

Dear Parents and carers



Spring Term Newsletter 1– Friday 12th January 2024

On behalf of the whole school community, we would like to wish you a very Happy New Year. We look forward to another exciting and successful school year ahead.

Key Dates

January 2024	
Thursday 18 th January	Y5 Cake Sale (Y5 Only)
Friday 19 th January	FMCA Quiz Night
Monday 22 nd January	Uniform Swap after school
Wednesday 24 th January	NSPCC Workshops
Friday 26 th January	Our whole school annual Art Exhibition at Chard Guildhall
February 2024	
Friday 9 th February	Y5 Trip to Cineworld
Tuesday 20 th February	Y4 Trip to Magdalen Farm

Art exhibition- A message from Mrs Morton and Miss Grabham

Do join us at the Guildhall for our fifth annual public Art exhibition on Friday 26th January. Work from each child in our Early Years Centre through to Y6 will be on display in paintings, sculptures and textiles. Our Arts Councillors will be the tour guides between 09:30am and 11:30am and from 1:15pm until 2:45pm, but all work will be on display from 09:30am until 5:00pm.



Admission is free but donations to our school's chosen charity, The Little Princess Trust, would be gratefully received. Please see the poster at the end of the newsletter for further information.

New school website address

Please be aware that we have changed our school website address, as the previous website domain was owned by Somerset County Council and there was a risk of the school website being lost if the County Council goes further into administration.

Our school website address is now: www.manorcourtcommunityprimary.co.uk

PE Days for the Spring Term

The PE days for each class for the Spring Term is listed in the table below and your child can wear their PE kit to school on these days instead of their school uniform. If we need to make any change to the day in which the class has PE this will be communicated to parents via your ParentPay account.

Classes	PE Day
Hedgehogs & Squirrels	Tuesday
Bumblebees & Dragonflies	Wednesday
Magpies & Nightingales	Thursday & Friday (Swimming)
Owls & Kingfishers	Wednesday & Friday
Eagles & Puffins	Monday & Friday
Badgers & Foxes	Monday & Thursday
Hérons & Otters	Wednesday & Friday

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.



Fossil Days

The Year 3 and 5 children had a wonderful day exploring the world of fossils this week. They learnt how fossils were made with pupils acting as dying dinosaurs! They then looked at a variety of fossil casts before examining a piece of 200-million-year-old shark poo! The children even sieved for teeth amongst sand and stones and then washed ammonites before polishing and varnishing them.

We'd like to say a huge thank you to our visitors from Charmouth Heritage centre who provided our children with such a fun and informative two days of learning, we will certainly be inviting them back next year to work with more children.

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

School uniform expectations

We expect all children to conform to the school uniform expectations and for parents to support us in this. We do have a uniform bank for families when they are unable to provide school uniform. This uniform bank contains clean and pre-used shirts, trousers, jumpers, coats, shoes and ties so please do speak to a member of staff if you'd like to have a piece of uniform.

The Big Uniform exchange

The Big Uniform exchange is back on Monday 22nd January from 3pm on the KS1 and KS2 playground.

If you have any clean uniform in good condition that you would like to donate to be swapped, we will be collecting every day from the front of the school from

Monday morning until next Friday. On the day of the Uniform swap, simply feel free to take whatever you need.



Cleaner required – We need you!

We are looking for a hardworking, skilled and dedicated colleague to join our brilliant premises team as a cleaner. This role is initially for ten hours a week, and the hours can be completed before or after school or a mixture of both to suit.

If you would like more information about this role please look on our school website: www.manorcourtcommunityprimaryschool.co.uk or telephone the school office to speak to Mr Perham (Premises manager) or Mrs Hunt (Assistant School Business Manager).

Foundation Stage traditional tale writing

Foundation Stage have enjoyed the start of their new topic about Traditional Tales. The children have enjoyed writing a character description about the wolf in the Little Red Riding Hood and completing maths work based on the story of Goldilocks and the Three Bears.



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

The Pesky Rat of Manor Court

Mr Perham, Mr Clode and Mrs Terry were on the hunt for a Pesky Rat last Wednesday morning! It had been seen near the Year 4 classrooms, so the children in Eagles and Puffins soon started making traps to catch it. Fear not, for the toy rat was captured and it turns out that the Pesky rat stars in his own book, too! Year 4 will enjoy reading about his adventures in English over the next few weeks!



Online safety news from Miss Hamilton

The age ratings that come with games, apps, films and social networks are a good guide to whether they're suitable for your child. If you let your child search independently, make sure safe search is activated on Google and other search engines, as well as restricted mode on YouTube. You can set your default search to one designed specifically for children, such as swiggle, and can save time by adding these to your Favourites.



More volunteer readers needed – A message from Mrs Terry

Do you have spare time that you could commit to volunteering at our excellent school in 2024?

We are looking for more adults who can spend time listening to our children read. Full training (including safeguarding) and lots of friendly children and staff will be provided! Each volunteer will require a DBS (paid for by the school) before they can start.

If you'd like to find out more information, please contact the school office to speak to me, Mrs Terry (Assistant Headteacher), or Mrs Hunt (Business Manager).

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.

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

American theme Day

On Thursday 18th January it is America theme day in our production kitchen. It is a good opportunity for your child to try a fresh, hot school meal cooked in our production kitchen. If you would like to book meal, please use your ParentPay account or contact the school office for further information. A poster to explain more about the meals on this day can be found at the end of this newsletter.

Windows in Puffins, Badgers and Foxes classrooms

The school continued to be a hive of activity during the Christmas holidays with our Winter holiday club which ran for four days, and a lot of premises work being overseen by Mr Perham our premises manager. One of the important jobs being completed was the replacement of the wooden framed windows in Puffins, Badgers and Foxes classrooms with aluminum framed double glazing. These are the last windows that have needed to be replaced to make our school more environmentally friendly. We are hopeful that the tendering process for our two new classrooms will start next month and that the building work can be completed by the start of the next academic year.



FMCA Quiz night

The FMCA are holding their next fundraising event – a quiz night – on Friday 19th January. The doors open from 6:00pm and the quiz will start at 6:30pm. Please see the poster at the end of the newsletter for more information. To book a team, please email contactfmca@gmail.com

Appointment of a Sports Coach – A message from Miss Kitto

We are delighted to inform you that after an interview in the last week of the Autumn term, we have appointed Louis McCarten (formally of Yeovil Town Community Sports Trust) as our new PE coach. He started with us last week and will be with us initially until the end of the academic year. It is extremely likely that this will be extended past this point.

Mr McCarten will teach sports throughout the school, oversee a number of clubs, continue our application for the Sports Mark Gold and hopefully use his coaching skills to help the children win a few football matches!

EYC news from Sophie

Our preschool children have had a busy start to the new term. We have visited the school hall for our weekly PE session and took part in Michelle's activities that got us moving! Laura has also begun her outdoor learning activities. Each term, every child will enjoy taking part in an activity on the school field. This term, we are building dens for our teddy bears from natural objects we can find.

Please can we ask that any new items of clothing and lunchboxes are fully named so that the children go home with the correct items - thank you.



Gifted and Talented Art project

Our Gifted & Talented Artists have been busy creating some fabulous pieces inspired by Monet. They'll be on display alongside all classes' work at our annual public Art Exhibition at the Guildhall on Friday 26th January.

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**

Telegram App – A message from Mr Clode

We would like to inform you about a messaging app "Telegram" which is high risk for some of our older children who may have their own mobile phone.

The app "Telegram" is similar to Whatsapp and Snapchat but claims to be faster, free and offer more storage for media and content. Students can download the app and use it to message anyone. The app says that users should be over 16 but there are no checks to sign up, you just click a button agreeing that they are over 16.

One of the features that is particularly concerning is the local group facility. If you share your location within the App, you can access a list of local groups or set up your own group locally. There is a chance that this group can be entered by children, teenagers or adults that your child does not know.

If your child has their own mobile phone, please check your child's phone to make sure they are not using the Telegram messaging app. If you do find any concerning groups or content, please do report it directly to the police.

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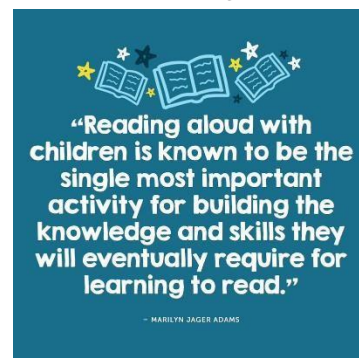
Reading expectations – A message from Mrs Terry

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 frequent 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.

here is opportunity to read to a member of staff at Homework Club and After-school Club.



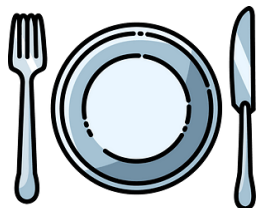
Attendance our school expectations

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.

Year 4 Science

Year 4 are learning about the digestive system in science. This week they have found out what happens to food when it is eaten using Weetabix, orange juice and a pair of tights. We think that their faces say it all!

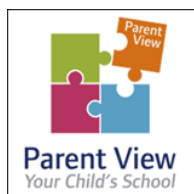


Hot meals parental feedback – A message from Mrs Hunt

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.

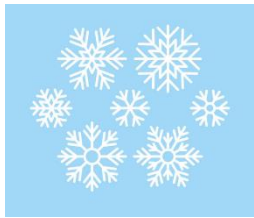
If for any reason you are unhappy with the meals provided, please do email the office and we can try to rectify this.



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

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Remote learning in case of the need to close our school this winter

We are approaching the time of the year when the weather becomes more unsettled and schools may require closing because of poor weather, treacherous driving conditions or heating failures. If we do require to shut the school at any point, work packs are available for all children to complete at home (printed copies were sent home last week in the storms) and can be found in the year group specific page on our school website to be downloaded and printed at home. Please make sure that your child is equipped with the correct clothing for

cold weather.

<https://www.manorcourtcommunityprimary.co.uk/remote-learning-in-case-of-school-closure/>

Nut Free School

Can we please remind you that we have children with nut allergies who attend our school and that we are a nut free school and that children should not be bringing nuts or nut-based snacks into school. This does include chocolate spread in sandwiches.

WE ARE A NUT FREE
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 or contact them through their Facebook page.



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 Y1 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.

Thank you for your continued support.

Mr Luke Talmage
Headteacher

Mr Alan Clode
Deputy Headteacher and Inclusion Leader



Manor Court Primary School
Duck Lane
Chard, TA20 2ES
Tel: 01460 62350
Email: office@manorcourt.ppat365.org

Cleaner Vacancy

Fixed term Contract until 31.08.2024 initially
Grade 16, scale point 2 - £11.59 an hour
10 hours per week - Monday – Friday

Job Summary

Manor Court Primary School is looking for a cleaner to start working as soon as possible. The position is for 10 hours per week, working Monday to Friday, working 2 hours each day, with the option of working in the morning before school commences or after school finishes. The vacancy is term time only plus 6 additional weeks to be worked across a variety of the school holidays.

Preston Primary Academy trust is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. The position is subject to an enhanced DBS check, medical clearance and references.

Visits to our school are welcome: please telephone to make an appointment on 01460 62350

Please apply in writing by completing the application form available from the trust or school website www.manorcourtcommunityprimary.co.uk or www.prestonprimaryacademytrust.co.uk

Applications should be returned to the school office by email or at the address provided above. Due to the volume of applications received if you have not heard from the school by Monday 29th January 2024, unfortunately you have not been successful in securing an interview.

Closing date: Monday 22nd January 2024
Interviews: W/c Monday 29th January 2024

MANOR COURT

COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL

ART EXHIBITION

FRIDAY 26TH JANUARY 2024
CHARD GUILDHALL 9:30AM - 5:00PM



ARTWORK IN THE STYLE OF
CLAUDE MONET



QUIZ NIGHT

FRIDAY 19TH JANUARY
@ MANOR COURT PRIMARY SCHOOL

Adults £3
Children £1.50
Maximum of 6
per team.



Alcohol, soft drinks and
light snacks will be
available to purchase on
the night.
Only alcohol purchased
on the premise can be
consumed.

Come along and have some fun and help us raise money for
special experiences for the children of Manor Court.

Prize for the winning team plus a raffle!

Special Guest Quiz Master Brian Gidley

Doors open at 6pm for a 6.30pm start

To book a table please email us at contactfmca@gmail.com

We hope to see you there!





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:	
<div style="width: 100%; height: 10px;"></div>	School Holiday
<div style="width: 100%; height: 10px;"></div>	Bank Holiday
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<div style="width: 100%; height: 10px;"></div>	Inset Days

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

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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America Day



at
**Manor Court
Primary School**

Thursday 18th January 2024

Please choose from:



Sausage with chips

Chicken Goujons with chips



Vegan Nuggets with chips

Sweetcorn



Baked Beans

Chocolate Chip Cookies



Please order on Parent Pay as usual