



Newsletter 06.03.2026



Manston St James CE Primary Academy

Email: info@manstonstjames.co.uk¹

Website: www.manstonstjames.co.uk²

¹<mailto:info@manstonstjames.co.uk>

²<https://www.manstonstjames.co.uk>



It is lovely to see the weather starting to pick up and we remain hopeful for drier and warmer days ahead. With spring in full swing, we are all looking forward to spending more time learning and playing outdoors. However, the weather continues to be rather unsettled, so please ensure that children come to school appropriately dressed for changing conditions, including suitable footwear and coats.

Several parents have recently shared concerns regarding the use of the school field, and we would like to offer some clarity. The ground has been heavily oversaturated following prolonged wet weather. Parents with children who play football locally will know that many matches and training sessions have been cancelled due to unsafe or unplayable pitches. When children have accessed the field in these conditions, large amounts of mud are brought back into school, making carpets and floors significantly harder to maintain and impacting learning spaces for everyone.

Football has not been banned; however, when outdoor space is limited, games cannot safely take place due to the increased risk of balls striking other children. Staff carefully monitor playground activities each day and are working hard to find the best solution so that we can return to offering our full range of sporting activities during breaktimes and lunchtimes.

We will reintroduce regular use of the field as soon as conditions allow. In the meantime, we greatly appreciate your understanding, support, and patience as we balance children's enjoyment, safety, and the upkeep of our school environment.

We also have some exciting news to share — Mrs Burton, our Reception teacher, is expecting a baby! We are delighted to share that both mum and baby are doing well. We would like to offer Mrs Burton our warmest congratulations and look forward to meeting her new arrival towards the end of the year.

Mr Biedka

Headteacher



"It's the small acts of parents, teachers, and friends — each one full of care — that light up our school and enrich our children's lives."

PTFA now has their own place on our school website. Please [PTFA³](https://www.manstonstjames.co.uk/parents/ptfa) visit for any updates, upcoming events, or to connect.

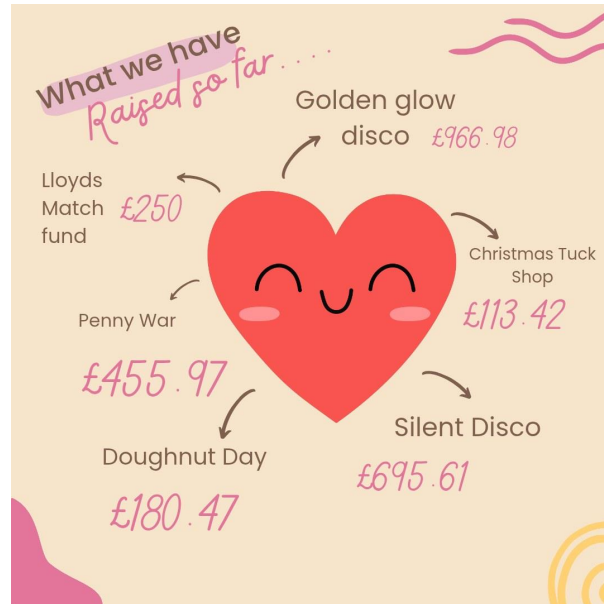
There are lots of ways to support the PTFA — and every little bit makes a big difference! You don't need to commit to every meeting or event; just getting involved when you can really helps.

PTFA Facebook & Instagram Group

³<https://www.manstonstjames.co.uk/parents/ptfa>

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/199267443474410/>

Huge Thank You



A huge thank you to all of you amazing pupils and families for your support so far this academic year! We have raised an amazing amount in funds that we can put back into school to enrich every child's learning experiences here at MSJ!

PTFA Handpicked For Mum



This year the PTFA are running a little shop for the children to buy a gift for their special caregiver.

All we ask is that you fill in the form pupils brought home before the weekend and put the money in an envelope with your child's name and class clearly written on the front.

If they have siblings in the school, please send the form in with your eldest child, but put the names of all children on the form so they can choose the gift together.

We have a limited range of gifts, priced from £1–£5.

If you **send the money and form in by Friday 6th March, this is the cut off and we cannot accept forms after this point**, we will pick the gifts in school and send them home on **Friday 13th March**, ready for Mother's Day on Sunday 15th March!

If you do not receive a copy, additional forms will be available to collect from the school office.

Thank you for your support.

Manston St James PTFA

Registered Charity No. 1146675

Safeguarding

Health and Safety

If you have any concerns or observations regarding **Health and Safety** please contact: **Mr Biedka**

Child Protection

If you have any concerns or questions regarding **Child Protection** issues please contact: **Mrs Crabtree or Mrs Cliffe.**

Absence Reporting

If you need to **report your child's absence**, please contact : **0113 8592081**

Other

If you need further support regarding Mental Health, Domestic Violence or support accessing a Foodbank please see links on our Safeguarding page on our website.

Who Can Collect My Child?

We appreciate that sometimes plans change. If someone who is not on your child's '**Who Can Collect**' list comes to collect your child, we will not release him/her unless you have specifically informed us in advance by emailing the school office at info@manstonstjames.co.uk⁴

Please speak to your child's teacher if you are unsure of who is currently authorised to collect your child from school, and if you need to update this list, please complete a new **Who Can Collect Form** by following this link:

WHO CAN COLLECT MY CHILD – Fill in form⁵

⁴<mailto:info@manstonstjames.co.uk>

⁵<https://forms.office.com/e/PX7sUuAyRn>

Year 5/6 Football Team



Big well done to our Year 5/6 Football Team, who took part in the Premier League Primary Stars Competition. The team played brilliantly throughout the day, showing fantastic teamwork, skill and sportsmanship in every game. We could not be prouder of their effort,

attitude and the way they represented our school. They were a real credit to MSJ — well done boys!

We would like to say a huge well done to our fantastic Year 5 and 6 pupils who competed in the Indoor Athletics Finals. Over the past few months, the children have all shown incredible commitment and have trained so hard in preparation for these finals. The progress they have made from the first heat to the finals has been phenomenal. They all delivered another outstanding performance in the final and came away as silver medallists! We could not be prouder of every single one of them for their teamwork, determination, dedication and positive attitude throughout the competition. You truly are a credit to MSJ! Well done team!

Cluster Drop-in

Do you need advice on how to get support for your family?

If your child attends one of the schools below, we may be able to offer some information/advice

Drop-in anytime between 9am and 10am at any one of the following schools:-

Grimes Dyke Primary	13th March 26	Whinmoor St. Paul's Primary	8th May 26
Our Lady of Good	18th March 26	St Theresa's Catholic Primary	15th May 26
Manston Primary	20th March 26	Cross Gates Primary	19th May 26
Grange Farm Primary	24th March 26	Leeds East Academy	6th June 26
Beechwood Primary	23rd April 26	Fieldhead Carr Primary	23rd June 26
White Laith Primary	1st May 26	Seacroft Grange Primary	24th June 26
Manston St. James	6th May 26	Bishop Young Academy	14th July 26

Cluster Drop-in

Free Adult Learner Drop-in: Lifelong Learning Centre event


Lifelong Learning Centre UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

Adult Learner Drop-in

Tuesday 31 March, 2026

Thinking about your next steps?
Never had the chance to get a degree?

Pop into the Lifelong Learning Centre to learn about studying as a mature student and the support available to help you get back into learning!



"I felt so much more confident after seeing the support available for mature students and facing life's ups and downs."

"Extremely helpful, great information, very knowledgeable. Looking forward to using the information I received to explore my options!"

Turn over for more information and how to sign up.

Lifelong Learning Centre UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS



Drop-in anytime between:
10:00am & 1:00pm / 4:00pm & 6:30pm

- Explore courses designed for adults (part-time options, flexible entry requirements)
- Hear from current students and course tutors
- Find out about financial support to study
- Learn about other support available and get advice on your next steps
- Children are welcome, and feel free to bring a friend!

SIGN UP NOW →

Enter the link into your browser, or scan the QR Code.
[case sensitive]

bit.ly/AdultLearnerDropin



0113 343 3212
candp@leeds.ac.uk
www.leeds.ac.uk/lifelong-learning

Follow us!
@LeedsUniLLC



The **Adult Learner Drop-in** (Tuesday 31 March 2026) is an informal event for adults who haven't had the opportunity to attend university but would like to explore their educational options. This event may be of interest for non-graduate parents, volunteers, or support staff.

Adult Learner Drop-in

Tuesday 31 March | 10:00am - 1:00pm & 4:00pm - 6:30pm

At the Lifelong Learning Centre

University of Leeds

Marjorie and Arnold Ziff Building

University of Leeds

Leeds

LS2 9JT

- Are you thinking about your next steps?
- Have you never had the chance to get a degree?

Pop into the Lifelong Learning Centre to learn about studying as a mature student and the support available to help you get back into learning. Drop-in anytime between 10:00am - 1:00pm & 4:00pm - 6:30pm to:

- Explore our courses designed for adults⁶ (part-time options, flexible entry requirements)
- Find out about financial support to study
- Learn about other support available and get advice on your next steps

Children are welcome, and feel free to bring a friend! Click the following link to book your place: **BOOK HERE**,⁷ Adult learner drop-in | Tuesday 31st March 2026⁸

⁶<https://www.leeds.ac.uk/mature-students-courses/doc/part-time-and-foundation-courses>

⁷https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=qO3qvR3lzkWGPllypTW3y3lsYhWrk1hOn_jl94uNznJUQzZQSjICUkhPTldVWkc1REpSSVVYNUYzSiQIQCN0PWcu

⁸https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=qO3qvR3lzkWGPllypTW3y3lsYhWrk1hOn_jl94uNznJUQzZQSjICUkhPTldVWkc1REpSSVVYNUYzSiQIQCN0PWcu

We are a 'Nut Free' School



We currently have staff and pupils who have allergies, which require an epi-pen for treatment. People who suffer from nut allergies can develop a severe, potentially life threatening allergic reaction.

So please can we ask that you have no nut products in lunch boxes or sent into the school as treats. This includes 'Nutella' and other unbranded chocolate spreads which usually include nuts or nut derivatives.

Healthy Lunchboxes



What to include in your child's lunchbox

A healthier lunchbox should:

- be based on starchy carbohydrates⁹ (bread, potatoes, rice, pasta)
- include fresh fruit and vegetables/salad
- include a source of protein such as beans and pulses¹⁰, eggs, fish, meat, cheese (or dairy alternative)
- include a side dish such as a low-fat and lower-sugar yoghurt (or dairy alternative), tea cake, fruit bread, plain rice/corn cakes, homemade plain popcorn, sugar-free jelly

⁹<https://www.nhs.uk/Livewell/Goodfood/Pages/starchy-foods.aspx>

¹⁰<https://www.nhs.uk/Livewell/Goodfood/Pages/pulses.aspx>

- include a drink such as water, skimmed or semi-skimmed milk, sugar-free or no-added-sugar drinks

The Eatwell Guide¹¹ shows you how to have a healthy balanced diet and can help you decide what to put in your child's lunchbox. Find healthy lunchbox ideas at Change4Life¹².

Lunchbox tips

- Keep them fuller for longer - base the lunchbox on foods like bread, rice, pasta and potatoes. Choose wholegrain where you can.
- Mix your slices - if your child doesn't like wholegrain, try making a sandwich from one slice of white bread and one slice of wholemeal/brown bread.
- DIY lunches - raps and pots of fillings can be more exciting for kids when they get to put them together. Dipping foods are also fun and make a change from a sandwich each day.
- Less spread - cut down on the spread used and try to avoid using mayonnaise in sandwiches.
- Cut back on fat - pick lower fat sandwich fillings, such as lean meats (including chicken or turkey), fish (such as tuna or salmon), reduced-fat cream cheese, and reduced-fat hard cheese.
- Ever green - always add salad to sandwiches – it all counts towards your child's 5 A DAY
- Always add veg - cherry tomatoes, or sticks of carrot, cucumber, celery and peppers all count towards their 5 A DAY. Adding a small pot of reduced-fat hummus or other dips may help with getting kids to eat vegetables.
- Cut down on crisps - if your child really likes their crisps try reducing the number of times you include them in their lunchbox and swap for homemade plain popcorn or plain rice cakes instead.
- Add bite-size fruit - try chopped apple, peeled satsuma segments, strawberries, blueberries, halved grapes or melon slices to make it easier for them to eat. Add a squeeze of lemon juice to stop it from going brown.
- Tinned fruit counts - a small pot of tinned fruit in juice – not syrup – is perfect for their lunchbox and is easily stored in the cupboard.
- Go low fat and lower sugar - go for low-fat and lower sugar yoghurt or fromage frais and add your own fruit.

¹¹<https://www.nhs.uk/Livewell/Goodfood/Pages/the-eatwell-guide.aspx>

¹²<https://www.nhs.uk/change4life-beta/healthier-lunchboxes>

- Get them involved - get your kids involved in preparing and choosing what goes in their lunchbox. They are more likely to eat it if they helped make it.
- Variety is the spice of lunchboxes! Be adventurous and get creative to mix up what goes in their lunchbox.

Read more at <https://www.nhs.uk/change4life-beta/recipes/healthier-lunchboxes#ZfH6v8YgO6XJADLg.99>

Diary Dates

March

- Thurs 12th - PTFA 'Handpicked for Mum' and Mothers day gift wrapping
- Mon 16th - 9:00am - Worship in Church **(Parents Invited)**
- Wed 18th - 9:00am-10:00am - Oracy Open Morning **(Parents Invited)**
- Mon 23rd - Year 5 - Yorkshire Wildlife Park Trip
- Tues 24th & Wed 25th - Parent Evenings **(Y1- Y6 ONLY)**
- Tues 24th & Thurs 26th - Parents evening **(Reception ONLY)**
- Wed 25th - Year 1 - Abbey House Museum Trip

April

- Wed 1st - Geography Day Yorkshire
- Thurs 2nd - 2:00pm - Service in Church
- Thurs 2nd - PTFA Break the rules day
- Thurs 2nd - Last day in School

School is closed - Friday 3rd April for Bank Holiday and from Monday 6th April - Friday 17th April for Easter Break

School will re-opens on Monday 20th April 2026

Manston St James C of E Primary Academy

Sandbed Lane

Cross Gates

Leeds

LS15 8JH

Tel: 0113 859 2073

Email: info@manstonstjames.co.uk¹³

Merlin's Wraparound Care Club

Tel: 0113 8592074

Email : msj-merlin@manstonstjames.co.uk¹⁴

Headteacher

Mr A Biedka

Deputy Headteacher

Mrs E Caygill-Boothroyd

Assistant Headteacher

Mrs A Crabtree

Assistant Headteacher/DSL

Mrs C Cliffe

SENCO

Mrs L Bennett

Visit us on the web at www.manstonstjames.co.uk¹⁵

Thank you for reading our Newsletter

¹³<mailto:info@manstonstjames.co.uk>

¹⁴<mailto:msj-merlin@manstonstjames.co.uk>

¹⁵<https://www.manstonstjames.co.uk>