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AND RESOURCED PROVISION FOR
HEARING IMPAIRED CHILDREN
Headteacher: Mrs C Findlay

15th September 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

It has been lovely over the last two weeks to welcome parents / carers on to the school site at the beginning and end of the day and I have enjoyed speaking with many of you at this time. As I have said in previous letters, home-school partnership is extremely important to me and with this in mind it is my intention to send a fortnightly newsletter home to keep you up-to-date with what we have been up to in school.

Learning Update

When walking around the school it has been lovely to see the pupils in all year groups so engaged in their learning. In my newsletters I am aiming over the weeks to give you a flavour of what the children have been up to in school, so that you have a starting point for conversation with your children at home.

There have been several 'buddy' activities over the last two weeks with the Year 6 pupils supporting our new Year 3 pupils. This week they enjoyed a shared PE session with the older children leading activities. In addition, the Year 3 pupils have started writing their own fractured fairy tales which they are planning to share with their Year 6 buddies when they are finished.

Year 6 have stretched their legs this week and practised their map reading skills when undertaking walks in the local area. The pupils took it in turns to lead the class and I am pleased to say that they all found their way back to school!

Year 4 are looking forward to their trip to Marwell Zoo in a couple of weeks time. They have been learning about vertebrates and invertebrates in science and comparing animal skeletons to spot similarities and differences. In English lessons they have been writing diary entries from the point of view of a flying frog!

Year 5 have been active outside, starting their Anglo Saxons topic off with orienteering and this afternoon in school they are carrying out further investigations into Anglo Saxons. I have seen some beautifully presented work from Year 5 pupils in relation to their English work 'Tell me a Monster' – get them to tell you all about it!

Road Safety

On Friday 8th September, Mrs Vass (Headteacher at Cove Infant School), Mrs Hickie (Headteacher at Cove Junior School) and myself met with three local councillors to discuss concerns about road safety along Fernhill Road. We met with:

- Councillor Nick Adams-King - County Councillor and Cabinet Member for Highways Operations at Hampshire County Council
- Councillor Roz Chadd - County Councillor for Farnborough North and Deputy Leader of Hampshire County Council
- Councillor Rod Cooper - Local Councillor for West Farnborough

The meeting was very productive and a number of issues and possible solutions were discussed:

- Concerns were raised about the three accidents that have happened on Fernhill Road, near to our schools, within the last 6 months
- Solutions to reduce the number of cars parking on grass verges in the local area
- Possible alternative parking sites for parents of our schools
- An audit from Hampshire's Road Safety Team
- Reduced speed limits outside our schools
- SIDs on Fernhill Road (Speed Indicator Devices)
- Enhanced enforcement of parking restrictions



As you can imagine, making changes requires time and resources but, as representatives of our school communities, we felt reassured and encouraged that a range of actions are being considered by Hampshire County Council. We will provide updates when available.

Playtime Activities

During the warm weather it is lovely for us to make use of the field in addition to our playgrounds. The staff have run a wide range of activities during the lunch hour over the last two weeks including; basketball, swing ball, archery, parachute games, football, pogo sticks, timber trail, bouncy hoppers and badminton. Activities vary from week to week and the activities on offer are shared with the pupils each day. In addition to the activities provided by school staff, we have Premier Sport staff in school on a Monday and Friday lunchtime who will be providing enrichment activities.

Despite the activities on offer we have a small number of children that we need to speak to each day about play fighting. This is an activity which is not safe and is not acceptable in school. Fighting of any kind in school is unsafe and I ask for your support in promoting this same message and our school rules of Ready, Respectful, **Safe** and Kind with your children.

Please see below a message from our new Chair of Governors.

I hope you all have a lovely weekend.

Yours sincerely

Mrs C Findlay
Headteacher

A message from our new Chair of Governors – Mrs K Taylor

Hi everyone, my name is Kate Taylor and I am honoured to have been elected to Chair the Governing Body here at Manor Junior School. I joined the governing body last year and have really enjoyed learning about the school, and I am very much looking forward to spending more time here this year. By way of introduction, I moved to Farnborough around ten years ago and have 2 children who attend other local schools- one at Junior School and one at Infant School. In my day job I am a civil servant and bring knowledge of the public sector environment to this role, combined with the passion of a parent that children should be able to access and enjoy learning in a safe and supportive environment.

The role of the governing body is to support the school's mission and ensure that it provides a high-quality education to its students. It is a true partnership; our governing body at Manor includes staff representatives, parent governors, and members of the local community all of whom are committed to ensuring that the children have the best possible experience during their time at Manor and develop a lifelong love of learning. We are currently looking to appoint another parent Governor, if this is something you might be interested in exploring please do get in touch and I'd be more than happy to share further details.

The governors met for the first time this academic year earlier this week and were updated on the work that has been done to renovate the school over the summer holidays, the establishment of the new NEST provision, and the proposed school plan for this academic year. The hard work to prepare for the new school year over the summer was evident.

Your active involvement and support are invaluable to our school community, and I look forward to working collaboratively across the school community to ensure the best possible educational experience for our pupils. If you need to contact me or the governing body, please email the school in the first instance adminoffice@manor-junior.hants.sch.uk