

Dear parents and carers,

Summer Term Newsletter 3 – Thursday 27th May 2021



Key dates (please note that these may change.)

May 2021	
Friday 28 th May	INSET Day – School is closed for all children
June 2021	
Monday 7 th June	INSET Day – School is closed for all children
Tuesday 8 th June	All children return to school After School Clubs commence
Friday 11 th June	Multi-cultural Day. Further information to follow via the year group email addresses.



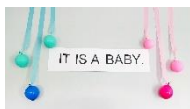
Sports Day

The rain held off today and the children had fun participating in the various sporting events and competing for their houses. Please look at our Twitter and Facebook page for more photographs. The winning house for this year's event is Gillingham! Well done and congratulations to all the children for their effort.



INSET Day

Please remember that we have an INSET Day tomorrow (Friday 28th May) and on Monday 7th June. School will not be open for any children on these days.



Mrs Prevett

We are delighted to announce that Mrs Prevett is expecting her second child later in this year.

Staffing for 2021-2022

As usual at this time of the year, teachers decide to move onto pastures new and Miss Findlay has been successful in finding a new teaching role at Fiveways school in Yeovil. We are pleased for Miss Findlay as this is a position that she has pursued for herself and working in a specialist school has always been an ambition for her.

Last Friday we interviewed Kate Whitehouse and Sam Netherway, our two excellent Exeter University PGCE students, who have been working with Mrs Prevett and Mrs Terry respectively. I am delighted that they have both accepted a teaching role (initially for one year) with us at Manor Court for September 2021.

We will inform parents as to which teacher will teach their children soon after the half term holiday.

Road Map to normality at Manor Court Primary school – A message from Mr Talmage

We are all delighted that the Government has made excellent progress with the vaccination programme and has started to ease lockdown restrictions for the nation. As a school we are bound by national and local risk assessments (which are different from other businesses) that we must follow, to keep each child and member of the staff team safe and in effect we have our own road map to return to normality.

The Government has made important changes from Monday 17th May to some of the practices within schools and we will continue to adopt a commonsense approach to these within Manor Court, always being mindful of children remaining safe as a priority. This means we can:

- I. Arrange school trips as long as children remain in their year group bubbles. Teachers are busily planning a trip for each year group for the end of this academic year.
- II. Overnight residential trips can go ahead and we were pleased that we made the decision to book our Year 6 residential to Huish Woods prior to this decision and had planned for the contingency of staying on the school field if we couldn't go to an external provider.
- III. Facemasks are no longer required to be used within the classrooms. They will still be used within common areas until at least the end of the academic year. Parents and staff must still wear their masks at drop off and collection time and we anticipate this being the case until the end of the academic year.



Multi-cultural Day on Friday 11th June

We are looking forward to celebrating our multi-cultural day on Friday 11th June. There will be opportunity for the children to taste food from different cultures and children can come to school in traditional dress or the colour of the country's flag that they will be learning about. Teachers will decide which country their class will be studying tomorrow and an email will be sent home via the year group email address to parents.

We are excited as this will be first opportunity for children to meet via Zoom with other children in our newly created link school in Paio Pires, Portugal. The name of the school is Escola Quinta da Courela and we are looking forward to this link being established for the children in both schools

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



National Number Day

There was much excitement throughout the school last week as we celebrated National Number Day. The Foundation Stage children enjoyed some outdoors subtraction and an addition game – Hedgehogs and squirrels are great mathematicians!



EYC Nursery Practitioner (Maternity cover for one year)

We are looking for a kind, caring, happy & qualified colleague to join our thriving EYC team for a twelve-month period to cover maternity leave. Please look at the advert on the school website and share this role with friends and family who may be interested. We look forward to meeting you!

Foundation Stage induction programme 2021

We are looking forward to welcoming our new foundation stage children into our school community in September. The parents of our new starters will have received their packs this week that contains information explaining the 2021 induction programme, including the stay and play session and transition afternoon in July.

Eco-Warrior competition

The Eco-Warriors have enjoyed hosting their save the bee poster competition. Children throughout the school enjoyed participating in the competition and prizes were awarded to children in Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2.



EAL Accreditation

Please read the blog written about our accreditation visit for our EAL award. A wonderful write up that reflects our school community!

<https://www.theealacademy.co.uk/valuing-community-manor-court-community-primary-school-gold-eal-quality-mark-success/>



Punctuality

We have noticed that some children are persistently arriving at school later than the time that has been allocated for them. Please do ensure that you are arriving each morning on time and at the correct entrance point to ensure that your child is ready to start their school day.

Have we got your correct details? – A message from the school office

In order to keep your child safe, please make sure that if you have changed your telephone number, email address or home address you remember to let the school office know.



EYC News from Laura

Over the last couple of weeks, in our music sessions with Declan, we have been learning about rhythm. We have learnt some new movement songs using our whole body! We have also been planting sunflowers, tomatoes and strawberries and are really excited about watching them grow!

Our 'school ready' children have been practising their name writing, number recognition through songs, independence with coats and shoes and they will be starting the transition to Foundation very soon.

Our younger children have been learning through their interests of role play, vehicles, small world and animals. We love developing their language through play support.

If you are interested in your child joining Manor Court EYC from September please do get in touch! Don't forget to follow us on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter!

Dropping off and collection of children at the rear of the school

We have received multiple complaints from parents about how children are being dropped off at the start and collected at the end of the school day.

May we politely remind you that parents may not enter the staff car park, must be respectful of each other and the members of the community who live in the vicinity of the school. Due to complaints from those who live nearby and parents within the school, we have requested that the local parking attendant and PCSO spend time patrolling the rear of the school.

We have also received a complaint from local businesses as parents have been using their private car park when dropping off/collecting children at the beginning and end of the school day. Please do not use the gravel car park opposite the front of the school.

We have space for more children!

If your friends or family have been impressed by what we have been doing for your children during the school year, 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.



E-Safety news from Miss Thompson

YouTube Kids, which is aimed at children under the age of 7, is a great way of children accessing YouTube in a more child-friendly and appropriate way. However, as with everything online, there are some aspects to be aware of. This article (link below) is an interesting read for parents of children who use the YouTube Kids app as it addresses some of these aspects, including auto-play, which means the next video

plays automatically, much like the adult version. Auto-play puts the onus of managing screen time onto the child and also means that young children are often watching whatever the app chooses for them next, which isn't always ideal.

The article can be found here: <https://www.vox.com/recode/22412232/youtube-kids-autoplay>

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

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.



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.

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