



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

18th December 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

The last couple of weeks have been filled with much Christmas excitement as you would expect at this time of the year. We have enjoyed discos, Christmas dinner, carol singing and wonderful performances from Years 3 and 4. Unfortunately we have also had record numbers of pupils (and staff) off with a couple of terrible bugs – both flu-like symptoms and sickness. I hope that everyone in our school community has a well-earned rest over the Christmas holidays and if you or your child have been poorly over the past couple of weeks, I hope you are better soon.

Productions

Last week our Year 3 pupils performed beautifully when sharing a range of poems and songs to celebrate this time of year. Watching them on stage, speaking and singing so confidently, it seemed hard to remember those first days in September, only 3 months ago, when they arrived new and feeling rather nervous. They also really impressed us with their use of British Sign language and singing in French and Spanish!

This week has been the turn of Year 4, who gave a wonderful performance of 'The Inn-Spectors'. They performed with enthusiasm and gave their audiences a really fantastic retelling of the Christmas story. The singing was a particular highlight and had us all tapping our toes! We are so proud of the effort that they put into this and the confidence with which they performed on Wednesday.

Singing at the Snow Goose

It has become a tradition at this time of year, that Miss Torbet takes our school choir to the Snow Goose Pub for our pupils to sing to the community. They did a great job as always and we are grateful to the Snow Goose for providing us with this opportunity.



Supervision before school

Further to our e-mail last week about not playing games on the playground before school, please can I ask parents to ensure that their children are adequately supervised during this time. There was a further incident before school this week where children were injured after things became heated in a game of chase. If children are on site before the doors open, they need to stay with adults or stand ready to come in. The playground is too busy with people of mixed ages at this time for playground games. If your child walks to school on their own, please can you ensure they do not leave for school too early as children should not be coming on to the school site before 8.30am as there is no supervision for them by school staff. The front gate is open earlier to allow breakfast club attendees to enter.

Year 3 – Book talk

Year 3 have been exploring the book *The King Who Banned the Dark* by Emily Haworth-Booth. The children thought of fantastic, thoughtful questions to ask the characters in the story. They used AI technology to answer those questions in role as the characters, so the children could see how the King and other characters might respond. It was a brilliant way to combine creativity, reading comprehension and technology. The children loved seeing their ideas come to life! Here are a couple of examples:

How did the people start to feel when they got bored of the dark?

At first, they were glad to be rid of it. But soon, they grew restless. They missed the mystery of night, the calm of sleep, and the joy of seeing the moon.

Do you think it was a good idea to agree with the king?

Looking back, no, it was not a good idea. At the time, I thought agreeing would keep the king happy and keep the kingdom peaceful. But agreeing without questioning meant we ignored the needs of the people. Children grew tired, workers became restless, and the beauty of the stars was lost.

Staff Panto!

Led by Miss Eade, a group of staff have been meeting after school in order to rehearse for a staff panto that they are due to perform on Friday morning for the children. The script has been kept under wraps, but I know this will be met with much enthusiasm and laughter from the children. I will try and get some photographs that I can share with you in the new year!

I hope that all members of our school community are able to have a restful break over the school Christmas holidays. I have reminded the children to help out at home with any preparations, and they have promised me they will!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from everyone at Manor Junior School!
Yours sincerely

Mrs C Findlay
Headteacher