

Dear parents and carers,

Summer Term Newsletter 2 – Friday 14th May 2021



Key dates (please note that these may change.)

May 2021	
Thursday 20 th May	Sports Day – Unfortunately because of Covid-19 restrictions parents cannot attend this year
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



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. From Monday we can:

- I. Arrange school trips if 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.

There are still some activities for which we are not able to complete, one of these being Sports Day. I am aware that some parents are disappointed that we cannot welcome parents to the Sports Day this year. However, I have made this decision, that despite the event being outside we could not maintain safe social distancing measures and this brings additional risks to the children, staff and parents. I am sure that most parents will agree with this decision as it limits the chances of us having to close year group bubbles and having further detrimental impact on children's schooling, although we will ensure that we take lots of photos to share with parents through our school Twitter and Facebook account.

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.



EAL Quality Mark accreditation meeting on Wednesday 12th May 2021

We are extremely proud of the support we give our children and families for whom English is an Additional Language (EAL). We had an assessor visit us on Wednesday who was left buzzing (in her words) after her visit and awarded us the Gold standard Quality Mark for our EAL provision.

A huge well done to all the staff for their continued commitment and hard work and a massive thank you to the parents who offered their support on the day and pupils who really shone!

This is a fantastic achievement for the whole of the Manor Court School community and we are the first school in Somerset to be judged to this standard for the updated awarded.

Enrichment after school clubs

It is wonderful to see so many children enjoying the enrichment after school clubs again. Last week the Y1 cookery club made pizzas after school and Mrs Terry can vouch that they were very tasty!

Next Monday, the list of next half term's after school enrichment clubs will be sent home to parents and all clubs will remain the same as this half term. Parents will be asked to book their child's place through ParentPay; even if their child has attended a certain club this half term, they will have to rebook for next half term. To ensure that we have correct information for safeguarding reasons we cannot accept or offer places for clubs outside of the ParentPay booking system as parents will not have given the correct consent and



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

names will not be correct on the registers which is extremely important in the event of a fire or emergency. The deadline for booking places will be midnight on Monday 24th May, this is the absolute latest you will be able to book a place.

Sports Day

We will be holding our annual sports day on Thursday 20th May, unfortunately we are unable to allow parents to attend this year due to social distancing measures. KS1 children will compete in the morning and KS2 children in the afternoon. Please could children wear t-shirts in their house colour, i.e. Stringfellow, Bondfield, Morangis or Gillingham. If you are unsure which house your child is in or the colour of that house, please contact your child's class teacher via the year group email address.



Wraparound Care

Breakfast Club and After School Care is now live on ParentPay. Places are available to pre-book until Friday 4th June 2021.



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.

International Nurses Day 2021

On Wednesday Mrs Farwell led us in assembly to celebrate International Nurses Day. This was an excellent reminder of the work of those who care for us and had a focus on modern day nurses and Florence Nightingale.



EYC News from Laura

Over the last couple of weeks in our music session 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 we 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!



E-Safety council assembly

Last week our E-Safety council delivered the whole school assembly in which they announced their plan to create a book called 'Manor Court's Online Safety Tips' which all classes will contribute to. They have created a competition for which all children can design the front cover.

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 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.

Inter school cricket

The school is taking part in the cricket Olympics, organised by Somerset Cricket Board. There is a five-week programme of events for all pupils to compete in. The children are having an excellent time learning new skills and having great fun.



E-Safety news from Miss Thompson

Discord has become increasingly popular, particularly with gamers, as a way of chatting via video or text. It is used alongside Fortnite, Among Us and Minecraft to name just a few but it can just be used for chatting. It might not be something your child or children uses currently but Sony has just announced that they are going to integrate Discord into PlayStation next year which means that it may become

even more popular. For a comprehensive guide, check here: <https://www.common sense media.org/blog/parents-ultimate-guide-to-discord#:~:text=Safety%22%20menu%20item,-.Are%20there%20parental%20controls%20for%20Discord%3F,privacy%20settings%20within%20the%20app.>

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.



Foundation Stage face painting for their Manor Court 48 activities.

The Foundation Stage children (and Mr Clode) have enjoyed having their faces painted this week as part of their Manor Court 48 enrichment activities. The excitement that we witnessed as the children worked in their classrooms and played outside in the sunshine with their faces painted was one of the highlights of the week for many of the staff.

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