

Mandeville Primary School

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Dear Parents/Carers

It continues to be a wonderfully busy time in school and we still have much to look forward to before the end of term. Please find detailed below some key information:

Early Years Decoration Morning: Thank you for attending the Early Years Decoration Morning today. It was wonderful to see our Nursery and Reception children engage so enthusiastically in a number of craft-making activities. I know that Key stage 1 and 2 also enjoyed making their decorations yesterday. My thanks to all staff for organising these activities for our pupils. It has got us all in the festive spirit!

Christmas Performances: Early Years and Key Stage 1 children are excitedly preparing for their upcoming performances. As a reminder, we follow Hertfordshire's 'Safe Use of Images Guide'. We are aware that many parents/carers feel that school events are moments they like to capture in photos or on video. Whilst this is entirely natural, in educational settings we do need to protect and safeguard all children and staff, including those who do not want to have their images stored online. Therefore, we are happy for personal use but request that these images are not distributed or put online. This is to protect all members of the school community.

Mandeville Christmas Spectacular: On behalf of all the pupils, staff and governors, a huge thank you to everyone who supported with the wonderful 'Mandeville Christmas Spectacular'. It was a privilege to be on the entrance and see the children's excited faces as they arrived and I know that they thoroughly enjoyed taking part in all of the games and activities, as well as meeting Father Christmas. A very special thank you to the Friends of Mandeville PTA. Many hours were so willingly given by a number of people, along with very generous donations, which resulted in a highly successful and memorable event, raising an astounding **£4038.55!!!**

As you may be aware, last year the PTA kindly funded the Key stage one play apparatus which was installed in December. This term, they have generously donated funds for a Key stage 2 outdoor gym. Mrs Barrett (PE Leader) liaised with 'The Playground Company' and installation has already commenced. The agreed project includes a number of pieces of equipment – rower, double slalom skier, double health walker and waist twister. We are very grateful to the PTA for making the project possible and are all looking forward to children enjoying using this wonderful new space in the near future.

The PTA have kindly set up a JustGiving page to try to raise funds for additional pieces of equipment. To find out more and/or make a donation, please see the link below:

<https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/mandeplay>

As you will have seen from a recent communication from the PTA, they are currently looking to recruit a new Co-Chair. Please see the details below:

Want to be our next PTA Co-Chair? Steer the future of our school community!

Are you enthusiastic, full of bright ideas, and have great people skills? We're looking for a new PTA Co-Chair to help take the lead and enrich our children's school experience.

The Chair leads meetings, guides our committee's decisions, and works closely with the Head to set fundraising priorities. It's a hugely fulfilling volunteer role where you can truly make a difference for not just your child, but all the children for years to come.

You won't be doing it alone! You'll work with a strong, supportive team. We also have a co-chair arrangement so you can share the role and responsibilities.

For more information or an informal chat, please contact: mandevillepta@hotmail.co.uk

Sport: Please see the following pupils' sports reports:

"On the sunny afternoon of Wednesday 12th November, we brought home a victory for Mandeville in tag rugby. When we got there our first game was against High Wych. The game was eventful and we scored 15 tries against their 2. Our next game was against Reedings and the score was 11-1 to us. Our last game was Spellbrook and we won 7-0. We had a great time."

"On 14th October, a large Key Stage 2 team travelled to Leventhorpe to take part in an inter-schools cross country event. Years 3 and 4 had to run 1000m and Years 5 and 6 ran 1500m. The Year 3, 4 and 5 girls all won. In all year groups our boys came second in every race and the Year 6 girls came second. In Years 4, 5 and 6 Mandeville was the overall winner. Well done to all who took part!"

Academic Year 2026/2027: Please find attached the term dates for 2026/2027. These have also been uploaded to the school website.

Punctuality: We are currently seeing an increasing number of children arriving late for school. We appreciate it is a busy time of year but good punctuality is vital. Pupils who arrive late disrupt lessons and, if a child misses the start of the day, they can feel unsettled and risk missing learning and important messages from their class teacher.

A polite reminder that children should be on the playground ready for when the bell is rung at 8:40am. The register is taken at 8:45am.

If your child has a persistent lateness record, you will be invited to a meeting to explore how we can improve the situation, working in partnership with our Local Authority Attendance Officer.

Community: Please see the link below to The Sawbridgeworth and District Flyer. Inside this month's issue, there is information about a number of events available over the festive season.

<https://www.flyeronline.co.uk/the-sawbridgeworth-flyer-magazine-december-25/>

Thank you again for your ongoing support at such a busy time of the school year. It is very much appreciated.

Yours faithfully

Miss Kara Hales
Headteacher

