

## Manorbrook School and Community Newsletter



Aiming for Excellence

No. 8 9<sup>th</sup> January 2026

Dear parents, carers and friends,

Happy New Year to all that celebrated during this time and welcome back to everyone. I hope that you all had a relaxing break whatever you did!

It has been a very busy first week back, with question marks over what the weather would do coming into today but fortunately we haven't seen the snow and more luckily the wind conditions that others have. A few people have asked me over the last few days about whether we were likely to be open today, so I thought it might be helpful to run through school closure procedures if you are ever in doubt.

- any decision to close the school is not taken lightly; in the event of snow or bad weather, the school needs to consider the safety of pupils and staff and so will look at how all those concerned are travelling to school and levels of supervision needed to safely look after the children.
- we will aim to decide as early as possible but obviously this depends on the factors above.

If we are closed:

- we will update the school status website if we are closed. This can be found at: (<https://essential.southglos.gov.uk/schoolstatus/default.aspx>)
- we will send out an email to all families and put an update on the front page of our website.

We are hopeful to not have to get to this point but better to be prepared for the rest of the winter ahead than not!

Wishing you a lovely weekend

*Paul Medlicott*

### **New site manager**

We were very pleased to welcome our new site manager, Andy Davey, on Monday this week. Andy has had a great first week and has completed an extensive handover with Kev before he finished here. We are sure some of you will have met Andy already but if you haven't, please do say hi when you see him. Welcome to the team Andy!

### **Teacher led clubs**

Please be advised that teacher led clubs will commence from next week. Please check the club letter sent prior to Christmas for the individual club starting dates.

## **EYFS applications for 2026**

If you are applying for an EYFS place for September 2026, or know someone who is, then please remember that the closing date for applications through the South Glos Citizen Portal is 15<sup>th</sup> January 2026.

Submitting applications after the deadline greatly reduces the chances of being offered a place at Manorbrook and therefore applications must be submitted before midnight on 15 January 2026. We have also been asked to remind parents that even if your child attends a very local pre-school e.g. Rainbow Teddies or having a sibling in attendance at Manorbrook already does not automatically guarantee an offer.

## **Calling all parents of children in the Infants – please help!**

It is school census day on **Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> January**. As we said before the previous census, the difference between a high and a low take up of school lunches on census day can make a difference of thousands of pounds in our budget. Last time you supported us brilliantly, and we are now asking again if your child could have a school lunch rather than a packed lunch on the 15<sup>th</sup> January – even if it's just for the one day!

As usual we have swapped the Friday menu over to Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> so it will be Battered Fish Fillet, Cheesy Pinwheel or Twisty Pasta.

Thanks very much in advance for helping us to get the highest meal numbers possible!

## **PE Kit**

As we start the New Year, we just wanted to give a little reminder about PE kit. **Pupils should have kit in school at all times**. Most children (and almost all the children in the Infants) keep their kit bag in school all term and take it back home to wash at the end of term. This works really well. A few older children take kit home more regularly to wash, but if they do this, it must come straight back in.

PE kit is the same as it always was; here is the summary from the school website:

“Plain white T-shirt and black or navy shorts or PE skirt. A change of footwear for PE and outdoor games. The addition of a tracksuit, leggings, etc. (plain) is advised in cold weather, but shorts should be worn as standard unless it is cold.

***Please note: children should NOT be wearing their school shoes for PE, even if they have a trainer-type sole; a change of shoes should be kept in school for PE.***”

**Footwear:** Pupils need to have a change of footwear in school for PE at all times.

**Tops:** Some pupils occasionally want to show off a new or favourite football top or rugby top. We understand why they may wish to do this, but they cannot wear them for PE, as the correct kit is a plain white t-shirt. They should not bring them in, please.

**Leggings or tracksuits:** These are great for PE in the cold weather, but pupils must have their shorts or PE skirt in their kitbag too. If PE is indoors they must wear shorts or PE skirt. Once the weather is milder, they will be asked to wear their shorts again.

**‘Forgotten’ kit:** If children don't have their PE kit in school, or can't find it, we will give them spare kit to wear, which might also include daps if they don't have their footwear. We will send this spare kit home and ask you to return it washed.

We also send a simple reminder email home if your child doesn't have their kit with them, just in case you are unaware that they didn't have it in school with them!

We know that for many of our families, there are no issues with PE kit at all, but if any of the above applies to your child, thanks in advance for your support with it.

### School Milk Services

Please be advised that once your child turns five they are no longer entitled to free school milk. You can choose to continue enabling your child to have milk in school, but you will need to pay for this directly with School Milk Services. Parents just need to call School Milk Services on 01934 510950 or go to the website and complete the necessary form:

<https://www.schoolmilkservices.co.uk/contact>

### 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 Jackdaws class (Y6) with 88%.

### 'Friends of Manorbrook' News

Happy New Year to you all!

Thank you to everyone who supported our **Christmas Fair** last term. It was a wonderful evening, with lots of happy faces. We are pleased to announce it raised an incredible **£3,130!** This will go towards funding laptops, trips and other things that the school needs. Have you considered volunteering with FOM as a New Year's resolution? If you are interested, we would love to hear from you! Our next meeting is on **Wednesday 21st January**, meeting at **7.30pm for an 8pm start at The Swan Thornbury**. New faces are always welcome!

[email friendsofmanorbrook@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofmanorbrook@gmail.com)

[Facebook: friendsofmanorbrook](#)

[Instagram: @friendsofmanorbrook](#)

*Paul Medlicott*

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

<b>JANUARY – Term 3</b>		
Monday 19 <sup>th</sup>	18:00	Y6 SATS Meeting

<b>FEBRUARY</b>		
Friday 13 <sup>th</sup>		Break the Rules Day - FOM