

Autumn Term Newsletter 5 – Friday 17th November 2023

November 2023	
Wednesday 22 nd November	Year 2 trip to Fleet Air Arm Museum
Tuesday 28 th November to Monday 4 th December	Scholastic book fayre in school
December 2023	
Wednesday 6 th December	FMCA ‘Break the Rules Day’
Thursday 7 th December	KS1 Christmas Dinner
Friday 8 th December	Save the Children’s Christmas Jumper Day KS2 Christmas Dinner
Monday 11 th December	Year 1 Panto Trip
Thursday 14 th December	Drama Club performance to parents at 3.30pm in the school hall
Friday 15 th December	Last day of the Autumn Term before the Christmas holidays



Remembrance Assembly

Our Remembrance Assembly, on Friday 10th November, was led by Reverend Steve Reed (a former Manor Court pupil, retired soldier, local businessman, Baptist Minister, and current Chaplain of the Somerset Army Cadets). The children shared their Remembrance display work, sang two songs, listened to the choir perform with Miss Prater, heard a poem read by two Y6 children, responded respectfully to the overall theme of peace and paid their respects in a beautifully observed minutes silence.

Sports for Schools – A message from Miss Langdown

On Monday 13th November, we had our fantastically fun Sports for Schools event. The music was pumping, the children were excited, and spirits were high. All classes completed the fitness circuit which included star jumps, push ups, mountain climbers and ‘spotty dogs’, with enthusiasm and resilience, we even had some staff get involved! We then listened to the inspirational story of Will Bjerfelt, paralympic cyclist, who shared his cycling journey with us. He highlighted the importance of wearing a helmet when riding a bike, as without his helmet, he wouldn’t be alive to share his story. Will told us about how his world changed after his accident and he has shown us that he certainly didn’t give up, just because things got harder. We were lucky enough to see his growing number of medals, as he shared his aspirations for the future. This has really made us think about how important it is to be resilient and strive for the futures we want. We know that anything is possible if we work hard for it!



Save the dates for our Christmas performances!

We are swiftly moving into the Christmas period and the children have started to prepare our Christmas events to perform to you. We want to give you plenty of advance warning so that you can request the time off from work, if necessary, to attend the performances for your children. Please save the dates in your diary so that you are not disappointed. The admin team will be in the library after school on Tuesday 21st and Thursday 23rd November distributing tickets to parents for the Y1/Y2 Christmas play. Foundation tickets were sent home this week, if you do not require all 4 tickets, please return to the school office so we can offer these out for extra family members.



Monday 4 th December at 09:30	Y3 and Y4 Carol Service at St Mary’s Church
Monday 4 th December at 11:00	Y5 and Y6 Carol Service at St Mary’s Church
Thursday 7 th December at 14:00	Y1 and Y2 Christmas play in the school hall performance 1
Monday 11 th December at 14:30	Foundation Stage Nativity in the school hall performance 1
Tuesday 12 th December at 14:30	Foundation Stage Nativity in the school hall performance 2
Wednesday 13 th December at 14:00	Y1 and Y2 Christmas play in the school hall performance 2
Thursday 14 th December at 14:00	Y1 and Y2 Christmas play in the school hall performance 3

Children in Need

We had a ‘Spottacular’ day yesterday raising money for the worthwhile cause of ‘Children in Need’. All of the children made such an effort in their dressing up and were generous in their donations. We will reveal the total raised next week. As always, we thank you for your generosity.





Online Advent calendar competition – A message from Mrs Morton

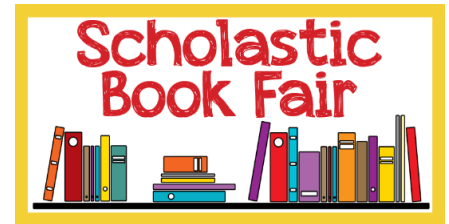
Our annual online advent calendar competition is underway! If your child would like to enter, they need to create a winter or Christmas picture on A4 paper or card. It can be portrait or landscape and as simple or as complicated as they like. They can use pencils, pens, paint, collage, and whatever else takes their fancy. Examples from last year can be found on our school Facebook page to help inspire you.

Please send them in to school with their name and class on the back, by **Friday 24th November**.

They can give them to their class teacher, and I will collect them from the class teacher. Details on how to view the calendar will be sent out the following week. Good luck and have fun getting creative!

Half Price Scholastic Book Fair!

Our popular Scholastic book fair will arrive in school on Tuesday 28th November. You will be able to purchase all books sold for **HALF PRICE** just in time for Christmas! The fair will be in school for a week and this time we will be opening it up after school and also on some mornings and afternoons - so you can purchase books without prying eyes! Every year we are able to use the commission from our sales to purchase new books to be used in school. Books are the perfect gift for Christmas!



EYC news from Sophie

We have explored the themes of Diwali, Bonfire and Remembrance over the last two weeks. We made our own chocolate sprinkle sparklers which were very tasty! We also discussed being brave when thinking about Remembrance Day and some lovely poppies were crafted. There have been a couple of letters sent home about the use of your child's data storage and photo consent for our visit from the travelling museum on Thursday. Please can you make sure these are returned as soon as possible. Thank you.



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.



Come and join us in September 2024

The application process for starting Foundation Stage in September 2024 opened recently 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.

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.

https://secure1.somerset.gov.uk/forms/PortalShowForm.asp?fm_formalias=freeschoolmeal



Online safety news from Miss Hamilton

Chatbots are springing up everywhere now, including within apps that children and young people use, and there have been some concerns over the ethics, the information and guidance that is being given by the chatbot and more, particularly in relation to guidance that is age appropriate, privacy concerns and misinformation.

Wayne Denver has put together a really useful updated article for parents explaining what the chatbot is, how it works, the issues and some tips for parents. You can find the article at: <https://www.waynedenner.com/blog/snapchat-my-ai-chatbot/>

Christmas dinner Day

We are delighted to be able provide a Christmas dinner for each of the children in KS1 and KS2. If your child would like to have a Christmas dinner at school with their friends, please do book this meal for your child through your ParentPay account. We would like to say thank you to the FMCA who have offered to pay for the additional meals on these days for those children who wish to have a meal on this day.



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

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility

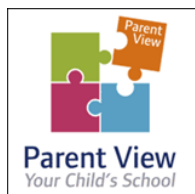
Safeguarding

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.

Year 2 Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra Workshops

Last Wednesday, Year 2 had workshops with the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra! They explored how music made them feel, practised conducting music, and then created their own piece of music.

This was a fantastic opportunity for the children who participated in the workshops, and will be extremely useful evidence in our application for the Arts Mark Platinum award this year.



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

Chatter book Sessions

Last week we welcomed Katy from Chard Library into school to run two Chatter book sessions. The children explored different text types and were encouraged to choose a book that they wouldn't normally read.



WE ARE A NUT FREE SCHOOL

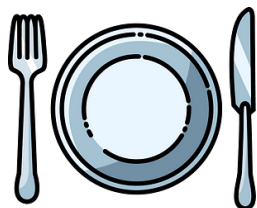


Nut Free School

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.

Choir performance at the Mayor's Christmas Concert

Our choir, with the dedicated support of Miss Prater and Miss Smith, are busily preparing to perform at the Mayor's Christmas concert on Monday 11th December. Please see the poster at the end of the newsletter for more information. Tickets are now on sale from The Guildhall Box Office and members of the choir will soon receive a letter to provide important arrangement information about this event.



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.



Cross Country event at Holyrood Academy – A message from Miss Kitto

On Tuesday afternoon we took over 145 KS2 children to Holyrood to participate in a rather wet and boggy cross-country event. It was an amazing event with a real buzz for running. All children were a credit to Manor Court showing excellent determination and sportsmanship throughout running and cheering on their fellow peers. They didn't let the amount of mud or rain stop them from giving it their all

despite some falls and losing of shoes. We had lots of children finishing in the top 15 scoring us lots of points. Noah, Alexander, Joseph, Tobias in the Y3 and 4 boys. Darcie, Rosie, two Madisons and Lettie in the Y3 and 4 girls. Gordon, Graysen, Frankie, Lucas, Carter and Cooper all making it in the Y5 and 6 boys. Finally with the year 5 and 6 girls, Millie, Lavinia, Lilly and Maisie. A huge well done to all those who ran, we look forward to the next cross country in January. We came joint first in the overall competition with The Redstart School!



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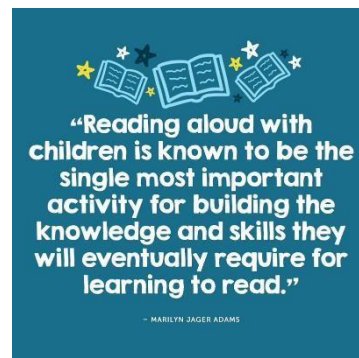
Reading expectations – A message from Mrs Terry

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 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.



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 5 workshop with the Red Cross

Year 5 had an online workshop session on Monday morning, led by Dan from the Red Cross. The pupils followed the story of an asylum seeker who had come to the U.K. for safety. They considered the emotions felt at each stage of his journey.

Y4 Multiplication check workshop – A message from Mrs Wilkins

Mrs Wilkins would like to invite Year 4 parents to attend a Y4 Multiplication Check workshop on Thursday 30th November. The session will run from 2pm – 3pm. Each Y4 child in England is required to complete this test and we are inviting you to this event so that children are prepared as early as possible. Please indicate through your ParentPay account if you can join us. The workshop will be held in the school hall and refreshments will be available.



Year 4 Eco-Project Clothes Swap

As part of our Manor Court 48 this half term, year four are holding a clothes swap. This will take place on Monday 4th December. If you have any children and baby clothes (in good condition) that your children have outgrown, we would love to receive them. Please send in any clean clothes in a carrier bag and give it to your child’s teacher. Further information will follow.

Spring Term After School Enrichment clubs

Parental booking for our Spring Term after school enrichment clubs go live through ParentPay on Friday 24th November. Information will be sent home early next week about how to book these for your 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

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	Monday
Nightingales & Magpies	Thursday & Friday
Owls & Kingfishers	Tuesday & Thursday
Eagles & Puffins	Thursday & Friday
Foxes & Badgers	Monday & Friday
Hérons & Otters	Wednesday & Friday



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



THE MAYOR'S CHRISTMAS CONCERT

MON 11TH DECEMBER

**COMBE ST. NICHOLAS
MANOR COURT
HOLYROOD ACADEMY
REDSTART PRIMARY**

Doors open at 5:30pm for 6:00pm show start

**The Guildhall, Fore Street, Chard, TA20 1PP
Advance tickets available from the Guildhall reception**

Adults: £2.50

Children: £1



ARE YOU A BEREAVED PARENT?

Join us for company and a cuppa on

FRIDAY 24th NOVEMBER

1.15-2.30pm ELEOS (private room)



*NO PRESSURE TO TALK, JUST AN INFORMAL
GET TOGETHER FOR THOSE OF US WHO ARE
PARENTS OF ANGELS. Please message me for
more information.*



Their stars will Twinkle Forever



FESTIVE BREAK THE RULES DAY!

WEDNESDAY 6TH DECEMBER

Rules to be Broken:

1. Crazy, wacky or temporary coloured hair
2. Christmas hair accessories
3. Christmas or crazy tie
4. Funky socks or tights
5. Non school shoes
6. Temporary tattoo
7. Wear glitter/ make up



How it works...

Wear school uniform but pick up to 4 rules from above to break

Pay 50p for every rule you want to break to the FMCA.

Maximum of 4 rules.

