

Friday 25th September 2020

# Newsletter



It's amazing how quickly our new routines are becoming a part of 'normal' school life; this has only been possible with your support. Thank you for arriving on time, lining up in the car park and, for those who can, wearing a face covering on site. However, things were made a little more interesting this week with the arrival of some wetter weather! I understand how unpleasant it is to stand outside in the rain so please can I ask that you try to arrive as close to your allocated time as possible, particularly on wet days. For those families with siblings who start school at different times, and have no option but to wait in the rain, we are looking at ways of improving the system - but this is not a straightforward as it may seem. Please be assured that we are continually reviewing our procedures to make things run as smoothly as possible for all of our school families, however our priority must be to keep everyone safe.

## Reception Classes

From Thursday this week our reception pupils have been in school all day. It has been wonderful to see them settle confidently into their new classes. I am really looking forward to getting to know our new children and families over the coming weeks and months.

## Church Services

Our link with St James' Church is very important to us. As a Church of England Primary School we are lucky to be in such close proximity to St James' Church, which allows us to make regular visits for acts of collective worship and to learn about Christianity as a world faith. We are also fortunate that Reverend Carolyn is an extremely familiar face around school, as our church vicar but also as a very active school governor.

Unfortunately, due to the current restrictions in place, our usual whole school acts of worship at St James' are not possible at the moment. However, we have not been deterred by this! We have a plan in place which will allow our services to go ahead - albeit in a modified way! The first service of the year is our 'Service of Welcome and Blessing' where we welcome children back to school and remind each member of our school family that they are important, valued and loved. In line with the risk assessments, this year we will be visiting church in year group bubbles throughout the day (with cleaning taking place between each group); thank you to Reverend Carolyn for offering to lead seven services on Thursday to allow this to go ahead! Unfortunately, we are unable to invite any parents but I'm sure you will hear lots of feedback from your children.

## Governors – Farewell and Thanks

Yesterday we held our first (virtual) governors meeting of this academic year. I wanted to let you know of a few changes to our governing body. I would like to offer my sincerest thanks for the hard work and dedication of Neil Morrisroe, who has been a governor at our school for the past four years. Neil has used his time, skill, care and attention to provide support and challenge to the school leadership as Chair of our Local Governing Body during his term of office. This has allowed our school to thrive and provided our children with the opportunity to succeed. We are thankful for the positive impact he has had during his tenure and wish him all the best for the future, knowing that he will remain a friend of Manston St James.

I am pleased to say that Mr Sam Low and Mrs Caroline Ward are our new Co-Chairs of Governors and look forward to working closely over the coming months.

### Lovely News

I am delighted to inform you that Mrs Blackmore is expecting a baby later this year. Fortunately, she will be with us for a little while longer as her baby is not due to arrive until mid-November. I am sure you will join me in wishing Mrs Blackmore well; we will miss her dearly but look forward to meeting baby Blackmore in due course!

I hope you have a lovely weekend and manage to enjoy some of the more autumnal weather which is forecast.

With all good wishes,

Ashleigh Dunn  
Headteacher

## Attendance

*Well done* to the following 3 classes with the best attendance for week 21.09.20—25.09.20

RH—98.9%

6G—98.0%

6W—97.2%

## Notices

**Whole School** — please make sure your child has a clearly named water bottle with them every day.

**School Meals** — please note that if your child is now in year 3, school meals must be paid for. The cost is £2.40 per day.

**Reading Books** — please return any reading books that were sent home in the last year.

**SeeSaw** — last week we wrote to you (via email) about signing up for our secure online journal which allows class teachers to share with you any photos, work, videos etc. that your child is working on. Thank you to those that have signed up already. If you have not yet signed up please follow the link below.

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=Okx3hiW8n0K6FiKwpYCFrBLHMYXgei1MpJA1W5uFmyFUQlhPQktZU002TU9SWkg3RIIJQzc4ME5DQi4u>

**Face Coverings**— please remember whenever you are on the school premises (car park, grounds etc.) you must wear a face covering.

**Music** — if your currently has music lessons please email the [info@manstonstjames.co.uk](mailto:info@manstonstjames.co.uk) to confirm if your child is continuing or stopping their tuition.

## PTFA



### Annual General Meeting

The PTFA is a registered charity and each year we hold an Annual General Meeting.

This meeting is to review the previous years activities and to select the committee members roles for the forthcoming academic year. Our committee is made up of four people that undertake the following voluntary roles Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary and Treasurer.

Each year the current committee stands down to allow for a new committee to show their interest however current members can choose to stand again.

If you would like to know more about the above roles please email us at [fomsjames@gmail.com](mailto:fomsjames@gmail.com) and we'll be happy to chat it through. AGM date to be confirmed.

### The Final Countdown

There are only five days left for Lloyds Banking Group employees to vote for our school to receive the Community Grant. If you know of any friends that work for Halifax or Lloyds banks please ask them to vote for us on their HIVE site.

Any questions on this should be directed to Louise Brook who is our parent contact in the Bank.

## Christian Value—Service

### Christian Value for this Term: *Service*

#### 'Serve one another in love.' Galatians 5.13

Words relating to 'servant' or 'service' are central to our Christian Value this term. Jesus washed the feet of his disciples at the Last Supper; this turned upside down the normal relationship between master and disciple, leader and follower. This half term we will be discovering what this symbolises and how Jesus set an example to his followers and wished for everyone else to do the same. Serving God means serving others. The children will be thinking about how we can serve each other and how serving others makes us humble.

“For it is  
in  
giving  
that  
we  
receive.”  
- St. Francis of Assisi

## Safety

**We take safety very seriously at our school.** If you have any concerns or observations regarding health and safety please contact: **Mrs Dunn or Mrs Cockerham.**

If you have any concerns or questions regarding Child Protection issues contact: **Mrs Spofforth or Mrs Blackmore**