



The Manor CE Primary School

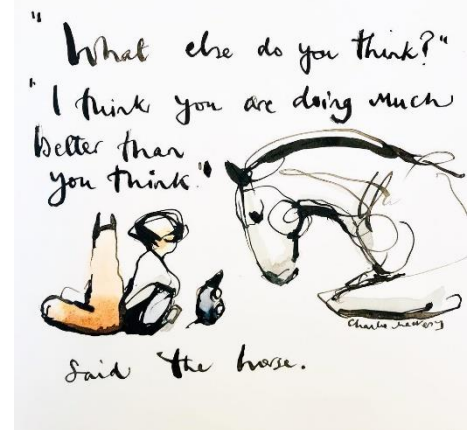
Aspire, Believe, Achieve
Shine like stars in the sky

Newsletter Lockdown Special

5 February 2021

"I think you are doing better than you think" "" said the horse.

We now find ourselves nearly five weeks into remote learning. This term has been a whirlwind for everybody – teachers getting to grips with recording lessons and adapting teaching styles to this new platform; teaching assistants running bubbles in school and supporting the children with their remote learning; children adjusting to the new routines of home learning and not seeing their friends; children of critical workers adjusting to the new bubbles in school and parents/carers trying to juggle all that goes on at home, a job and try and keep children focussed on their home learning!!!



The last couple of weeks we have seen an increasing number of families really struggling with the current situation – we completely understand the pressures that home schooling can bring and how very difficult it can be juggling already busy home lives with school life. Please don't put any extra pressure on yourself – these are incredibly difficult times – please remember that one day soon, when it is safe, we will all be back together again.

We have absolutely loved receiving all of the positive messages of thanks and gratitude through class emails and the recent survey. Teachers have worked tirelessly since the start of January to ensure our remote learning offer is the very best it can be and we were so pleased with the over-whelming positive feedback we had on this in the remote learning survey.

Remember to keep the lines of communication open with us as a school and know that you are not alone. If you have any questions or need any help, or even if you need signposting to an external agency for additional advice and support, we will respond. Please let us know if you need any help with anything.

These times have tested us all in so many different ways - please do be kind to yourselves - you are doing much better than you think!

With very best wishes

Mrs A Flanagan

Our remote learning offer

For those families that not yet spotted it, we have a page on our website that outlines our Remote Learning Offer during this period. Please head over to <https://www.themanorcofeprimary.org.uk/our-remote-learning> to view it.

We would also like to inform our EYFS families that we have added additional resources to our EYFS page on the website to support you not only during this lockdown, but also in future months ahead. We hope you find some of them useful. <https://www.themanorcofeprimary.org.uk/eyfs>

Spaces in the critical worker/ vulnerable children bubbles in school

As the stress and demands of the current situation continue we are having increasing numbers, almost daily, of requests for children to attend school. We really do understand how difficult it is to support your child at home, especially if you are working from home too.

Government guidance on this has been updated and is really clear: **critical workers need to keep their children at home if they can.**

This means that children should be at home if there is a parent at home, even if they are working from home. The reason for this requirement is that we **must** keep the number of children in school at a minimum to reduce the risk of transmission to all families of critical worker families and staff. Also, keeping the numbers as low as possible enables our teachers to support remote learning for those at home – if we have to open up more bubbles, teachers will have to be running these and will no longer be able to support remote learning in the way they currently are.

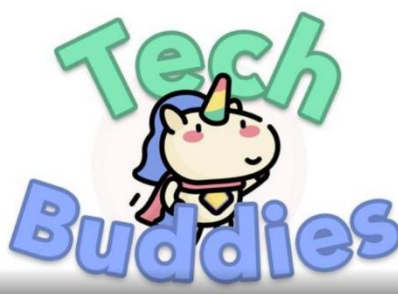
The guidance clearly states that we should only accept children of critical workers when their parents are not in the home and have to go out to work, and only on those days when there is no one at home, or those children who are classed as vulnerable.

Of course, when critical workers need to go to work, do their critical work and there is no one at home to look after their children, we will have their children in school. We are in these circumstances very happy to help. If you do have children currently in school and feel you do not meet the government's updated guidance please do get in touch – bubbles of children in school are reaching capacity and we are struggling to accommodate children who are entitled to come who have so far been managing as best they can at home.

Thank you for your understanding and supporting this health and safety focus re. minimising the number of children in school.

IT Access for Home Learners

Thank you to everyone who has been in touch to request the loan of an electronic device - we have been able to distribute loaned laptops and tablet devices to support home learning. If your child does not have a device to access home learning please do contact the main office and we will do our very best to support you.



We have also been kindly supported by a voluntary group named 'Tech Buddies'. They take on donated equipment and devices from members of the public and businesses and refurbish them for families and children to use during this lockdown period. If you feel they might be able to support you, you can find their Facebook page here - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/516121006034028>

Remote Learning Questionnaire

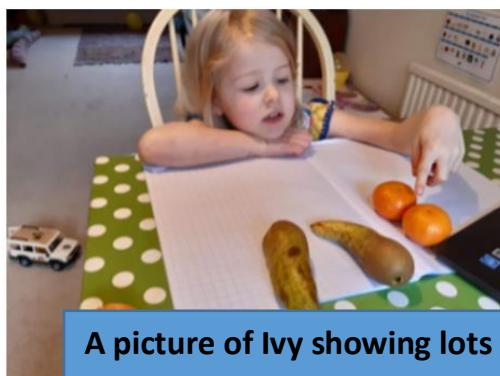
We would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our families who have already taken part in our Remote Learning Questionnaire. We have been using your responses to refine our Remote Learning Offer and will continue to do so over the coming weeks. We would also like to say thank you for the kind comments many of you have sent in. Your positive feedback is being passed on to our teachers and TAs – thank you.

If you have not yet taken part in the survey and wish to do so, the link can be found below.

<https://forms.gle/NXtZh7SnajBDbkWZA>

Amazing Home Learning

Over the past few weeks, our teachers have received a huge number of wonderful photos of children taking part in their remote learning. This is just a selection of some them!

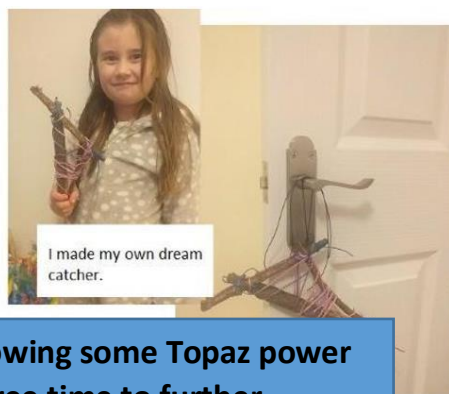


A picture of Ivy showing lots of sapphire power when working on Maths at home.

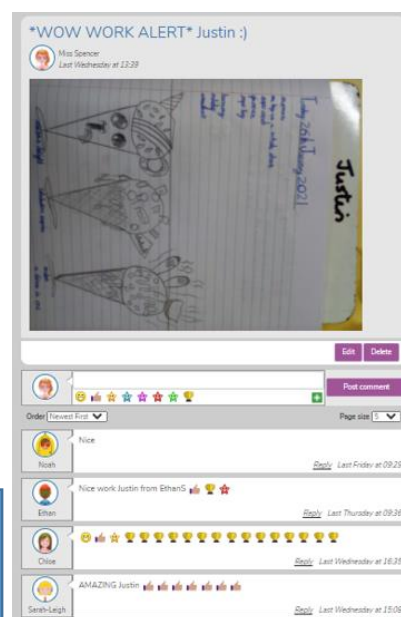
Chloe using the diamond gem to help solve the problem of counting in 2's.



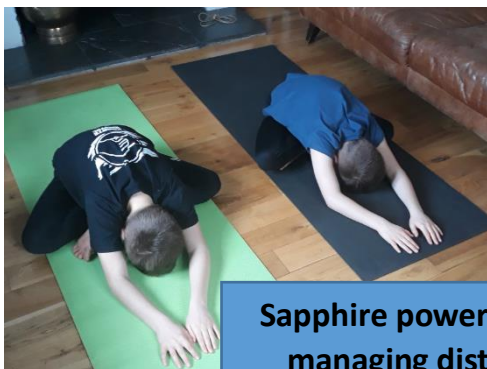
This is Chloe showing some Topaz power as he used her free time to further investigate our BFG topic and explain how she made her own dream catcher.



Here is a photo of the Year 4 blog, celebrating WOW work and the children showing Ruby power by posting celebratory comments.



Some great examples of Amethyst power (teamwork) being used!



Sapphire power (focusing and managing distractions) on show!



Amazing Ruby power in Year 2 – thinking about others and celebrating difference



With the children spending more time online we thought it would be helpful to share the following online safety advice from the NSPCC:

Supporting parents and carers

We know that being online is a great way for children and young people to keep connected with friends and family, but being online more often can also increase exposure to risk.

Keep talking

With children using new apps to communicate during the pandemic, it's important that parents and carers continue to have regular conversations with children about what they are doing online and what social networks, apps and games they are using. They should listen to any worries or anxieties their children may have and let them know they can always come to them about anything.

The information on the NSPCC website about talking to your child about online safety now includes information about coronavirus. It has advice for parents on:

- screen time
- livestreaming and video apps
- Social media safety.

Parents/carers might also find the advice about inappropriate or explicit content helpful. The NSPCC now includes advice on what to do if your child has seen inappropriate coronavirus content online.

This is a link to the NSPCC website and you will be able to access a range of resources to help support your child and to talk about online safety with them: <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/>

This is a link to the Government's Staying Safe Online website: Coronavirus (COVID-19) - staying safe online – GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

Please visit the Safeguarding page of our website to read: <https://www.themanorcofeprimary.org.uk/safeguarding>

Think U Know for Parents: <https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/> provides advice, resources, how to report an issue and online activity packs.

ChildNet: <https://www.childnet.com/parents-and-carers> provides advice, information about parental controls, developing a family agreement and information on how to discuss online safety with your child.

Over the past few months, we have been developing our outside space for the children to enjoy once they are back in school. We have built an additional forest school type area (with a boardwalk) for classes to enjoy and have also built a new decking area by the forest school pond. These projects were made possible following the very kind donation from FOMS and we know that the children will enjoy these spaces for many years to come!



Things to look forward to!

- World book day is fast approaching and Team Manor have many fun activities planned to celebrate reading and to encourage children to take part in reading as much as possible! Watch out for our reading challenge in the coming weeks.
- Spirituality Day is next Friday. Your teachers are currently planning the day's activities and will also be sharing with you our '50 Things to do at The Manor before the age of 11 3/4 '
- Next week is the final week before half term. We hope you all have a restful break with your families. You have all put in so much effort into your home learning and we couldn't be more proud. You have been shining like stars in the sky.