

Dear Parents and Carers,

Autumn Term Newsletter 4 – Friday 23rd October 2020

We would like to sincerely thank you for all of your support and understanding during this first half term as we navigate our way through this challenging time. We hope that you have felt reassured that the safety of all members (especially our children) of our wonderful school community have been paramount in our actions and we have aimed to balance the Government stipulations and our own common sense. We hope that you enjoy a well-deserved rest for the next week!

Key dates (please note that these may change.)

November	
Monday 2 nd	Return to school
Monday 9 th	Family Learning Forest School – Hedgehogs class
Friday 13 th	Family Learning Forest School – Squirrels class



The management of Covid-19 concerns

We appreciate that parents are concerned about the risk of covid-19 to their children and wider families. Please be assured that in school we are completing above and beyond what the Government has asked us to do and strictly adhere to all guidelines. We will swiftly take action should the need arise and if we are advised by Public Health England to do so. Spreading rumours amongst parents and via social media is extremely unhelpful and counterproductive to what, as a school, we are doing to keep all children safe. It is also hurtful to any families involved that may be affected. Please refrain from sharing rumours and gossip amongst each other and via any social media channels.



Manor Court Lockdown challenge awards

It was a pleasure today to award trophies and 'Gold certificates' to Martim, Logan, Russell, Harvey, Frankie-May, Beatriz and Ryan who completed each of the 48 lockdown challenges; twenty 'Silver' certificates to children who completed 30-45 of the challenges and six 'bronze' certificates to children who completed 10-30 of the challenges.

Break the Rules day

On Friday pupils and staff rose to Mr Talmage's challenge to 'break the rules' (within reason!) to help raise funds for the FMCA. We have been dazzled by the array of bright shirts, colourful socks, tattoos, etc, not to mention some very interesting hairstyles! Thank you for supporting the FMCA who work tirelessly to raise funds for the benefit of all the children.



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

Year 6 ironing as part of their Manor Court 48

As part of their Manor Court 48 each Year 6 child learnt to iron their own school shirt last Friday. The adults carefully guided the children through each of the necessary stages and the children were delighted with the outcome of their hard work.



Virtual concert

We are extremely fortunate that many children within our school enjoy a weekly music lesson with Miss Prater. On Wednesday this week these children showcased their talents to their friends within the school and parents at home through a virtual concert. If you would like your child to learn a musical instrument, please contact Miss Prater through the school office.



Family Learning for Year 1 children

On Wednesday children of Year 1 enjoyed making African animal masks with their parents, grandparents and talented artist Darrell Wakelam. The children and adults showed great collaboration and their final pieces were truly stunning! They will be displayed in the school hall and sent home towards the end of this school year.

Eco-Council news from our Eco Warriors



We are working hard towards achieving the Eco Schools Green Flag Award and are pleased to tell you that we now have the bronze certificate.

One of the tasks that we have decided to work on is to help Mr Woolford. Mr. Woolford works extremely hard in keeping our school grounds looking nice and tidy, so we thought we would give him an afternoon off from emptying the bins on the playground!

One of the tasks for us was to come up with our own Eco Code for Manor Court School, see the final page. We are still collecting and recycling empty crisp packets and used batteries so please do keep bringing them in.

Wrap around care school telephone number

For those parents who use Breakfast and After School care and may be early or late 'picking up' we have a new telephone number. You can contact the staff on this mobile telephone number 07423 784981.

School exercise books

Parents evening have required to be different this week and we appreciate that for all parents seeing the children's books and individual progress is an important part of the meeting. For those children who are taking their English, Maths and Science books home today, please remember to return them to school on Monday 2nd November as they will go into 48-hour quarantine. We hope that you enjoy looking at them with the children at some point during the half term holiday!

Year 4 Diwali

The children in year 4 made traditional Diwali sweets this week in preparation for their Diwali festival on Tuesday afternoon. The children used their handmade Diva lamps and the classrooms were alive with light, sounds and tastes.



Remembrance

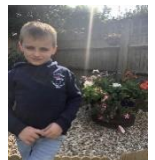
The Year 6 children spent a day working with Mr Plumbley this week to create this amazing memorial to all our fallen heroes. We think you'll agree this is a fitting tribute.

Mrs Hall

Mrs Hall started her Maternity leave this week in readiness for her second child being born in December. We look forward to sharing her happy news with you when the child is born and her return to work towards the end of this academic year.

School PE Hoodies

A foundation stage parent asked us if they could approach Barrons to make a Manor Court PE hoodie. We believe that they are great and will keep the children warm during the winter months. They're now on sale through Barrons direct and if you would like to buy one they are selling for roughly £16 each.



Arts council Competition

This Christmas, Manor Court will have our first online advent calendar. The Arts Council would like pupils to submit a picture on a Christmas or Winter theme, on A4 paper or card by Friday 20th November. The picture can be drawn, painted or a collage, with the pupil's name and class on the back. There will be 24 winners, with each one being revealed online every day up until Christmas Eve.



Road safety

As children get older it is often deemed appropriate by their parents for their child to walk home on their own. We would ask all parents to please speak to their children about how to walk home safely, crossing the road and taking the time to look around themselves. All class teachers will complete road safety work with all children in their classes before the end of this half term.

EYC direct telephone number

We are pleased to inform you that the EYC have a new direct telephone number which can be used to contact Laura and the team during the working day. This new telephone number is (01460) 510919.

EYC news from Laura

We have had lots of fun over the past few weeks learning about Autumn. We have been on welly walks on the field collecting autumnal objects and exploring them with our magnifying glasses! We have been leaf printing, bug exploring, and using our outdoor literacy shed to share books about what we have found!

We have also been understanding the world with pumpkins, harvest, and small world farm play. We still have a few afternoon spaces available at our preschool. If you are interested in your child joining us, please do get in touch.

We do have our own Facebook and Instagram page. Please give us a like and follow to see what we get up to.



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.

<https://www.somerset.gov.uk/education-and-families/school-admissions-policy/>

After school enrichment clubs

We have made, what we believe, to be a safe decision to postpone the start of our afterschool enrichment clubs until after Christmas. We look forward to starting these clubs after the Christmas holidays.



Blythwood Care Shoe Box appeal

Once more this year the School council have decided that they would like to support the Blythwood Christmas Shoe Box Appeal. This is an opportunity for the children who attend our school to show care and compassion at Christmas time to children who are less fortunate than them in countries abroad. Please follow the instructions on the leaflet that children recently brought home. Please bring shoeboxes to school by Friday 6th November.

Flu vaccine

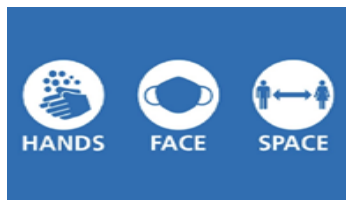
Somerset SAINT, the school aged immunisation team, visited our school recently to administer the flu vaccine to those children who had parental consent. If you missed the deadline for signing up, the team will be holding 'mop up' sessions across the county for parents who still wish for their child to be immunised. Please contact the immunisation team on 0300 323 0032 or email somersetsaint@somersetft.nhs.uk if this is something you would like for your child. Somerset SAINT have requested that you do not contact your GP to arrange a missed flu vaccine.

ParentPay

ParentPay is the online communication system we use for all letters, newsletters and messages and as mentioned above, this will be our lunch booking system in the near future. However, we still have a few children in school whose parents have not signed up to the system. If you have received a letter advising you to sign-up, please do follow the instructions to ensure that you receive school information in the future.

Windows

The project to replace most of our windows has started and two classroom windows have been replaced already. The window fitting should take about sixteen weeks (weather and any possible 'lockdown' dependent) to complete.



Social distancing outside the school – A message from Mr Talmage

Thank you to many of our parents who continue to take care to maintain social distancing at drop off and collection time. Please do remember that it is important for parents to maintain their own social distancing and not congregate at the gates and especially not smoking. We all appreciate your support in making this work for all members of our school community.

Attendance

It is the expectation that all pupil's attendance is a minimum of 96%. After half term, in line with our Attendance Policy, Miss Gregory, our Intervention Officer, will be contacting parents whose children's attendance falls to 90% or below. Please be aware that if a child is more than five minutes late in the morning, this is recorded and also affects their attendance. Again, Miss Gregory will be addressing punctuality after the half term.

Year 1 School Drop-off

It has been noticed that Dragonflies children and parents are arriving for school too early for their allocated arrival time. Dragonflies are expected to arrive for 8.50am but some are arriving at least ten minutes early which is causing congestion and crossover of 'bubbles' at the gates with Foundation children. We ask that parents do not arrive excessively early to drop children off to ensure we can maintain safety. Please do not send or take your children in to line up before the teachers are present as children are being left unsupervised before staff arrive to collect them. Parents are encouraged to leave children at the gate when Dragonflies teacher is present and not enter onto the school playground. We ask that parents and children do not congregate under the tree on the grass area as this is now becoming increasingly muddy & slippery and could present a slip hazard.

A reminder

Please ensure that your child has everything they need for the day ahead at school. An increasing number of children are arriving without book bags, drinks bottles and lunchboxes. With the current Covid situation we ask that parents do not drop items into school during the day as this is also disruptive to classes.

E-Safety news from Miss Thompson

Lootboxes in Games - Have your Say!

Lootboxes are items that can be bought in games with 'mystery' contents. This can include ways of customising a character, weapons, a new player for a sports team or a range of other items which are designed to tempt the player to make the purchase. Because getting the best items is based on chance, some people believe they are a form of gambling. The UK government is asking for the views of young people and parents about lootboxes and are inviting us to complete their survey by 22nd November 2020.

To take part in the survey go to:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/loot-boxes-in-video-games-call-for-evidence>



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.

Updated Privacy Notice

Our Privacy notice has been updated on our Manor Court website. Please do take the time to read it as it gives important information on how we collect and store your data.

Thank you for your continued support,

Mr L Talmage
Head Teacher

Mr A Clode
Deputy Head Teacher/Inclusion leader

Our Eco -Code

By Manor Court School Eco Warriors



Encourage everyone to keep our school clean and tidy

Check taps are turned off to save water

Off go the lights when not in use

Wildlife - let's encourage it!

Always put rubbish in the bin

Reduce the amount of junk food you eat

Respect our environment

It's our World - protect it!

Our school needs your help

Reduce, reuse and recycle

Save our World!