

Dear Parents and Carers,

Autumn Term Newsletter 1 - Friday 11th September 2020

We give a warm welcome to our new families who have joined our school community in the Foundation Stage and the seventeen children who have joined us in other classrooms during lockdown. We hope that you have had an enjoyable first week and we look forward to building a positive and purposeful relationship with you.

We also welcome Miss Berry who is teaching in Foxes class, Miss Diffey who is teaching Puffins class and Miss Brown who is teaching Dragonflies class.

Key dates (please note that these may change.)

September	
Monday 14 th September	Roald Dahl Day
Monday 21 st September	Foundation children in school full time
Wednesday 23 rd September	School Photographs – Manor Court Pupils only



Returning to school

It has been an absolute pleasure returning to school this week. We are proud of the children and how wonderfully that each child in each class has adapted so well to the 'new normal' way of school. They have obeyed the social distance measures put in place by us (following all Government guidance) and enjoyed completing their work and being back in the company of their teachers and friends. In the first two weeks of term all children will complete as many of the Manor Court 48 activities as possible that they missed during lockdown and it was a pleasure seeing the Y1 children toast marshmallows, the arts council receiving their badges from Mrs Morton, the eco-warriors being nominated in assembly and celebrating the children's successes this week in our virtual celebration assemblies.



Social distancing outside the school – A message from Mr Talmage

During lockdown all of the staff at Manor Court have worked tirelessly; maintaining contact with each child and their parents, preparing work and fun activities for the children to complete at home and teaching the children who came into school during lockdown. They have all gone above and beyond what staff have done in other schools!

Mr Clode, all members of the Senior Leadership Team and I worked hard to plan and write a risk assessment for a safe return to school for the children, following all Government

stipulations and using common sense. This plan was agreed by the governing body and the Health & Safety officer in PPAT.

On Monday we understandably received many comments about the gathering of parents outside of our school gates. This happened at other school gates within Chard, Somerset and nationally; it was not solely a Manor Court issue. I was personally extremely disappointed to read some comments and photos that had been posted by a minority of parents and their extended family members on social media about Monday morning and our plan not being thorough enough. The negativity in these few comments felt like we had stepped back four years in time.

We believe that the gathering of adults was caused by parents who had not taken the time to familiarise themselves with the plan, some who arrived too early or too late to the staggered drop off and collection time and by those not using sensible or appropriate personal social distancing. Towards the end of the week collection and drop off times have improved but we all agree it must improve more. Unless your child is in the EYC, Foundation Stage and Year 1 there is no need for parents to wait at the gates at collection or drop off times. Parents must turn up at the correct time, not before or after and must allow their child to walk through the gates to the adults who work in their classroom.

We have spoken as a leadership team, canvassed the opinion of many parents and have decided that if a respectful and sensible level of social distancing cannot be maintained by all parents at all times outside the school, then we will insist that all parents wear a face mask to drop and collect their children to school from Monday 21st September.

When dropping your child to school or collecting them, please do not use the staff car park at the rear of the school under any circumstances, this is particularly important during our staggered start and finishing times as increased traffic in this area puts children at risk. The car park is also not to be used to drop children at breakfast club.

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 have attached to this newsletter, and will to all future newsletters, a flow chart that shows the necessary steps for families. We will share this on social media and add it to the website this weekend.

Breakfast club – change of location

We are delighted that so many children have signed up to attend breakfast club and as we require more space this will be held in the school hall from Monday 14th September. 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.



School provided packed lunches

We are still awaiting Aspens to inform us when they can provide hot meals for our children and until this point children will receive a packed lunch option. Menus have been sent home this week so please do return your choices as soon as possible. At the moment, we realise that some families may prefer to send their own packed lunch in for a variety of reasons and for this reason your child may not eat the lunch provided by the school. We have been

sending the packed lunch home with your child and will continue to do so until you inform us that you do not wish to receive it.

Mrs Terry

After a thorough interview process before the Summer holidays we are delighted to have appointed Mrs Terry as our Assistant Head Teacher. She will continue to offer leadership capacity to the work of Mr Talmage and Mr Clode.



Wrap around care

During the last week of the school holiday we arranged after school provision until 6:00pm to meet the needs of many of our parents. Please check the letter sent for details about this or make contact with the school office. This is a paid for service but is reasonably priced to cover our costs only.

Year group emails

We are still currently limiting the contact between parents and teachers on the school site and will continue to encourage initial contact with your child's teacher through the year group email address or by telephoning/emailing the school office. The year group email addresses will be checked regularly and we ask that all parents email their child's year group email address at some point over the next week so that teachers can set contact lists. The year group email addresses are:-

Child's Class	Email Address
Foundation – Hedgehogs & Squirrels	Please continue to use Eylog
Year 1 – Bumblebees & Dragonflies	Y1@manorcourt.ppat365.org
Year 2 – Nightingales & Owls	Y2@manorcourt.ppat365.org
Year 3 – Kingfishers & Owls	Y3@manorcourt.ppat.365.org
Year 4 – Eagles & Puffins	Y4@manorcourt.ppat365.org
Year 5 – Badgers & Foxes	Y5@manorcourt.ppat365.org
Year 6 – Herons & Otters	Y6@manorcourt.ppat365.org

PE Kits

Starting from Monday 14th September, we are changing the way children prepare for PE on their class PE day. Instead of children having their PE kit in school at all times, we are requesting that their kit is kept at home and children wear their kit to school on PE days. It is advisable for children to wear black jogging bottoms and their Manor Court School sweatshirt for warmth on colder days. The days for PE are:-

Child's Class	PE Days
Foundation – Hedgehogs & Squirrels	Wednesday
Year 1 – Bumblebees & Dragonflies	Tuesday
Year 2 – Nightingales	Thursday
Year 2/3 - Owls	Tuesday
Year 3 – Kingfishers	Tuesday & Thursday
Year 4 – Eagles & Puffins	Thursday
Year 5 – Badgers & Foxes	Monday & Friday
Year 6 – Herons & Otters	Friday

Jewellery

The only jewellery children are permitted in school are a wristwatch and stud earrings. Ideally, children should be able to remove earrings themselves for PE, or if they are unable to do so, it is preferable for them not to be worn, however, we will place tape over them if necessary.

Roald Dahl Day

On Monday 14th September all children will be taking part in activities to celebrate Roald Dahl Day. Roald Dahl was born on the 13th September 1916 and this year would have been his 104th birthday. Children are not required to dress up and should come to school in their normal school uniform.



EYC spaces

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



EYC request from Laura

Can you offer a loving home to some furry friends? We are seeking new homes for our guinea pigs, George & Richard, and our rabbit, Bluebell! Ideally, they would like to be homed together, however we are able to separate Bluebell from George & Richard. All of the pets have hutches and runs ready to go with them. If you would like to adopt the pets, please contact the Early Years staff directly or the School Office.

Windows

The project to replace most of our windows will start on Monday 28th September at a cost of over £250,000 for which we have won a Government grant to pay for their long overdue replacement.

Eco-warriors

Our Eco-Warriors, led by Mrs Burns, are now working hard towards their eco-awards. They have placed a bag in each classroom in which the children can place the crisp bags that they have recycled. The children are also collecting used batteries, so please bring them into school and leave in their classroom bubble for collection.



Mrs Gomes

We are thrilled that Mrs Gomes teaches Portuguese to all children from Year 1 to Year 4 as it helps to embrace the cosmopolitan nature of Manor Court's community. From September, Mrs Gomes's role has changed and expanded and she will now work with those EAL children who may need help with their English and will be an additional link person with our EAL families.

Lockdown challenge and Time Capsule

If your children have completed all or some of the lockdown challenges can they please bring their evidence to show their new teachers for a final deadline of Wednesday 16th September. We would also like any objects or writing that the children have made to be included in the time capsule on this day too.



After school clubs for this term

All Autumn Term clubs will commence after the October half term and although we appreciate that this may cause some families difficulties with childcare, we believe that this delayed start will ensure a safe and happy start to the new school procedures in September.

ParentPay

If your child is new to our school, please ensure you activate your child's account as soon as possible using the information provided in the letter recently sent home. We use ParentPay for all our communication to parents, including newsletters, school information and letters.

Flu Immunisation

This year's flu immunisation session will take place in school on 1st October and will include all year groups from Foundation to Year 6. Consent for the immunisation is now completed electronically via an NHS website. Please keep a close eye on your emails as details of this will be sent via ParentPay very shortly.

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

Management of COVID-19 in school-age children Actions for parents/carers

If your child has any of the symptoms of coronavirus: a high temperature, a new, continuous cough, and a loss of or change to taste or smell; do not send them to school

