



Manuden Primary School Meet the Teacher

Year group: Reception/Year 1

Class: Pygmy Owl

Staff: Miss Evans
Mrs Gayton



Welcome back, everyone!

Aims of this session:

- An opportunity to meet the staff
- Share key dates for the year ahead
- Explain how the learning works in our class
- Provide details of upcoming statutory assessments
- Outline expectations for the year ahead
- An opportunity to ask questions



Curriculum:

At Manuden Primary School, our curriculum is carefully designed to reflect our vision: *A Small School with Big Ideas – Growing Hearts, Growing Minds, Growing Dreams*. Every subject plays a vital role in nurturing our pupils' academic growth, character development, and curiosity about the world. We believe that all children should have access to a rich, ambitious, and well-sequenced curriculum that enables them to achieve their best.

To ensure clarity, depth and progression, all subjects are taught **discretely**. This approach allows each subject to retain its unique identity while building a strong foundation of knowledge and skills over time. Our subject leaders have chosen evidence-informed schemes of learning that are carefully adapted to our mixed-age classes and local context. We aim to ignite a love of learning in every child and equip them with the knowledge, creativity and confidence to follow their dreams.

Further information about our curriculum can be found on the school website, where you will find curriculum maps for each class.



What your child will receive weekly:

- **Phonics** – Daily sessions in separate year groups, taught by Miss Evans.
- **Reading** – Daily reading groups, split by year and level, led by Mrs Gayton. (Parent volunteers are welcome to support these sessions.) Miss Evans also delivers weekly reading interventions.
- **PSHE / My Happy Mind** – Separate lessons for each year group, taught by Miss Evans and Mrs Gayton, using our wellbeing platform that children find interactive and engaging.
- **Spanish** – Year 1 with an external teacher (continuing from last year); Reception with Miss Evans.



Maths and English:

- **Year 1 English** – Daily phonics and reading groups, 4 English lessons per week using the *Herts for Learning* scheme, with high-quality texts and discussion throughout the year.
- **Reception English** – Daily phonics and reading groups, 1 *Herts for Learning* session per week, plus writing through continuous provision. Children also create books within continuous provision.
- **Handwriting** – Pre-cursive handwriting lessons for both year groups starts in Autumn 2.
- **Year 1 Maths** – 4 mastery number lessons and 2 *White Rose* lessons each week.
- **Reception Maths** – 4 mastery number lessons each week.



Subject Lessons:

- **Year 1 Formal Lessons** – History, Science, Geography, English, Art, Computing, DT.
- **Combined Year Group Lessons** – PE, RE, Music, and Forest School.
- **Curriculum Map** – Available on our website, showing subject coverage, focus texts in English, and units taught each term.
- **Forest School** – On school grounds or local village walks. Please provide a puddle suit and wellies to keep in school.

During my PPA time, **Mr Price** teaches some sessions in class too.




CHIL Time (Child-Initiated Learning)

- All children take part in **CHIL time** – learning through play guided by their interests.
- Year 1 now have more formal lessons but still enjoy CHIL in both outdoor areas and the classroom. Our mixed class allows them to balance play with structured learning.
- Reception children may loosely experience aspects of Year 1 learning through our mixed environment, but they won't cover these in detail until Year 1.
- We've transformed the old cloakroom into a mini classroom for extra group work and learning.
- CHIL time can be whole-class or year-group based. We encourage children outdoors in all weathers – we're "weather warriors"!
- Our classroom has a range of areas with new **continuous provision** activities inside and outside each day.
- We run **structured CHIL sessions** to observe learning and encourage children towards new activities, and **relaxed CHIL sessions** to give them freedom to explore their own interests.



Attendance:

At Manuden Primary School, we believe that good attendance is essential for every child's success. Regular school attendance supports academic achievement, social development, and emotional well-being. Every day in school provides valuable learning experiences, helping children build confidence, friendships, and a strong foundation for their future. We encourage families to prioritise attendance, as even small absences can impact progress. We learn new sounds daily in phonics and this can affect a child's confidence if they fall behind their peers in learning their sounds. Working together, we can ensure that every child benefits fully from the rich opportunities our school provides. If you need support with attendance, please don't hesitate to contact us—we're here to help.



Getting your child to school really matters. Did you know...

| If your child's attendance during the school year is... | your child would have lost approximately... | or they would have missed approximately... |
|---------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| 95% | 9 days | 50 lessons |
| 90% | 19 days | 100 lessons |
| 85% | 29 days | 150 lessons |
| 80% | 38 days | 200 lessons |
| 75% | 48 days | 250 lessons |
| 70% | 57 days | 290 lessons |
| 65% | 67 days | 340 lessons |

You should not take your child on holiday during term time.
Please encourage punctuality to maintain school attendance.
Remember Absence = Lost Opportunity



Behaviour:

At Manuden Primary School we **do not** have a long extensive list of behaviour rules. We ensure our pupils do the following;

Be Ready

Be Respectful

Be Safe

We believe that all actions can be categorised under one of these headings, and children are encouraged to focus on these when reflecting on their actions and it would be appreciated if this could be reminded and encouraged at home in preparation for school.

We strive to create a safe and stimulating learning environment where exemplary behaviour is at the heart of productive learning. We embed a culture of restorative practice through praise, encouragement, self-discipline, and resilience in our pupils, and provide early intervention to prevent issues escalating. We place a heavy emphasis on positive relationships between staff and students, and endeavour to ensure we have consistency in response to both positive and negative behaviour.



Uniform:

Wearing the school uniform fosters a sense of belonging, unity, and pride, reinforcing our commitment to building strong, respectful communities. It helps maintain good order and discipline, creating an environment where children can thrive academically and socially. Our uniform also serves as a positive representation of Manuden Primary School within the wider community, reinforcing the values we aim to instill in every child.

Our uniform supplier is Esquared Clothing - [Manuden Primary School – Esquared Clothing \(myesquared.co.uk\)](https://www.myesquared.co.uk)

Further information about our uniform can be found on the school website.



Statutory assessments:

Reception:

- Reception children will complete the **Baseline Assessment (RBA)** in the next couple of weeks to capture their starting points in literacy, language, and maths.

More information here: [Reception baseline assessment: collection page - GOV.UK](#)

- At the end of the year, they are assessed against the **Early Learning Goals**. Meeting expectations in key areas earns a **Good Level of Development (GLD)**, showing readiness for Year 1.
- You'll receive your child's results in their **end of year report**.
- Half termly phonics assessments also take place after 5 weeks of teaching.

Year 1:

- Year 1 children will take the **Phonics Screening Check** in the week starting **8th June 2026**.
- More information: [2025 phonics screening check assessment and reporting arrangements - GOV.UK](#)
- They read **40 real and nonsense words** one-to-one to show their phonics skills.
- Results are shared by **email and in the end of year report**.
- Half termly Phonics assessments also take place after 5 weeks of teaching.



Little Wandle

- We use **Little Wandle** for phonics. The parent help page has guidance on supporting your child at home, including correct pronunciation of sounds (e.g ‘s’ not ‘suh’) and weekly homework aligned with school learning. Watching the “How We Teach” videos is recommended. [For parents | Letters and Sounds](#)
- Your child will have a **reading diary**, checked weekly. Please use it to:
 - Comment on books read at home
 - Note sounds they find tricky
 - Share any other observations
 - **Book changes:**
 - Monday: New book to read at home during the week
 - Friday: Book they’ve been decoding at school, for confident reading at home
 - **Classroom Lending Library:**
 - Open every Friday with help from our **lending librarians**
 - Children can borrow a book for up to one week
 - Books must be returned by the following Friday to borrow a new one
 - These books are for sharing with grown-ups, not for expected reading, to encourage a **love of reading** and **responsibility** for classroom resources



Key dates for the Autumn term:

| | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Wednesday 24 th September 2025 | 1 Plan - Parent Consultation Meetings 3:30 – 5:30pm (By invitation) |
| Friday 10 th October 2025 | Black History Month – Assembly |
| Friday 17 th October 2025 | Harvest Breakfast and Assembly |
| Tuesday 21 st October 2025 | Parents Evening 3:30pm – 6:30pm |
| Thursday 23 rd October 2025 | Parents Evening 3:30pm – 6:30pm |
| Friday 24 th October 2025 | INSET |
| Monday 28 th October – Friday 1 st November 2025 | HALF TERM |
| Tuesday 4 th November 2025 | R26 Open Morning 9:30am |
| Friday 7 th November 2025 | English Showcase Morning (9:00am Head Teacher and Subject lead introduction to parents – Hall) Class Visit One - 9:30 – 9:50am Class Visit Two - 10 – 10:20am |
| Thursday 13 th November 2025 | Odd Sock Day – Anti bullying week |
| Wednesday 3 rd December 2025 | Tawny Owl - Winter production 2pm and 5:30pm |
| Friday 5 th December 2025 | Christmas Fayre |
| Tuesday 9 th December 2025 | Pygmy Owl – Nativity 2pm |
| Tuesday 11 th December 2025 | Pygmy Owl – Nativity 2pm |
| Monday 15 th December 2025 | Christingle Church service 1:30pm |
| Tuesday 16 th December 2025 | Christmas Jumper day and Christmas Lunch |
| Thursday 18 th December 2025 | Panto Harlow |
| Friday 19 th December 2025 | Finish 1:30PM |



Communication:

Last academic year, we made the transition to the Compass communication system. This year, we endeavour to send more information using this platform. If you are unable to access Compass, please let Miss Grant know as soon as possible.

Each week, a class blog will be published with key information for the following week. It may also include details and pictures of learning covered by the children in class that week. Homework may also be communicated through this system.

We aim to upload daily pictures/ updates about your children on this platform also which may be sent individually or in groups. Please ensure you have confirmed with Miss Grant if your child may or may not have their photograph taken and seen by other parents.

I also have a notice board outside my classroom where I may write updates about our day or quick reminders.

To discuss anything with me, grabbing me at drop off or pick up is the best time or sending me a message via compass. I will occasionally ask to speak to parents at the end of the day. However, if you would prefer to be called instead at the end of the day, please let me know ASAP so I can make a note of this. 😊





Timings:

One final reminder for the new parents:

Drop off: 8.45AM – 8:50AM

Register is done by 9.00AM any later will be marked as late.

Pick up: 3.15PM