

Dear Parents and carers



### Autumn Term Newsletter 4 – Friday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2023

November 2023	
Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup> November	Magpies class to visit Chard Museum
Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> November	Nightingales class to visit Chard Museum
Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> November	Manor Court Children in Need day
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> November	Sibling Photographs
Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> November	Year 2 trip to Fleet Air Arm Museum
Tuesday 28 <sup>th</sup> November - Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> December	Scholastic book fayre in school
December 2023	
Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup> December	FMCA 'break the rules day'
Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> December	Save the Children 'Christmas jumper day'
Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> December	Year 1 pantomime trip

### 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. More information will be sent home to the relevant year groups nearer the time. Please look out for letters (especially if your child is not in KS2 and performing in St Mary's) as this will explain how you can obtain a ticket for the performances in the school hall as we are limited to the number of adults we can seat at one time.



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

### Funky Hair Friday for our School Council Charity of the year – The Little Princess Trust

There really were some wild and wacky hair styles in school on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> October for our Funky Hair Friday! All proceeds raised are going towards our school council chosen charity of the year, The Little Princess Trust.

Rainbows, ribbons, aeroplanes, dolls, balloons, and googly eyes have all made an appearance in our hair and the staff team even got their funky hair on as well in support of The Little Princess Trust.

In total we raised the fantastic amount of £179.60!



### Children in Need

Due to the Tempest Sibling photographs on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> November we will be raising money for Children in Need on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> November. This year's theme is 'Be Spotacular' and children can embrace this theme of being extremely spotty or wear non-school uniform of their choice for a 50p donation to this worthwhile charity.



### Royal British Legion Poppy appeal

Our school council have started to sell poppies this week for the Royal British Legion. The suggested donations are:

20p for a poppy, 50p for a wristband and £1 for a snap band

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)

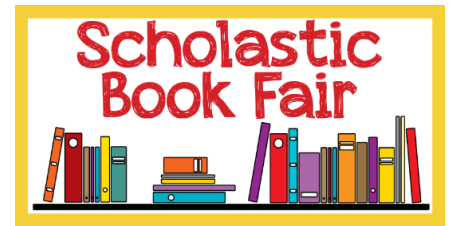
## Foundation Stage fine motor skill fun

Foundation stage loved developing their fine motor skills today using pumpkins! The children used small hammers and tapped the golf tees into the pumpkins practising their hand eye coordination.



## Half Price Scholastic Book Fair!

Our popular Scholastic book fair will arrive in school on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> November. You will be able to purchase all books sold for **HALF PRICE!** 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!



## 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. KS2 Assembly now start at 08:50 in the school hall and KS1 Assembly starts at 10:50 in the school hall.



## 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 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)

## 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.

## Y3 Visits to OakLodge

Our Y3 children continued their monthly visits to Oak Lodge this week and a different group of children will visit each month for the remainder of the academic year. We believe that this multi-generational time with the residents is beneficial for the children and the residents.



## EYC news from Sophie

We have had a lovely first week back from our holiday and have spent some time exploring the changing weather and season. Now that autumn has arrived, please make sure your child has a waterproof coat and plenty of spare clothes every day. A big thank you to all of those who attended our parents evening before half term. We hope that you enjoyed hearing about how well all of your children are doing. We are now looking forward to a trip to Chard

library in a few weeks' time.



## Online safety news from Miss Hamilton

Even though WhatsApp has an age restriction of 16+ it is the most popular messaging app from Y4/5 upwards. Over the last year or so WhatsApp have introduced new features. Parents and carers can ensure the most appropriate settings are applied for their child. You can find the article/guide here:

<https://www.internetmatters.org/resources/whatsapp-safety-a-how-to-guide-for-parents/>

## Morning Start time

Thank you for supporting us in not arriving before 08:40am this week. This will be the time that the school gates open each morning in readiness for the school registers being taken at 08:45.

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## Eden selling friendship bands for The Little Princess Trust

Eden, in Y5, has asked to sell her beautiful homemade wrist bands to raise money for The Little Princess Trust after school. Her parents will be helping her to sell these at the front of the school on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> November. Eden's stall will be ready for collection time so please do allow your child to bring some money to help raise some additional money for this worthwhile cause.



## 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**

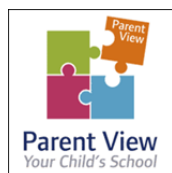
## Photography Club

Look at these amazing photographs taken by our KS2 pupils at our photography club this week. Their task was to ensure they used a plain background to get an object in focus. We believe that they are fantastic.



## Dance session at Holyrood Academy

Some of our Year 5 students enjoyed taking part in a Spooky Dance session on Tuesday afternoon, held at Holyrood academy. The children certainly gave the audience the chills and impressed the Holyrood dance teachers.



## 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)

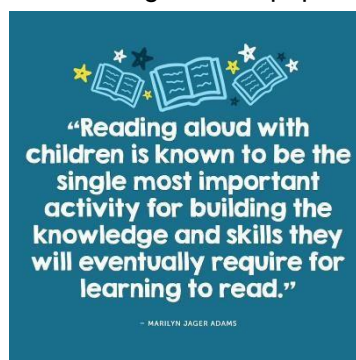
## Reading expectations – A message from Mrs Terry

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 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.

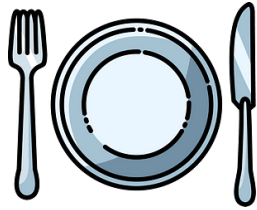
Children are expected to read at home 5 times a week, ideally daily, as this helps to develop confident and fluent readers. We would recommend 20 minutes of reading a day. Children's reading logs are checked to ensure this is taking place. Where children are not reading the required amount in school, they are invited to attend a lunchtime reading club. There is also the opportunity to read to a member of staff at Homework Club and After-school Club.



## 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



### 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.

### 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

### 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.



### 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.



### 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 FMCA •  
are hosting

# Fall Family Bingo

**FRIDAY 10TH NOVEMBER  
2023**

Doors open at 6pm, eyes  
down at 6.30pm

6 game bingo book - £6.00 each  
Flyer - £3.00 each  
Raffle tickets £1 each

**BUNDLE PRICE £10**  
Includes 1 book, 1 flyer,  
2 raffle tickets

Alcoholic and non-alcoholic  
drinks & snacks available on  
the night, all funds go to FMCA,  
so please support us by not  
bringing your own!

For more information and to  
book a table please email  
[contactFMCA@gmail.com](mailto:contactFMCA@gmail.com)

The Church of the Good Shepherd  
Furnham, Chard



# Angel festival

**PRIZES!**

**PRODUCE STALL**

Children, come and make angels.  
Help fill our church with them.  
Bring your parents too!

**LUCKY DIP**

**REFRESHMENTS**

Save the date!

Saturday 25th November

10.00am to 1.00pm



The angel said, "You have found favour with God.  
You will bear a son and you will name him Jesus."

