

Manorbrook School and Community Newsletter



Aiming for Excellence

No. 5 14th November 2025

Dear parents, carers and friends,

I hope that you have had a good few weeks since the last newsletter. Lots has been happening in school and preparations are well under way for upcoming events, such as the Nativity, Carols By Candlelight and the FOM Christmas Fair. Suddenly, Christmas feels as though it is fast approaching!

Thank you to everyone that was able to engage with the Consultation meeting on the expansion work here at Manorbrook. I know that the organisers were very impressed with the number of people who attended and have taken away the issues raised to consider how they can make any changes necessary.

Can I please just put out a polite reminder to park carefully outside school at pickup and at drop off. Thank you to everyone that does this already. As you know, it can often be quite congested at these times but avoiding parking on corners (e.g. into Chatsworth Park), in places which doesn't allow sight for those crossing roads or over driveways will support the school in our relationships with our neighbours and most importantly in keeping the children safe when they are walking to or from school. Your support with this is, as always, much appreciated.

As some of you will be aware, over the last few weeks I have been showing prospective parents around looking for places for September 2026. There have been lots of real positives shared by the visitors about our school which I wanted to pass on to you. Firstly, the comments about our children have been overwhelmingly positive. The parents have talked about the way the children interact with their learning and each other but also about their politeness when visiting their classroom. Secondly, the year 6 children that have been involved in the tours have done an amazing job and nearly all of the visitors have taken the time to praise them. Finally, there have been a lot of comments about the calm and friendly feel within the school. All of these things are so nice to hear but also lovely to be able to share with you.

Wishing you a lovely weekend

Paul Medicott

World Polio Day – Purple Pinkie Day

An enormous thank you to everyone who participated in Purple Pinkie Day before half term. As well as learning a great deal about Polio and the power of vaccination, we raised £216.16 for the Rotary Club.

Scooters and bikes

Please can we remind parents and children that scooters and bikes must be stored in the bike shed and not left on the floor or propped up in other areas of the playground, thank you.

Open Classrooms

The first Open Classrooms will take place the week commencing 8th December. The theme will be Phonics & Reading Expectations. We will send an email to all parents towards the end of next week confirming the days/dates for each class.

Children In Need

Due to recently having had Purple Pinkie day with very kind donations from parents & pupils and then the upcoming non-uniform day for FOM Fair donations, we made the decision to not participate in a further non-uniform day/donations for Children in Need today.

Non-Uniform Day

On Friday 5th December children are invited to come to school in non-uniform in exchange for donations towards the fair, such as wine, chocolates, biscuits, hamper gifts, teddies, tombola items and unopened toiletries. We rely on these donations for some of the most popular stalls – thanks in advance for your support!

Carols by Candlelight

For those of you who don't know, Carols by Candlelight is an entry-by-ticket evening event, which is a long-standing fixture in Manorbrook's history. The evening begins with a carol being sung down in the woodlands. We then return to school for a celebration in the hall, where mince pies and mulled wine are served (kindly provided by FOM). There is a mixture of traditional singalong carols, carols sung by the choir, and instrumental pieces by some of the children who take music lessons and are at a level where they are ready to perform. This year it will happen on Thursday 4th December. We will offer tickets initially to families of all the musicians and choir members. Once we know numbers, we will let you know whether other spare tickets are available, so you can join in the event.



This year we would again also like to invite children to perform a seasonal poem or reading. This was an idea tried by FOM when they did a virtual Carols by Candlelight during COVID, and it was a real delight, with children reading or reciting well-known Christmas poems or stories, contributing to the festive feel. They don't have to be solo performances; if siblings or friends wish to prepare something together they may do so. Parents, please help them to prepare at home to give them the greatest possible confidence and chance of success. Performing live can be daunting, so we will aim to give our performers an opportunity to perform to a smaller group, either in their class or in an assembly the week before, to help build their confidence. Therefore, to enable us to organise these practice performances, the deadline for asking to perform a poem or reading is Friday 21st November. Please email the office to say what your child would like to perform and to confirm you think they will be ready. We will use the assembly slots the following week to practice, ready for Thursday 4th December. Thank you.

Infant Nativity

This year's nativity is called 'A Bundle of Joy'. There will be three performances as follows:
Tuesday 9th December at 6.00pm
Wednesday 10th December at 2.00pm
Thursday 11th December at 6:00pm
Information about tickets will follow soon.

Nativity Year Groups

Due to our school growing over the last few years, we can sadly no longer fit all our infant classes all into the hall to perform the Nativity play together. **Therefore, this year, the Nativity will be performed only by Robins (Y1), Swifts (Y1), Sparrows (Y2) and Blackbirds(Y2).** Having just the four classes will allow the necessary space in the hall for lots of families to come and watch.

However, we don't want our reception children to miss out on the pleasure of performing for an audience, so the pupils in Wrens and Chiffchaffs will prepare and put on a different performance for their families sometime in the Spring term. Information about this will follow in the new year.

Painting Competition

We would like to say a huge THANK YOU to everyone who entered the painting competition in collaboration with Thornbury Castle. We had lots of wonderful pictures and received over 100 entries! Judging was a difficult job as there were so many great designs. Over the next two terms our winners will be painting their designs on the boards that will be used to decorate Thornbury Castle compost bins in their kitchen garden.

Our winners were:

Year 1: Ethan, James Ca, Jacob & Elsie

Year 2: Yui, Harrison, Kornel & Fiona

Year 3: Lucas, Daniel, Rosie-May & Tudor

Year 4: Piper, Dylan, Molly & Rosanna

Year 5: Ava D, Lucy, Jasper & George

Year 6: Martha, Lydia, Jack M & Thomas

Thank you again to all of those who entered, we have lots of talented artists here at Manorbrook! Mrs Ocone & Mrs Haines.

Walk to School Wednesdays and Fridays



We count Walk to School numbers on Wednesdays and Fridays. Please try and support this if you can; if you drive to school, you may be able to stop the car a distance from school and walk the rest of the way. **We award the golden trainer to the class with the highest percentage of walkers.**

This week's winners were Swifts class (Y1) with 64%.

'Friends of Manorbrook' News

The **Christmas Movie Night** will be taking place on **Friday 28th November** 5pm - 7pm (doors open 4.45pm). This event has **sold out**, and no tickets will be available on the door. We are sorry if your child missed out on a ticket - we will look to do some more movie nights in the New Year.

Our **Christmas Fair** will be taking place on **Friday 12th December** from 6pm to 8pm. It is the perfect way to have some festive family fun, including games, stalls, a bouncy castle and food and drink.

We have some incredible **raffle** prizes - tickets are now on sale at <https://www.pta-events.co.uk/friendsofmanorbrook>. Get yours now, and please encourage family and friends to enter too!

We had feedback last year about the length of the queue for **Santa's grotto**, so this year visits will need to be pre-booked this year on PTA Events - look out for details of when they go on sale.

As always, we need your help to make the Christmas Fair a success! Please help us by:

- Sending in a **jolly jar** or two on **Monday 1st December!** Jolly jars are a party bag in a decorated jar filled with small toys, stationery, wrapped sweets etc. There is a competition between the classes for the coveted trophies!
- Donating wine, chocolates, biscuits, new/nearly new teddies, hamper gifts, tombola items and unopened toiletries in return for your child wearing **non-school uniform** on **Friday 5th December**.

- **Volunteering** on the night - your class rep will send out details of how you can do this for the stalls your class has been allocated. Without volunteers, we will have to reduce the number of stalls, so please lend a hand if you can.

100 Club: Congratulations to October's winners:

1st place (£22.80) 25 (*N Gould*)
 2nd place (£11.40) 30 (*Withheld*)
 3rd place (£3.40) 16 (*R Meadowcroft*)

Interested in being a future winner? Just £2 a month gains entry into the monthly draw. The more who sign up, the higher the cash prizes! For more details and to enter email friendsofmanorbrook@gmail.com.

Quiz + Chips: Thank you to all who supported the Quiz and Chips event. It was a great evening and raised £542.20.

Cake sale: Thank you to the bakers and helpers from Year 6 and Year 4 for an excellent cake sale! It raised £170.30. It is Year 1's turn next to bake for the Christmas Fair.

email friendsofmanorbrook@gmail.com

Facebook: [friendsofmanorbrook](https://www.facebook.com/friendsofmanorbrook)

Instagram: [@friendsofmanorbrook](https://www.instagram.com/@friendsofmanorbrook)

[Remaining Inset days – 2 April 2026, 1st May 2026](#)

NOVEMBER – Term 2		
Friday 28 th		FOM Christmas Movie Night

DECEMBER – Term 2		
Thursday 4 th	18:00	Carols By Candlelight
Friday 5 th		Non Uniform Day for fair donations
Tuesday 9 th		Memory Café – Choir
Tuesday 9 th	18:00	Y1 & Y2 Nativity
Wednesday 10 th	14:00	Y1 & Y2 Nativity
Thursday 11 th	18:00	Y1 & Y2 Nativity
Friday 12 th	18:00-20:00	FOM Christmas Fair
Wednesday 17 th		Christmas Lunch
Thursday 18 th	13:00-15:00	KS1 & KS2 Christmas Parties
Friday 19 th		Last Day of Term 2