



The Manor
Preparatory School

To All Parents

Friday 11 October 2019

Dear Parents

Half-Termly Update

We have had a very exciting start to the new school year and I would like to give you a few updates on how some of the new initiatives are going, along with plans for the future.

Wraparound Care

Thank you for your most positive feedback in this area of school life. It seems that our efforts to improve our wraparound care provision for busy parents has been well-received. We are seeing wonderfully high numbers of children staying on for tea and homework in the upper years, a great uptake of our increased free-of-charge clubs across the school and, more importantly, happy children enjoying all that The Manor continues to offer before, during and after the school day – this is a joy to see. It is fair to say that it didn't take Mrs Evans and Mr Footring, our two Deputy Heads, long to perfect a clockwork system at the end of the day to ensure that children are fed in a timely fashion and dispatched to the right clubs with the right kit (no mean feat!).

Food

As you know, we welcomed Holroyd Howe as our new caterers this term and they have made a big impression on all of us – thank you for your positive feedback to date – please keep the feedback coming! Holroyd Howe have built on our strong food foundation and have provided us with some additional menu choices which the children are enjoying. The plan is to provide a questionnaire to the children, straight after half-term and during the school day, to ask for their feedback on foods they have enjoyed and anything that they might be missing. We will let you know, in our next update, what the outcomes were and how we plan to address them. Post this process, we will be asking for parental feedback to ensure that what the children tell us is also what they tell you!

Transport

We would now like to review our minibus provision and will shortly be sending out a parent questionnaire in this respect. It would be great to have some feedback, not only on the stops and times that would make your lives easier, but also an indication of what factors prevent you from using our minibuses so

that we can perhaps address some of these things. We are very aware that with our current offering, staying at school late and catching a bus home simply does not work and we are keen, if at all possible, to explore this as an area in which to improve.

The Summer Ball

On Saturday 13 June we will be hosting my first (of many I hope!) Summer Ball in our new Sports Hall. I hope that this will be not only an opportunity for you to dress up, roll up and enjoy, but also to perhaps bring friends with you to share a convivial evening of lovely food, entertainment and dancing to a live band. Look out for further communication on this, coming soon, offering an early bird discount for booking a table before Christmas.

MAP

We have been delighted with attendance at MAP coffee and MAP meetings this term. A big thank you to Mrs Duff for her wonderful food contributions, prepared and cooked by your children. It is also wonderful to see a full quota of Form Reps across the school. We appreciate all the help and support that you are able to give the school and we value your input at meetings. There are some wonderful suggestions coming forwards and we hope to finalise some of these over the course of the next few meetings. Again, a questionnaire will be on its way after half-term, asking you to suggest things you might like to see on the MAP calendar, what your preferred charities might be, and whether you have a view on how MAP funds are spent. It would also be good for us to understand the areas you may be willing to help with. Bite-sized chunks of help here and there has to be the way forwards for busy parents and staff. Our drive is to facilitate a community where we mix and share; fundraising has to come second.

Vision

Whilst my overarching vision for the school is to consistently review our practices across the board, to ensure that we are giving our children the very best education, there are always a number of great projects that a school would like to achieve. Our website (<https://www.manorprep.org/Future-Improvements>) shows the extent of the planning permission that we have been granted and our list of proposed projects. An astroturf and a swimming pool remain firmly at the top of *my* list but I am afraid that the order in which these projects can be executed and a proposed timeline cannot yet be confirmed. As and when we embark on the next project, or projects, we will of course give you a full update at the appropriate time.

My very best wishes for a happy half-term.

Alastair Thomas
Headmaster