

Dear parents and carers,

## Spring Term Newsletter 4 – Friday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2021



**Key dates** (please note that these may change.)

March 2021	
Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> March	School opens for all children
Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> March	Virtual pantomime for all children
April 2021	
Thursday 1 <sup>st</sup> April	School closes at the end of the day for the Easter holidays.



### Return to school on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March

We cannot wait to see the children on Monday as they all return to school and their rightful place in their classrooms with their friends and teachers. We appreciate that the return to school may take some adjustment for some children and it is our plan to make this first half term as normal as possible for the children. We will have a key focus on the basics of the children's education, Reading, Writing and Maths and each year group will arrange theme days for different subjects to ensure that they cover the areas of the curriculum that they may have missed during lockdown. More information will follow about this nearer the days.

We have sent the letter home again today for all parents to be clear of the arrangements for Monday. Please do make sure that you read this letter carefully to ensure that parents and children arrive at the correct time and at the correct gate to maintain social distancing during this time for parents.



### World Book Day 2021 news from Mrs Terry

World Book Day was celebrated yesterday, Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> March, both in school and at home.

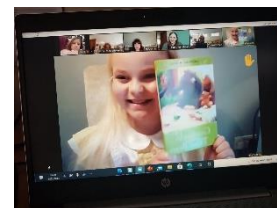
The theme for World Book Day this year was 'Share A Story' and during the week we have uploaded stories and poems being read by school staff to the children's section of the school website for you to share at home. The year group Zoom meetings yesterday focussed on why reading is an important life skill and a love of books. and it was lovely to see some children had chosen to dress up as their favourite characters.

Please remember to email in how many pages your child has read this week so we can reveal the grand total of pages read by our school community next week. World Book Day tokens have arrived, and we have worked closely again with Chard Book Shop this year to ensure that all pupils can exchange their token for one of the 'free' books if they so wish.

You will find a World Book Day competition sheet in your current remote learning pack and it is also available on our website. This is a whole school competition. Your challenge is based on 'Change.' You can make changes to a character from a book you know, or you can change what happens in a story, e.g. In the Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe, the character Lucy steps through the wardrobe and ends up in a jungle or outer space – not Narnia! Little Red Riding Hood could actually become Big Blue Ballgown or Tiny Turquoise Trousers! What would have happened if Jack had not found the axe to chop down the beanstalk? What would have happened if Harry Potter had not gone to Hogwarts but attended Manor Court instead?

Your finished designs can be brought in next week to go on display in school and in the windows of Chard Book Shop! There will be prizes for the best 'changes' too!

Keep reading 😊

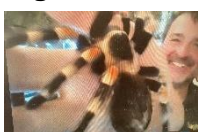


### Please complete our remote learning survey by Sunday.

The closing date for our remote learning survey is Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> March. Please do take a few minutes to complete this for us by the following the link.

[https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=MOF4yqujLkK2ARvVWk253fdhtFITJpLolb\\_HPDM75URjQwQkhZSFNGM0VPSU5ZNFA1MTIDUIYxVY4u](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=MOF4yqujLkK2ARvVWk253fdhtFITJpLolb_HPDM75URjQwQkhZSFNGM0VPSU5ZNFA1MTIDUIYxVY4u)

### Bugfest



We were very lucky to have virtual Bugfest for the whole school this week. Children at home and at school were able to take part in this brilliant day and learn about lots of amazing bugs. It was great to see the children so engaged.

### Enrichment clubs

We are producing our list for the enrichment clubs for the Summer Term and hope to send this home by the end of next week for your child to make their choices.

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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](mailto:childrens@somerset.gov.uk)



## Red Nose Day Friday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2021 - news from the School Council

The theme that we have chosen this year is "Share a Smile". To help us raise money, please wear a wonky wig, a jazzy jumper, snazzy socks, clashing clothes, glowing glitter face paint...anything to make someone smile, the sillier the better! Or you could just choose to wear your own clothes (no football shirts please) for a £1 donation.

### Manor Court's Got Talent 2021

We all enjoyed watching the fantastic hidden talents of our parents and staff in our Manor Court's Got Talent competition. This will now become an annual event so please do prepare your skills for next February half term. The winner of this year's competition is Leigh Westbrook playing his Ukulele.

### British Science week – News from Mrs Johns

From 5th-14th March, it is British Science Week and we have been getting ahead of the game in the mixed Y1/2/3 bubble by carrying out some experiments. The theme for British Science Week 2021 is 'Innovating for the Future' and we have been thinking about the incredible inventions that people have made in the past which can inspire young people everywhere to innovate for the future.

We all know that it is not just adults that can be inventors; children have the ability, determination and enquiring mind that is required to be an inventor. Our favourite experiment resulted in us making a natural plastic from just two simple ingredients, milk and vinegar, which we decided would be a good, environmentally safe alternative to the conventional plastic we see all around us and that is so often difficult or impossible to recycle. If you decide to do anything at home that is innovative, please let us know and we would love to share your creations so that you can help to inspire the other children at Manor Court School.



### EYC News from Laura



We have been busy over the last couple of weeks.

We have loved our weekly zoom music sessions with Declan our music teacher! Our 'school ready' children have been focusing on and exploring maths. They have been counting out objects, exploring shapes in the environment, and ordering objects through size. They have also been developing their letters and sounds through a range of listening and attention activities.

Our younger children have been learning through their interests. They have been enjoying lots of outdoor learning, sensory play, and small world activities.

We enjoyed taking part in World book day in which we shared our favourite stories and dressed up as our favourite characters.

We currently still have some spaces for 3 and 4 year olds. If you are interested in your child joining us please do get in touch. We are on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter so please do follow us!

### 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 you continue to follow Government guidelines, practice social distancing and continue with good hygiene methods. Please do not send your child to school if they are displaying any Coronavirus symptoms.

### 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.



### Bring yourself & a brew!

We are pleased with the success of the Bring yourself & a brew session and Miss Gregory will continue to run these each Tuesday on Zoom at 14:00. This is an informal chat with other parents who may be feeling the same. Zoom links will continue to be sent home through Eylog or the year group email addresses for you to join in.

### 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.

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## E-Safety news from Miss Thompson

Be Internet Legends from Google and Parent Zone is designed to support families to become safer and more confident when they are online.

Their newest resource is a three-part animated series about a family of 'Internauts' who go on an adventure, and learn about phishers, cyberbullies, and hackers on the way.

Join in the adventure at:

[https://beinternetlegends.withgoogle.com/en\\_uk/parents/adventure](https://beinternetlegends.withgoogle.com/en_uk/parents/adventure)

## 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.

## Covid Testing of staff

Each member of our staff team are testing 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 and you have requested a school lunch for them, these will resume on Monday when the children return to school. Food parcels will no longer be distributed whilst the school remains open as per Government guidelines.



## 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](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

**18<sup>th</sup> March 2021 is the National Day for Child Exploitation.**

**Child Exploitation is  
happening in your area.  
Don't ignore it  
#STOPCE**

**Exploitation Awareness for Parents - It can happen to my child!**

Exploitation Awareness for Parents via MS Teams

- Have you heard of CSE (Child Sexual Exploitation)?
- Do you know about County Lines?
- Do you know what Online Grooming and Exploitation is?

Maybe you would like to know more about all the above or some of the above. The prevention officer from TOPAZ exploitation team, Avon and Somerset Police is bringing you 60 minutes virtual awareness/guidance sessions.

This is a perfect opportunity to increase your awareness.

**To book a place, please follow Eventbrite links below.**

**Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2021 – 07:00pm (290 spaces available)**

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/child-exploitation-awareness-for-parents-it-can-happen-to-my-child-tickets-143071030303>

**Friday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2021 – 07:00pm (290 spaces available)**

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/child-exploitation-awareness-for-parents-it-can-happen-to-my-child-tickets-143294211845>

# Manor Court Community Primary School 2021-2022 Term Dates



<b>September 2021</b>					<b>October 2021</b>					<b>November 2021</b>									
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	
<b>December 2021</b>					<b>January 2022</b>					<b>February 2022</b>									
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	
<b>March 2022</b>					<b>April 2022</b>					<b>May 2022</b>									
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	
<b>June 2022</b>					<b>July 2022</b>					<b>August 2022</b>									
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.