



• MANOR WOOD •
— School —

Newsletter

Celebrating a Year of Achievement

Exploring • Creating • Learning • Belonging



Message from the Headteacher

As we come to the end of the school year, I would like to thank you all for the warm welcome you have given me. I am incredibly grateful for your openness, support and willingness to work with me, and I truly believe that we are moving forward together as a school community.

Thank you, too, for the encouragement and support you showed throughout our Ofsted inspection. It was wonderful to see our whole community come together with such positivity and pride.

The enrichment opportunities this term have been amazing, and I have loved seeing the children grow in confidence, develop new skills and create lasting memories. From a wild and wonderful reptile encounter — which was one of the most calming and therapeutic experiences — to the children working together to build bicycles, our trip to Brean Theme Park and so much more, it has been a very special term.

Most of all, I have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know each and every child, as well as their parents and carers. Thank you for making me feel so welcome and for placing your trust in me.

I hope you all have a wonderful summer. Stay safe, enjoy the break, and I look forward to seeing you all again in September.



BIKEABILITY



Manor Wood School had the exciting opportunity to participate in the **Bikeability** programme, where students develop essential cycling skills while building confidence, resilience and independence.

Throughout the sessions, pupils embraced every challenge with enthusiasm and determination. They practised key skills including bicycle control, balance, signalling, observation and safe decision-making, all whilst learning how to cycle responsibly in different environments. It was fantastic to see the progress each pupil

"I was nervous at first, but by the end I felt much more confident riding my bike. It was really fun learning new skills with my friends."

made as their confidence grew with every activity.

The programme encouraged pupils to step outside their comfort zones, persevere when learning new skills and support one another throughout the training. Staff were incredibly proud of the positive attitudes demonstrated, with pupils showing respect, resilience and excellent teamwork during every session.

Bikeability provides far more than cycling instruction. It equips young people with valuable life skills including independence, road awareness, responsibility and confidence. These experiences help prepare our pupils for everyday life whilst promoting healthy lifestyles and encouraging participation in outdoor physical activity.

The Bikeability instructors praised our pupils for their engagement, listening skills and willingness to learn. Their positive attitude reflected the values we promote every day at Manor Wood School.

- Practising observation and communication skills.
- Building confidence through practical cycling activities.
- Encouraging and supporting peers throughout the sessions.
- Celebrating individual achievements and progress.

Bikeability helps pupils to:

- Build confidence and independence.
- Develop resilience by overcoming new challenges.
- Improve road safety awareness.
- Promote healthy lifestyles and physical wellbeing.
- Develop teamwork, communication and responsibility.



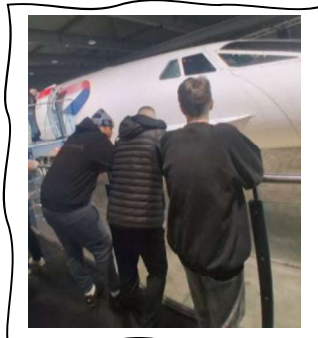
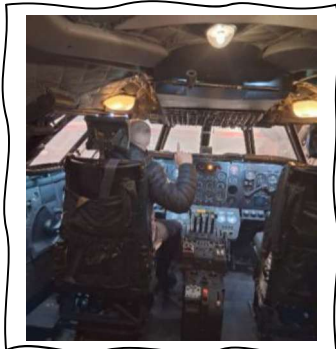
A huge thank you to the Bikeability instructors for delivering such engaging and enjoyable sessions, and to our staff for supporting the pupils throughout the programme.

Well done to every pupil who took part. You represented Manor Wood School brilliantly, and we are incredibly proud of everything you achieved!

Reaching New Heights with Aerospace Learning!

This week, our pupils enjoyed an exciting and inspiring **Aerospace** learning experience, exploring the fascinating world of aviation, engineering and space technology.

The session provided pupils with the opportunity to investigate how aircraft fly, discover the science behind flight and explore the incredible innovations that have shaped modern aerospace. Through practical activities, discussion and problem-solving challenges, pupils demonstrated curiosity, creativity and a real enthusiasm for learning.



Throughout the day, pupils worked collaboratively, asked thoughtful questions and developed their understanding of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics). They embraced each challenge with confidence and resilience, showing excellent teamwork while applying their knowledge to a range of engaging activities. 

The Aerospace experience encouraged pupils to think critically, solve problems and consider future career opportunities within engineering, aviation and technology. Activities such as these help broaden aspirations and allow pupils to see how classroom learning can lead to exciting careers in the future.

What We Learned

- How aircraft generate lift and remain in flight.
- The importance of engineering, design and innovation.
- The role of science and mathematics within aerospace.
- How teamwork and problem-solving are essential in aviation.

At Manor Wood School, we are committed to providing enriching experiences that inspire our pupils beyond the classroom. Opportunities like this help develop confidence, communication, independence and ambition while supporting our Personal Development

"I didn't realise how much science goes into making a plane fly. It was really interesting, and I enjoyed working with everyone to solve the challenges."

Why Experiences Like This Matter

Learning about aerospace encourages pupils to:

- Develop curiosity and a love of learning.
- Strengthen STEM knowledge and practical skills.
- Build confidence through investigation and problem-solving.
- Improve communication and teamwork.
- Raise aspirations by exploring future careers in engineering, aviation and technology.

A huge thank you to everyone involved in delivering such an engaging and inspiring experience. Our pupils represented Manor Wood School brilliantly, demonstrating enthusiasm, resilience and excellent attitudes to learning throughout the day.

We are incredibly proud of all our pupils for aiming high and reaching for the stars! 



Pastoral Shop Success!

Over the past two terms, our students have shown fantastic commitment to earning Dojo points through positive behaviour, excellent effort, and consistently demonstrating our school values. It has been wonderful to see learners taking pride in their achievements and working hard towards rewards.

The Pastoral Rewards Shop was established to give students an exciting and meaningful incentive to celebrate their success. The shop offers a wide range of rewards, from small everyday treats such as snacks, fidget toys and keyrings to larger items including LEGO sets, games, STEM kits, headphones and much more. Having a variety of rewards available helps ensure that every student has something to work towards.

As well as spending their points, students also have the opportunity to bank their Dojos. This encourages them to save towards larger rewards as a group or contribute towards end-of-term class celebrations. The banking system also provides valuable opportunities for learners to develop their understanding of saving, budgeting and delayed gratification.

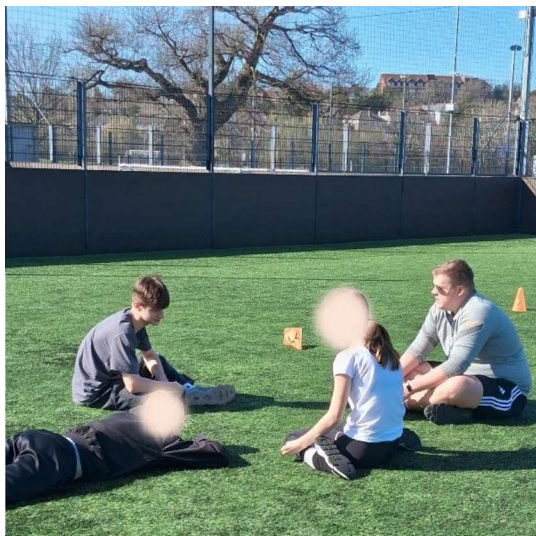
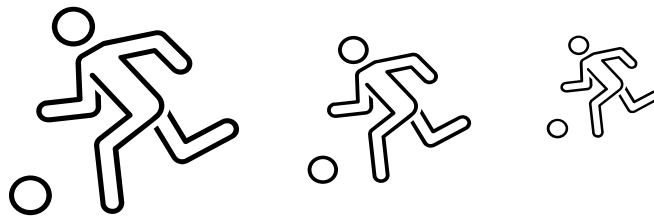
This term, the shop moved to a new location and has quickly become a vibrant hub within the school. Students enjoy visiting the shop, checking their balances and exchanging their hard-earned points for rewards that recognise their efforts and achievements.



We would like to say a huge well done to all the students who have earned and spent their Dojo points responsibly. A special thank you also goes to the students who supported the Pastoral Team in organising and setting up the new shop. Their enthusiasm, teamwork and dedication have helped make the rewards shop a fantastic success.

Keep up the great work, everyone - we look forward to seeing what our learners achieve next year!



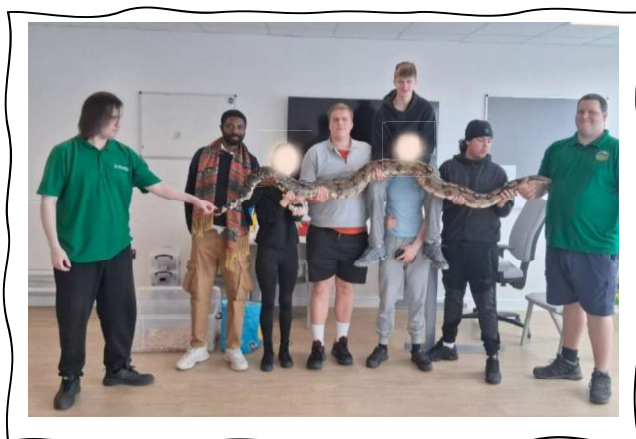


PE @ Imperial Sports Grounds

Manor Wood Students have been using the 5 aside pitches at Imperial sports grounds to ensure they have an appropriate space for PE lessons this year while we await use of our own school field. This has given students the opportunity to engage in regular physical activity in our PE lessons each week. Students have enjoyed using the space for our lessons and it has helped them engage in physical education in all weathers.

Throughout the year we have played many sports including football, Ultimate Frisbee and American Football.





Our pupils enjoyed an unforgettable **Reptile Experience**, bringing learning to life through an exciting hands-on encounter with a variety of fascinating reptiles.

Pupils had the opportunity to meet and learn about an incredible range of animals, including snakes, lizards, tortoises and other exotic reptiles. The visit allowed pupils to explore the unique characteristics, habitats and behaviours of each species while developing a greater appreciation for wildlife and conservation.



One of the highlights of the day was the opportunity for pupils to safely handle and interact with some of the reptiles. Many pupils challenged themselves to step outside their comfort zones, demonstrating courage, curiosity and resilience as they overcame fears and embraced new experiences. It was wonderful to see the smiles, excitement and sense of achievement as pupils built confidence throughout the session.

The visit also encouraged pupils to ask thoughtful questions, engage in scientific enquiry and deepen their understanding of animal adaptation, ecosystems and responsible care for living creatures. The enthusiasm shown throughout the day reflected our commitment to providing meaningful learning experiences that inspire curiosity and a lifelong love of learning.

A Wild and Wonderful Reptile Encounter



"I was nervous about holding the snake at first, but once I did it, I felt really proud of myself. It was amazing to learn so many interesting facts!"

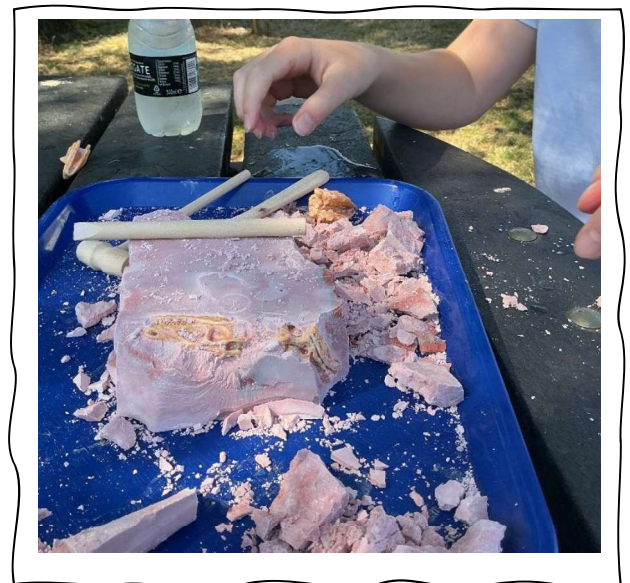
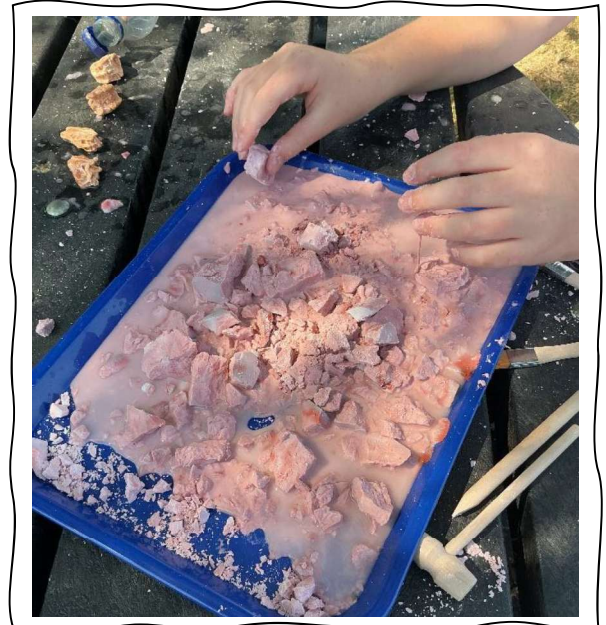
Highlights from the Visit

- Meeting a variety of fascinating reptiles from around the world.
- Learning about habitats, diets and unique adaptations.
- Safely handling reptiles and building confidence.
- Asking insightful questions and developing scientific knowledge.
- Demonstrating respect, kindness and responsibility towards animals.
- Supporting and encouraging one another throughout the experience.

This term, our learners have been making the most of the sunny weather by exploring a range of exciting sensory activities. One clear favourite has been **oobleck** - a wonderfully messy and fascinating mixture made from just cornflour and water!

What makes oobleck so special is that it doesn't behave like an ordinary liquid or solid. When squeezed or pressed, it feels firm, but when left alone, it flows through your fingers like a liquid. This unique texture has sparked lots of curiosity, investigation, and laughter among our students.

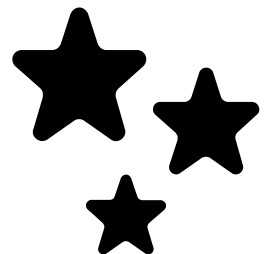
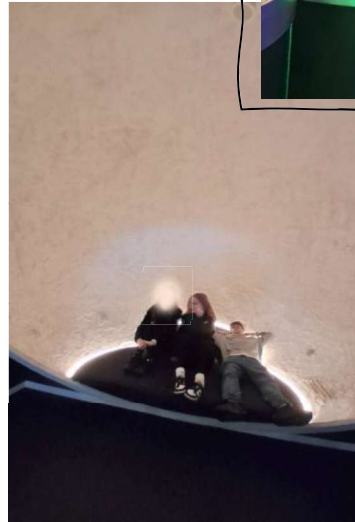
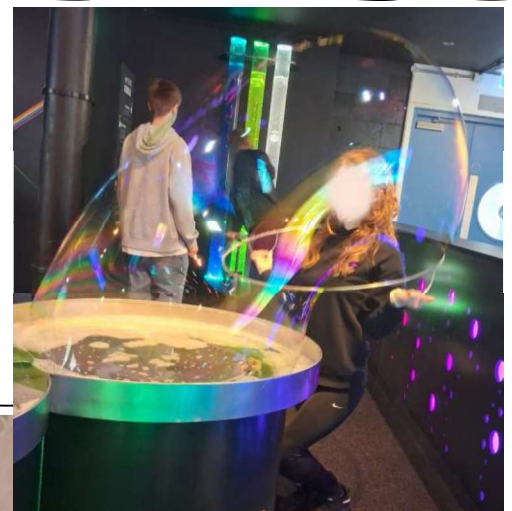
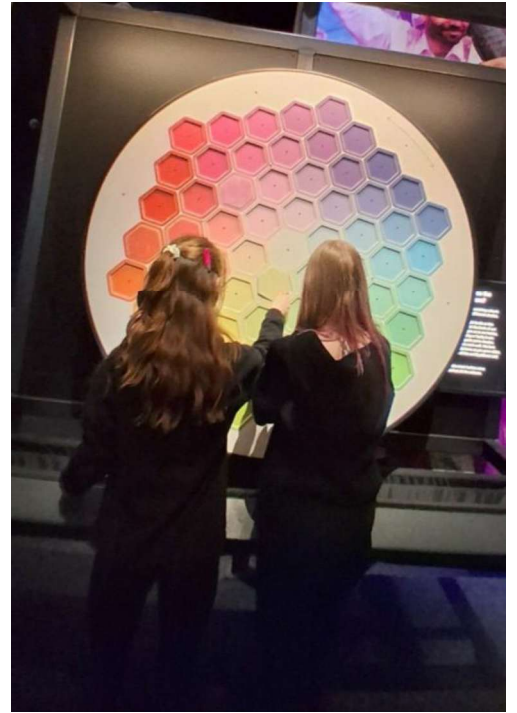
As part of our SEMH curriculum, sensory play activities like oobleck encourage learners to explore, experiment, communicate, and regulate their emotions in a fun and engaging way. This term, we have used oobleck in sensory-themed tuff trays and even dried it out to create an exciting dinosaur excavation activity, where learners carefully uncovered hidden dinosaur bones with tools like real-life palaeontologists.



Sensory Fun in the Sun!

We the Curious

Students in Black Panther and Platypus class had the opportunity to go to We the Curious to explore the different STEM resources and activities they had to offer. Students enjoyed exploring the environment and learnt lots about space, sounds, energy and the way things work/move. The highlight of this trip was getting to experience a 3D show in the planetarium so students could learn about the solar system in preparation for our upcoming topic work for the rest of the term as we are going to focus on the solar system and how the earth and moon orbit in space and how that effects our daily lives.



British Red Cross Workshop



Working together during team challenges.

Our classes enjoyed an engaging workshop delivered by Kathryn from the British Red Cross. Students explored how the organisation supports people during emergencies and learned valuable life skills including teamwork, resilience, empathy and staying calm in challenging situations.



Collaborating to solve problems.



Learning through discussion.

What did we learn?

- The importance of helping others in times of crisis.
- How to remain calm and make good decisions.
- Teamwork, communication and resilience.
- Confidence through interactive activities.



Sharing ideas as a class.

Bringing Creativity and Community Spirit to Our School

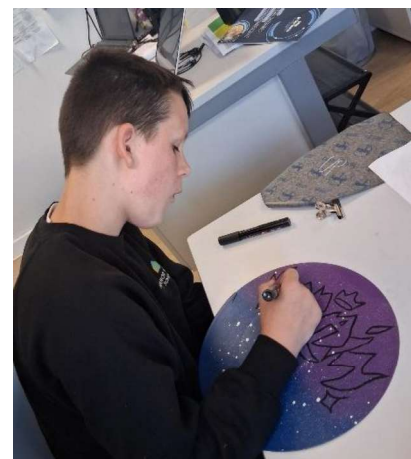
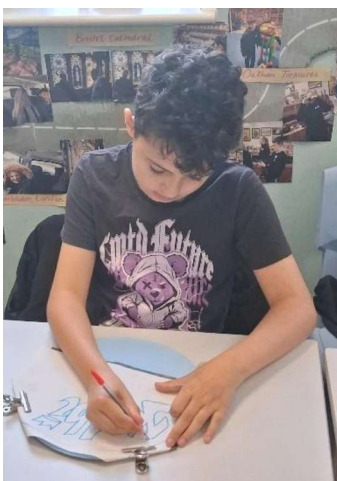
A Special Collaborative Graffiti Art Project

We have been incredibly excited to welcome Nick, a talented graffiti artist, into school to work alongside our pupils on a fantastic collaborative art project.

Throughout the project, pupils have had the opportunity to explore creative expression through graffiti art whilst also learning important messages around being Ready, Respectful and Safe. Nick has worked closely with our young people to encourage teamwork, communication, resilience and pride in both themselves and their school environment.

The project has not only transformed areas of the school with vibrant and meaningful artwork, but it has also helped pupils to develop a stronger sense of ownership and responsibility for their surroundings. It has been wonderful to see pupils engaging positively, showing respect for the environment and taking real pride in contributing something lasting and meaningful to the school community.

Projects like this provide valuable opportunities for pupils to express themselves in a safe and positive way, whilst improving wellbeing, confidence and relationships with others. The creativity, enthusiasm and effort shown by the pupils throughout has been fantastic, and we are incredibly proud of what they have achieved together.



A huge thank you to Nick for inspiring our pupils and helping to create such a positive and engaging experience for everyone involved.

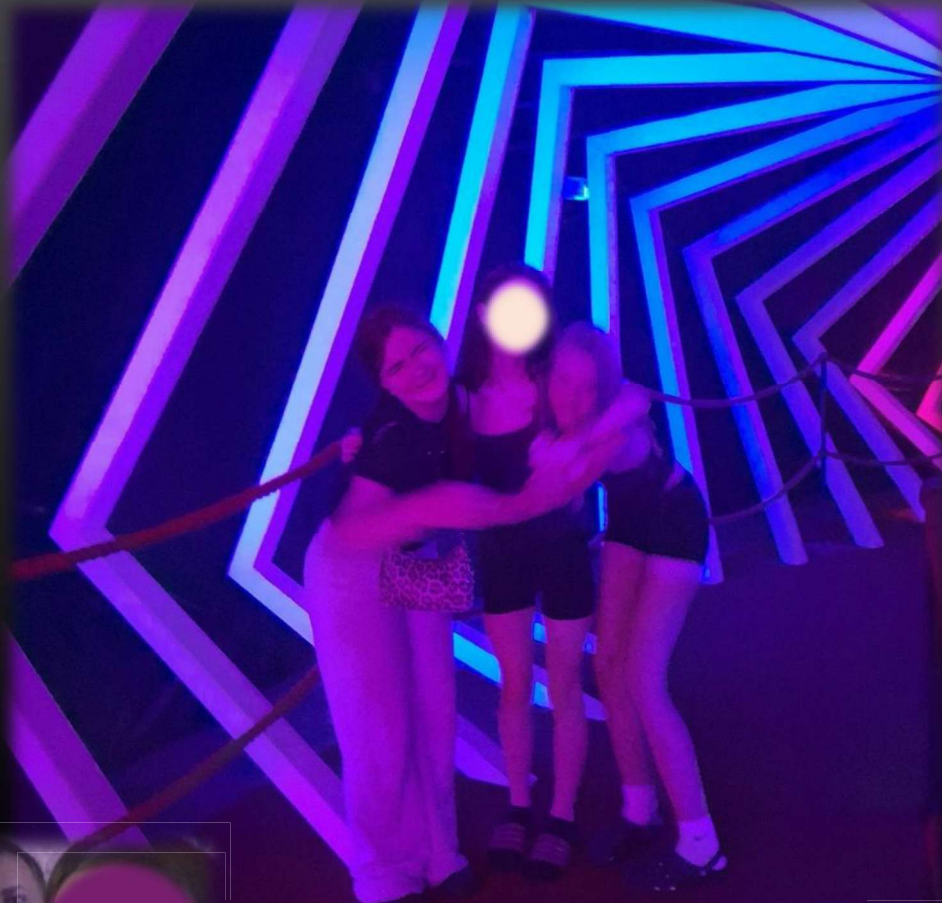
Staff Team Building



With new staff joining the team, we recognised the importance of building strong relationships and working together to best support our students. To help this process we all went to the Bristol Activity Centre and to try our hand at quad biking.

For some it was exhilarating and others terrifying! It was a great reminder of how we manage our own emotions, when we are out of our comfort zone, the importance of connection and feeling safe in each other's company and how we can support each other and our students with co-regulation.





WAKE THE TIGER

AMAZEMENT PARK®



Secondary students went to Wake the Tiger to enjoy the mystical labyrinth. They enjoyed exploring the different sensory activities and challenges at the site and made the most of every photo opportunity. The added bonus of air conditioning on a hot summers day made for a really lovely afternoon with our students.

All Things Active – Build a Bike



Manor Wood School is delighted to share the success of our recent All Things Active - Build a Bike initiative, which provided eight children with a fantastic opportunity to develop practical skills, confidence, independence and teamwork.

The project ran across two sessions, with one group of four children taking part on 15 July and a second group on 19 July. Working alongside instructor Matt, children were challenged to build a bicycle completely from scratch, starting with only the frame and gradually assembling every component until they had a fully functioning bike.



It was wonderful to observe children balancing independence with teamwork. They took ownership of their own bicycle builds whilst also celebrating the successes of their classmates, demonstrating patience, cooperation and kindness throughout the day. The project provided numerous opportunities for children to practise communication skills, build confidence in their own abilities and experience success through sustained effort.

Starting with a bare frame, children carefully assembled each stage of the bicycle, including fitting the wheels, brakes, gears, pedals and chain. The challenge required attention to detail, persistence and determination, and every child remained committed to the task until their bicycle was complete.

The sense of pride and accomplishment was evident as children tested and rode their finished bicycles for the first time. Completing such a demanding task within a single day gave children a powerful sense of achievement and reinforced the value of hard work, concentration and perseverance.

For many of our children with Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) needs, activities such as these provide invaluable opportunities to develop perseverance, emotional regulation and a sense of achievement. Throughout the day, children demonstrated exceptional focus, determination and resilience, sustaining their attention on a complex task over an extended period and remaining motivated to see the project through to completion. Children listened carefully to instructions, showing excellent active listening skills and the ability to follow a sequence of steps. They worked independently when required, problem-solving and using a range of tools safely and appropriately. Equally importantly, they showed great awareness of others, offering encouragement, reassurance and practical support to their classmates whenever it was needed.

Build a Bike continued



The sense of pride and accomplishment was evident as children tested and rode their finished bicycles for the first time. Completing such a demanding task within a single day gave children a powerful sense of achievement and reinforced the value of hard work, concentration and perseverance.

As an added reward, children were able to take their bicycles home and were also provided with a helmet, bicycle lock and lights, enabling them to enjoy their new bikes safely within their communities.

We are also delighted to report that all children successfully achieved four AQA Unit Awards through their participation in the programme - a wonderful recognition of their effort, skill development and commitment.



We are incredibly proud of all the children who took part. The initiative perfectly reflected many of the qualities we seek to nurture at Manor Wood School, including resilience, independence, teamwork, self-belief and a willingness to embrace new challenges. It was a truly memorable experience and a fantastic example of our children demonstrating what they can achieve when given the opportunity to succeed.

COURAGE.

Be brave & stand up for yourself & others.
Take on new challenges & don't be afraid of making mistakes.

KINDNESS.

Make everyone feel welcome & included

EQUALITY.

Everyone gets the same chances in life, no matter who they are



MANOR WOOD..

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COMPASSION.

Show kindness & consideration to help other students

SAFE.

Follow all safety protocols.
Wear your school uniform



READY!

Be ready to learn
Bring necessary equipment
Participate in learning activities



RESPECT.

Treat others the same way you want to be treated.
Always use your manners

