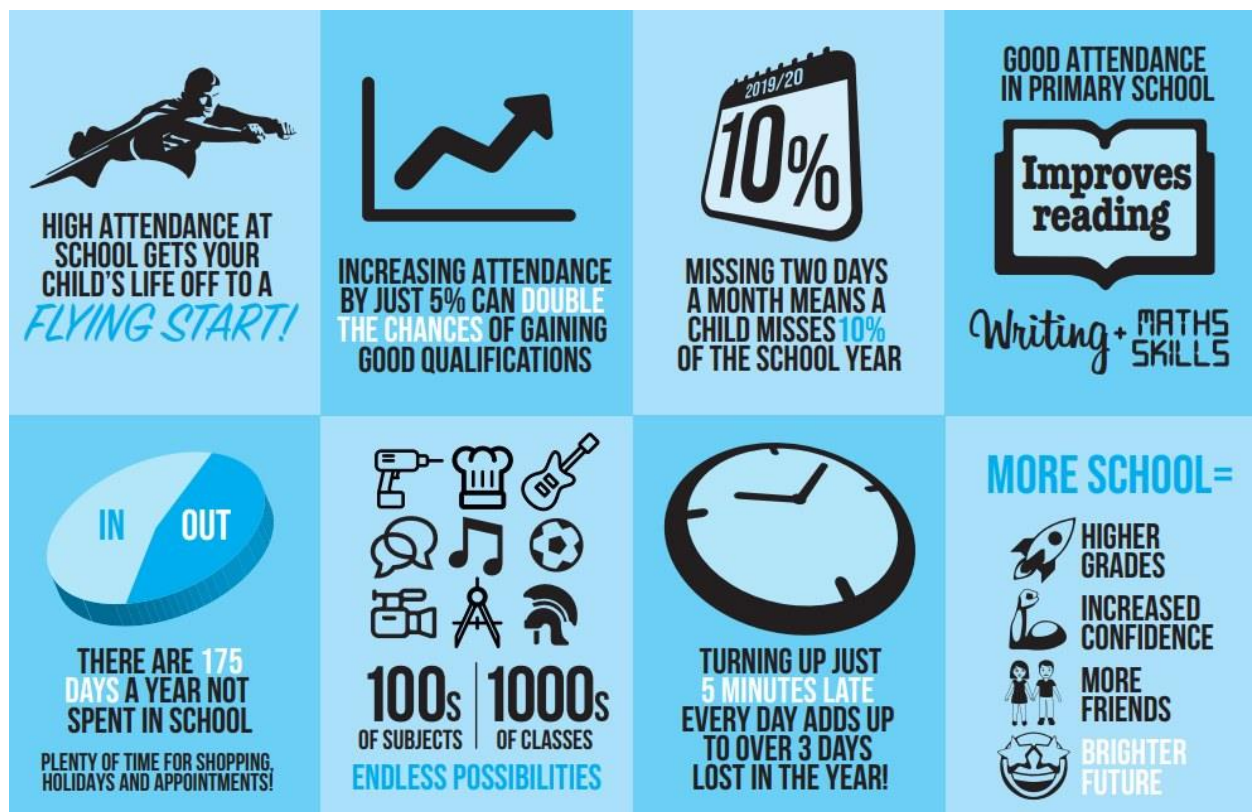




## Newsletter for 7th March 2025

Every lesson counts - your child must attend school every single day for the best chance of success!



**"THIS MORNING, HE  
WAS WORRIED ABOUT  
SCHOOL... BUT LOOK  
AT HIM NOW!"**

**MOMENTS  
MATTER,  
ATTENDANCE  
COUNTS.**



**HM Government**

Head to the Education Hub to find out more.



**Top Attendance for the Week**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place - Ochre 100%**
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place – Emerald 96.6%**
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place – Aqua 96.5%**



## Headteacher's Message



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*Dear Families,*

*On Thursday, we had a fantastic day celebrating reading and inspirational people during World Book Day. Many thanks to Mrs Howarth, our Reading Lead, for organising the day. It was great to see so many staff and children dressed up and getting creative! Visit our Instagram page for lots of photographs from the day <https://www.instagram.com/manorparkprimaryacademy/>*

*We welcomed trainee teachers from University of Birmingham into school on Monday; they will be working alongside teachers in Years 1, 2, 3 and 5 throughout this term.*

*Year 4 were great ambassadors for the school on Tuesday when they went to watch a match at the Villa ground. This is their second opportunity this term to watch live events; first they went to the theatre to watch a live performance on the stage and now they have also seen a live professional football match! Many thanks to all the parents who were able to come along and support with the trip.*

*This year, we are delighted to have organised visits for many of our children to local places of worship. Year 3 visited a local Church, Year 4 will be visiting a local Mosque, and Year 1 will be visiting a local Gurdwara. Although the children only visit these places for a short amount of time in the school day, they are great opportunities for them to see inside these special spaces, to find out how they are used by the community, and to support their learning in Religious Education lessons. Our school community is wonderfully diverse, and these visits also help to develop understanding of, and respect for, different faiths. Thank you to all of our families for supporting this.*

*To keep our children safe, please remember not to park on the yellow zigzag lines at collection and drop off times, and not to drop your child/ren off in the roadway. There is parking available around the school on Sycamore Road, so please leave plenty of time for your journey and 'park and stride' if there is no space available close to the school gates.*

*We are busy planning for our Spring Community Fair on Friday 4th April so please look out for further information coming out soon by Sway.*

*A reminder that Monday 31st March is a staff training day so school will be closed for pupils on that day.*

*Have a lovely weekend,*

*Christine Chapman*

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## Spring Community Fair!



Bouncy Castle (2 tickets a turn)

Raffle (1 ticket per ticket)

Refreshments (cash)

Lots of games and prizes to be won (1 ticket a go)!

£10 for 5 tickets

£15 for 10 tickets

Tickets can be bought on School Money from 21st March



## IMPORTANT SAFETY NOTICE



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*As a community, we have a collective responsibility to keep our children safe. Do not park on the yellow zig zag lines and please park somewhere that is safe when dropping off or collecting your child from school.*

*Parking inconsiderately can put people in danger and you also risk being fined by the council or local police. Under the Highway Code, it is illegal to park on school zig zag yellow lines.*

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**If you need someone else to collect your child...**



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*We know that sometimes you may need someone else to collect your child at the end of the school day. **Please make sure that:***

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- The person collecting your child is older than 16 (if they are your child's sibling) and over 18 (if they are not a sibling)*
  - You inform the school before 2.30pm if someone new is collecting your child. Though we know other parents collect children for each other, you must let us know that you have given your permission*
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*Thank you for helping us to keep your child safe,*

*Becky Lewis*

*Deputy Headteacher*

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## Star of the Week



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*Congratulations to our Stars of the Week - this week's focus is 'Courage'*

*Nursery Asma*

*Indigo Taimoor*

*Gold Lucas*

*Copper Muhammad*

*Aqua Adam*

*Turquoise Arjan*



*Cerise Sama*

*Crimson Ikraam*

*Bronze Samit*

*Ochre Ibrahim*

*Ruby Aakifah*

*Topaz Abdullah*

*Teal Aabidah*

*Emerald Letreyo*

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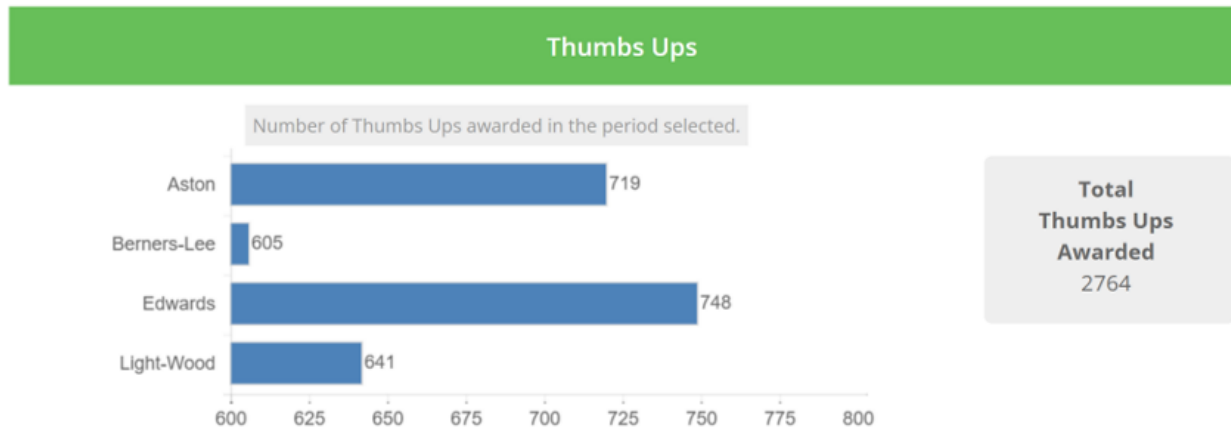
— AND —  
THE WINNERS  
***are...***

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House Points are now collected using Marvellous Me. **You can see you child's individual house points by clicking on the 'thumbs up' button.** However many 'thumbs up' they've had, this is the number of house points they have received in school!

*This week's winner overall is Edwards (finally!)*

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## Safeguarding and Wellbeing Update - Using Technology to Boost Reading Skills



# 10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators USING TECHNOLOGY TO BOOST READING SKILLS

The way we engage with text has changed dramatically over the years. Whether reading captions on social media, instructions in a video game or an e-book on a digital device, technology plays a major role in modern literacy. While traditional books remain invaluable, digital tools can enhance reading skills by making text more accessible, interactive and engaging.

## 1 CHOOSING THE RIGHT TYPE OF TEXT

Before integrating technology, consider the types of text that a child engages with. If they need help on occasion, digital reading pens can assist by scanning and reciting words or sentences. These tools are especially useful for students with reading difficulties, and can even be used in exams if they're part of their routine learning process. Proper training and practice are required, but they can be a great help when tackling printed text.

## 2 READING ON SCREEN

Many devices now allow users to customise text for better readability. Adjusting font type, size and background colour can significantly enhance comprehension. For many readers, white text on a black background is the easiest to see, whereas other styles – such as dyslexia-friendly fonts – are designed to help those who are struggling. Teaching children how to personalise text settings on their devices empowers them to read more comfortably and with greater confidence.

## 3 ACCESSIBILITY TOOLS

Most modern devices include built-in tools designed to support readers. These features can be found in Settings under Accessibility and may include text-to-speech, speech-to-text and screen magnification functions. Enabling these tools can make digital reading more user friendly, especially for children with learning difficulties or visual impairments, who might have an easier time with spoken language than the written word, or who might simply require a closer look at the text.

## 4 INTERACTIVE READING PROGRAMMES

Many digital reading devices, such as Kindle and other e-readers, offer features like word highlighting, adjustable text speed and built-in dictionaries. These tools help learners to break down complex words and phrases while maintaining an appropriate reading pace. Some programmes even allow users to track their progress, making reading a more structured and motivating experience.

## 5 VIDEO GAMES AND READING SKILLS

Many video games require players to read instructions, character dialogues and mission objectives, making them an unexpected but effective literacy tool. Games that involve storytelling, puzzles or problem-solving often include large amounts of text – encouraging children to read these texts aloud or discuss them can improve their comprehension and vocabulary in a fun, engaging way.

## 6 SUBTITLES AND CLOSED CAPTIONS

Watching videos with subtitles or closed captions is an effective way to enhance reading skills. As children watch their favourite shows or online videos, they can follow along with the text, gaining a better understanding of how written words sound when spoken aloud. This is particularly beneficial for reluctant readers, as it exposes them to words in a familiar, engaging context. Repeatedly watching content with subtitles reinforces word recognition and comprehension.

## 7 USING AUDIOBOOKS

Audiobooks are an excellent way to develop listening and reading skills simultaneously. Children can follow along with the text while listening to a narrator, reinforcing word recognition and fluency. For struggling readers, listening to an audiobook before attempting to read the text independently can boost their confidence and comprehension.

## 9 TEXT-TO-VOICE TECHNOLOGY

Text-to-voice software reads digital text aloud, making it easier for learners to follow along. Most smartphones, tablets and computers come with this function built in. When enabled, users can highlight a passage or sentence and press Play to hear it read aloud. This tool is particularly helpful for auditory learners and those who struggle with decoding written words.

## 8 VOICE-TO-TEXT FOR WRITING AND READING

Voice-to-text tools allow users to dictate words, which are then transcribed into text. This feature helps children see the connection between spoken and written language. By using text-to-voice to have their dictated words read back to them, learners can identify mistakes and improve their reading and writing skills simultaneously.

## 10 SOCIAL MEDIA AND PARENTAL CONTROLS

While social media provides opportunities for reading, most platforms have age restrictions of 13–16 years old, making parental guidance essential. Many social media videos include captions and comments that can encourage reading. However, it's important to use the platform's parental controls (such as time limits and content filters) to create a safe and educational online environment for children. Encouraging responsible social media use can ensure a balanced and productive approach to digital literacy.

### Meet Our Expert

Catrina Lowri is a qualified special needs teacher and experienced SENCO. She recently launched her own site, Neuroteachers, which offers a library of short, 'how-to' and explanation videos for educators. Catrina also writes and delivers online training and events for multi-academy trusts, businesses, schools and training organisations.



The National College®



## Dates for your Diary



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***Health for Life Cookathon - Monday 17th March***

***Red Nose Day - Friday 21st March***

***Teacher Training Day School Closed to children - Monday 31st March***

***Spring Community Fair - Friday 4th April 1.30pm***

***Parents Evening - Monday 7th April and Wednesday 9th April***

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## School Term Dates for Next Year - 2024/25

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*Please see the calendar below showing all of the school term dates, bank holidays and teacher training days for the next academic year.*

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## Manor Park Calendar 2024/25

August 2024						
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa Su
31				1	2	3 4
32	5	6	7	8	9	10 11
33	12	13	14	15	16	17 18
34	19	20	21	22	23	24 25
35	26	27	28	29	30	31

September 2024						
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa Su
35						1
36	2	3	4	5	6	7 8
37	9	10	11	12	13	14 15
38	16	17	18	19	20	21 22
39	23	24	25	26	27	28 29
40	30					

October 2024						
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa Su
40		1	2	3	4	5 6
41	7	8	9	10	11	12 13
42	14	15	16	17	18	19 20
43	21	22	23	24	25	26 27
44	28	29	30	31		

November 2024						
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa Su
44					1	2 3
45	4	5	6	7	8	9 10
46	11	12	13	14	15	16 17
47	18	19	20	21	22	23 24
48	25	26	27	28	29	30

December 2024						
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa Su
48						1
49	2	3	4	5	6	7 8
50	9	10	11	12	13	14 15
51	16	17	18	19	20	21 22
52	23	24	25	26	27	28 29
1	30	31				

January 2025						
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa Su
1			1	2	3	4 5
2	6	7	8	9	10	11 12
3	13	14	15	16	17	18 19
4	20	21	22	23	24	25 26
5	27	28	29	30	31	

February 2025						
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa Su
5						1 2
6	3	4	5	6	7	8 9
7	10	11	12	13	14	15 16
8	17	18	19	20	21	22 23
9	24	25	26	27	28	

March 2025						
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa Su
9						1 2
10	3	4	5	6	7	8 9
11	10	11	12	13	14	15 16
12	17	18	19	20	21	22 23
13	24	25	26	27	28	29 30
14	31					

April 2025						
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa Su
14		1	2	3	4	5 6
15	7	8	9	10	11	12 13
16	14	15	16	17	18	19 20
17	21	22	23	24	25	26 27
18	28	29	30			

May 2025						
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa Su
18				1	2	3 4
19	5	6	7	8	9	10 11
20	12	13	14	15	16	17 18
21	19	20	21	22	23	24 25
22	26	27	28	29	30	31

June 2025						
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa Su
22						1
23	2	3	4	5	6	7 8
24	9	10	11	12	13	14 15
25	16	17	18	19	20	21 22
26	23	24	25	26	27	28 29
27	30					

July 2025						
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa Su
27		1	2	3	4	5 6
28	7	8	9	10	11	12 13
29	14	15	16	17	18	19 20
30	21	22	23	24	25	26 27
31	28	29	30	31		

### Bank holidays 2024/25

26 August '24	August Bank Holiday	26 December '24	Boxing Day	18 April '25	Good Friday	5 May '25	Early May Bank Holiday
25 December '24	Christmas Day	1 January '25	New Year's Day	21 April '25	Easter Monday	26 May '25	Spring Bank Holiday

### Teacher Training Days

2 September 2024	3 September 2024	29 November 2024	31 March 2025	21 July 2025
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## Apply for free school meals



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[Apply for free school meals - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk)

*Dear Parents and Carers,*

*Did you know that by registering your child for free school meals, you're not only ensuring they get a nutritious, hot meal every day but also supporting our school's funding? Every child who is registered for free school meals generates extra funding for the school, which we can invest directly back into your child's education and wellbeing. This funding helps us provide more resources, better learning environments, and additional support for our pupils. While all children in Reception, Year 1, and Year 2 (as well as those under the Mayor's Meals scheme in London) automatically receive free school meals, we only receive extra funding if you officially register your child. Please read the attached letter for information on how to apply.*

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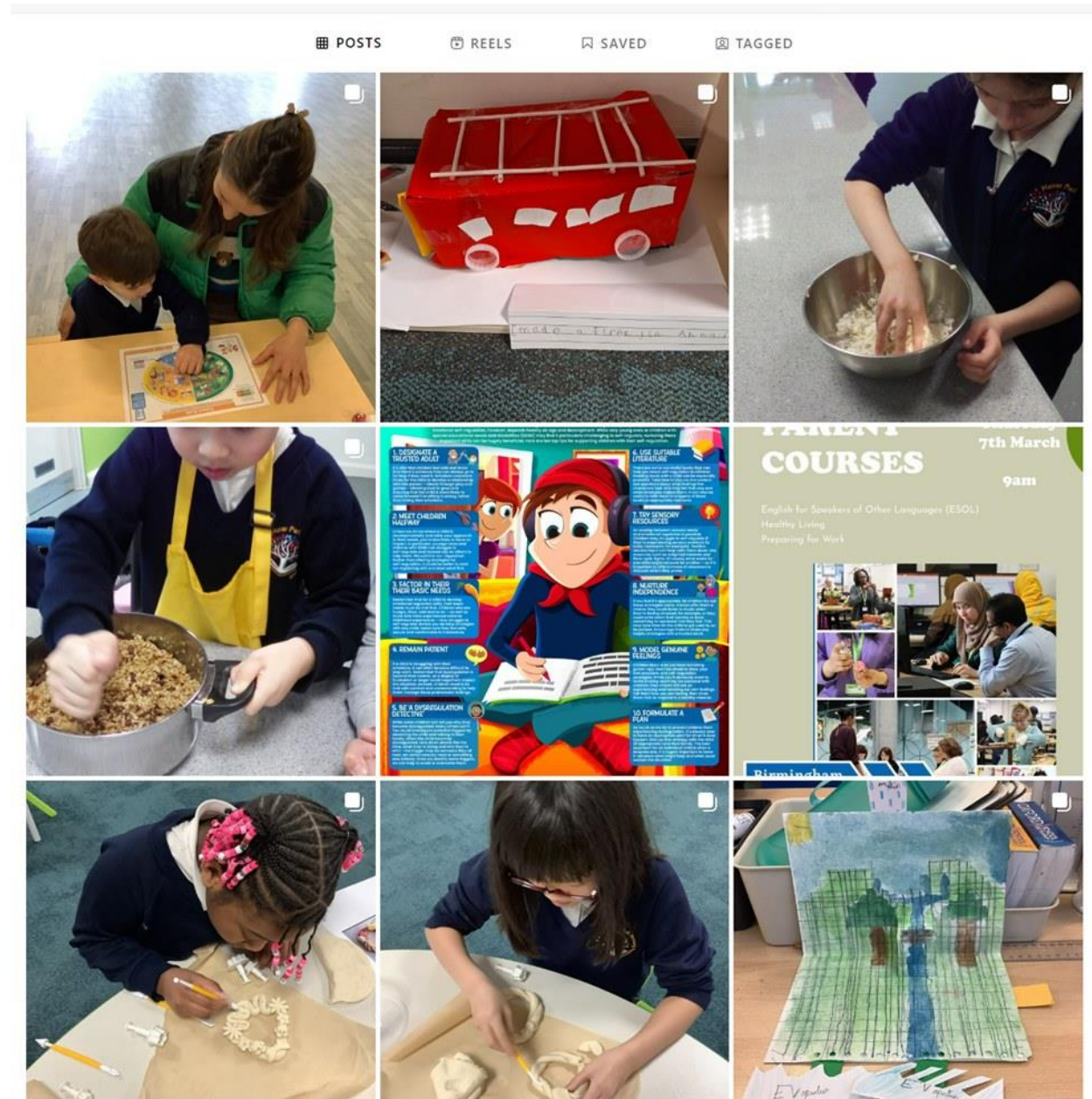


**We are a Nut Free School!**



*Give us a follow on Instagram!*

<https://www.instagram.com/manorparkprimaryacademy/>





If you need to report your child's absence...



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*Please call 0121 327 1023 to report your child's absence by 9.30am*

*If you need support with your child's attendance, please contact Jo Green via email at [enquiry@manorparkacademy.org](mailto:enquiry@manorparkacademy.org) or call the school office.*

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**At Manor Park Primary  
Academy everyone  
has the right to feel safe.**

**At Manor Park Primary  
Academy everyone  
has the right to learn.**



**We are your Designated Safeguarding Leads.  
We can help you.**



Ms Christine Chapman  
**Headteacher**  
DSL



Mrs Saima Mahmood  
**Teacher**  
DSL



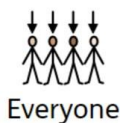
Miss Becky Lewis  
**Deputy  
Headteacher**  
DSL



Mrs Natalie Brindley  
**SENDCo**  
DSL



Miss Jo Green  
**Lead DSL**



Everyone



has

a



right

to



feel safe.



Please



talk to



us.

