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

22nd November 2024

Dear Parents and Carers

This has been an interesting week! Thank you so much once again for your support with the school lockdown on Tuesday. I know this must have been a worrying time for you, as it was for the staff in school, but the very fact that you supported us made the situation easier. Thank you so much for the kind messages that many of you sent following this incident, they were much appreciated.

Social Media

I am aware that there have been a couple of comments posted anonymously on social media recently about things that parents and carers have not been happy with in school. Whilst staff often do see these comments, they will not respond online. Please can I remind parents that if you are unhappy or have feedback on any aspect of school life, the best way to make things change is by coming into school and speaking with staff. If you feel that any matter has not been resolved by your child's class teacher or year leader, then please contact me via the school office and I will do my best to resolve the issue if I can - no matter how big or small.

Please, please name your child's property!!

This week a parent and I were looking through lost property to try and find her son's jumpers and we were once again amazed at the number of jumpers, shoes and what appeared to be brand new coats, without names. I know as a parent myself how expensive these items are and also how frequently children lose their things (especially my eldest!), but it really helps us return things to their owner if they are named. If you need support with this – to borrow a Sharpie (other permanent markers are available!) or advice on where to get iron on labels, then Lucy Hoggan our parent support worker is more than happy to help with this sort of thing (l.hoggan@manor-junior.hants.sch.uk).

Update from the Year Teams

Year 3

What an exciting and engaging couple of weeks we've had in Year 3. Even though it's November, the classrooms have been full of the children singing Christmas songs! We can't wait to start our rehearsals in the hall next week. All the children have been given a copy of the song words to practise at home. The children have produced some beautiful pieces of art work for their calendars and gift tags.

We have enjoyed learning about fractions in maths, especially all the practical activities including sharing a picnic fairly. This week we have started to learn about tenths and how tenths come from splitting a whole into ten equal parts.

In English, we are exploring the book 'Arthur and The Golden Rope' and we will be writing our own terrifying description about the horrendous giant wolf, Fenrir. We will be reading these aloud in class and the scariest ones will be shared with Mrs Findlay!

This half term we are lucky to have Madame Hoggan teaching some of our French lessons where we will be learning about basic classroom instructions and singing a song in French.

It has been lovely to see so many children wearing their brightest and most fluorescent clothes and accessories today. We have learnt about the importance of 'being seen to be safe' as we travel to and from school and we all enjoyed designing a brightly coloured jacket and thinking about which colours and materials were most reflective. Our Year 5 Junior Road Safety Officers and Mr Polley will be judging our designs and letting each class know which ones they think are the best.

Finally, just a reminder to encourage your child to return their spelling task sheet each week and to record any reading (including on Oxford Reading Buddy) in the reading record: Thank you for your support.

Year 4

We are really enjoying our Ancient Greeks topic in Year 4. We have read a few Greek myths and the children have written some incredible descriptions of the minotaur from 'Theseus and the Minotaur'. See if they can explain expanded noun phrases to you at home and give an example to describe this mythical beast!

We thoroughly enjoyed our visit from Guy Bass last week, who had everyone in stitches with his stories and poems. Children (and staff) are still talking about it now! This was a brilliant start to our 'Stitch Head' topic and I know that both 4P and 4B have loved hearing the first part of the book.

Many thanks to those who attended our Multiplication Check meeting last week. If you were unable to attend, the key message was how vital times tables are to enable your child to access the Year 5 and 6 Maths curriculum. Knowing their times tables will remove a significant barrier to achieving the expected standard in Key Stage 2 and beyond as it is the gateway to understanding many other mathematical concepts. You may want to visit <https://urbrainy.com/mtc> where there is practice test which gives a good example of what the Multiplication Check in June will look like. Times Table Rockstars is a great way for children to prepare for this – we have already been so impressed by how many children have received certificates for achieving new statuses on Studio games! New statuses are achieved by increasing both their accuracy and speed.

Rehearsals for 'Lights, Camel, Action!' are now well underway. Children should have both their script and their song words to learn. We won't have much time to learn words at school, so I would encourage children to be practising their lines at home as part of their homework. It would be really helpful if they were reasonably confident with them by the end of November so that we can practice without scripts as much as possible for the last few weeks of term. You should now have had slips to order tickets – we look forward to seeing you all there!

Year 5

Year 5 have been enjoying their new English topic all about dragons. They produced some incredible descriptive writing about their dragons and had an opportunity to share these with each other. Below is an example from Avani in 5D, who produced an incredible description.

In the crystal clear water, I saw a disturbance from the flowing water, that was rushing down. Suddenly, a long, wispy tail jumped out of the water, breaking all the calming silence. It rose into the cerulean sky. It had a midnight, ~~and midnight~~ ^{buttermilk} and marshmallow colour eye, peering the dark. I slowly backed away. "A tree!" I thought, eyes transfixed on the rough, brown thing that could save my life. Running towards the tree, I looked back to see its spiny, foaming horns. While I was behind the tree, I saw the sun setting, and, after awhile, it was shadowy black. The only lights were the moon and the dragon. In the moonlight I saw a sharp, peering tail and broad popcorn colour teeth. I started to walk over very slowly. As I got closer, a sweet cinnamon smell filled my nose. It slowly rose up; it was careful to be elegant and graceful. It slowly emitted some stardust, unexpectedly. It had a very thin and slim body about as tall as a giraffe. It picked me up and we rose as higher and higher. He dropped me on the soft clouds. I was surprised I didn't fall through the cotton candy colour clouds. They were so soft! The dragon let out a huge yawn and started to fall asleep. So this is where they slept...

We are now writing information texts about our dragons using the book 'Dragonology' to support us.

In maths, we have been looking at angles. Year 5 have really impressed us with how they applied their knowledge from last year to apply to problem solving this year. We have been looking at the nets of 3d shapes and have been having fun constructing our own.

In topic, we have been learning how to keep safe online and how to use safe search engines such as Swiggle. In history, we have been looking at the differences between the Anglo Saxons and the Romans. Year 4 have really impressed us with their prediction skills.

We have been busy making our Christmas crafts this week and we are looking forward to sharing these with you soon. Remember you can still pre-order your Christmas crafts on Scopay.

You should have received Year 5's half termly homework. We are looking forward to seeing what the children produce and sharing them as a year group in assembly in a few weeks.

Year 6

This week in Year 6, we started our new topic - Right Here, Right Now! We started by revising our history skills of deduction by examining a writing box and the artefacts contained within including secret drawers! This is the kind of thing that Darwin may have used on his journeys around the world. Like him, we then went on a voyage of discovery to the Galapagos Islands - otherwise known as the Sensory

Garden - where we observed all kinds of interesting creatures including a shark, iguana and blue-footed boobie birds! Thank you to all those children who have already found out a little about Darwin's life. We will delve further into this topic with art, science and history this half term.

In English we have written some fantastic animal poems in the style of 'The Lost Words' poetry book by Robert Macfarlane. We have presented these beautifully and will send them home for you to see soon.

Thank you for your support with the new SATs homework. It really does make a difference. Don't forget it is due in on a Wednesday. Well done to 6L whom had 100% of their homework in on time in week 1.

Thank you also for those of you who have ordered the pupil's Christmas cards. There is still time to pre-order your child's Christmas cards if you have not yet done so. They look fantastic and the money raised will go towards a Year 6 event held later in the year. We look forward to seeing many of you at the upcoming Christmas Fair.

Have a lovely weekend!

Yours sincerely

Mrs C Findlay
Headteacher