

Dear Parents and Carers,

Autumn Term Newsletter 5 – Friday 13th November 2020

Key dates (please note that these may change.)

November	
Monday 16 th November	Odd Socks Day
Tuesday 24 th November	Year 1 Vision Screening



Remembrance

Throughout this week we have had a whole school focus on the importance of Remembrance. The week started with an excellent whole school virtual assembly led by Rev. Ann and each class continued the theme by making an artefact that represented the meaning of Remembrance to them. Due to our close links with Oak Lodge residential home and Springmead Surgery our children have participated in a variety of projects throughout the town and you can read about these in this week's Chard & Ilminster Newspaper.



On Wednesday we remembered as a school community (safely socially distanced in our class bubbles) on the school field in a service of Remembrance led by Mr Talmage. We all reflected on the sacrifice of life taken in conflict but also the acts of service of keyworkers throughout 2020. As usual during this assembly the children shared their artwork with each other. This was the first time that we had met together as a whole school community since March which made the experience even more special for the children and staff.

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. She was affectionately known to the children as Mrs Blueberry.

On Monday Lisa's family have arranged for the funeral cars to pass the school on their way to Taunton Crematorium and we have chosen to pay our own special tribute. On Monday from 11:20 to 11:45, weather permitting, the children will have an additional playtime so the family can hear the sound of children laughing and playing on their journey.

Non-School uniform day for Children in Need & Children's Hospice South-West

Today has been an exciting day with lots of colour in clothing and fun activities taking place to raise money for Children in Need and the school charity of the year, Children's Hospice SouthWest. We will let you know early next week and as soon as all the donations have been counted, how much we have raised. The amount raised will be split equally between the two charities



A little early we know, but ... Christmas Cards and the Foundation Stage Nativity!

As it is now only three weeks until December, we appreciate that some children and parents have started to plan for Christmas. Unfortunately, we are not able to welcome our new Foundation Stage parents into school this year to watch their children perform in the Christmas Nativity. However, we are in the process of creating a Nativity video that will be sent to parents via email before the end of term.

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 childrens' 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.



Anti-Bullying week and odd socks day

The children will tell you that bullying is not a problem within our school and they reported to Ofsted last year that if it ever does happen that it was dealt with quickly. However, we are asking all children to wear their brightest pair of 'odd socks' that they can to school on Monday as we participate in the BBC odd socks day and join many other schools around the country in an anti-bullying week. Please do look at our social media accounts over the next few days as we share with parents lots of useful information.

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/>



EYC news from Laura

Over the last couple of weeks we have been making firework pictures using lots of different materials, rocket making, and also creating our own firework play dough. We also made some poppies for Remembrance day.

Next week we will be exploring Diwali, where we will be making lanterns and some colourful salt dough pots and soon we will be starting on some exciting Christmas activities!

We still have some spaces at Manor Court Early Years Centre. Do get in touch if you would like your child to join us. Please follow us on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.



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.



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.

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.

Data collection sheets

We recently sent home a data collection sheet for each child. Please ensure you check the details and return it to school as soon as possible. These forms are imperative to our information system and provide all the information needed should we need to contact you or in an emergency situation.

Image consent forms

This week we sent out image consent forms for each child. Please fill these in and return ASAP. 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.

Swimming

Due the ongoing Covid-19 situation we have decided to postpone swimming sessions for all year groups until it is safer and more practical for them to take place. We hope to be able to restart sessions for at least the Year 6 children later next year and will keep you up-to-date with further information nearer the time.

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.

Thank you for your continued support,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'L Talmage'.

Mr L Talmage
Head Teacher

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'A Clode'.

Mr A Clode
Deputy Head Teacher/Inclusion leader

Odd socks day!



We're wearing **ODD SOCKS**
for Anti-Bullying Week. Will you?



Odd Socks Day - Monday 16th November
#OddSocksDay #AntiBullyingWeek