



Another week over! Hopefully you will have received your class newsletter and homework schedule for this half term. If you have not, please contact your child's teacher asap. We really do appreciate your support with homework and look forward to seeing the work produced at home.

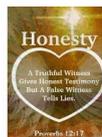
If you require any further information about the topics being covered, again, please do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher.

Children in years 1-4 have been given their new reading levels this week. Some children were a little disappointed with their ZPD scores however we have explained to the pupils that the ZPD refers to books they are able to read independently as they will provide the correct level of challenge. This is not to say that pupils cannot read other books outside of these scores—however they will need support and guidance from an experienced reader if selecting a higher score.

CHRISTIAN VALUE

As you know, our Christian value this half term is truthfulness. As role models for our children it is important that we set a good example to them. Please support us in doing this.

During one of our worships this week we listened to a 'Tissue of Tales'. Why not ask you child about the visual representation used?



BLUE MONDAY



You might have heard in the news that this Monday (15th January) is the most depressing day of the year. They believe this is due to post Christmas blues. If you are struggling to feel upbeat there is help available in the Staffordshire Moorlands.

Call the Staffordshire Mental Health Helpline 0808 800 2234 for free and confidential advice.

WORRY FORM

A child's mental health and state of well being is key to their success both in school and later life. As such, we are keen to ensure that children always feel happy, safe and secure both inside and outside of school. We recently introduced a 'worry form' to the children after reading the story, 'The big bag of worries'. Children can now request to speak to a member of staff about any concerns they might have. Mrs Marchant is the named member of staff responsible for checking and following up on the forms however children know that they can request to speak to someone they feel most comfortable with.

BIBLE STORY

As you know, Friday afternoons end with a Bible story. Following the positive comments about our nativity scene at Christmas, we have decided to use the frame to display artefacts relating to our story on a Friday. This week's story is Noah and the flood so we have an ark complete with animals entering 2 by 2. Why not ask your child to sing you our related songs?

SCHOOL UNIFORM

The Department for Education guidance states:

"The school uniform plays a valuable role in contributing to the ethos of a school and setting an appropriate tone. The Department strongly encourages schools to have a uniform as it can instil pride; support positive behaviour and discipline; encourage identity with, and support for, school ethos; ensure pupils of all races and backgrounds feel welcome; protect children from social pressures to dress in a particular way; and nurture cohesion and promote good relations between different groups of pupils. The Department also encourages schools to have a very clear position about appearance such as hair colour, style and length and the wearing of jewellery and make-up."

[School Uniform: Guidance for Head Teachers, Governing Bodies, Academy Trusts, Free Schools and Local Authorities on School Uniform and Related Policies, 2012]

At Manifold Church of England Academy we believe that school uniform has an important part to play in achieving the aims of our Mission Statement, by promoting a sense of cohesiveness and community, setting high expectations and reducing inequalities. We have tried to ensure that our uniform is practical and can be purchased at a reasonable cost.

We want all our pupils to:

- look smart
- share a sense of belonging to our school
- set and maintain high standards for themselves and others
- feel and convey pride in representing our school
- learn to take responsibility for themselves

We want parents / carers to:

- understand our expectations regarding uniform
- share these expectations and help us to ensure that their children meet them
- understand and support the action we will take when these expectations are not met

UNIFORM REQUIREMENTS

POLO SHIRT - Blue (with embroidered Manifold Church of England Academy badge)

SWEATSHIRT / CARDIGAN - Blue (with embroidered Manifold Church of England Academy badge)

TROUSERS / SKIRT - Grey tailored trousers (no logos, skinny style or jersey style fabric)

[Blue & white summer dresses in the summer.]

SHOES - Black (not fashion shoes or trainers. Boots (if worn) must be worn under trousers.)

SOCKS/TIGHTS - Grey (White with summer dresses)

PE KIT

T-SHIRT - Blue (with embroidered Manifold Church of England Academy badge)

SHORTS - Navy

PLIMSOLLS - Black

TRACKSUIT—plain navy

Black Trainers will be needed for outdoor sports during colder months.

JEWELLERY

In the interests of Health & Safety jewellery should not be worn. The only exceptions to this are stud ear-rings, watches or items of religious importance. Children will be required to remove these or cover them in tape for PE lessons.

HAIR & MAKE-UP

We do not expect children to come to school with extreme hair styles or colours. Extreme hair styles include shaved hair and lines. Nail varnish and make-up should not be worn. The only exception to this is when the school is holding a special event where children are being invited to 'dress up' (e.g. charity fund-raising days.)

WINTER FOOTWEAR

In winter conditions children may come to school in boots / wellingtons or other appropriate footwear for outdoor use, but they will be expected to change these to indoor shoes when they come into the building.

We expect all pupils to conform to this policy and ask parents to support us. We ask that any items containing holes (clothes/shoes) are replaced at the earliest opportunity.

LOST PROPERTY

We ask parents / carers to ensure that all clothing is labelled with the child's name. A lost property box can be found in the Year 1/2 cloak room. The items in the lost property box will be displayed periodically at the beginning and end of school, after which any unclaimed items will be disposed of.

UNIFORM SUPPLIERS

Our school uniform suppliers are Smart Uniform.

Telephone:

08000 681 782

01782 713 650

Email:

sales@smartuniform.co.uk

Address:

1 Harvey House
Hassell Street
Newcastle under Lyme
Staffordshire
ST5 1AR



Please note—

Whilst staff, with the exception of the catering department, are not required to wear school uniform, they are expected to wear suitably smart clothes in the work place. This is monitored and discussed with staff when applicable.

PRAXIS TRUST NEWS

As you are aware, we are part of the Praxis Trust— a multi academy trust built up of 3 schools. I am delighted to inform you that the Trustees have been working hard in the background to find further ways of supporting the three schools within the trust and to find ways of the three schools working together for the benefit of the pupils and staff. Mr Wilkinson, Headteacher of Bursley, has been appointed as the Senior Executive Lead. As a result, he will be working more closely with the two rural schools and will become a familiar face around the Moorlands. His role will involve facilitating partnerships between the three schools and provide quality assurance to the Principals, Governing Boards and Trust Boards. Mr Wilkinson spent the afternoon with us on Tuesday of this week and met all of the staff and pupils. We are all excited about the next stages of our journey as we continue to strive to make Manifold the best place it can be for pupils, staff and parents. We look forward to working closely with Mr Wilkinson.

INTERNET SAFETY

Have you spoken to your child about online safety within the last month? The National Crime Agency (NCA) conducted an online survey which showed that while the majority of parents do speak to their children regularly, over 30% have not spoken to their children about online safety within the last month.

The NCA have produced a short animation narrated by a fictional character called Sam, an adult who goes online to abuse children, with the hashtag #WhoIsSam to show how offenders attempt to build relationships with young people online.

<https://youtu.be/AOu5BLGNG9c>



We will be Safer Internet Day in school on Tuesday 6th February.

SPORTS DISPLAY

We are busy working on a sports display in school and would love to include photographs of children participating in sporting events outside of school. If you have any for our display, please send them in an envelope marked for the attention of Mrs Marchant.

STAMP APPEAL—BONE CANCER

We are continuing to collect stamps for the Bone Cancer Appeal. Please help us to support this worthy cause.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Mrs Marchant who won gold medal for first VET lady, gold medal for senior ladies team and silver medal in Veteran ladies team, and has been chosen to represent Staffordshire in the Country Cross Country Championships. Well done, Mrs Marchant. What a super achievement!



ATTENDANCE

Parents should ensure pupils are in school by 8.55am for morning registration. (The door is open from 8.40 am for those arriving by bus).

A pupil arriving after 8.55am will be marked 'late'. Please note—if your child arrives after 9:30am they will be marked as 'late after register closes'. This is regarded as an unauthorised absence and is marked as a "U "code for the session.

If your child is going to be absent parents must:

- Contact school as soon as possible on the first day of absence to provide a reason for non attendance, even if your child was sent home from school the previous day due to illness.
- Update the school on the third day of non attendance if the absence is expected to continue.
- Send a note in on the first day they return with an explanation of the absence - you must do this even if you have already telephoned us. (Please state dates of absence).

Please note—If you do not contact school and a reason is not provided for the absence the absence is recorded as unauthorised which is marked as an "O" code for the sessions.

ATTENDANCE TRAFFIC LIGHT SYSTEM

Everyone starts the year in the Green Traffic Light and hopefully ends the year on green too!



RED = 90% or below

If your attendance is 90% or below, then you are in the Red category and moving towards Persistent Absenteeism; and this means your attendance is a cause for concern, at both school and Local Authority level, and the School Attendance Improvement Officer (SAIO) assigned to our school may decide to get involved.

AMBER = 91% to 95%

If your attendance falls below 95% and above 85% you are in the Amber category and you are monitored at School Action level.

GREEN = 94% to 100%

FANTASTIC WELL DONE!