

Dear Parents and carers



Autumn Term Newsletter 6 – Friday 1st December 2023

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 – no charitable donation required KS2 Christmas Dinner
Monday 11 th December	Y1 Panto trip
Thursday 14 th December	Drama Club performance to parents at 3.30pm
Friday 15 th December	Last day of the Autumn Term before the Christmas holidays Non-School Uniform Day for all children and staff
January 2024	
Wednesday 3 rd January	School reopens for the Spring Term.

Save the dates for our Christmas performances!

We are now in the Christmas period and the children are ready to perform to you in their Christmas performances. Please read the letters that have been sent home and can be found on our website (especially if your child is not in KS2 and performing in St Mary's) as these explained 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. If you still haven't obtained your ticket, please speak to the admin team in the school office.



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 14:15	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 14:15	Y1 and Y2 Christmas play in the school hall performance 2
Thursday 14 th December at 14:15	Y1 and Y2 Christmas play in the school hall performance 3



EYC news from Sophie

We had a wonderful visit from Southwest Heritage. They brought 'The Fascinating & Curious Museum' to preschool. The children had a great time exploring the various artefacts. Lots of interesting questions were asked and the children were able to investigate many things that they had never seen before. Please can we remind parents that although preschool is not compulsory, we do need parents to let us know if their child is not attending due to illness etc. You can message through eyLog or call the preschool directly on 01460 510919. Thank you.

Christmas Holiday Club

We appreciate that the Christmas holidays have fallen early this year and that many parents will need to work in the week proceeding Christmas. For the past few school holidays our staff have been running paid for childcare for Manor Court children alongside holiday provision sponsored for FSM children by Healthy Happy Holidays. We will once more be offering this to all parents (not entitled to FSM) at a cost of £15 a day, for the hours between 09:00 and 15:00 on Monday 18th, Tuesday 19th, Wednesday 20th and Thursday 21st December. This provision includes breakfast and a day of activities, including sports, baking and crafts. If you would like your child to attend, please book through your ParentPay account or email the office and give your payment to the staff on the day.

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 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.manorcourt.somerset.sch.uk/remote-learning-in-case-of-school-closure/>



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

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.

Holiday breakfast scheme

Our friends at St Mary's Church and The Lords Larder are offering free breakfast bags that will last each week of the school holidays. This initiative will be held in every school holiday and will start on Monday 18th December. Please see their poster at the end of this newsletter for further information.



Christmas Jumper Day

We are celebrating Christmas Jumper Day on Friday 7th December. Children can wear their Christmas Jumper to school (the rest of their clothing should be school uniform) and no charitable donation is required.

School Uniform for all KS2 children on Monday 4th December

Please can KS2 children (Years 3,4,5 and 6) wear their full school uniform to school on Monday 4th December, and not their PE kits. We are holding our two carol concerts at St Mary's on Monday morning and would like our children to look their smartest for the audience.

Foundation Stage Forest School Family Learning

Foundation Stage had a wonderful time completing some Forest School learning. It was fantastic to see so many parents get involved with their children and participate in their learning. The children had such a great time making bird feeders, creating hedgehog houses, pinecone animals and creating a rainbow wand.



Y5 World War II Day

Last Thursday, the Y5 children immersed themselves further in their historical studies about the impact of the Second World War on children and especially those that were evacuees. The children and staff came to school dressed as 1940s children and adults and learnt about rationing (did you know that about 25 sweets had to last you a month and a jar of jam had to last about two months?), experienced how cold, dark, and cramped it was inside an Anderson shelter, made model Spitfires and Gas masks and handled a number of WW2 artefacts. During the afternoon local historian Dan Donovan brought his memorabilia into the school hall to bring even further the children's learning to life in a practical way.



Thank you for your generosity!

We are extremely grateful for the generosity of our families who have helped us to raise substantial amounts of money for two worthwhile charities recently. Through the sale of traditional poppies and more modern goods, such as snap bands, the children raised £214.10 for the Royal British Legion and through our 'Spotacular' non-school uniform day raised £213.67 for Children in Need.

Eco-Warriors plant trees

Local tree experts, Terry, and Mike helped our Eco-Warriors plant twenty trees on the school field last Friday morning. Some of the trees had been given to us by the Woodland Trust and these were planted alongside more established hazel trees. We look forward to watching our new forest grow over the next few years!



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

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.

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



Online safety news from Miss Hamilton

As we're getting closer to Christmas you might be considering buying games for your children. Internet matters have put together a brilliant guide which can help you find age-appropriate games and games that you can play together. Find more information here at: <https://www.internetmatters.org/resources/online-gaming-advice/amazing-video-games-guide-for-families/>



Iminster Rotary Club's Youth Speak competition.

We are super proud of Amazing Avani, Clearheaded Katy and Jousting Jade (as they call themselves) who came second out of nine teams who competed in the Iminster Rotary Club's Youth Competition held at Herne View School on Wednesday evening. This is a fantastic outcome for the girls and the school, especially as we had never competed in this event prior to Wednesday.

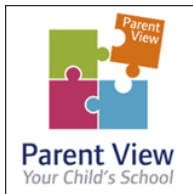
Christmas dinner Days

We are delighted to be able provide a Christmas dinner for each of the children in KS1 and KS2. 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 Christmas meal with their friends.



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.



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

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



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.



Year 1 Science

Year 1 had great fun learning about their sense in science. They investigated how many Lego bricks could be stacked without sight, they used touch to feel which teddy was the softest and used their sense of smell to find out what was inside the box.

Year 2 trip to the Fleet Air Arm Museum

What a wonderful day Year 2 had at the Fleet Air Arm Museum recently. They enjoyed seeing, touching, and experiencing all of the different aircraft, aircraft carriers and equipment available. They even fulfilled their MC48 experience for this half term – they went inside an airplane! It was Concorde to be exact!



Year 3 environment day at Chard School

Some Year 3 children visited Chard School last week to attend their environment day. They completed a range of activities that they thoroughly enjoyed with a tasty treat at break time!

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

Octagon Junior Choir Assembly – A message from Miss Prater

The Key Stage 2 children have recently participated in a special taster singing workshop led by teachers from the Octagon Junior Choir. The Octagon Junior Choir will be based in Yeovil and is linked to the Octagon Theatre and provides opportunities for children who attend to perform at a variety of shows and professional theatres, including the Royal Albert Hall. At the end of this newsletter there is a flyer that outlines further information about the choir and how the children can get involved.

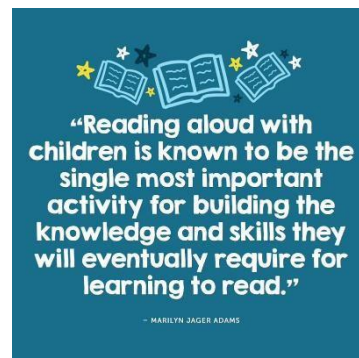
Reading expectations – A message from Mrs Terry

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.”

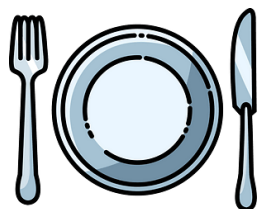
Repetitive reading allows a child to read without stumbling or stopping, and reading time becomes more pleasant for everyone. Once a child masters one book, it makes moving on to another more appealing. Reading comprehension is the ability to understand all the components of a story — from plot to character 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’ 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. 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.



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.

Devon and Somerset Fire Service Workshops

Our Year 2 and Year 5 classes had special workshops on Wednesday delivered by the Devon and Somerset Fire Service. The children learnt all about Fire Safety and how to alert the Fire brigade if they discover a fire or in any other emergency in which the fire brigade is required to help.





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.

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.



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 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:	
	School Holiday
	Bank Holiday
	Term Time
	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.

SCAN ME



ARMONICO
CONSORT

AC
Academy

Octagon Junior Choir

Wednesday | 5pm – 6:30pm | 7-12 years | £5 per week

The Octagon Junior Choir is for 7-12 year olds who love to sing. Come and learn a wide variety of music across different genres from musicals, pop, classical and everything in between! Our Octagon Junior Choir is run by qualified leaders and accompanied by a professional pianist. There are no auditions for taking part, the choir is open to all abilities and everyone is welcome.

The Octagon Theatre have partnered with renowned classical ensemble Armonico Consort, giving our choir the opportunity to perform at the Royal Albert Hall alongside professional musicians and choirs from across the country.


WESTLANDS
YEOVIL

OCTAGON
ACADEMY


OCTAGON
THEATRE
YEOVIL

Bookings open on Wednesday 29th November 2023



Happy Healthy Holidays is back for the Winter!

This programme offers a range of exciting activity clubs
in the school holidays for children who are eligible for
benefits-related free school meals across Somerset

Find and book FREE local activities by visiting:
www.sasp.co.uk/happy-healthy-holidays or
scan the QR code!



To book,
use code:
23Scarf



✉ hkh@sasp.co.uk ☎ 07843 816168 / 01823 653992 (Open 9am - 1pm)



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



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.





Holiday Breakfast Scheme.



Holiday Breakfast Bags are arriving this Christmas Holiday.

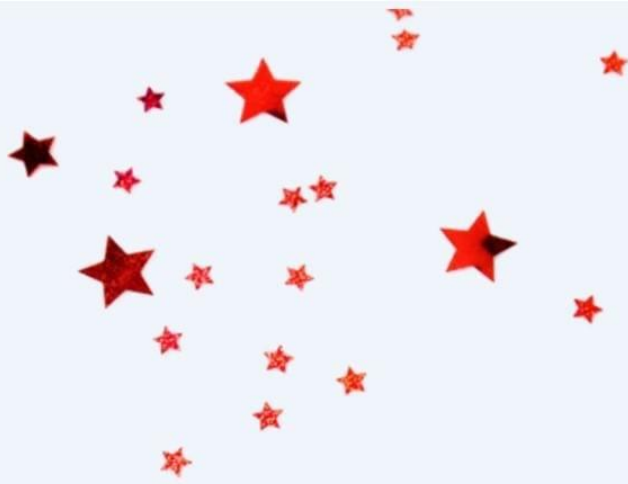
Do you think it may help you and your family to start the day with a good solid breakfast?

We will give you a free, no questions asked bag/s, to last a week, which will contain everything that is needed, regardless of your family size.

Just turn up at the St Mary's Centre on Monday
18th Dec between 8.00 and 10.00
Saturday 23rd 8.00 and 10.00 and
Saturday 30th 8.00 and 10.00

Anyone from the family can come to pick them up.





follow that star

carols at the manger

Saturday December 9th at 4pm

meeting outside Manor Court School, walking in procession to the Beacon

come in nativity costume (optional)

Free hot chocolate!

