

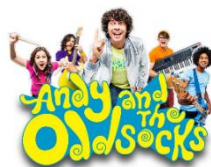
Dear parents and carers,

Spring Term Newsletter 3 – Friday 12th February 2021



Key dates (please note that these may change.)

February 2021	
Friday 12 th February	School closes for all children & staff to have half term
Monday 22 nd February	Keyworker & vulnerable children return to school and remote learning packs will recommence.
March 2021	
Thursday 4 th March	World Book Day (Information letter to follow)



Andy & The Band winners – Exciting news from Miss Gregory

As many of you may recall, back in November Manor Court came together alongside hundreds of other schools across the UK to take part in Anti-Bullying Week. Our children took part in many activities across the week including the national Odd Socks Day. Throughout the week photos and videos of our schools participating in Anti-Bullying Week were entered into the BBC's Odd Socks Day competition. It is with great pleasure that I am able to inform you that we were chosen as one of the winning schools in this competition. Our pupils and school will be featuring in this year's Andy and the Odd Socks, Anti-Bullying Week music video. This is an incredible achievement and opportunity for our pupils and our school as we are the first school in Somerset to win this competition. Well done for all the hard work our pupils put into Anti-Bullying Week and for raising awareness of Anti-Bullying in our school and community.

Year 5 Rocket launching

The year 5 children in school made their own rockets this week and launched them using vinegar and bicarbonate of soda. Great fun was had by all!



Foundation Stage Super Hero Day

Our Foundation Stage children really enjoyed their Superhero Day as part of their Superhero topic. During the day, those at home and in school were set missions by a variety of school staff and had lots of fun completing them. Well done Super Squirrels and Hedgehogs!

Wishing Star Project

Our wishing star project with our friends from Oak Lodge Care Home is truly inspiring. Please do take the time to come and read the wishes of the children and more elderly people who live in Chard.



Laptops

The Government has allocated our school another 32 laptops that can be lent to families during this time of remote learning. If you would like to borrow one of these laptops (you will require to sign a loan agreement) for the rest of this period of time please do let Mr Clode or Mr Talmage know. These should hopefully be with us for the first week after half term.

Internet data

We still have plenty of free Vodafone SIM cards that provide 4G data coverage. Please do come and collect one of these cards from the school office if it would be of help to you.

1:1 Zoom calls

We currently do not know when all of our children will be returning to school (we really do hope that it will be soon!) and appreciate that some children will benefit from additional support. As an addition to our remote learning offer, please do contact your child's teacher through the year group email address if your child would benefit from a 1:1 Zoom call from one of the members of staff who regularly work with your child.

World Book Day advance notice from Mrs Terry

World Book Day this year is on Thursday 4th March 2021. We are still going to celebrate this special day of reading, although in a slightly different way. We will celebrate books in a variety of ways during the whole of the week beginning 1st March. A letter will be sent home in the first week back after half term to explain what the week will involve.



Mrs Anjos

After a long period of ill health, Mrs Anjos has decided to resign from her position at Manor Court. We are extremely grateful for the impact that she has had on many children within our school community, especially those from Portugal.

We take child protection extremely seriously at our school. If you have a concern, you can speak to any of the school's designated and trained Child Protection officers: Mr Clode, Miss Gregory or Mr Talmage. Alternatively, you can ring Children Social Care on: 0300 123 2224 or email childrens@somerset.gov.uk

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Remote learning half term challenge

As you know each Monday a member of staff is posting a video setting a challenge for those children working remotely.

Last week we asked parents to set a challenge for each staff member and parent in our school community. Two fantastic ideas were suggested and we have decided to use one now and prepare the second one as a staff team later in the term. Mr Talmage has set the challenge today and shared it on the school Twitter and Facebook page.

Half Term Track & Trace

The Government has announced that all schools are to close during the planned February half term to all children but must complete track & trace until February 17th. Please see the letter that was sent home today for further instructions.



EAL Quality Mark

We value all members of the school community and believe that our diversity makes our school a special place. Mrs Gomes is working hard to achieve an EAL Quality mark to validate the work that we do for our children for whom English is not their native tongue.

We have space for more children!

If your friends have been impressed by what we have been doing for your children during remote learning, we have space for more children in all year groups apart from Y5 and Y6. We would love to welcome more children into our caring, inclusive and academically high achieving community.

EYC News from Laura

We have been busy learning and exploring over the last couple of weeks! The children have loved our weekly zoom music sessions with Declan our music teacher and Mr Talmage and Mr Clode have also been known to join in with the children! We have also enjoyed making cards for our families for Valentine's Day, and we had pancake day early!

Our 'school ready' children have been practising turn taking through a range of board and group games. They have also been developing their letters and sounds through listening activities.

Our younger children have been learning through their interests and enjoying lots of mark making, small world play, and outdoor learning. We currently still have some spaces for 3 and 4 year olds and if you are interested in your child joining us please do get in touch on our telephone number 01460 510919. We are on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram so do please follow us!



BBC Radio Bristol Big Days Out and The National Trust

We can't go out at the moment to enjoy the half term holidays as we normally would, however the National Trust and BBC Radio Bristol have organised virtual day trips to keep children busy, taking them round the places that they'd love to go and see.

BBC Radio Bristol activities will all be available to watch on the BBC Radio Facebook page, do follow the page for some excellent days including; Noah's Ark Zoo Farm, Aerospace Bristol, Bristol Aquarium, We the Curious and Police Horses & Dogs.

Here's a link to the activities on The National Trust Website:

https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/for-families?campid=email_central_Newsletter_11022021_Sub2aMemFamA

Self-Isolation

We are working extremely hard to keep all of the children in our school safe and well at the moment. It is important that if you are sending your child into school as a critical worker or that they are coming into school as a child that is classed as vulnerable, that you do not mix with any other households during the evenings or at weekends. This will ensure that those children and staff in school and their families remain safe, healthy and well.



Bring yourself and a brew!

We appreciate that this current national lockdown is leaving some parents feeling isolated and frustrated by the pressure of home learning. For the past two Tuesday afternoons (starting on Tuesday 2nd February) Miss Gregory has hosted a 'bring yourself and a brew' session on Zoom at 14:00. This is an informal chat with other parents who may be feeling the same. Zoom links have been sent home through Eylog or the year group email addresses for you to join in.

Telephone calls

Mr Talmage has asked that all parents of children who are not in school are telephoned at least once a week by a member of staff who works with your children on a daily basis. Please expect your child's teacher or learning support assistant to ring. This is to 'simply check in' with those children and families who are not attending school on site at the moment.



It's very likely that during this lockdown period, children will spend a little bit more time online. The NSPCC have put together 8 top tips to help parents keep their children safe online, whether that's on social media apps or on games. The tips include lots of helpful advice and useful links. You can find the article here: <https://www.net-aware.org.uk/news/8-tips-for-keeping-your-kids-safe-online-during-lockdown/>

2021-2022 Term Dates

We have recently set the Term Dates for the 2021-2022 academic term. Please see the school website or the final page of this newsletter for the dates that have been set for the next school year.

Reading during remote learning

We place an importance for our children to read regularly and gain a love of reading. We will be sending home a reading book within remote learning packs and will choose a book that we believe that your child will like from looking at their reading log from in school. In the meantime, there are plenty of reading resources you can find online (we've shared an online library through the year group email address) and the Oak Academy website is particularly well stocked at <https://library.thenational.academy/>

Covid Testing of staff

As you will be aware each of our staff team are working on a rota for the different year group bubbles and being tested twice a week with a LFT (lateral flow test) for Coronavirus. Please do be aware that if we have a positive case within a year group bubble that this bubble will need to shut and the staff and children within this bubble will have to self-isolate. As yet we are especially fortunate that this has not needed to happen.

FSM

If your child is entitled to FSM, please do remember to come and collect your food parcel on Monday. Any food parcels that are not collected will continue to be offered to families who may be 'struggling' but not entitled to FSM as Manor Court is a fully inclusive community and wants the best for each child and their family background.



School applications for September 2021

For all parents with children starting school in September 2021, you can now apply for your child's school place by following the link below. If you or any of your friends would like to visit the school, please contact the school office and we can arrange a socially distant school visit. Please follow the link below to complete your application for a school place.

If you need financial help

We appreciate that for some of our families, life is tough at the moment with financial constraints and especially with the recent news about Oscar Mayer. If you do need help, please contact the school and we can sign post you to organisations that can help you during this time.

Pupil Premium

The pupil premium is additional funding that the Government provides for each child who is believed to be disadvantaged in achieving their best in education. At Manor Court Primary School, we provide high quality education and enrichment opportunities for all our pupils regardless of ability or background. However, it is useful to receive this funding for all children entitled to it. If your children are entitled to free school meals or a member of the household is currently in receipt, or has been in the last six years, of Universal credit then please do apply through this hyperlink https://secure1.somerset.gov.uk/forms/PortalShowForm.asp?fm_formalias=freeschoolmeal

Safeguarding

Safeguarding is the responsibility of everybody. In terms of keeping children safe, please "Don't think "What if I'm wrong" Think... "What if I am right" If you have any concerns about a pupil you should report this to a member of staff immediately. If you feel a pupil is at risk or a subject of abuse you must contact the Designated Safeguarding Team immediately. Designated Safeguarding Lead: Mr Clode and Deputy Designated Safeguard Leads: Miss Gregory and Mr Talmage. The school Safeguarding & Child Protection Governor is Mrs Jo Boyland.

Thank you for your continued support,

Mr Luke Talmage
Head Teacher





Mr Alan Clode
Deputy Head Teacher/Inclusion leader

Manor Court Community Primary School 2021-2022 Term Dates



September 2021					October 2021					November 2021									
M		6	13	20	27	M		4	11	18	25	M		1	8	15	22	29	
Tu			7	14	21	28	Tu		5	12	19	26	Tu		2	9	16	23	30
W	1		8	15	22	29	W		6	13	20	27	W		3	10	17	24	
Th	2		9	16	23	30	Th		7	14	21	28	Th		4	11	18	25	
F	3		10	17	24	F	1		8	15	22	29	F		5	12	19	26	
Sa	4		11	18	25	Sa	2		9	16	23	30	Sa		6	13	20	27	
Su	5		12	19	26	Su	3		10	17	24	31	Su		7	14	21	28	
December 2021					January 2022					February 2022									
M		6	13	20	27	M	3		10	17	24	31	M		7	14	21	28	
Tu		7	14	21	28	Tu	4		11	18	25	Tu	1		8	15	22		
W	1		8	15	22	29	W	5		12	19	26	W	2		9	16	23	
Th	2		9	16	23	30	Th	6		13	20	27	Th	3		10	17	24	
F	3		10	17	24	31	F	7		14	21	28	F	4		11	18	25	
Sa	4		11	18	25	Sa	1		8	15	22	29	Sa	5		12	19	26	
Su	5		12	19	26	Su	2		9	16	23	30	Su	6		13	20	27	
March 2022					April 2022					May 2022									
M		7	14	21	28	M		4	11	18	25	M	2		9	16	23	30	
Tu	1		8	15	22	29	Tu		5	12	19	26	Tu	3		10	17	24	31
W	2		9	16	23	30	W		6	13	20	27	W	4		11	18	25	
Th	3		10	17	24	31	Th		7	14	21	28	Th	5		12	19	26	
F	4		11	18	25	F	1		8	15	22	29	F	6		13	20	27	
Sa	5		12	19	26	Sa	2		9	16	23	30	Sa	7		14	21	28	
Su	6		13	20	27	Su	3		10	17	24	Su	1		8	15	22	29	
June 2022					July 2022					August 2022									
M		6	13	20	27	M		4	11	18	25	M	1		8	15	22	29	
Tu		7	14	21	28	Tu		5	12	19	26	Tu	2		9	16	23	30	
W	1		8	15	22	29	W		6	13	20	27	W	3		10	17	24	31
Th	2		9	16	23	30	Th		7	14	21	28	Th	4		11	18	25	
F	3		10	17	24	F	1		8	15	22	29	F	5		12	19	26	
Sa	4		11	18	25	Sa	2		9	16	23	30	Sa	6		13	20	27	
Su	5		12	19	26	Su	3		10	17	24	31	Su	7		14	21	28	

Key:

	School holiday
	Bank holiday
	Term time
	Inset day

Term dates summary:

Term 1: 06 September – 22 October 2021 (35 days)
 Term 2: 01 November – 17 December 2021 (35 days)
 Term 3: 04 January – 18 February 2022 (34 days)
 Term 4: 28 February – 08 April 2022 (30 days)
 Term 5: 25 April – 27 May 2022 (24 days)
 Term 6: 06 June – 26 July 2022 (37 days)

TOTAL = 195

Bank and public holidays 2021/22

Christmas Day Bank Holiday	27 December 2021*	Easter Monday	18 April 2022
Boxing Day Bank Holiday	28 December 2021*	May Day Bank Holiday	02 May 2022
New Year's Day Holiday	03 January 2022*	Spring Bank Holiday	30 May 2022
Good Friday	15 April 2022	Summer Bank Holiday	29 August 2022

*Replacement Bank Holiday day when the bank holiday falls on a weekend.