with us for the full day at the start of our Mayans topic. The class had a great day, learned new things about the Mayans and performed their play at the end of the day!

In Art, 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 is displayed in our 'Art Gallery', up the stairs to Year 5.



In PE, Miss McDonough has taught dance and hockey. Dance has been based around the World Cup and children have created their own dance routines incorporating movements and motifs that reflect football. In hockey, children have practised dribbling with control, passing and moved up to competitive hockey games.

Easter also signifies the end of Mrs Lewis teaching us. We have loved having her and wish her the best of luck in her new teaching job.

Mrs Valiant is also retiring after working at Manor Road for 20 years - we will miss her very much but wish her the best of luck in her retirement.

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

What a busy Spring Term we've had in Year 6. A massive well done to the children for working so hard and completing their 'mock SATs' tests – they showed great resilience and determination and made us all very proud.

Year 6

In Science, the class have learnt about the heart and enjoyed being active learners by taking part in an 'Operation Ouch' interactive lesson. They used their research skills to find out about the impact of diet, exercise and drugs on the human body. Using their English writing skills, they were able to present their learning by creating a non-fiction text. As part of British Science Week, one of the activities was to design a poster, for a national competition, linked to the real-life scientific research question, 'What are children's and young people's vision for a good / positive childhood?'



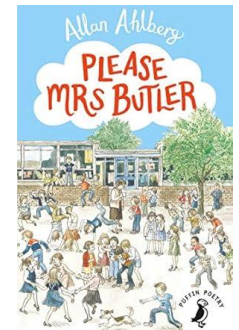
Year 6 have worked hard in all areas of English. Application of grammar, punctuation and spelling skills has been evident in independent writing which has covered a range of genres and text types including narrative settings and formal and informal letters. There has been a focus on applying writing skills across the curriculum in non-core subjects including History and Geography.

In guided reading sessions, work has continued to improve comprehension skills using short extracts and SATs style questions to aid understanding of different texts. To further develop reading comprehension, the children have used the online resource 'Read Theory'.

The children have shown great resilience in Maths lessons, working through some tricky areas of Maths including volume, transformation of shapes and algebra. In every lesson, the children have developed new strategies and improved their problem solving skills, while working collaboratively and supporting each other. As a class, the children have continued to develop their Arithmetic skills, which was evident during the recent mock Sats week. Kahoot quizzes have also been used as a fun way to further develop and embed arithmetic skills.

Year 6 have enjoyed PE lessons this term. They showed great skill in the gymnastic unit in which they devised and developed routines using apparatus. There have also been many enrichment opportunities including cricket, basketball, cross country and athletics.

Spring term plays host to 'Book Week' here at Manor Road. During the week, we focused on poetry and prepared a class performance of 'Please Mrs Butler' by Allan Ahlberg' which was shared in the whole school assembly at the end of the week. It was great to see the children dressed up as a book character or in their pyjamas on World Book Day. As part of our work on World Book Day, the class enjoyed taking part in a BBC live lesson especially as it was broadcast from a location close to school - The British Commercial Vehicle Museum in Leyland.



To start our History Topic on World War Two, the children visited The Museum of Lancashire and had the opportunity to learn about many different aspects of the war in a fun and exciting way. In particular, the class enjoyed playing games from this era including tiddlywinks. In Geography, there was a focus on developing map skills, using online maps and atlases.

In Art, the children developed their printing skills, and created their own printing tile. Using acrylic paints, they were able to print onto a t-shirt with excellent results. We have displayed photographs of the children wearing their bespoke t-shirts in our pop-up gallery on the Year 6 corridor.

PSHE provided enrichment opportunities including workshops delivered by the NSPCC and Compass Bloom, and a visit from the Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service. Safer Internet Day also took place this term with the theme, 'Smart tech safer choice – exploring the safe and responsible use of AI'. To learn more about this Year 6 took part in an online lesson and then designed posters to share key messages about safe and responsible use of AI. The posters have been displayed in the classroom.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a very happy Easter break and a massive thank you to all the children in the class and to all the parents for a great term.

PTFA Newsletter



Registered Charity
Number **1107072**

Thanks to your generous support we have had a really successful Spring term.

Money raised for the school, from January to March:

£2406.54

We will publish the Easter Bingo total next term.
We have loved seeing the children having so much fun,
whilst raising money for school.

Events held this term

- Gift amnesty
- Break the Rules Day
- Pre loved uniform sale
- Neon 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 25-26 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

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