

Dear Parents and carers



## Autumn Term Newsletter 1 – Friday 29<sup>th</sup> September 2023

October 2023	
Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> October	Harvest Festival at St Mary's Church
Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> October	Rock up & Read sessions start – please see letter for more specific detail
Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup> October	Hello Yellow Young Minds Day
Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> October	Artist in to work with the Y6s for the Remembrance Display FMCA AGM – please see poster at the end of the newsletter
Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> October	Y6 SATs meeting at 14:45 in the school hall EYC Parents Evening – see Eylog for further information
Saturday 14 <sup>th</sup> October	Y4 participating in the Children's Carnival as part of their MC48
Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> October	Parents Evening 1
Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> October	Parents Evening 2
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> October	Children break up for October half term
Monday 30 <sup>th</sup> October	Children return to school after the October half term
November 2023	
Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> November	Fire safety talks by the fire service to Y2 and Y5
Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> November	Shoebox appeal collection (leaflets will be sent home)
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> November	Children in need day, 50p donation non-uniform. Theme to be decided.



### Come and join us in September 2024

The application process for starting Foundation Stage in September 2024 opened this week through the Somerset County Council portal. If you would like your child to join our happy, caring, fun and high academically achieving (the highest in Chard for several consecutive years) school then do apply through this link <https://www.somerset.gov.uk/children-families-and-education/applying-for-school/apply-to-start-school-for-the-first-time/>

If you would like to look around before making your final decision, please contact the school office to make an appointment with Mrs Terry, Mr Clode, or Mr Talmage.

### Celebration Assemblies

Family members are very welcome to join us at our KS1 (not Foundation Stage until after half term) and KS2 celebration assembly each Friday. KS1 Assembly starts at 08:50 in the school hall and KS2 Assembly starts at 10:50 in the school hall. After half term the order of the assembly's swap and KS2 is first thing in the morning and KS1 is after the children's morning break.

### Rock up & Read! – A message from Mrs Terry

As part of our continual drive to encourage reading for pleasure, we would like to invite you to join us and your children in school for a 'Rock up & read' session. This time Rock up & Read will be spread out over three weeks and will start at 08:50 in the school hall. You do not need to tell us you are coming, just simply come in and listen to your child read, or you can read to them. The EYC will be holding their own sessions in their own secure space.



Year Group - Classes	Date
The EYC	Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> October (11:30am) & Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> October (2:30pm) in the EYC
Foundation Stage – Hedgehog & Squirrels	Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> October
Year 1 – Bumblebees & Dragonflies	Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> October
Year 2 – Nightingales & Magpies	Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> October
Year 3 – Owls & Kingfishers	Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> October
Year 4 – Eagles & Puffins	Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> October
Year 5 – Badgers & Foxes	Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> October
Year 6 – Otters & Herons	Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> October

### Trim trail – A message from Mr Talmage

It has been noted by many staff that a lot of children are using the trim trails outside the Foundation stage Area and behind the school hall at the start and end of the school day.

As a health and safety measure please can children not use the trim trails during these times and only when they are being supervised during the day by a member of staff. Thank you for your support in keeping each child safe.

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)

## Year 1 Collaboration

There was great discussion and collaboration in Year 1 yesterday afternoon. The children used bricks to create buildings from around Chard. They built the Guildhall, our school, the library and St Mary's Church.



## Parents Evening an advance warning!

Please save the dates for our first Parents Evenings of the 2023-2024 school year which will be held on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> October in the school hall or via telephone call. Information will be sent home via ParentPay on Monday to explain how you can book an appointment with your child's teacher online. Please remember that appointments on each day are made on a first come first served basis.

## Year 4 visit from the BIG Bad Wolf!

Year 4 had a visit from the Big Bad Wolf on Wednesday who told them the 'true' story of Little Red Riding Hood. Mrs Wilkins was nowhere to be seen.... We feared she may have been eaten!



## Sibling School photos.

Tempest photography are returning to Manor Court to take photographs of siblings in the school. If you would like your children's photos to be taken, please look out for the letter that will be coming out next week via ParentPay.



## Music for All

Music for All is a national initiative encouraging both young people and adults to start playing a musical instrument. Whether you have never played, or whether you maybe want to take music up again, this event is for you.

Chard Music is thrilled to offer **anyone** a free 30-minute lesson on the flute, cello or piano.

We are taking bookings for 7<sup>th</sup> October and will be glad to see you.

For more info including a chance to book your slot, go to <https://www.chardmusic.com/learn-to-play-day>

We look forward to seeing you!

Charles & Kath Sugden

[www.chardmusic.com](http://www.chardmusic.com)



## 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.

The FMCA's AGM will be held on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> October at the Phoenix Hotel Ballroom at 19:30.

## 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.



## EYC news from Sophie

The children at preschool have continued to impress us with how well they have settled in. Well done all! We have begun our phonics sessions, and we recently enjoyed a listening walk around the school where we heard children playing, the rain and a helicopter. We have also been learning some harvest songs! Just a reminder that our parents' evenings will be taking place on 12<sup>th</sup> October & 19<sup>th</sup> October. Please sign up for an appointment when you collect your child.



## Year 4 Carnival Entry as part of their Manor Court 48 – A message from Mrs Wilkins and Miss Langdown

Year 4 will be entering the children's Chard carnival on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> October. Arrival will be from 9.15 am. Children are currently making their outfits at school and practising their routine! Permission slips and more information will be sent out on Monday.

## X and Facebook

If you do not already, please follow our official accounts on Facebook or X for up to date information and posts that celebrate the excellent education that the children receive at Manor Court.

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## World Mental Health Day 2023 – Advanced warning

On Tuesday 10th October 2023, lots of people will be marking World Mental Health Day. It's a global event designed to raise more awareness about mental health conditions.

To celebrate, we are encouraging our staff and pupils to wear something yellow to support the message, #HelloYellow. This could be as simple as yellow socks, a yellow hair band or if you have anything already at home, maybe a yellow t-shirt or jumper. All classes will have the opportunity to make yellow rosettes to wear. This is not a non-uniform day, just a day to accent school uniform with something yellow. Some people have *mental health* conditions like *depression* or *anxiety*, which means they have feelings that won't go away and which start to really affect day-to-day life. There are two main goals of the event. The first is to educate people about them. The second is to remove feelings of shame, worry or embarrassment about talking about or having them.



## Y3 visit to Oak Lodge

Some of our Year 3 children visited the residents at Oak Lodge to read to them, chat, and play board games. This will be a monthly occurrence, and all the Year 3 pupils will visit over the year. We are all delighted to be such a part of the local community and believe that the children and residents benefit from this multi-generational link.



## Y5 and Y6 visit to Numatic

A selection of Year 5 and Year 6 pupils enjoyed visiting the Numatic International factory yesterday as part of Manufacturing Day! Their first task was to build the biggest tower using a set amount of equipment! They had a tour of the Numatic factory and saw how the production line worked and discovered the role of cobots (collaborative robots).

## 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 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](https://secure1.somerset.gov.uk/forms/PortalShowForm.asp?fm_formalias=freeschoolmeal)

## Online safety news from Miss Hamilton

CEOP have an interactive website aimed at 4-7-year-olds. It comes with a guide for parents and is designed to help young children understand how to stay safer online. It ties in with CEOP's Jessie and Friends animated series and the idea is that it is used by children with their parents or carers. You can find it here: [https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/4\\_7/org](https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/4_7/org)



## Harvest Festival

We are looking forward to taking the children to our first visit of the school year to St Mary's Church for our annual Harvest Festival assembly on Monday. If you would like to donate items for the The Lord's Larder (Chard's food bank) please bring these into school. Please see the poster at the end of this newsletter for the items that we would like to receive to be donated to The Lords Larder.



## 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)

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## PE Days for the Autumn Term

Our PE Days have been set for the next half term and are unlikely to be changed, if we need to change them, we will inform you through your Eylog or ParentPay account. Children should wear their PE kits to school on the days listed below. We have noticed that some children are wearing their PE hoodies into school on different days and on all other days it is important that full school uniform is worn.

Classes	PE Day on which PE Kits must be worn
Squirrels & Hedgehogs	Tuesday
Dragonflies & Bumblebees	Thursday
Nightingales & Magpies	Thursday & Friday
Owls & Kingfishers	Tuesday & Thursday
Eagles & Puffins	Thursday & Friday
Foxes & Badgers	Monday & Friday
Hérons & Otters	Wednesday & Friday

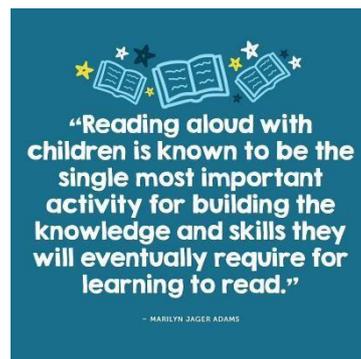
## Reading expectations – A message from Mrs Terry

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 deeper into the story’s meaning, preparing them for more complex narratives down the road. Children who progress from the banded scheme to ‘free readers’ are able to 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.

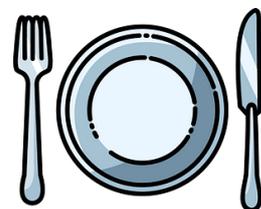


## Hot meals parental feedback – A message from Mrs Hunt

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.

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



## 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.



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### **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 and will try our very best to accommodate your needs on these occasions.

### **Y5 Portuguese Teddy Bears**

Year 5 have designed teddies in their Portuguese lessons as part of their learning about toys. They are 'Ursos lindos' (beautiful teddies)!



### **Our new school council**

We would like to introduce our wonderful School Council for 2023-24! The children were presented with their certificates in celebration assembly last Friday. The children will be the voice of their peers and help to make decisions that will benefit the children who attend our school.

Thank you or your continued support.

Mr Luke Talmage  
Headteacher

Mr Alan Clode  
Deputy Headteacher and Inclusion Leader

**The Friends of Manor  
Court Association  
(FMCA)**



**Annual General Meeting**

**EVERYONE IS WELCOME**

**Stay informed and get involved.**

**The Phoenix Hotel Ballroom  
11<sup>th</sup> October 2023  
7.30pm**



**Parentkind**  
Member Association

£20 all day

# PREMIER EDUCATION TAUNTON HOLIDAY CAMPS

9.00am-  
3:30pm

## Thursday 26th October 2023

**Venue:** Herne View Primary, Ditton Street, TA19 0BL

**Entrance - access to the Gymnasium from south of the school on small school road through blue door, off Ditton St.**

## GYMNASTICS HOLIDAY CAMP

**Gymnastics-** Spend the day learning new gymnastic techniques from our amazing qualified gymnastic coaches.

They will support you doing new rolls, balances, handstands and many more new skills.

Enjoy making routines in pairs and small groups which will be presented later in the day.



Work on swinging, climbing and jumping from the amazing apparatus supplied by Herne View school

Refresh your skills before school starts again & come and meet new friends.

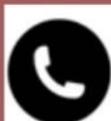
Commonwealth Gold Medallist Kelly Simm will be on hand to help launch our first Gymnastics Holiday Club at Herne View PS.



Childcare vouchers accepted

### How to book:

Online- [www.premier-education.com](http://www.premier-education.com)  
Call Andrew- 07776 108281



### Be sure to:

Like and follow our Premier Education Taunton Instagram and facebook page!

