

26th November 2009

Dear Parents

CURRICULUM CHANGES AND THEMATIC UNITS

As you will be aware our curriculum delivery has changed over the past year becoming more thematic in nature. These changes were made for a number of reasons.

1. Introducing a creative curriculum allows the links between concepts and skills across subjects to become explicit assisting pupil learning and progress. Our consistently improving data verifies the success of this approach.
2. These curriculum changes will hold us in good stead for when the new national curriculum becomes statutory in 2011 as this advocates cross curricular themes.
3. These changes have allowed the introduction of modern foreign languages to be taught which will become statutory in 2010.
4. The new curriculum design encompasses our efforts to introduce activities and awareness of social inclusion and community cohesion which became a statutory responsibility in all schools last year.

As you will have noted our curriculum design was highly commended for all the above reasons by Ofsted during our recent inspection.

Our curriculum plans are available via the website (www.manorjunior.com). Apart from English, maths and PE the other subjects will be taught through these themed units and will be delivered in order to provide contexts and links that the children can relate to and understand.

VIRTUAL LEARNING ENVIRONMENT (VLE)

We are currently introducing a VLE through the implementation of 'Hantswizkid'. This facility will enable pupils to access a safe 'school managed' website to undertake learning activities outside of school, communicate with peers (through a monitored networking structure) and extend their learning through additional activities and projects. We are trialling this with particular classes currently with the aim to implement across the school by the end of the Summer Term. If you have any questions please contact Mrs Neve or Miss Bird who will be happy to answer them.



MANOR'S 50th CELEBRATIONS

As some of you will be aware Manor School opened its provision on this site on 1st September 1960. We will therefore be celebrating our 50th anniversary through various means next July 2010. We are busy preparing events and as always look to you for support.

If you yourself were a pupil and would like to attend any of the events please indicate on the slip attached. We are further developing our school groups and will be looking for volunteers to help manage and enhance our facilities through a 'Ground Force' team in the new year.

We are seeking contacts who have access to the loan/hire of a marquee for us to use in July next year.

We are also looking for volunteers to help man/support the events in July including:

- Past pupil open afternoon and reunion evening
- 50th Celebration Summer Fair
- Our Activity Day

In addition we are looking for celebrity links that may be able to attend/open these events or offer signed memorabilia that can be used as raffle gifts. Any connections would be warmly received.

Dates for the events will be finalised and forwarded by the end of January 2010 as we are trying to avoid clashes with the World Cup football matches!

Yours sincerely

Mr M Sammes
Headteacher

REPLY SLIP
MANOR'S 50th CELEBRATIONS

1. I was a past pupil of Manor and would like to be informed of any reunion events

Name (Please Print):	Years of Attendance:
Phone:	
Email:	

2. I would like to be involved in the 'Ground Force' Team

Name (Please Print):	
Child's Name:	Class:
Best times of availability:	

3. Contacts for loan/hire of marquee:

Company Name (Please Print):
Contact Name:
Phone:
Email:

4. I am happy to volunteer for supporting the events hosted by the school (dependent on availability once dates are released in January 2010).

Name (Please Print):	
Child's Name:	Class:

5. Celebrity Links

Name of Celebrity (Please Print):	
Child's Name:	Class:

