

Dear Parents and carers



Autumn Term Newsletter 1 – Friday 15th September 2023

September 2023	
Monday 18 th September	Flu Vaccinations for all children whose parents have requested it
Wednesday 20 th September	Tempest Photography in School.
Tuesday 26 th September	Holyrood Roadshow for Y6 parents and students. 17:30 in our school hall.
October 2023	
Monday 2 nd October	Harvest Festival at St Mary's Church
Thursday 5 th October	Rock up & Read sessions start – please see letter for more specific detail
Tuesday 10 th October	Hello Yellow Young Minds Day
Wednesday 11 th 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 th October	Y6 SATs meeting at 14:45 in the school hall EYC Parents Evening – see Eylog for further information
Saturday 14 th October	Y4 participating in the Children's Carnival as part of their MC48
Monday 16 th October	Parents Evening 1
Tuesday 17 th October	Parents Evening 2
Friday 20 th October	Children break up for October half term

Welcome back

A huge welcome back to our children who have attended our school prior to the start of this school year and a very warm welcome to our new Foundation Stage children and any other child that has joined us since we have returned. We extend this warm welcome to each member of the family and look forward to building a long and positive relationship with you.



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 will start at 08:50 in the school hall and KS2 Assembly will start 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.



Roald Dahl Day

On Wednesday we held a special day in memory of beloved author Roald Dahl, who would have been 107 years old. In books like Matilda, Dahl earned his right to be called one of the world's best-loved storytellers.

All year groups enjoyed listening to Dahl's different stories and different classes produced writing based on his work and made some beautiful illustrations or creative objectives.

Tempest Photography

Tempest Photography are coming to school next Wednesday to take individual photographs and photographs of siblings (Reception to Year 6). These are always great to buy as presents at Christmas time. Please remember to send your child to school in full school uniform.

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

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Year 4 trip to the County Ground

On Wednesday each Y4 child went to the County Ground in Taunton to watch Western Storm play Central Sparks at cricket. The children behaved impeccably, and this was commented on by lots of people attending the match. The children enjoyed having their faces painted, competing in the cricket activities for children and watching the cricket!



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.

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 16th and Tuesday 17th October in the school hall or via telephone call. Information will be sent home via ParentPay in the next fortnight to explain how you can book an appointment with your child's teacher online. Please remember that these appointments are made on a first come first served basis.



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. The FMCA's AGM will be held on Wednesday 11th October at The Phoenix Ballroom in Chard. Please see the poster at the end of the newsletter.



House Captains

Our new House Captains were informed of their new roles today and received their badges in the Key Stage 2 assembly. The children had to write a letter to the senior leadership team to explain why they believed they were suitable candidates and how they lived up to the school Aspire values. After reading the letters it was a unanimous decision to award the roles to:

Bondfield	Gifford
Emily P & Carter	Ryder & Lacey
Gillingham	Stringfellow
Neave W & Harley C	Harvey G & Avani

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.



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

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EYC news from Sophie

We have had a great start to Pre School. The children have settled really well and have enjoyed the September sunshine. We have celebrated Roald Dahl day, spent time in the mud kitchen and welcomed Declan the Music Man back to EYC after the summer break. We have also really enjoyed planting some new plants and flowers and learning about how they will grow. Just a reminder - If your child is due to begin Primary school in September 2024, the online application opens on Monday 25th September.



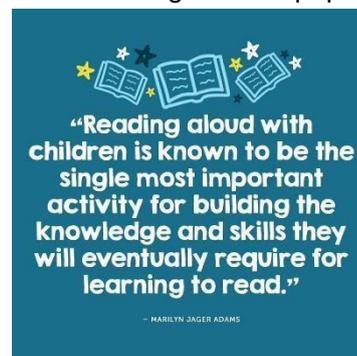
Reading expectations – A message from Mrs Terry

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 passage 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.



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 Elog 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
Herons & Otters	Wednesday & Friday



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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Online safety news from Miss Hamilton

As parents and carers, we know that the world our children are growing up in is different to the one we experienced. We also know that they need our help to navigate it safely. Open conversations not only increase children's knowledge but also their willingness to come to us when they are worried. Thorn's free online safety discussion guides are designed to 'help guide uncomfortable but critical conversations' and are aimed at children of all ages from year 2 and above. If you want to know more you can find these at: <https://parents.thorn.org/discussion-guides/>

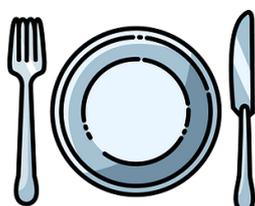


Harvest Festival

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 2nd October. Nearer the time the newly elected School Council will arrange a collection of food products that will be donated to The Lord's Larder (Chard's food bank).

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.



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.

Education Sunday

On Sunday 10th September Mr Talmage had the pleasure to speak at St Mary's Church as part of Education Sunday. He reflected on the current state of education in England, the importance of community, the wonderful children who attend and the wonderful adults who work at our school and how much we value the friendship between the Church and 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 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.

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**

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)**

AGM

Annual General Meeting

EVERYONE IS WELCOME

Stay informed and get involved.

**The Phoenix Hotel Ballroom
11th October 2023
7.30pm**



Parentkind
Member Association



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Manor Court Primary School are
accepting donations towards our
Harvest Hamper for the Lords Larder.

We will really appreciate any tinned or packet grocery items.
Please make sure all goods are well in date and are un-opened.
Donations can be sent into class with your child by Friday September
29th.

We will present the hamper during our Harvest Festival. Thank you.

Manor Court School Council