

Dear Parents and Carers,

Autumn Term Newsletter 3 – Friday 9th October 2020

Key dates (please note that these may change.)

October	
Friday 16 th October	Yr6 Manor Court 48 – Shirt Ironing
Wednesday 21 st October	Virtual Music Concert – further details to follow
Friday 23 rd October	Last day of this half term



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.

National Poetry Day

Last Thursday we celebrated National Poetry Day and Mrs Wilkins arranged an excellent celebration of poetry for the day. Each of the classes spent the day exploring diverse poets and learning and reciting Maya Angelou's poem Rainbow.



Parents Evenings

Letters went home to all parents this week about parents evening towards the end of this half term. As a school we have decided to allocate a time to all parents and as so few parents have requested a Zoom meeting all conversations will now happen via telephone. If the time that you have been allocated is inconvenient, please do contact your child's teacher for a more suitable time. Slips with your allocated time slot will be sent home on Monday.



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/>

Parents survey

Earlier this week we sent home via ParentPay a link to a Government requested survey on remote learning. Thank you to those parents who have already completed the survey and submitted their response. If you haven't already done so, please do take the time to complete the survey to help plan for any possible future home learning.

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 will have brought home this week.

Wrap around care school telephone number

For those parents that 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.

Flu vaccine

Somerset SAINT, the school aged immunisation team, visited our school last week 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 somersetstaint@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.



Eco-Warriors

Last Friday our Eco-Warriors announced the winners of their whole school poster competition, to encourage others to keep Britain tidy. The Eco-Warriors were unanimous in their decision and the overall winner was Joshua S in Year 6. Well done Josh!

Yeovil Town Football club

We welcomed back Louis this week from Yeovil Town FC who will support some of our children with a six-week reading programme sponsored by the Premier League.



Lunch menus

At the request of our catering company, Aspens, we are moving forward with plans to provide paperless lunch menus. If your child has a school lunch, you will have received this week an email via ParentPay with the lunch menu for the next half term. Please complete this electronically and return by **Wednesday 14th October** at the latest to office@manorcourt.ppat365.org. After Christmas, menus will only be available online via ParentPay and will be handled solely by Aspens. The school will have no input to the administration of these menus.

Please note, we are no longer able to provide a lunch for any child who has not had a completed menu returned on time. A lunch from home should be provided if this is the case.

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.

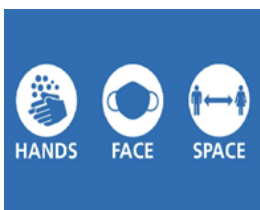
Coats and jumpers

Due to current Government requirements we must keep windows and doors open to allow through circulation of fresh air into each area of the school building. However due to the changing outside temperature the classrooms are becoming progressively cold. Please do ensure that your child has their school jumper or cardigan with them at all times and their coat with them as children will be spending more time outside. We would also recommend that children start to wear a vest, long or short sleeved t-shirt under their school shirt.



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. We recently sent home a letter from the Department of Education about medical symptoms that are not typical of coronavirus. Please use this as your guide.



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.

E-Safety news from Miss Thompson

Microsoft have recently released some new features that parents can use to manage children's Xbox usage. It's free to download and is available for both iOS and Android. Some of the features include:

- creating new child accounts
- managing screen time limits (including granting more time)
- accepting or declining friend requests
- viewing and managing friend lists
- All the details are here: <https://news.xbox.com/en-us/2020/09/24/xbox-family-settings-app-launch/>



Breakfast club

We are delighted that so many children have signed up to attend breakfast club. To access the school hall, children can enter through the main gate at the front of the school from 07:30 and walk up the KS2 playground and enter the building at the door opposite the Y6 block. Please do not arrive before 07:30 as the children will not be able to access the building.

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 let the school know.

EYC spaces

We have a few spaces left in our EYC and we would like to fill these! We have attached an advertisement flyer to the back of this newsletter. Please share this information with your friends and family.

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 L Talmage
Head Teacher

Mr A Clode
Deputy Head Teacher/Inclusion leader



Manor Court Early Years Centre Spaces Available



Session Times

9am - 12pm

12.30pm - 3.30pm

9am - 3.30pm

15/30 Hours Funded ~ Ages 2-4 years



FREE BOOKBAG & 4 FREE NON-FUNDED SESSIONS

IF YOU take a picture of this poster and show it to the school office. Offer received after a term's attendance.

T&Cs: Offer subject to spaces available. Redemption of this offer expires on 2nd November 2020 and your chosen sessions must be agreed with the EYC Manager.



For further information, please contact the main school office on 01460 62350



Manor Court Community Primary School and Early Years Centre
Duck Lane, Chard TA20 2ES