

Dear Parents and Carers,

Autumn Term Newsletter 6 – Friday 27th November 2020

Key dates (please note that these may change.)

December	
Wednesday 2 nd December	FMCA Non uniform day
Thursday 3 rd & Friday 4 December	Carol Recordings (no parents)
Friday 11 th December	Christmas Jumper Day Whole School Christmas Dinner



Odd Socks Day and Anti-Bullying week

Last week the children and staff participated in the National Anti-Bullying week. The week started on Monday 16th November with an array of snazzy, vibrant but most importantly odd socks being worn throughout the school as we celebrated Odd Socks Day. Odd Socks Day is an initiative publicised by Andy, from the BBC television programme Andy and The Band. We are not ashamed to admit that Miss Gregory was tagging Andy into a variety of creative photos in the hope to get a whole school visit from Andy and his band when it is safe to do so!

Throughout the rest of the week, the children learnt about the negative impact of bullying within the school and were each set the challenge to complete a random act of kindness.

This was a positive week for the whole school community as we renewed our focus on our school ethos; to care, learn and achieve together.

Mrs Lisa Newbery

It was a great shock to the staff team to learn about the passing of Mrs Newbery during the half term holiday. Lisa had worked at Manor Court since September 2000 as a lunchtime supervisor and member of the premises team and was affectionately known to many children as Mrs Blueberry.

The funeral procession slowed down as it drove past the school and nearly one hundred current and past staff members, family and friends were able to pay their respects on Monday 16th November. Lisa's family members have all said that the journey was eased by hearing the children play on the playground during their playtime in her honour.

The staff will be raising money to fund a fitting tribute to Lisa. If any parents would like to contribute to this collection please speak to Mr Talmage, Mr Clode, Mrs Terry or the school office.

Congratulations to Jasmyn and Meshach

We are delighted that two siblings who are in Year 6 have just passed their 11+ exam that enables them to attend Colyton Grammar school for their Secondary education. This is the first time that children from Manor Court have taken the exam to enable them to gain entry to the school in many years. If you would like information about this exam for your child, please speak to Mr Clode or Mr Talmage.

Well done to Jasmyn, Meshach and your family!



Christmas Cards can arrive from Monday 30th November

This year due to restrictions and regulations, we will not be asking the Year 6 House Captains to deliver Christmas cards and cards can only be given to the children's friends within their class bubbles during school time. We appreciate your understanding and support in this measure to keep the children safe. Please could you ask your children not to seal the envelopes but to simply tuck the envelope flap in and place them in the card box where they will be required to quarantine for a short period of time.

FMCA Fundraising Day

On Wednesday 2nd December the FMCA are hosting another fundraising day and we hope that this will be as successful as their recent event. Please see their poster on the back page of this newsletter.



Image consent forms

Two weeks ago we sent out image consent forms for each child and have emailed reminders with another copy attached. As of this Wednesday we still had 70 that have not been returned and Mr Talmage personally phoned each family. If outstanding forms have not been returned by the end of today (Friday) your child will not be able to participate in the Christmas activities that are being recorded.

These forms are held on your child's file for the duration of their school life at Manor Court and give important information on how we use photographs/recordings of the children.



EYC news from Laura

We have started on our Christmas activities. Our 'elf' arrived on Monday and is currently in 'elf isolation!' We have been practising our letter and sounds activities with 'silly soup' and practising our voice sounds. We have been continuing to learn outdoors, exploring our shadows has been one of our highlights this week, learning how it got there! Next week we will begin our countdown to Christmas! We still have some afternoon spaces available for 3 and 4 year old children. Please do get in touch if you are interested in your child joining us.

Christmas 2020 whole school activities

We have been busy making plans for an exciting and happy Christmas period despite the Coronavirus restrictions. A separate letter will be sent home on Monday about these exciting activities, so please do keep referring back to this letter for further information.

Geography week

Last week the children participated in a whole school Geography week with a focus on the impact of climate change. Seeing the children participate in thoughtful debates on this topic, write persuasive arguments and complete some fabulous pictures.



Miss Parsons

Miss Parsons, who has taught at Manor Court since completing her teacher training, started her Maternity leave last Friday in readiness for her first child being born in December. We look forward to sharing her happy news with you when the child arrives.

Window Project

The hall windows and doors have been replaced and look fabulous. The window fitters have now moved onto the Y6 block and the Y6 children will be taught in different rooms for the next two weeks. As a school we are so pleased with how these windows are now looking and that the works will be completed by the Christmas holidays and hopefully before any possible wintery weather arrives.

Children in Need and Children's hospice South-West non-uniform day

We were delighted that £369.70 was raised during our recent non-school uniform day for BBC Children in Need and Children's Hospice South-West. Thank you to everyone for your generosity!



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/>

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 1 History Walk

Last week the Y1 children went on a History walk, specifically to look at Chard's buildings. They looked at the differences between old and new buildings, including the Church, the Guildhall, the Lace Mill and the new buildings just beyond it. The children were very good at spotting the blueplaques!



Wraparound care

We are delighted that our Wraparound care provision is proving to be extremely popular with the children and very useful for parents and for this reason it will continue after the Christmas holidays. If you would like to book sessions please speak to the office or use ParentPay. For those parents who use Breakfast and After School care and may be early or late 'picking up' we have a direct telephone number. You can contact the staff on number 07423 784981 and please do save the telephone number in your mobile phone.

Numatic International competition

Isobel created the winning design in the design a Henry competition with her superb rainbow design. She won all these goodies and will have a tour of the factory soon with her family and class.



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 JoBoylard.



E-Safety news from Miss Thompson

We've mentioned guides and support for TikTok before but we thought this update was helpful. TikTok have been making more controls available for parents. The features are available via Family Pairing and they include the ability to prevent strangers from seeing your child's post as well as restricting what they can search for. You can find more information here:

<https://newsroom.tiktok.com/en-gb/supporting-youth-and-families-on-tiktok-uk>

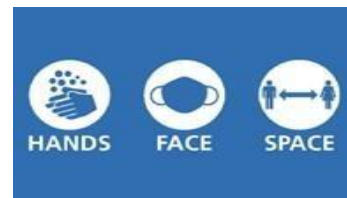
The online safety council are running a wordsearch competition. The council have written and designed the wordsearch themselves. Children will be given the wordsearch in school and may bring them home to complete. Competition entries must be handed in by Thursday lunchtime, the online safety council will then randomly choose winners from all correct entries.

If you need financial help

We appreciate that for some of our family's 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.

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



Job vacancy

We currently have a vacancy for a cleaner to start after the Christmas holiday. The job involves general cleaning including vacuuming, mopping floors etc. Hours are from 3.30pm – 5.15pm each day Monday to Friday, including additional hours during the school holidays. If you are interested in this position please contact Mrs Hunt in the school office for a job description and application form. Closing date for applications is 3pm Friday 4th December.



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.

Flu vaccine

The school aged immunisation team (SAINT) are running a catch-up flu vaccination session in school on Tuesday 15th December. If your child did not have the vaccine when SAINT visited the school in October, and you would like them inoculated, please follow the link to the online consent forms sent via ParentPay earlier this week. If you have trouble accessing the link, please contact the school office and we will provide you with a paper copy of the consent form.

Thank you for your continued support,

Mr L Talmage
Head Teacher

Mr A Clode
Deputy Head Teacher/Inclusion leader



On Wednesday 2nd December

FMCA Non Uniform Day

With a Twist

£1 donation to wear non uniform but pick extra rules to break!!

50p extra for each broken rule!!

Wear something Christmassy 50p

Wacky Hair/Christmas Hat/Tinsel in your hair 50p

Temporary Christmas Tattoo 50p

Nail Varnish 50p

Please note. No offensive slogans or football shirts. Sensible footwear must be worn!



Meningitis and septicaemia



Know the signs and symptoms

Symptoms can appear in any order. Some may not appear at all. Early symptoms can include:

- fever
- headache
- vomiting
- diarrhoea
- muscle pain
- stomach cramps
- fever with cold hands and feet

Trust your instincts - get medical help immediately



Babies and Toddlers

- Fever, cold hands and feet
- Refusing food and vomiting
- Fretful, dislike being handled
- Drowsy, floppy, unresponsive
- Rapid breathing or grunting
- Pale, blotchy skin Spots/rash
- Unusual cry, moaning
- Tense, bulging fontanelle (soft spot)
- Stiff neck, dislike bright lights
- Convulsions/seizures

Children and Adults

- Fever, cold hands and feet
- Vomiting
- Drowsy, difficult to wake
- Confusion and irritability
- Severe muscle pain
- Pale, blotchy skin Spots/rash
- Severe headache
- Stiff neck
- Dislike bright lights
- Convulsions/seizures

Meningitis and septicaemia can affect anyone, and can kill within hours.

Call our Meningitis Helpline on **0808 80 10 388** for your symptoms card.



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