

**Manor Field Infant and Nursery School**  
Half Term ending Friday 14th February 2025  
Core value: **Celebrate**

## Head Teacher's Message

As we head into the half term holiday, for some well earned R & R, I would like to update you on a couple of things.

Thank you to those who have already respectfully replied to us about the lengthening of the school day. I completely understand the time issue for drop offs and pick ups between our school and St Mary's. Your comments will be taken into consideration and I will publish the results next term.

### Walking to the Library

Badger and Fox classes both walked to the Library this term, where children had the opportunity to join the Library, if they weren't already members, and take some books out. Both walks were very successful, and we plan to make this a termly event.

### Reading

Can I please remind, nudge, highlight, and ask, that you promote and prioritise reading with and to your child? Being able to read is the gateway for all other learning, as well as being something to be enjoyed. We have World Book Day next term, so a great time to push reading at home.

### Class Learning Cafes

The classes have planned and delivered very engaging family workshop cafes this term. The results of the Badger and Fox sessions on the Great Fire of London are currently displayed in our hall. Thank you to the class teams for their planning and delivery and I hope you enjoyed them. I saw plenty of engagement and smiles on parent and children's faces.

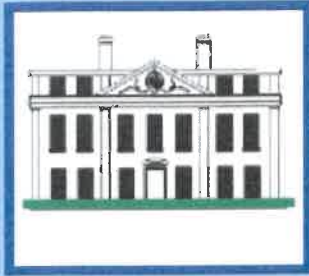
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#### Attendance

The DfE and Norfolk County Council , set our attendance targets to 96%. The children are aware of this as we talk about each classes' attendance percentage each Head Teacher's assembly. There is always friendly competition between Badger and Fox classes.

We understand if your child is poorly, they need to be at home, but the impact of non-attendance can be significant on a child's academic attainment and wellbeing, especially if they miss large chunks of school. Below is the Government's advice about keeping healthy and knowing when to and when not to send your child to school.

<https://ukhsa.blog.gov.uk/2024/09/04/a-parents-guide-to-keeping-kids-healthy-this-school-year/>

#### Anxiety workshop

Thank you to Miss Best our Trust SENDCo and the Mental Health Support Team (MHST) for the workshop on managing anxiety. The resources from the session have been sent out to everyone so if you were unable to attend, please look at them as they are very useful.

In school we provide several Therapeutic interventions for our children, all aimed at supporting and developing emotional and feelings awareness and how to manage them.

We can also make referrals to the MHST and Communities Team, for therapeutic intervention, training and support.

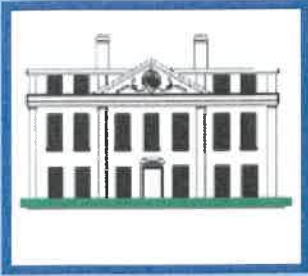
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### School rules and expectations.

As a school we are having a big push on school rules and expectations.

Our 5 school rules are

- Be kind
- Walk quietly around school
- Line up smartly
- Listen to others
- Follow instructions

The children also have 6 learning behaviours which they earn Dojo points for which are displayed in the classroom.

Ready (to learn)

Respect (ourselves, each other, school, community and environment)

Responsible (our decisions, and choices)

Resilient (when faced with challenges)

Reflective (thinking back to prior learning and how this could be applied)

Resourceful (What do I need?, who do I ask? What can I try first?)

We have high expectations for our children and when talking with them we expect a smile, a hello, a please and thank you at the very least.

Have a happy half term break.

Mrs Haines

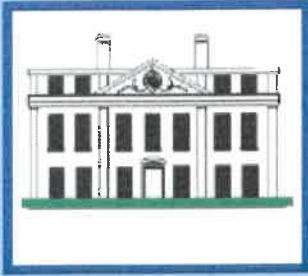
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### Ladybird Nursery

Physical development is one of the Prime areas of learning and is key to ensuring the children can make progress in their mark making and writing. Our focus has been on developing the children's gross motor skills, alongside their ability to produce large arm movements.

In phonics we have been enjoying making our marks whilst listening to music, using our bodies and colourful scarfs.

Alongside our focus on the number 4 in maths, we noticed the properties of a square. The children saw that a square has 4 sides, they are all the same length and that a square has 4 pointy corners.

We have also been learning about birds with the RSPB Bird Watch, Lunar New Year and a strong focus on friendships, kindness and caring for each other. We have talked about our families and friends and explored what Love means to us. The children have been developing their fine motor skills, making friendship and kindness potions, and threading hearts using wool with a plastic sewing needle.



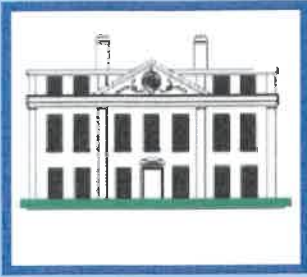
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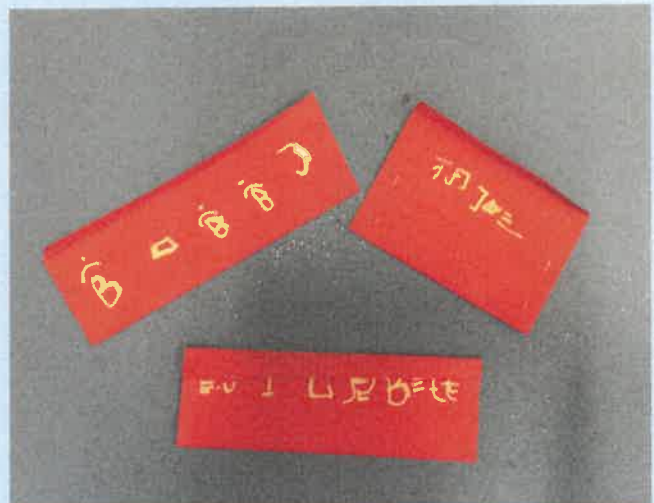
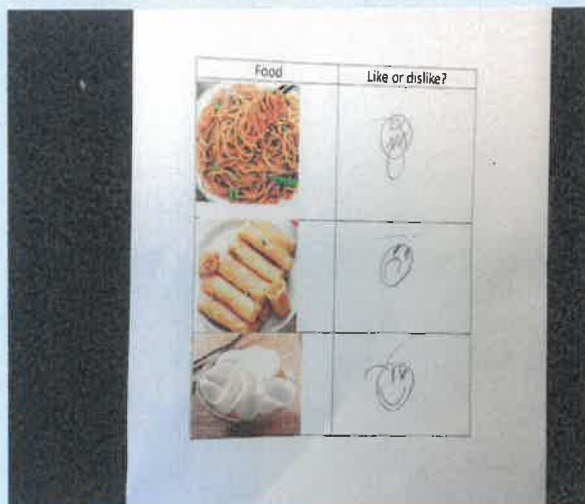
## Squirrel Class

Squirrel Class have been learning about superheroes this half term!

We began with our story, 'Jupiter Jupiter' and used this as a starting point for our activities. We then learnt a story song; 'Joop and Nut' about a little girl and her superhero sidekick dog. The children became so confident with the words in the song and this enabled us to retell and rewrite the story as a class.

It is fantastic to see how the children are growing in maturity as we move through the school year. We have seen lots of examples of the children remembering to show 'kind hands' and use 'kind words' as they take part in their learning with their peers.

This week, we have learnt about Lunar New Year. We have enjoyed exploring some of the traditions and sampling some traditional food.



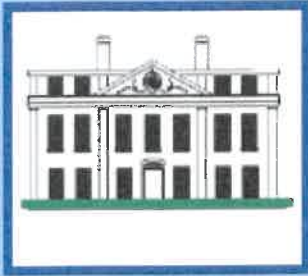
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### Badger and Fox

The first half term of 2025 has flown by! We started our new core story; Hermelin by Mini Grey. This is the story of a mouse who is brilliant at solving mysteries. When people find out that the great detective who has solved all their problems is a mouse, they are horrified and run away, leaving Hermelin sad and alone. Luckily, he finds a friend in the end. You can read the full story here: [Hermelin the Detective Mouse - 3 o'clock read](#)

One of our big pieces of learning this half term was all about the Great Fire of London. Ask your child to tell you some facts about it! Thank you so much to the people who attended our learning café on this topic. It was lovely to see so many of you joining in, and the artwork produced was wonderful.

In our school, we really prioritise reading. In KS1 we have daily phonics or reading fluency lessons, as well as listening to lots of different stories and spending time in the school library. This half term we have also had a trip to the local library in Long Stratton. It was great to see the children browsing the books and enjoying stories there. We have also started sending home eBooks linked to the learning we do in phonics. This is a great way to engage your child with reading and can be done on a phone or a tablet. If you haven't yet logged in or need a reminder of your child's log in details, please let us know.

This half term our PE lessons with Mr Courridge have had a yoga focus. It has been wonderful to see the children working so hard in the sessions; some of the poses are incredibly hard and they have really shown the school value of resilience in their work. If your child has enjoyed the sessions, you may wish to do some yoga with them at home using this site: [Cosmic Kids Yoga - YouTube](#)



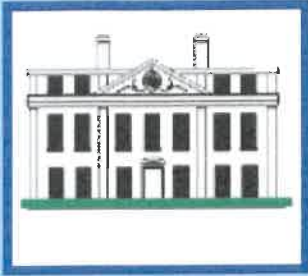
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## School Procedures

### Absence

If your child is unable to attend school due to illness or any other unforeseen circumstances, please remember to call or email the school office (contact details at the end of page). You can also Dojo your child's class teacher. Please remember to keep us updated of your child is going to be off for more than one day.

### Medical Appointments

If your child has a medical appointment that is during the school day and therefore requires a late arrival or early pick up, you will need to complete a medical absence form from the school office. This enables us to keep the school registers up to date, ensure lunch is ordered (if required) and make sure your child is ready for collection. We will ask to see evidence of the appointment for our attendance records. For emergency medical appointments, please inform the school as soon as possible.

### Holiday

If you are planning to take your child out for a holiday during term time, you will need to complete a leave of absence form. Please be advised that the Headteacher is unable to authorise any holidays during term time unless the circumstances are considered to be exceptional. Norfolk County Council have changed the rules regarding holidays taken in term time:

Penalty Notice Fines are issued to each parent, for each child that was absent. For example: 3 siblings absent for term time leave, would result in each parent receiving 3 separate fines. The first time penalty notice issued will be £160 per parent per child, paid within 28 days, reduced to £80 per parent, per child if paid within 21 days.

There will be a single consistent national threshold for when a penalty notice must be considered by all schools in England of 10 sessions( usually equivalent to 5 school days) of unauthorised absence within a rolling 10 school week period. These sessions do not have to be consecutive and can be made up of a combination of any type of unauthorised absence. The 10 school week period can span different terms or school years.

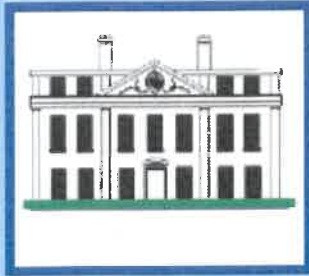
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**Save the date!**

<b>February</b>	
Friday 14th	Last Day of Term
Monday 17th—Friday 21st	Half Term Break
Monday 24th	School reopens
<b>March</b>	
Tuesday 4th	Parents Evening ( Excluding Badger Class)
Wednesday 5th	Parents Evening ( Badger Class only-Mrs Kirk)
Thursday 6th	World Book Day - Dress up as your favourite book character
Thursday 6th	Parents Evening - All classes
Friday 21st	Non- Uniform Day for an Easter donation for the PTA raffle
Friday 28th	Squirrel Pop Up Cafe
<b>April</b>	
Tuesday 1st	Hearing and Vision Screening
Friday 4th	Last Day of Term
Monday 7th to Tuesday 22nd	Easter Holidays
Wednesday 23rd	School Reopens
<b>May</b>	
Friday 2nd	Squirrel Class Summer Family Friday
Monday 5th	Bank Holiday Monday- School Closed

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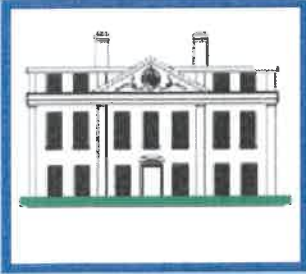
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### Attendance

There is room for improvement to be made with pupil attendance at school. It is a legal requirement that your child attends school everyday unless they are genuinely unwell. **IF YOUR CHILD IS ABSENT FROM SCHOOL FOR ANY REASON, YOU MUST INFORM THE SCHOOL ON EACH DAY OF ABSENCE** before 9.00am. In most cases there are very simple explanations for absence, but if you do not tell us, your child's absence will be recorded as unauthorised.

#### Our attendance:

Attendance target: 97%

This half term's attendance: 95%

Class with the best attendance: Badger Class

Minutes lost this half term due to lateness: 329

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