

Dear Parents and carers



Spring Term Newsletter 6– Thursday 28th March 2024

We would all like to wish you a happy and safe Easter holidays and look forward to seeing you again on Monday 15th April.

Key Dates

April 2024	
Monday 15 th April	All children and staff return to school for the Summer Term
Wednesday 17 th April	Year 2 trip to Westlands Entertainment Venue
Monday 22 nd April	Tempest class photographs
Tuesday 23 rd April	Scholastic book fayre in school
May 2024	
Thursday 9 th May	Year 6 residential meeting at 15:15
Monday 13 th May	Year 6 SATs week



Easter assembly at St Mary's Church

We had a wonderful whole school Easter assembly at St Mary's Church on Monday morning. The choir sang beautifully, Year 6 children read two Easter Poems, Foxes and Badgers classes sang a moving Easter song 'Here He stands', our friend Reverend John spoke to us about the good news in the Easter story and we all sang together our new favourite Easter song – Jerusalem!

Easter Holiday Club - A message from Mr McCarten

Our staff have been running paid for childcare of Manor Court children alongside holiday provision sponsored for FSM children by Healthy Happy Holidays. We will once more be offering paid for childcare to all parents (not entitled to FSM) at a cost of £15 for a day, for the hours between 09:00 – 15:00 from Tuesday 2nd to Friday 5th April and Tuesday 9th to Wednesday 10th April. This provision includes breakfast and a day of activities, including sports, baking and crafts. If you would like your child to attend please book a place through the office and give your payment to the staff on the day. If you need to make any last-minute bookings, please email the school office email address.

Girls football at Yeovil Town Football club

Our Y3 and Y5 girls football teams represented Manor Court brilliantly last Friday at Huish Park, the home of Yeovil Town Football club in the girls community football festival. Their matches involved a loss, a draw and a win! The received medals for their commitment to teamwork and perseverance!



Summer Term PE Days

The PE days for each class for the summer term is listed in the table below and your child can wear their PE kit to school on these days instead of their school uniform. If we need to make any change to the day in which the class has PE this will be communicated to parents via your ParentPay account.

Classes	PE Day
Hedgehogs & Squirrels	Tuesday
Bumblebees & Dragonflies	Wednesday
Magpies & Nightingales	Tuesday & Thursday
Owls & Kingfishers	Wednesday & Friday
Eagles & Puffins	Monday & Friday
Badgers & Foxes	Monday & Thursday
Hérons & Otters	Wednesday & Friday

Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra (BSO) workshops with Year 2

Yesterday, the Year 2 children enjoyed a fantastic workshop with professional musicians from the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra. This was Year 2's second visit from the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra visitors this half term. In this session, we learnt a new song called 'Stories in Sounds' that we helped to form in a previous session and practised performing this in preparation for our visit to Westlands after Easter. We look forward to performing this together at the concert then.



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



Keri Hill Primary festival of Dance – A message from Mrs Morton

On Tuesday evening, children from Year 4, Year 5 and Year 6 Dance Clubs participated in the Keri Hill Primary Festival of Dance at Westlands in Yeovil. The Year 4 and Year 5 dancers performed a joyful African dance, and Year 6 dancers performed an upbeat party routine to Footloose. They performed brilliantly on a huge stage to over 800 audience members. It was a late night but very much worth it. They made us all extremely proud!

Year 4 Manor Court 48

Cubs and Scouts from 1st Chard, Manor Court and Staplegrove Scouts groups helped Year 4 to complete their MC48 last Friday.

They taught them square knots, lashings, overhand loop and the impossible knot. The children then put this into practice completing pioneering tasks and unknitting a skipping rope without letting it go.



Year 6 KS2 SATs week

As you will be aware the end of Key Stage 2 tests are fast approaching. During the week of the tests, it is especially important that we have 100% attendance in Year 6, we will be offering a free breakfast club throughout the week to every year 6 child (more information to follow soon). Please ensure that no appointments are made during this week and that your child arrives in plenty of time. Please see the timetable for the week.

Monday 13 th May 2024	Tuesday 14 th May 2024	Wednesday 15 th May 2024	Thursday 16 th May 2024
English Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling	English Reading	Maths Paper 1 (Arithmetic) and Maths Paper 2 (Reasoning)	Maths Paper 3 (Reasoning)

Year 3 trip to Lyme Regis

Year 3 had a fantastic trip to Lyme Regis last week. They saw the statue of Mary Anning, listened to an educational talk, visited the museum and polished fossils! The day finished with a play and walk on the beach.



Breakfast bags

Our friends at St Mary's are providing holiday breakfast bags for the Easter holidays. Collection is available on Saturday 30th March and Monday 8th April. Please see the poster at the end of this newsletter for more information and share this supportive initiative with your friends and family.

Year 4 trip to the Museum of Somerset

Year 4 had a wonderful time at the Museum of Somerset since our last newsletter was written. They spent time learning about Roman life from different Roman artefacts (many found in Somerset) and dressing up as different members of Roman society and exploring what members from each social status would wear. The children learnt that only Emperors could wear purple, which was dyed with sea snails and only wealthy people wore white clothes as it was difficult to turn clothes white. The children loved the disgusting fact that the Romans turned clothes white with wee!



EYC news from Sophie

Preschool have had a lovely end to their term. We have enjoyed learning the Easter story and how we might celebrate Easter at home. The children got stuck in with Easter nest baking, decorating eggs and listening to 'Supertato - The Great Eggscap!' Don't forget we will be visiting Snowdon Park on Monday 15th April. Please check your eyLog for all the information.

Have a wonderful Easter break and we will see our preschool children back from Monday 15th April.

2024-2025 Term Dates

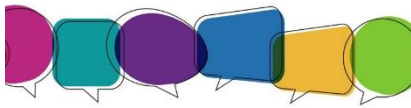
We have set our term dates for the 2024-2025 academic year. These can be found at the end of this newsletter and on the parent section of our school website.

Year 5 Manor Court 48

Year 5's MC48 activity for this half term is to learn basic first aid. They were joined last week by Luke Thomas from the Red cross who talked through the key actions for all types of injuries.



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Pupil Voice

Pupil Voice Survey – A message from Mrs Terry

We have recently completed a pupil voice survey of the children who attend our school and sent the results home in a letter via ParentPay today. We asked each child (not the Foundation Stage children as we believed that they were too young) the same questions about their time at school and the education that is provided for them. We received 369 responses and believe that the positive responses are reflective of our school and the education that we provide for the children who attend Manor Court. The results included:

1. 98% of children said that they would recommend our school to a friend moving to the area.
2. 99% of children strongly agreed or agreed that Manor Court Community Primary School encourages me to respect people from other backgrounds and to treat everyone equally.
3. 92% of children asked stated that in every, or most lessons, my teacher gives them work that challenges me.

Year 1 science learning about the change in seasons

Spring is in the air! Year 1 have been learning recently about the change in seasons in science and have planted some colourful flowers and have started to tend them on a daily basis, by watering and weeding when necessary. The children have produced some excellent writing about what they have been learning.



Online safety news from Miss Hamilton

With the Easter holidays just around the corner many children will be tuning into their favourite shows on Disney+. Internet Matters have a really good guide for parents about the settings that are available to keep content at a level suitable to the age of their children. The full guide can be found here <https://www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/entertainment-search-engines/disney-plus-parental-controls-guide/>

Parenting when separate course starting on 16th April 2024 – A message from Mr Clode and Miss Gregory

We are excited to be able to offer a new, practical, and positive six-week course for parents who are preparing for, going through or have gone through a separation or divorce.

Parenting when separated can be challenging and confusing. This six-week online course starting on 16 April highlights practical steps parents can take to help their children cope and thrive, as well as coping successfully themselves.

The topics for the six weeks include:

1. Coping as a parent post-separation
2. Developing a co-parenting relationship
3. Communicating with your child's other parent
4. Challenges of being a separated parent
5. Remaining calm in challenging situations
6. Coping post-separation

If you think you might be interested in the following free training course, please speak to us for more details.

P.E News from Mr McCarten

Girls Development Day at Yeovil Town Football Club

Our Year 4 & 5 Girls had a fantastic two days at Yeovil Town Football Club. SASP and Yeovil College hosted Girls Development Days, with other Primary Schools participating. On the first day the girls had fun learning new skills and techniques and the second day was tournament day and we performed fantastically well! The girls had a blast! All girls received medals for all their hard work! Well done girls!!



Football Fixture – Year 5's Fixture vs Tatworth Primary School

Our Year 5's have got a Football Fixture on Tuesday 23rd April vs Tatworth Primary School at Manor Court. This would be one of the first football fixtures the Year 5's would have. We are very much looking forward to this fixture and giving some of our Year 5's an opportunity to represent their school!

New school website address

Please be aware that we have changed our school website address, as the previous website domain was owned by Somerset County Council and there was a risk of the school website being lost if the County Council goes further into administration.

Our school website address is now: www.manorcourtcommunityprimary.co.uk

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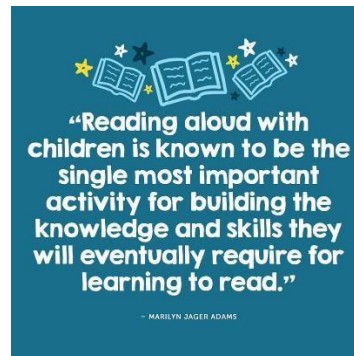
Cross country at Holyrood Academy

We are so proud of the eighty pupils who took part in the cross-country festival at Holyrood Academy on Tuesday afternoon. Each child represented our school superbly, showing friendly competitive nature and most finishing the grueling races and one of the boys even lost a shoe on the course. A particular well done to Rosie who won the Year 3 and Year 4 girls race!

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.”

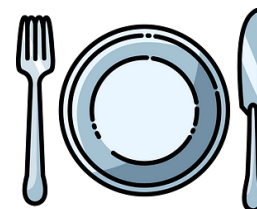


Repetitive reading allows a child to read without stumbling or stopping, and reading time becomes more pleasant for everyone. Once a child masters one book, it makes moving on to another more appealing. Reading comprehension is the ability to understand all the components of a story — from plot to character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

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.



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



Attendance our school expectations – A message from Miss Gregory

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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The Little Princess Trust - LPT

The school council have recently received a lovely message from The Little Princess Trust (their school charity of the year thanking them for their efforts in fundraising so far this school year. The LPT wrote:

Thank you for getting in touch and telling us about your fundraising, wow we love this! Thank you to everyone who got involved and raised some fantastic funds towards our Hair & Hope mission (they all look so good!) We're so grateful for the wonderful support.

Thank you again and absolute best wishes

LPT



The school council are organising a used book sale to raise more money after the Easter Holidays. Please see their poster at the end of this newsletter.

Smoking at drop off and collection time – A message from Mr Talmage

We have had a few parents mention to us recently that some parents smoke and vape immediately outside the school gates at the morning drop off and afternoon collection times. Can we please ask all adults to refrain from doing this and do expect us to ask you to stop. Thank you for your support with this and preventing secondary smoking for each of the Manor Court pupils.

**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 Designated Safeguard leads are Miss Gregory, Mrs Terry, Mrs Wilkins, and Mr Talmage.

Deputy

The school Safeguarding and Child Protection Governor is Mrs Sue Wakeman

Punctuality

We are observing a number of children who are regularly late to school and missing the vital learning at the start of their school day. We appreciate that on occasion this cannot be helped but have explained to the children that are regularly late that they will need to stay in at morning break or lunchtime to catch up on any work that they have missed. If your child is late to school, we know that this is the responsibility of the parent so please help us to educate your child by ensuring that they get to school on time every morning.

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.



Wrap around care booking reminder from the school office

Our wrap around care provision is very popular but we are having an increasing number of children attend who have not been booked on to sessions. Whilst we make every effort to accommodate them, we cannot always guarantee that there is space.

Please may we remind you of the following booking deadlines:

After school care – 2.00 pm on the day

Breakfast club – 2.00 pm the day before.

Year 4 class assembly

Year 4 wowed us all this afternoon with their presentational assembly all about the Romans. The children in both Eagles and Puffins shared their learning about all areas of Roman life, such as the army, Gods and Goddesses, mosaics, building of the Roman roads and the mighty battle against Queen Boudicca and her army of Celts. We are so impressed with their efforts, and so proud of the confident performance given by all children today. Well done Year 4!



Behaviour principles statement – A reminder from the local governing body.

We have all worked extremely hard to build a supportive community that we can be proud of and that lives up to its values to 'care, learn and achieve together'. Can we please remind each parent that any kind of violence, threatening behaviour, or abuse between children, or by parents, within the school community towards the school's staff both verbally (in person, or on the telephone) and via the written word, will not be tolerated.

If a parent does not conduct themselves properly, the school reserves the right to ban them from the school premises and, if the parent continues to cause disturbance, they may be liable to prosecution.

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Somerset Science Festival – A message from Mr Staddon

On Monday 6th May, some Year 5 pupils will be leading a stand at the Somerset Science Festival, to be held at Haynes Motor Museum. The pupils have been taking part in an after-school science club this term, led by myself and will be sharing their knowledge and understanding of science with a focus on sustainability.

The day will be a perfect opportunity for children and adults alike to learn about science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) and explore the various STEM-based careers and industries that are available in Somerset. Last year, over 4800 people attended the festival. Visitors had the chance to take part in exciting hands-on activities, watch live demonstrations and discover inspiring projects. The day is completely FREE for you and your families to attend, and you can learn more about the science that is taught here at Manor Court. Please see the flyer for more information at the end of this newsletter.

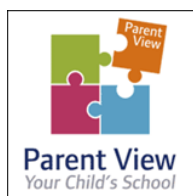
Year 6 advance warning – A message from the Y6 team

It is a busy time of the school year for the Y6 children with a focus on their end of KS2 assessments. Very soon after this week our focus will turn towards further curriculum enrichment, your child's transition to their Secondary school and the traditional school play – this year it is *Pirates of the Curry Bean!*

We've been asked by a few parents to inform them of these important dates at the end of the school year so that time off from work can be booked. Please put these dates in your diary so that you do not miss out.



1. Thursday 11th July – Afternoon performance of Pirates of the Curry Bean! in the school hall a 13:30 start.
2. Thursday 11th July – Evening performance of Pirates of the Curry Bean! in the school hall a 18:00 start.
3. Wednesday 17th July – Y6 Leavers assembly in the school hall a 13:45 start.



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

More volunteer readers needed – A message from Mrs Terry

Do you have spare time that you could commit to volunteering at our excellent school in 2024?

We are looking for more adults who can spend time listening to our children read. Full training (including safeguarding) and lots of friendly children and staff will be provided! Each volunteer will require a DBS (paid for by the school) before they can start. If you'd like to find out more information, please contact the school office to speak to me, Mrs Terry (Assistant Headteacher), or Mrs Hunt (Business Manager).



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.

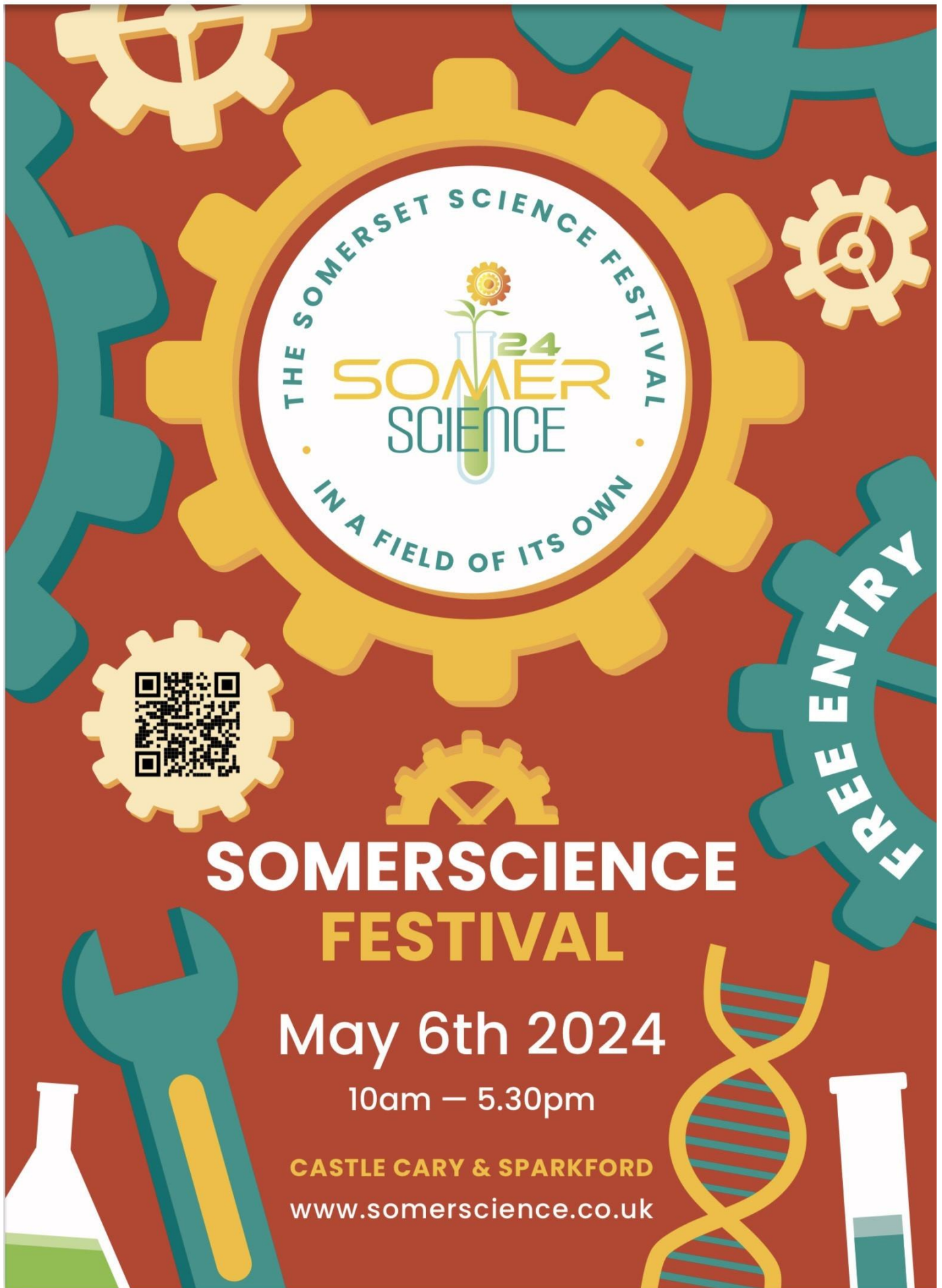
Have we got your correct details? – A message from the school office

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.

Thank you for your continued support and we wish you a very happy Easter.

Mr Luke Talmage
Headteacher

Mr Alan Clode
Deputy Headteacher and Inclusion Leader



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Holiday Breakfast Scheme.



Holiday Breakfast Bags are arriving this Easter Holiday Time.

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 Saturday 30th March between 8.00 and 10.00 and Monday 8th April between 8.00am and 10.00am.

Anyone from the family can come to pick them up.

Stay and join us if you would like for coffee and toast while you are here.





Manor Court School Council would appreciate any donations of unwanted children's books for our upcoming book sale in May (Date yet to be confirmed). All proceeds will go to our school charity of the year.

Please send any books in with your child, FAO Mrs Burns.

Thank you.



twinkl



ALS

CHARLTON YOUNG PEOPLE'S CENTRE

FUN TIME 9-3
DAY TIME

ACTIVITIES TO BE RELEASED WEEKLY ON FB @FUNTIME.ALS

TUESDAY 2ND APRIL

PRE-BOOK BY 29TH MARCH £16 | ON THE DAY £20

PRE-PAID LUNCH +£4 LUNCH ON THE DAY +£5

ARTS | CRAFTS | SPORTS | GAMES

Activities may vary due to unforeseen circumstances

e.g. weather

EMAIL PETE.MAY@ALSYOUTH.ORG.UK FOR SIBLING DISCOUNTS & TO BOOK



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.

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SPRING CELEBRATION

Community Event



Chard Community Hub

Tuesday 2nd April
3-6pm

Refreshments | Craft activities | Companionship
ALL welcome | FREE event

RSVP if possible: tessacchcalendar@gmail.com 07871 913 004