

Dear Parents and Carers,

As our first term of this academic year comes to an end we would like to say a huge thank you to all of you for your continued support! We are exceptionally proud of all our pupils, staff and families for showing such resilience and positivity in these challenging times.

With concerns rising, due to the new Omicron variant, we would like to remind you that we will continue to do everything we possibly can to minimise the impact that Covid-19 has on our school community. Our risk assessments are robust but we will continue to monitor updates and implement any new measures as swiftly as possible.

You can all help us to minimise the impact that Covid-19 has on our school by keeping a careful eye out for symptoms. If your child has any of the symptoms below, **please keep them at home and arrange a PCR test:**

- A temperature
- A new persistent cough
- A loss of taste / smell

If the PCR test comes back negative you can send your child back in to school when they are well enough to access learning. We would like to say a big thank you to all parents who have taken their child for a PCR test at our request this term, it has greatly helped to reassure staff and to keep us all safe.

We were delighted to welcome Amy McNicholas, as our new Assistant Headteacher, to our Senior Leadership Team this term. Amy joins us from Manor School, where she was Autism Lead. Amy brings with her a wealth of knowledge and experience as a special needs teacher and an Attention Autism Advanced Practitioner. Amy has already proven to be invaluable in her new role.

We would like to say thank you to Claire Simons who has been a Parent Governor for the last few years, and has recently stepped down from the role. We were delighted to receive three applications for our Parent Governor vacancy and we will be holding elections in January where all parents will be able to vote.

Our new school building is due to open for Summer Term this academic year. We really can't wait to move to our new purpose built site, which has been designed with our pupils in mind. As soon as the site is complete we will be offering Parent Tours and we are currently designing a programme of activities for parents/carers, which will include coffee mornings, training sessions and meetings for when we are on our new site. We are very excited about the prospect of being able to invite you all to whole school events in Summer Term (Covid restrictions permitting).

Finally, we would like to wish you and your loved ones a happy and healthy new year and we look forward to seeing you all in person in 2022.

Best wishes,
Kate and Louise

Literacy update

The Avenue Library is now being utilised by the whole school. Each class has a timetabled session to explore the library and its' resources in a cosy and relaxing space and we have a selection of toys, games and props that are supporting both expressive and receptive communication.

To support handwriting, this term each class have organized a pop-up writing corner with a wide selection of motivating writing activities. We have been exploring messy play mark making; using paint, foam or rice with glitter. Writing "letters to Santa" with chalk, pencils, markers and crayons but also typing and also exploring our new LED black boards. Our literacy lead has been to visit all classes carrying out their pop up writing sessions and loved seeing all the creative activities on offer.

Activities to engage with during Holiday Period:

- Please try to dedicate 10 minutes each day to share a book experience with your child. Look at the pictures, recreate the story using objects you have at home.
- To follow up on our pop up writing it would be great if families could follow up by using flour to practice "writing in a snow".
- It would also be great to take opportunities to develop some seasonal vocabulary such as the names of festive food items and decorations, and let children play with and explore them.



Our library

Maths update and activities

During the last academic year and the beginning of this one, The Avenue pupils have had the opportunity to develop and put in practice their Financial Education skills at the school Shop! Toys, food, and drinks have been the main items that everyone could buy so far. Now, Maths Table Games and Maths Books have arrived to become an amazing input for everyone to enjoy while learning Maths. Each term, our pupils will have the opportunity to go to a real shop, when possible, and buy their preferred snacks or toys.

Last, but not least, we would like to recommend "Number-blocks" (BBC iPlayer) for this Christmas. This animated show teaches counting and maths concepts with playful characters and songs. There are also great Number-blocks activities and resources on Twinkl!

Science update

Science is very important for all children, as it influences all aspects of every day life. Science is based on curiosity and our children are naturally inquisitive, full of questions about their surroundings and they try to investigate how things work and solve problems.

For this holiday we encourage all the children to read and explore science in “Jack and the beanstalk” book.

- Can you grow a bean in a jar? How tall can it grow over the holiday? To grow a bean in a jar, you will only need to put some water around the jar, add a wet piece of cotton wool or kitchen roll, put the bean in and let it rest for a couple of days.
- How about planting a bean and growing a beanstalk for Jack? Growing a plant is a great way to learn about what the conditions for a plant to grow successfully are and how to take care of it. Beans are a good choice as they grow relatively quickly.
- What happens if you grow a bean in the dark? You will see that the plant grown in the dark is less green than the one grown in the light.
- Can you make a beanstalk with cardboard tubes or other recycled materials? How tall is it? Can you send us some pictures?

Diary dates

- INSET day for staff: Tuesday 4th January 2022 (School closed to pupils)
- Term starts for pupils: Wednesday 5th January 2022
- Last day of half term: Friday 11th February 2022

Trust rebranding

As many of you know, the trust (Brent Specialist Academy Trust) of which Manor School is a member, recently undertook a review of our name, vision, and mission. Following stakeholder consultations involving discussions about who we are as a trust, what we offer to our pupils, families, staff, and the wider community, the trust has now formally adopted the following:

- **Name:** The Rise Partnership Trust (RPT) – you will now see this on letterheads, text messages, e-mails, and more. The new trust website will be launching in January.
- **Vision:** Championing unique potential
- **Mission:** Our trust is committed to pursuing excellence in all that we do; providing the most effective education, therapy, support, and provision for all
- **Motto:** Love, Learn, Laugh

- **Logo:**  **The Rise Partnership Trust**
Love • Learn • Laugh