

## Summer Term Newsletter 5 – Friday 28<sup>th</sup> June 2024

### Key Dates

July 2024	
Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> July	Year 5 residential to Magdalen Farm
Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> July	Foundation Stage Pirates Day
Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> July	Whole school move up afternoon – please see separate letter
Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> July	Foundation Stage trip to Lyme Regis Afternoon and Evening performance of the Y6 play - 'Pirates of the Curry Bean' Year 5 trip to Exeter
Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> July	Building project starts – no access to the Key-Stage 2 playground
Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> July	Year 6 Leavers Assembly in the school hall
Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup> July	M&M production of The Little Princess to the Whole School
Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> July	Last day of the school year. Non-School uniform day and no charitable donation required

### The Summer Shows – A message from Mrs Morton

Last week we were delighted to once again hold our annual Summer Show at Holyrood. There were two sold out performances, hosted by our fantastic Arts Councillors. Each performance showcased the talents of our pupils with songs performed by every class in English, and two in Portuguese, and a repeat of Year 4's Carnival routine.



A number of songs were sung brilliantly by our Choir, led by Miss Prater and Miss Smith, including one written and composed by the children and Miss Prater! Miss Clarke led 'Sing & Sign' performing a different upbeat song each night. Our three Dance Clubs all performed in their own age groups and all together in a spine-tingling finale dance, all choreographed by Mrs Morton, and former pupil Harley Birks. Drama Club sang beautifully alongside

some complex choreography, put together by Mrs Birks, Mrs Guyett and another former pupil, Frankie May Guyett.

We are so proud of each of our performers and are extremely grateful to our audiences for attending and supporting them so loudly. Just over £70 was raised in donations for programmes, and will all go to our charity, The Little Princess Trust. All profits from ticket sales will go towards Arts experiences for all children in the next school year.



### Online safety news from Miss Hamilton

Given that WhatsApp is one of the most popular messaging apps in the world, children from Year 3 upwards are using it with very little understanding of what safety features are available. Internet Matters has a great guide for parents about privacy settings, where to get support and more. You can find out more here: <https://www.internetmatters.org/resources/whatsapp-safety-a-how-to-guide-for-parents/>

### Year 4 residential to Wildwood Escott – A message from Miss Langdown

Year 4 have had the most wonderful two days and evening at Wildwood. The sun stayed out, the skies were blue, and excitement was flowing! When we arrived, we made up our beds and had a snack. After this, we had a tour of the yurt village, and we made name tags out of wood. We then tackled the maze, and luckily all made it out just in time for our lunch!



When we had completed our woodland skills, it was time for much anticipated swamp walk! It was incredible! The children all showed some real resilience and determination as they made it through the filthy and cold swamp. We have some brilliant leaders and team members in our year group!

When we got back, Mrs Wilkins showered us off with the hose pipe, before we got into warm showers and got ready for our dinner - Spaghetti Bolognese with cheese and garlic bread!

After dinner, we played some games and then toasted marshmallows and sang songs around the campfire.



We promise we all got early nights... before waking up for a breakfast of bacon sandwiches followed by team building activities and exploring the park before heading back to school. We all had the most amazing time!

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, Mrs Terry, Mrs Wilkins, or Mr Talmage. Alternatively, you can ring Children Social Care on 0300 123 2224 or email [childrens@somerset.gov.uk](mailto:childrens@somerset.gov.uk)



### PPAT poetry competition – A message from Mrs Terry

Building on the success of last year, on Wednesday evening, we held the Preston Primary Academy Trust poetry recital competition for 2024. The competition was held for four age categories this year – Early Years Foundation Stage, Years 1 and 2, Years 3 and 4, and Year 5 and 6. As part of our ongoing development of Oracy, all children took part in reading the poems aloud in class, and then the class voted for one pupil to perform in front of Mr Talmage and I, who then decided who should go through to the final. A huge well done to Archie in Foundation Stage, Bonnie in Year 1, Scarlett in Year 3 and Avani in Year 6 who represented Manor Court brilliantly!

The final was performed before a panel of judges and the children competed against five other schools in our family of schools. The children were judged on their tone and volume, their articulation and their actions. Bonnie was chosen as runner-up in her category, and Scarlett was the winner of hers! It was a lovely evening, and all participants were congratulated on their enthusiasm and confidence.

### Manor Court children’s attendance at the Helmstedt Civic Reception

This morning twelve of our Upper Key-Stage 2 children attended a Civic Reception held in the Guildhall to welcome visitors from Helmstedt. You may know that Helmstedt (a town on the eastern edge of Germany, in the region of Saxony) has been twinned with Chard since the 1980s. The children read the poems that they have recently written with local poet, Clive Saunders. This Civic Reception is the first event in a project that Mrs Terry is leading with German primary schools in Helmstedt.



### Additional Assistant Headteacher - Mrs Laura Jones

We are delighted to inform you that after a thorough interview process last week, that we have appointed Mrs Laura Jones as an additional Assistant Headteacher for our school. Mrs Jones’s passion for our school and her expertise and experience shone throughout the interview.

### Hot weather – please help us to keep your children safe

We are hopeful of having a few more consistent days of warm weather and are ever hopeful that it may continue. Can you please help us to keep your children safe in the sunshine and hot weather by applying suncream to your children before school, sending them into school with a sun hat and plenty of water-based drinks to drink throughout the day.



### Trim Trail – A message from Mrs Jones

Can we please remind all parents that children are not to use either Trim Trails at the start, or end of the day, and must only use them under the supervision of school staff during the school day.



### Summer Fete

Thank you to the FMCA for arranging another brilliant Summer Fete last Friday and to the many families who came long to support this wonderful community event. All of the money raised will be used by the FMCA (with the agreement of the school staff) to provide those added extra experiences for our children.

### Chard food pantry – A message from Miss Gregory (Early Intervention Officer)

The cost-of-living crisis is hitting some families hard and the cost of food has increased incredibly. The Chard Community Pantry is a local initiative that provides food and household supplies for only £5 a week. Please speak to myself or Mr Clode for more information.

### Year 2 Special Visitors!

Year 2 went quackers recently over some special visitors. One kind parent brought in some ducklings to show how much they have grown over time. The children enjoyed finding out about their habitat too.



### Our new classrooms – A message from Mr Talmage

The building work for our two new classrooms will start on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> July, and we anticipate that it should be finished by February or March 2025 (depending on the weather). Please carefully read the letter that will be sent home in the next fortnight about our necessary arrangements for safe access to the school site and how lunch times will work with the Key-Stage 2 playground out of action for the remainder of the Summer Term and the Autumn Term. We will also be making a video that will be shared via social media to explain the content of the letter.

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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, Mrs Terry, Mrs Wilkins, or Mr Talmage. Alternatively, you can ring Children Social Care on 0300 123 2224 or email [childrens@somerset.gov.uk](mailto:childrens@somerset.gov.uk)

## 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. The Designated Safeguarding Lead is Mr Clode and Deputy Designated Safeguard leads are Miss Gregory, Mrs Terry, Mrs Wilkins, and Mr Talmage. The school Safeguarding and Child Protection Governor is Mrs Sue Wakeman

**Safeguarding  
is everyone's  
responsibility**

## Pupil Premium

The Pupil Premium is additional funding that the Government provides for each child who they believe may be disadvantaged in achieving their best in education. At Manor Court Community Primary School, we provide high quality education and enrichment opportunities for each pupil 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 or ask in the school office for a form that we can send off for you.

[https://secure1.somerset.gov.uk/forms/PortalShowForm.asp?fm\\_formalias=freeschoolmeal](https://secure1.somerset.gov.uk/forms/PortalShowForm.asp?fm_formalias=freeschoolmeal)

## 2024-2025 Term Dates

We have set our term dates for the 2024-2025 academic year. These can be found at the end of this newsletter and on the parent section of our school website.

## EYC news from Sophie

Our second ‘MC Fest’ was a great success! The children loved the mini-Glastonbury, and we were so impressed with all the lovely outfits. We sang, danced and played games. We even had an ice cream! It was such a lovely event. Please could I also remind parents that although we will apply sunscreen to the children in the afternoon, they must have cream applied before they arrive with us. Thank you!



## Year 6 advance warning – A message from the Y6 team

It is a busy time of the school year for the Year 6 children now that their focus on their end of KS2 assessments has finished. Our focus has now turned towards further curriculum enrichment, your child’s transition to their Secondary school and the traditional school play – this year it is *Pirates of the Curry Bean!*

We’ve been asked by a few parents to inform them of these important dates at the end of the school year so that time off from work can be booked. Please put these dates in your diary so

that you do not miss out.

1. Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> July – Afternoon performance of *Pirates of the Curry Bean!* in the school hall a 13:30 start.
2. Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> July – Evening performance of *Pirates of the Curry Bean!* in the school hall a 18:00 start.
3. Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> July – Year 6 Leavers assembly in the school hall - a 13:45 start.



## School Charity of the year – The Little Princess Trust

We have been delighted this week to be able to send £725.52 to The Little Princess Trust, for the children’s charitable fundraising led by the School Council. Thank you very much for your generosity this year in supporting this worthwhile charity.



## Wrap around care booking reminder from the school office

Our wrap around care provision is very popular but we are having an increasing number of children attend who have not been booked on to sessions. Whilst we make every effort to accommodate them, we cannot always guarantee that there is space.

Please may we remind you of the following booking deadlines:

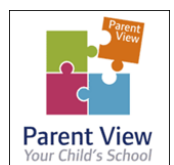
After school care – 2.00 pm on the day.

Breakfast club – 2.00 pm the day before.

## Ofsted Parent view

Parent view is a way in which Ofsted surveys the parents of children within a school to find out their views of the school and how it can be improved further. These opinions become part of the overall judgment of the school. If you would like to pass on your opinions to Ofsted, please complete the survey on the parent view website. The website can be found at

[www.parentview.ofsted.gov.uk](http://www.parentview.ofsted.gov.uk)



## After school enrichment clubs – A message from Mr Clode

Please can I politely remind all parents that our afterschool enrichment clubs finish at 16:15 and ask you to arrive promptly to collect your children.

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## St Mary's Teddy Bears' picnic

It is not long until the Teddy Bears' picnic at St Mary's Church. Do save the date, Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> July, and try to attend this wonderful event with your children and their favourite teddy bear. Do see the poster at the end of the newsletter for more information from St Mary's Church.

## Year 1 Design & Technology

As part of their Design & Technology unity, Year 1 made fish salads on Monday. They were able to use a range of utensils and learnt which fish keep us healthy.



## Farm visit

On Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> June, as part of our career's education (and with the support of the National Farmers Union) we had a visit from Lorna a local dairy farmer. Lorna and her family run a large dairy farm in Yarcombe, on the outskirts of Chard. Lorna spoke about the challenges of her job and the stereotypes that she faces as a female dairy farmer and took the time to answer a lot of questions from our children.

The favourite story that she told our children was of the 300 cows in the herd rushing to see Father Christmas on his sleigh who was visiting the children in the village one Christmas.

## Year 1 plastic waste project

Year 1 have been reading the book 'The Odd Fish' and have decided that they would like to help the Eco-Warriors to reduce plastic waste in school. They have written some brilliant letters to Mr Talmage to suggest some ways to end plastic pollution and they will start with increasing the amount of plastic that we recycle in our school.



## Wrap around care telephone number

The telephone number for our wrap around care provision (breakfast & after school club) is **07471 412147** Please save this telephone number to your phone if you use wrap around care.

Breakfast club is held in the school hall and our after-school wrap around care is held in The Den (a room in the Year 1 block). To ensure that we have the correct ratios please ensure that you contact the school office the day before you require club. We appreciate that emergencies sometimes happen.

## Attendance our school expectations – A message from Miss Gregory

Pupil attendance and punctuality is a key focus and priority within our school. Individual attendance will be monitored and reviewed on a bi-weekly basis. We would like to kindly remind parents that the school's expectations on individual pupil attendance is 95% and above, with the aim of having 100% pupil attendance. Should your child fall behind the school's expectations a monitoring process is triggered, and we may ask you to come into school to discuss your child's attendance with us. Should you have any questions or concerns relating to your child's attendance please do not hesitate to contact me within the school.



## The FMCA needs you!

The FMCA is a group of parent volunteers who spend time raising money (whilst having fun) for activities or equipment to be used for the children in the school. The work that they do is vital, and the committee needs more volunteers to help them achieve more for the children. If you would like to find out more about their work and how you can get involved, please do email them on [contactfmca@gmail.com](mailto:contactfmca@gmail.com) or contact them through their Facebook page.

## Year 5 Jewish Festival learning

Year 5 investigated the Jewish festival of Rosh Hashanah on Monday afternoon in their Religious Education lessons. They tasted apples dipped in honey, which are eaten to symbolise a sweet year ahead.



## Year 5 visit to St Mary's Church

Year 5 visited St Mary's Church on Wednesday morning to inspire their own time travel stories. The children are going to imagine that they have been transported back to the Victorian era.

## Smoking and dogs on site

We were extremely surprised to see parents, carers and grandparents smoking and vaping at our Key-Stage 2 Sports Day in front of the children. Can we please remind everyone that all areas of our school site are a no smoking and vaping area. Can we also please remind parents that dogs should not be brought onto the school site at any point and should not even be carried onto the school premises.



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

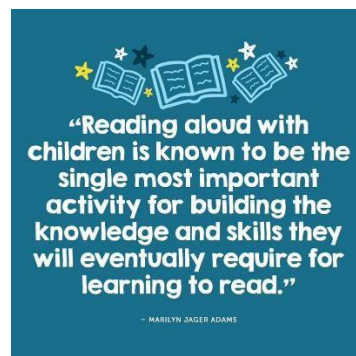
To keep your child safe, please make sure that if you have changed your telephone number, email address or home address that you remember to let the school office know so that we can update our records and be able to contact you easily when required and especially at times of emergency.

### Reading expectations – A message from Mrs Terry

At Manor Court Community Primary School, we seek to ensure that children are supported to be confident, lifelong learners with a love of reading. Reading plays a very important role in developing children culturally, emotionally, and socially and we believe literature plays a key role in such development. Reading enables pupils both to acquire knowledge and build on what they already know.

In school children in KS2 are heard reading on a 1:1 basis at least once a week by their class teacher and Learning Support staff and this is much more frequently in Foundation Stage and KS1. Those pupils not at an expected reading level are heard daily. The EYFS and Key Stage 1 reading books follow a clear progression of banding, ensuring fluency is developed. This academic year, you may find your child has a book sent home that they have already read at school, and this is something that is now promoted in all schools. The more a child reads, the larger their vocabulary becomes. When a child reads or hears the same book multiple times, they become familiar and comfortable with a greater number of words. Fluency is the ability to read text “accurately, quickly, and with expression.”

Repetitive reading allows a child to read without stumbling or stopping, and reading time becomes more pleasant for everyone. Once a child masters one book, it makes moving on to another more appealing. Reading comprehension is the ability to understand all the components of a story — from plot to character development to symbolism. Comprehension is “the essence” of reading. Each time your child reads or hears a book read to them; they learn more about the story itself. Each pass through the text or illustrations allows them to dive into the story’s meaning, preparing them for more complex narratives down the road. Children who progress from the banded scheme to ‘free readers’ can access their class library, and the school library, and can be supported to select appropriate books by staff. Pupils are encouraged to take home fiction and non-fiction texts. Children are expected to read at home 5 times a week, ideally daily, as this helps to develop confident and fluent readers. We would recommend 20 minutes of reading a day. Children’s reading logs are checked to ensure this is taking place. Where children are not reading the required amount in school, they are invited to attend a lunchtime reading club. There is also opportunity to read to a member of staff at Homework Club and After-school Club.



### Hot meals parental feedback – A message from Mrs Hunt

Our onsite kitchen is now providing a hot meal for over 190 children each weekday and it appears to us that the children within the school are enjoying the meal that is being offered to them and parents have selected for them through ParentPay.

We would like to ask parents to provide feedback, positive or negative, as to the food that we are providing to your child. If you would like to share this feedback with us, please do email the school office.



### Cricket coaching at Chard Cricket club

Yesterday the children from Year 1, Year 2, Year 3, and Year 5 spent time at Chard Cricket club practicing their cricket skills and having lots of fun in the sunshine. Do remember that the Cricket club has an excellent child and youth set up and the coaching for children of the primary ages is on a Friday evening. Do contact the cricket club directly for more information about their children’s program.

Thank you for your continued support.

Mr Luke Talmage  
Headteacher

Mr Alan Clode  
Deputy Headteacher and Inclusion Leader



YOUR FAVOURITE  
TEDDY BEAR IS  
INVITED TO THE



# TEDDY BEARS' PICNIC

When : Saturday 13th July 2024

1pm to 4pm

Where: St. Mary's Church , Chard

Dear Teddy, Get ready to zip the wire and  
parachute from the Church Tower.

Refreshments, crafts, tombola, raffle, guess  
the name of the Panda, games and much  
more, too!!

We look forward to sharing this terrific time  
with you!

From every one at St. Mary's



In aid of St. Mary's Church Funds



# Manor Court Community Primary School School Terms and Holidays 2024-2025

September 2024						October 2024						November 2024								
M		2	9	16	23	30	Mo			7	14	21	28	M			4	11	18	25
Tu		3	10	17	24		Tu		1	8	15	22	29	Tu			5	12	19	26
W		4	11	18	25		We		2	9	16	23	30	W			6	13	20	27
Th		5	12	19	26		Th		3	10	17	24	31	Th			7	14	21	28
F		6	13	20	27		Fr		4	11	18	25		F		1	8	15	22	29
Sa		7	14	21	28		Sa		5	12	19	26		Sa		2	9	16	23	30
Su	1	8	15	22	29		Su		6	13	20	27		Su		3	10	17	24	
December 2024						January 2025						February 2025								
M		2	9	16	23	30	M			6	13	20	27	M			3	10	17	24
Tu		3	10	17	24	31	Tu			7	14	21	28	Tu			4	11	18	25
W		4	11	18	25		W		1	8	15	22	29	W			5	12	19	26
Th		5	12	19	26		Th		2	9	16	23	30	Th			6	13	20	27
F		6	13	20	27		F		3	10	17	24	31	F			7	14	21	28
Sa		7	14	21	28		Sa		4	11	18	25		Sa		1	8	15	22	
Su	1	8	15	22	29		Su		5	12	19	26		Su		2	9	16	23	
March 2025						April 2025						May 2025								
M		3	10	17	24	31	M			7	14	21	28	M			5	12	19	26
Tu		4	11	18	25		Tu		1	8	15	22	29	Tu			6	13	20	27
W		5	12	19	26		W		2	9	16	23	30	W			7	14	21	28
Th		6	13	20	27		Th		3	10	17	24		Th		1	8	15	22	29
F		7	14	21	28		F		4	11	18	25		F		2	9	16	23	30
Sa	1	8	15	22	29		Sa		5	12	19	26		Sa		3	10	17	24	31
Su	2	9	16	23	30		Su		6	13	20	27		Su		4	11	18	25	
June 2025						July 2025						August 2025								
M		2	9	16	23	30	M			7	14	21	28	M			4	11	18	25
Tu		3	10	17	24		Tu		1	8	15	22	29	Tu			5	12	19	26
W		4	11	18	25		W		2	9	16	23	30	W			6	13	20	27
Th		5	12	19	26		Th		3	10	17	24	31	Th			7	14	21	28
F		6	13	20	27		F		4	11	18	25		F		1	8	15	22	29
Sa		7	14	21	28		Sa		5	12	19	26		Sa		2	9	16	23	30
Su	1	8	15	22	29		Su		6	13	20	27		Su		3	10	17	24	31

Key:	
	School Holiday
	Bank Holiday
	Term Time
	Inset Days

Term dates summary:	
<b>Term 1:</b> 03 September – 25 October 2024 (39 days)	
<b>Term 2:</b> 04 November – 20 December 2024 (35 days)	
<b>Term 3:</b> 06 January – 14 February 2025 (30 days)	
<b>Term 4:</b> 24 February – 04 April 2025 (30 days)	
<b>Term 5:</b> 22 April – 23 May 2025 (23 days)	
<b>Term 6:</b> 02 June – 23 July 2025 (38 days)	<b>TOTAL = 195</b>

Bank and public holidays 2024/25			
Christmas Day	25 December 2024	Easter Monday	21 April 2025
Boxing Day	26 December 2024	May Day Bank Holiday	05 May 2025
New Year's Day	01 January 2025	Spring Bank Holiday	26 May 2025
Good Friday	18 April 2025	Summer Bank Holiday	25 August 2025
Academy, Free Schools, Foundation & Voluntary Aided schools can set their own term dates and may differ from ours. Please check with the individual schools for their term dates.			

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