



Manaccan Primary School Newsletter December 2025



Head of School: This Month at Manacchan Primary School



Welcome to December's newsletter.

As we reach the end of the first term of this academic year, with the festive season in full swing, I wanted to take a moment to reflect on the magical experiences we've shared as a school community this month. From the heart-warming nativity and joyful Christmas performance, the excitement of the first ever Santa fly-by, the laughter during our panto trip, to the fun of Christmas disco and Christmas lunch – these moments have truly captured the spirit of the season and created lasting memories for our children.

'Born in a Barn', this year's nativity, was the performance I did with my very first class (quite a few years ago now) so it was a poignant, full circle moment seeing this performed by the children of Manacchan during my first year here as Head of School, and the perfect end to a brilliant term.

Alongside these celebrations, I am incredibly proud of the progress we've made in embedding clear routines and high expectations across the school. These foundations are helping every child to feel secure, confident, and ready to learn, and they will continue to support us as we move into the new year.

On a personal note, I want to express my heartfelt thanks to the children, staff, parents/carers and wider school community for making me feel so welcome in my first term at Manacchan. Your warmth, support, and commitment have been invaluable, and I feel privileged to be part of such a dedicated and caring team.

Wishing you all a joyful Christmas and a happy, healthy New Year. I look forward to all that we will achieve together in 2026.

Warm regards,
Mrs Hancock



Shining Stars - This Week's Certificate Winners

A huge well done to this week's certificate winners, who have shown our school values and been role-models to others! We are so proud of you!



House Points

All of our children belong to a school 'house': Ammos (meaning 'sand'), Astron (meaning 'star') and Zali (meaning 'swim'). Each week, the children earn house points for showing our school values, working hard and showing brilliant presentation in their learning. We now record these points digitally and share the weekly totals and overall running totals in our newsletters. The TOTAL points for this term are below - congratulations to **AMMOS** for being our Autumn Term winners!



AMMOS

SAND

654



ASTRON

STAR

557



ZALI

SWIM

620

Gillan Class

Gillan Class have had a fun-filled and busy term packed with learning and creativity! In Maths, we focused on place value and shape, while in English, Year 1 and 2 re-wrote the story of *Jack and the Beanstalk*, concentrating on using subjects and verbs. Our EYFS children enjoyed countless stories in Drawing Club, with favourites including *Stick Man* and *The Gingerbread Man*. In Science, we explored animals including humans—learning about diets, senses, body parts, and classification. The younger children built habitats and discussed similarities and differences, while we all learned about healthy eating with a special visitor who helped us 'taste the rainbow' of delicious foods. EYFS even created a picnic in their role-play kitchen!

In RE, we celebrated the meaning of Christmas and acted out the Nativity story, understanding why it is important to Christians. PE has been all about gymnastics—jumping, balancing, and stretching to build strength and confidence. In DT, we designed and made interactive pages for a collaborative book using levers and sliders to make parts move—what super engineers we are!

This month brought festive excitement with Christmas activities and the conclusion of our History topic on 'Toys,' showcased in a fantastic classroom display featuring toys from different generations. In Computing, we continued learning about online safety, making smart choices online. PSHE focused on 'Valuing Differences,' encouraging thoughtful discussions and building respect and empathy within our classroom community.



St Anthony Class



As we reach the end of term, I have to give a huge round of applause to the children for their fantastic performance in church on Tuesday evening. They shone so brightly on stage. The singing, the verses, the costumes; every single member of St Anthony did themselves proud and it was one of those evenings that will stay with me for a long time.

Back in the classroom, where the glamour of the stage gives way to the glamour of... bones! We have been learning all about skeletons. The children can now confidently tell you the difference between a human skeleton and an animal's, so be prepared for some anatomical commentary over dinner.

We've also been busy writing non-chronological reports about a fictional planet in English, and, as if that wasn't enough adventure for one term, we've taken a deep dive into the Shang Dynasty, discovering a world of ancient history that has fascinated the whole class.

We have taken members of the class to football, cross-country, basketball and gymnastics this term and it has been so wonderful to see many children represent the school.

Thank you all for your help and support over the last eight weeks and we will see you all again on the other side of the holiday.
Have a very Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year.
Mr Salway



Basketball Event



Ten children from Key Stage 2 were lucky enough to have an hour's personalised Basketball coaching with Mr Studd from Helston Community College this month. The session enabled all children to develop the basic skills and strategy required to take part in 3 v 3 games. All of the children had a fantastic time and thoroughly enjoyed learning new skills, working together and trying something new! A huge thank you to HCC and Mr Studd for their time and to Mr Salway for organising. We are hoping that in the Spring Term, there will be a Basketball League that we can enter - watch this space!

Pantomime Fun



The whole school had a magical time at the pantomime earlier this month - so much laughter, cheering, singing and dancing. What a special treat! A HUGE HUGE HUGE thank you to our amazing PTA who funded the tickets for the whole school, and to our wonderful staff for organising, accompanying and driving the children - an incredible school community team effort to give the children such a brilliant, festive experience.

Christmas Jumper Day & Christmas Lunch



We had the most amazing Manaccan Christmas Lunch 2025! A BIG thank you to our wonderful PTA for providing the Christmas crackers, to Aspire Academy Trust's HR Manager Lucy for being tree-mendously helpful by coming to serve up, to Kelly & her kitchen team for the delicious food and to our brilliant staff team for making this lunch one to remember.



Flying Visit



What an exciting morning we had last Thursday - a very special fly by visit from the man himself, Father Christmas! His sleigh had gone in for some all important maintenance before Christmas Eve, so we were incredibly grateful to everyone at RNAS Culdrose for giving him a lift so he could give all the children a wave. Creating some very special memories for our children!

Disco Dancing



The children had a fantastic time at their Christmas silent disco last week - there was dancing, games, hot dogs, cookies and even snow! A HUGE thank you to our amazingly supportive PTA for organising and running the event, the brilliant DT Coaching for sorting the disco and to our fab staff for staying to help - they seemed to like the selfie station!

Gymnastics



Another fantastic PE event organised for us by DT Coaching this month - this time, gymnastics! Children from across Years 2 to 6 had a fantastic taster session at Swallows Gymnastics Club earlier this week - they tried out lots of different apparatus including the floor, the uneven bars, the vault, the rings and the trampoline. A huge thank you to the coaches at Swallows for having us and for their time in giving the children a brilliant morning.



Festive Performances



What a magical evening of performances and community spirit we had on Tuesday for the nativity and Christmas performance. We couldn't be more proud of the children - their singing, acting, dancing and poetry was absolutely fantastic! A huge thank you to the church for letting us perform in such a beautiful setting (it was certainly standing room only), to all of the parents/carers for joining us, to the PTA for the refreshments and games, and of course to our amazing staff team for organising, rehearsing, supporting and directing!

Festive Performances



Cross Country



Earlier this week, some of our incredible children took part in this half term's cross country event, showing true determination and resilience. Despite battling strong winds and relentless rain, every child gave their best and completed the course with smiles and perseverance. Their commitment and team spirit were inspiring, and we couldn't be prouder of their efforts. Well done to all who represented Manacchan - you are amazing! A big thank you to Mr Timmons, Mr Roberts and Miss Richards from DT Coaching for organising and running the event.



Santa Live Read

The children thoroughly enjoyed yesterday's #santaliveread - they joined children from nearly a thousand other schools in the UK and Ireland to listen to a heart-warming holiday tale!



Christmas Film Afternoon



What a special treat yesterday afternoon - a cozy Christmas film in the hall! A big thank you to the PTA for providing the snacks and the staff for being official hot chocolate makers!

Diary Dates: January 2026

- Monday 5th January - First Day of Spring Term
- WB Monday 5th January - MP Visit (in school time)
- Wednesday 7th January - Parent/Carer Coffee Morning with Mrs Hancock at 9am
- Tuesday 13th January - Plastic Pollution Workshops (in school time)
- Tuesday 13th January - Gillan Class 'Sing & Play' Music project begins (in school time)
- Monday 26th January - Parent/Carer Maths Workshop, 9am at St Keverne Primary School





A huge thank you to our AMAZING PTA, who are incredibly supportive of the school and help to provide some of the incredible opportunities we are able to offer our children. Please see the below message from the PTA regarding some of the events this term so far:

The PTA once again ran their incredibly successful online auction at the end of November, featuring a fantastic range of lots to bid on. Prizes included vouchers for local attractions, toys, Cornish jewellery, a mini fridge, fitness memberships and even a home digital projector, to name just a few. The auction was expertly run by Catherine Hack, to whom we are extremely grateful, and this year it raised an impressive **£1,281.60**.

The PTA were delighted to fund the following trips during Autumn Term 2: Gillan's class visit to Helston Museum, where pupils took part in the Old Toys workshop, and the whole-school pantomime trip to the Hall for Cornwall to see *Aladdin* — complete with ice creams for everyone!

On Thursday 11th December, the PTA, alongside DT Coaching, ran a hugely popular silent disco. The event included plenty of dancing, selfies in the photo booth, hot dogs and sweet treats, and finished with a flurry of snow from the PTA's newly purchased snow machine. Earlier that day, pupils were also treated to a fly-by visit from Santa! Our thanks go once again to Catherine Hack for organising this with RNAS Culdrose.

Notices & Reminders

Any third party activity undertaken based upon information displayed in this newsletter is strictly at your own personal risk. Manaccan Primary School is not liable for any losses, injury and/or damages incurred as a result of such third party activity.



January 2026 Timetable

All sessions delivered live online via zoom. 90 minutes long

£24 each or FREE with School Membership

Book online at facefamilyadvice.co.uk

Recordings available for 48 hours (excluding Free Talk)

Autism - Improving Communication	5 Jan 10am
Improving Family Communication	5 Jan 7pm
Supporting A Child with ADHD	6 Jan 10am
Understanding Addictive Behaviour	6 Jan 7pm
Anxiety Based School Avoidance	12 Jan 10am
Understanding Anger	12 Jan 7pm
Supporting Healthy Screen Use	13 Jan 10am
Facing Defiance	13 Jan 7pm
Cannabis and Ketamine Awareness	19 Jan 10am
Anxiety Explained	19 Jan 7pm
Introduction to OCD	20 Jan 10am
What Is ACT	20 Jan 7pm
FREE Responding to Angry Behaviour	22 Jan 7-8pm
Raising Self-Esteem	26 Jan 10am
Decreasing Depression	26 Jan 7pm
Supporting Healthy Sleep	27 Jan 10am
Understanding the Teenage Brain	27 Jan 7pm

**HELSTON
RAILWAY**

Christmas Trains



Santa Train Dates (December 2025)
6th, 7th, 13th, 14th, 20th, 21st, 22nd

Santa Train Times
10:00, 11:30, 15:00

Train of Light Time
17:30

Ticket Prices

Adult £10

Child £11.50

Under 5 years £5

Child and under 5 prices include
present from Santa!

visit www.helstonrailway.co.uk

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Kernow Young Carers

BARNARDOS

Changing childhoods. Changing lives.

Season's Greetings the Kernow Young Carers Service Professionals Newsletter!

This year has been filled with incredible moments of resilience and achievement from our young carers, and we couldn't be prouder to celebrate everything they've accomplished. We're looking ahead to the new year with exciting plans for our programme of activities for young carers, and continuing to strengthen our collaboration with professionals across Cornwall to ensure the best support possible for our young carers. In the meantime, we wish you all a wonderful festive season!

Young Carer book 'The Late Crew'

Author Rab Ferguson has partnered with Kernow Young Carers and other charities to offer a **free download of his book The Late Crew**, a book series about young carers. We've already sent out lots of free download postcards but **please feel free to share the poster on the next page** with young carers in your network too!

Rab also offers schools a variety of online workshops and training to support with young carer awareness. You can find more information at

<https://www.thelatecrew.co.uk>

2025 Highlights - This year we have:

- Supported **479 young carers in getting a break** from their caring role
- Provided **154 young carers and young adult carers with funding** through our Barnardo's Grants
- Attended the **Young Carers Festival in Southampton** enabling our young carers to connect with others from across the country!
- Worked with **40+ local providers** to offer activities and specialist counselling, therapeutic or wellness support to young carers



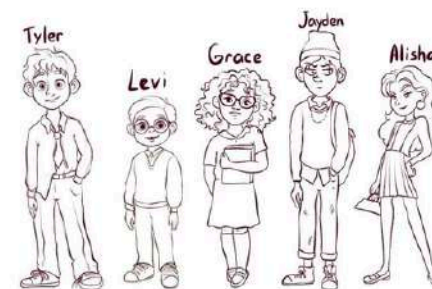
Need to make a referral for a Young Carer?

Contact our advice line via -

Email: hello@carersadvice.org.uk
Phone: 01736 756655

Or scan the QR code to visit our website and find out more information

Merry Christmas from The Late Crew!



The Late Crew are **young carers** who meet **aliens**, in a book series for 8-12 year olds! Scan the QR code to download a gift from your local carers charity: the free Late Crew E-Book, which can be read on your phone, kindle or tablet!



Keep in touch: Know someone who wants to be added to our distribution list?
Contact us on kernowyoungcarers@barnardos.org.uk
We would love to hear any feedback you have too!

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**FOOD
FESTIVAL**
St. Andrew's

BRUSSELS SPROUTS FUN FACTS

1. BRUSSELS SPROUTS ARE MOST DELICIOUS IN THE AUTUMN AND WINTER. THEY LOVE THE COOL WEATHER AND SOMETIMES EVEN TASTE BETTER AFTER A TOUCH OF FROST!
2. BRUSSELS SPROUTS LOOK LIKE TINY CABBAGES! THEY GROW IN LITTLE CLUSTERS ON A THICK STALK, ALMOST LIKE NATURE'S VEGETABLE BOUQUET.
3. BRUSSELS SPROUTS GROW ON TALL PLANTS THAT CAN REACH UP TO A METRE. IT'S LIKE THEY'RE REACHING FOR THE SKY!
4. WHEN BRUSSELS SPROUTS ARE READY TO BE PICKED, THEY'RE CAREFULLY PLUCKED FROM THE STALKS. IT'S LIKE A HARVEST TREASURE HUNT IN THE GARDEN.
5. DID YOU KNOW THAT BRUSSELS SPROUTS ARE HIGH IN FIBRE? FIBRE HELPS KEEP OUR TUMMIES HAPPY AND OUR BODIES HEALTHY!

Did you Know? INTERNATIONAL FACT

"Brussels" in Brussels sprouts comes from the city of Brussels in Belgium. It's like they have a fancy name that takes them on a tasty journey.

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FOOD
FESTIVAL
By Aspens

BRUSSEL SPROUTS ACTIVITIES

The vegetables have got lost in the grid below.
Can you find all the words?

U	V	B	E	A	N	S	N	T	F	J
O	I	A	V	O	C	A	D	O	M	T
W	N	Z	U	C	C	H	I	N	I	F
Q	P	N	C	U	C	U	M	B	E	R
E	F	E	C	A	B	B	A	G	E	Z
C	A	U	L	I	F	L	O	W	E	R
P	E	V	S	Q	U	A	S	H	A	D
E	B	A	R	T	I	C	H	O	K	E
A	G	B	R	O	C	C	O	L	I	Y
S	P	R	O	U	T	S	F	P	N	B
U	Z	A	S	P	A	R	A	G	U	S

Artichoke
Squash
Broccoli
Cauliflower

Cucumber
Cabbage
Asparagus
Avocado

Beans
Peas
Sprouts

FOOD
FESTIVAL
By Aspens

RECIPE FROM HOME

Tell us your favourite recipe from home and hand it to a member of the Aspens Team. Make sure it includes BRUSSELS SPROUTS! The winning dish may feature on our menu.

Name of dish

Ingredients

Method

Name:

School Name:

Class:

Attendance

IMPORTANT CHANGES TO THE LAW REGARDING PENALTY NOTICES FOR UNAUTHORISED ABSENCE FROM SCHOOL

As of 19th August 2024, the government's new National Framework for Penalty Notices for School Absence (including unauthorised holidays) comes into effect.

This affects when penalty notices are issued in Cornwall

There is a new national threshold of 10 unauthorised sessions for any reason (equivalent to 5 school days) within a rolling 10 school week period

A parent will no longer be able to take their child out of school for one week's holiday without a potential penalty notice being issued.

There is an increase in the penalty fine from £60 to £80 if paid in 21 days. If the fine is not paid by the first 21 days, it will rise to £160, if paid within 28 days of being issued.

If a second penalty fine is issued to the same parent for the same child within a 3-year rolling period, the fine will automatically rise to £160 with no option to pay the lower rate of £80.

If a parent commits a third offence in a 3-year rolling period, the local authority will consider other enforcement options available. This may include prosecution for the offence of failing to ensure your child's regular attendance.

Reporting Absences

If your child is going to be absent from school due to illness, please inform the office by 9am in the morning. Please let us know why your child is going to be absent and when you expect them to return. You may either phone the office on 01326231431 and leave a message.

Alternatively you can send an email to hello@manaccan.org

THIS MONTH'S ATTENDANCE

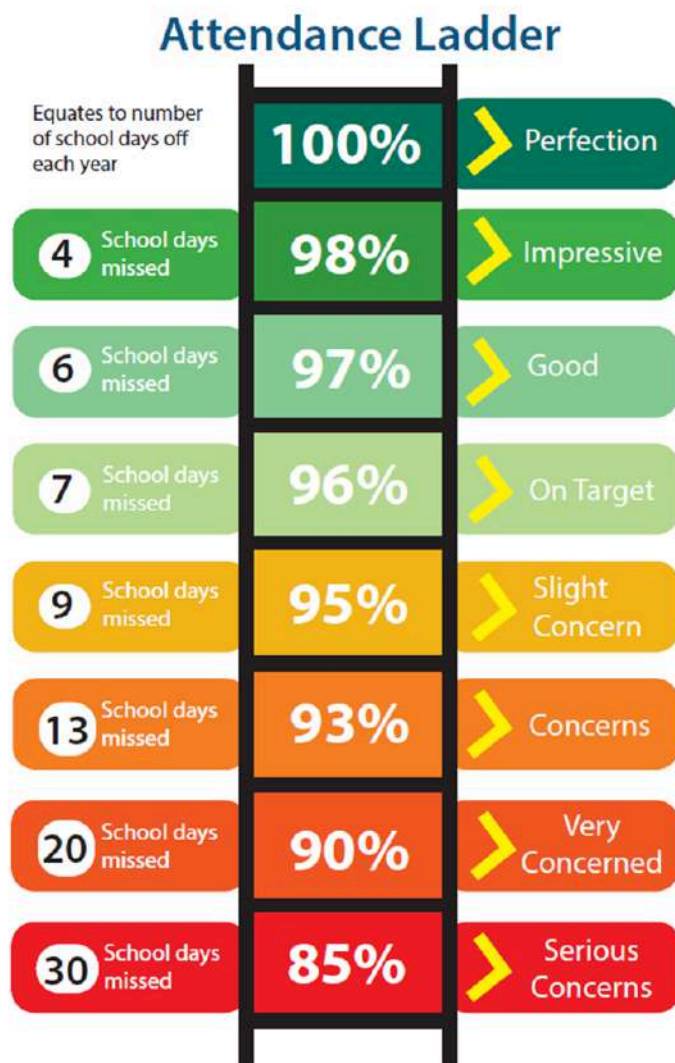
OUR TARGET IS 96%

GILLAN: 100%
ST ANTHONY: 94.11%
WHOLE SCHOOL: 96.09%

School Start Time

A gentle reminder that as of January, the school starts at 08:45am. The main gate opens at 08:30am each morning, with classrooms opening at 08:35am. The gate is closed at 08:45am. Children who arrive after 08:45am will be marked as late, persistent lateness will be monitored.

Attendance



Attendance Guidance

Here at Manaccan Primary School, we recognise that there are occasions when it is appropriate to authorise an absence, such as when a pupil is genuinely too ill to attend school, has a medical appointment that cannot be taken out of school hours or a request for leave has been agreed in exceptional circumstances. However, the Government does not support parents taking children out of school unless the school agrees this is appropriate under 'exceptional circumstances'. Any request for leave should be made in writing to the Head of School using the school's request form. Please note - at Manaccan Primary School we are not able to authorise holidays as this is not deemed to be an 'exceptional circumstance'.

If your child is absent from school without authorisation, you will be committing an offence under the Education Act 1996. We may submit a request to Cornwall Council for a Penalty Notice to be issued, in accordance with Sections 444A and 444B of the said Act. Penalty Notices are issued per liable parent, per child and each carry a fine of £80 if paid within 21 days or £160 if paid after this but within 28 days. If your child is further absent from school without authorisation within any 3-year period, you will be committing a further offence under the Education Act 1996. We may submit a request to Cornwall Council for a Penalty Notice to be issued, in accordance with Sections 444A and 444B of the said Act. Penalty Notices for a second offence are issued per liable parent, per child and each carry a fine of £160, payable within 28 days. Importantly, fines per parent will be capped to two fines within any three-year period. Once this limit has been reached, other action such as a parenting order or prosecution will be considered. Failure to pay the Penalty Notice may also result in legal action. If you are prosecuted and attend court because your child has not been attending school, you could get a fine of up to £2,500. Cornwall Council may also apply for the costs incurred in taking the matter to Court, including legal costs. Absence not authorised by the school may also result in a prosecution in the Magistrates' Court under Section 444(1) or Section 444(1A) of the Education Act 1996, leading to a fine of up to £2,500 and/or a custodial sentence. Again, Cornwall Council may also apply for the costs incurred in taking the matter to Court, including legal costs. Money raised from fines is only used by the local authority to cover the costs of administering the system, and to fund attendance support. Any extra money is returned to the government.

The School Day

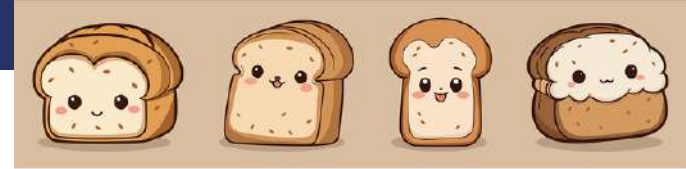


A polite reminder of the small changes to the timings of the school day, effective from Monday 5th January 2026.

Please see below for a summary of changes:

WHEN?	WHAT?	FURTHER INFORMATION
07:35 – 08:35	*NEW* Breakfast Club	See separate letter.
08:30 – 08:35	Non-breakfast club attendees - parents/carers and children may wait in the playground for classrooms to open.	
08:35	Classrooms open for children to enter.	Children can arrive any time from 08:35 to 08:45 and will be marked 'present'.
08:45	Registration closes & playground gate closes.	Any child arriving after this to enter through top gate and sign in please.
15:10	Playground gate opens for parents/carers to wait in the playground.	
15:15	Children released to parents/carers from classrooms.	

Breakfast Club



Following parent/carer feedback, we will be trialling a Breakfast Club during the Spring Term, starting on **Monday 12th January 2026**. This will allow time for bookings to be made during the first week back. Please find the details below:

Days and Times: Monday to Friday, 7:35am – 8:35am

Location: Entrance via the playground gate and into the hall through the hall door

Cost: £5.50 per hour session (includes a light breakfast snack such as toast or cereal)

Booking:

- All bookings will be made via ParentPay.
- Booking payment items will be added to your ParentPay account for advance payment please.
- If you experience any issues with your ParentPay account, please contact the school office where Mrs Howard and Mrs Thomas will be happy to support you.
- Bookings for the following week must be made by Wednesdays at 3:00pm.
- Unless there is an unavoidable emergency, no bookings will be accepted after this deadline.
- For the first week of Breakfast Club (week beginning 12th January 2026), bookings must be made by 3:00pm on Wednesday 7th January.

Safeguarding

If you are concerned about the physical or mental welfare of a child or young person and you wish to speak to someone about it, you can contact the MARU (Multi-agency Referral Unit) on the following numbers:

Monday to Friday, 9am - 6pm: 0300 123 1116
Evenings & weekends: 01208 251300

Police (Non-emergency): 101

Internet Safety

If you are searching for support and are worried about this being tracked by an abuser in the home, please use a **private or incognito tab** when browsing as this **will not save on your search history**.

Domestic Abuse advise - First Light: 0300 777 4777

Support in your area

You can walk into a local BOOTS pharmacy and ask for '**ANI**' (Say, "I'm asking for Annie") or ask to access their '**Safe Spaces**' where you will get support with domestic abuse. There will be a trained member of staff.

You can also download and access the Bright Sky app safely. This will give you access to a directory of support agencies and help lines.

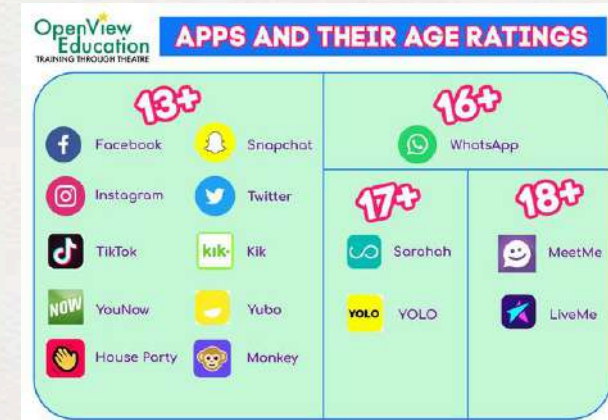


Safeguarding - E Safety

Social Media Age Limits:

There has been a rise across the country in young people reporting issues surrounding the use of social media. The NSPCC website has lots of useful information around app and social media use: <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/social-media/>

Please note: the age limit for most apps in the UK is 13+. WhatsApp has a minimum age limit of 16.



E-Safety Useful Links

If you would like any support with e-safety at home, please do not hesitate to speak to a member of staff. The links below may also be helpful:

[Keeping children safe online | NSPCC](#)
[Parents and Carers - UK Safer Internet Centre](#)
[Parents and carers | CEOP Education](#)

E-Safety In School

Pupils of all ages are taught about how to keep themselves safe online, both in school and at home. At Manacran Primary School we use the SCARF resource and curriculum to teach PSHE. More information about SCARF can be found here: [SCARF: Safety, Caring, Achievement, Resilience, Friendship \(coramlifeeducation.org.uk\)](https://coramlifeeducation.org.uk)



Staying in Touch



Click
banner/icons
for more
information!

Notifying change of circumstances

Please tell us of any changes to you or your child's personal details (i.e name, address, telephone numbers, emergency contact details, medical details, email address or relationship change). Certain changes may be updated directly via the Arbor Parent Portal, however if you have any difficulty please email the school office at: hello@manaccan.org or call 01326 231431.



Merry Christmas from Team Manaccan

From all of us here at Manaccan Primary School
& Nursery, wishing you and your families a very
Merry Christmas and a *Happy New Year*

