

MANOR PARK CE (VC) FIRST SCHOOL & PRE-SCHOOL

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LOVE FOR GOD, LOVE FOR EACH OTHER
LOVE FOR LEARNING

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6th January 2026

Dear Families of Preschool,

Welcome back to the new term here at Manor Park First School and a big welcome to some of our new families that are joining us. We hope you have all had a lovely break and are ready to get back to Preschool. Here is some information to outline what your children will be learning this half term in all the different curriculum areas. Do encourage your child to tell you about what they have been learning at school – it really helps the children to secure their learning when they discuss it with others.

In **communication and language** (including **reading** and **writing**) we are learning to:

Listen to stories with an increased amount of focus and use vocabulary from our focus texts in our own play.

To be able to answer 'who' 'what' and 'where' questions linked to our focus texts.

Develop our mark making skills with a focus on making a range of marks (circles, waves, zigzags, straight lines) to help support being able to create letter shapes.

Give meaning to the marks that we make, for example "I am writing a card for Grandma."

To be able to listen to a friend in a small group or one to one and be able to respond to them.

To be able to listen and follow two-part instructions.

Our Pinecone children will be able to find their name card and begin to write some of the letters in their name (if not all of them).

In **Physical development** we are learning to:



Children will develop their gross motor control by balancing, running and stopping, hopping, skipping and changing direction.

They will continue to develop their independent skills- for example putting on their own shoes and coats.

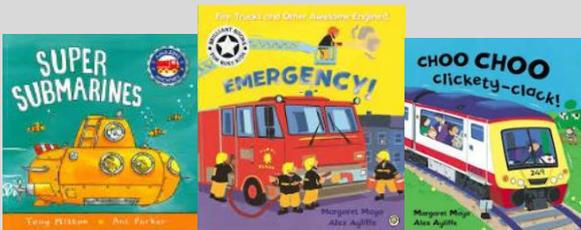
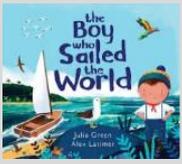
They will develop their knowledge of how to keep themselves healthy by recapping how to clean and look after their teeth, healthy foods and the importance of exercise.

To support their fine motor skills, they will-

Develop their manipulation and control by taking part in a range of activities such as playdough, tweezers and cutting skills.

Children will also take part in daily movement and we will continue to follow 'Squiggle whilst you wiggle' which

Focus Texts



focuses on developing gross and fine motor skills through movement and mark making.



Phonics

All children will take part in daily phonic activities to help to develop their speaking and listening skills.

Our Pinecone children will continue to develop their phonological awareness by spotting and suggesting rhymes, counting and/or clapping syllables in words, hearing the initial sounds in words and being able to identify words which have the same initial sound.

We will visit a new Pip and Pap adventure story every week!

In **Personal social and emotional development (PSED)** we are learning to: talk to others to help to resolve any conflicts, be able to identify a range of emotions and talk about our feelings and play collaboratively with friends.

We will continue to follow our myHappyMind programme as well as working with your children daily to help to support and develop their PSED skills.

Our Happy Minds focus is gratitude

We will discuss challenges and what children need to do to overcome them (resilience) and discuss how we might set ourselves new goals and go about achieving these.

We will continue to develop the children's understanding of our school mission which is love for God, love for each other and love for learning.

In **Mathematics** we are learning to: Our Acorn children (those who are not due to start school in the next academic year) will be counting in everyday contexts (for example) how many children are in our small group today. They will begin to use their number fingers to 5 and react to changes of amounts. They may recognise numbers of personal significance, e.g. "I am 2, I am 3."



They will begin to organise groups into shape, colour and size and begin to understand positional language, e.g., in front of.

They will begin to notice different patterns and talk about them.

Our Pinecone children (those children who are due to start school in the next academic year) will continue their learning around subitising to 5 (this is where we can look at a small group of objects and say how many we can see without having to count them). They will learn about numbers 3, 4 and 5 and the composition of these (how they are made). They will learn about shapes.

In **Expressive Arts** we are learning to:



Explore our voices and the different sounds that we can make, e.g loud and quiet.

Manipulate and play with a range of tools and materials, e.g. scissors, rolling pins.

Make marks intentionally and give meaning to these marks.

Explore paint and how it can be mixed to create different shapes and colours.

Our Pinecone children will draw with increasing complexity and detail, for example, adding fingers to hands.

In **Understand the World** we are learning to:



Talk about the differences between materials and the changes they notice.

Notice differences between people and the celebrations that we have.

Respect and care for the natural environment. Look after plants and observe how they grow and what they need to do in order to take care of them.

Show an interest in different occupations, for example pilots, train driver, doctors, police officers and fire fighters.

Learn about the season of winter.

In **RE** we are...

Our preschool children will be introduced to **short, child-friendly Bible stories once a week**. These stories are specially chosen and told in an age-appropriate way, using simple language, pictures, songs, and conversation to help little ones understand.

Our focus is on positive themes such as **kindness, sharing, helping others, gratitude, and love**—values that support children's social and emotional development. Story time will be brief, engaging, and interactive, designed to spark curiosity and enjoyment rather than formal teaching.

Additional class information:

PE days

PE days will now be on a **Monday** and a **Wednesday**. Please ensure that your child comes into Preschool wearing blue jogging bottoms or leggings, a white t-shirt and their blue school jumper or cardigan. Please also ensure that they are wearing trainers.

Library books

We will continue to change your child's library book every week. If your child is in Preschool on a Tuesday please ensure that their library book is in their bag ready to change. If they are not in on a Tuesday, we will change it the next day that they are in. Thank you.

Tapestry/Arbor

Please continue to check Tapestry and Arbor regularly for any updates. If you are having any problems accessing these, please speak to a member of the team. Please ensure that you have downloaded both apps.

Dates for the diary

Parents evening for Pinecone children - Thursday 29th January.

Last day of term - Friday 13th February.

Reminders

Coats, hats, etc- please ensure that your child comes into Preschool with warm clothes. We are a free flow setting so will continue to use our outside areas whatever the weather.

If your child does not have a pair of wellies or waterproof trousers/suit in Preschool please can we ask that you provide these, thank you.

Water bottles - please ensure that there is water only in these. If you would like your child to have juice, this can go into their lunchbox as a lunchtime drink.

Pick up and drop off times - Please can we kindly remind you the preschool opens at 8.55am at the gates, Lunchtime drop off and collection is at the school office at 12pm. Home time collection is 3pm, again at the gates. This is important to keep to these times due to staff ratio.

Sickness - You must phone the school office to let them know that your child won't be in so we can amend the registers accordingly.

Ideas to support your child's learning at home

We will continue to use Tapestry to share ideas on how you can support your child at home. Here are a few additional ideas;

- Read stories to them daily with a focus on explaining new words/vocabulary
- Opportunities to explore the world around them, for example local walks
- Trips to the library, museums etc to enhance their experiences and learning
- Playing games with a focus on turn taking (and not always winning!)
- Developing their independence - putting on their shoes and coats by themselves.
- Toileting - if your child is wearing nappies is it now the time to start toilet training?

- Nursery rhymes - continue to sing and teach your child new nursery rhymes. Research shows that if a child knows eight or more nursery rhymes by the time they are four years old, they will be one of the best readers and writers in the class by the age of eight!

Please add any learning onto tapestry so we can share this as we find children really enjoy telling us what they have been doing at home.

We look forward to a fantastic term!

The Preschool Team