



MANOR COURT
Community Primary School
Incorporating
Manor Court Early Years Centre

Duck Lane, Chard, Somerset, TA20 2ES

Head Teacher: **Mr L Talmage**

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5th October 2017

Dear Parents and Carers,

Re: Newspaper article in the Chard and Ilminster Newspaper Tuesday 4th October 2017

This week, our school was once more unfavourably and inaccurately reported about in the Chard and Ilminster newspaper. We commend the newspaper for reporting about a man allegedly exposing himself indecently to children on their way to school, as it warns children and their parents about possible dangers. However, we are indignant that the implication within the report is that it is just a Manor Court Primary School problem and not a problem faced by all children and their parents in all Chard schools.

After speaking to the police this morning, it is our understanding that the children were walking along Holyrood Street, one of the longest streets in the town centre, to another Chard school. In addition, we do not have a member of staff named Mrs Down in our employment who could have conversation with these children. No employee of Manor Court Community Primary School made comment about this story, as it is an ongoing police investigation and a lack of comment is in-line with official safeguarding procedures.

I have subsequently spoken to the Chard and Ilminster journalists, based in Taunton, about this report and invited them to attend one of our open days in the hope that they would publish a more positive news story about and see for themselves, our rapidly improving school, however they have declined the invitation.

Please be reassured that all staff at Manor Court Community Primary School work tirelessly to keep all of our children safe from danger and have rigorous systems in place to safeguard all of our children's safety. It is our aim to provide the best education that we can and keeping all children safe is paramount in all that we do.

If your child is witness to any indecent behaviour, please do report it to the police immediately in the first instance.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Yours sincerely,

Mr L Talmage
Head Teacher