

Dear Parents and carers



Spring Term Newsletter 4– Friday 1st March 2024

Key Dates

March 2024	
Thursday 7 th March	World Book Day!
Friday 8 th March	Foundation Stage Mothers Day afternoon tea
Tuesday 12 th and Wednesday 13 th April	Parents Evenings
Monday 18 th March	School council Easter bonnet competition
Monday 18 th March	Year 3 Ukulele Performance for parents 3.30pm
Tuesday 26 th March	Westlands trip for dancers
Thursday 28 th March	Break up for the Easter holidays
April 2024	
Monday 15 th April	All children and staff return to school



Careers Day, a message from Mrs Wilkins – Break that Stereotype

On Friday 23rd February the children and staff dressed up for our *Break That Stereotype* career day.

We were visited by Will who is in the British army, and Charlie who is a female panel beater. We also had messages from Marlie Packer who is an English International Rugby Union player, and Tom Goddard, a male supermodel, during our KS1 and KS2 assemblies led by Miss Bagnall and Miss Langdown.

Children learnt that your career choices are not defined by gender and enjoyed lots of different activities throughout the day to promote this message. Our careers focus for this half term is Maths.

World Book Day - Thursday 7th March 2024 – A message from Mrs Terry

World Book Day changes lives through a love of books and reading. At Manor Court, we will next be celebrating World Book Day on Thursday 7th March 2024. The mission for the day is to promote reading for pleasure, offering the opportunity for all pupils to be given a book of their own. Reading for pleasure is the single biggest indicator of a child's future success – more than their family circumstances, their parents' educational background or their income. We want to see more children with a life-long habit of reading for pleasure and the improved life chances this brings them.

This year, we are inviting pupils to come to school dressed as their favourite book character if they so wish, but we are mindful that dressing-up clothes can be expensive, so there is no need to buy anything new unless you choose to. There is also the option for pupils to wear their own comfy pyjamas to school, as we know a lot of our pupils enjoy reading at bedtime, their favourite everyday clothes, or they can wear their normal school uniform. The children may choose to bring in a prop from their favourite book, or just the book itself.

Foundation Stage school trip to Axe Valley Wildlife Park

Foundation Stage had a brilliant day at Axe Valley Wildlife Park on Monday. They met a tortoise, bearded dragon, and snakes inside and learnt lots through an informative talk and there was even opportunity, for those who were brave, to hold the animals.

Despite the cold weather the children enjoyed exploring the park where they saw lemurs, zebras, flamingos and many more!



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'. We are all extremely proud of the positive relationships that are established between the school staff and the parents and work hard to maintain these at all times.

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 and that all necessary incidents will be reported to the police.

Year 4 Roman Day

Year 4 had a fun filled Roman Day last week. They made shields, presented information about Roman Soldiers, made catapults to knock down forts and marched in Roman army formations.



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



Parents evenings – Save the dates!

Our next parents evenings are Tuesday 12th and Wednesday 13th March 2024. A letter was sent home last week to explain how you can book an appointment through the online booking system that opened last Friday. As always, all appointments will be booked on a first come first served basis.

School Council Easter bonnet competition

The school council are holding a traditional Easter Bonnet competition again this year to raise funds for their charity of the year – The Little Princess Trust. If your child would like to enter, please see the poster at the end of this newsletter for more information. There will be prizes and certificates for the winning bonnet's.

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.

We're hiring a KS2 class teacher and Mathematics Lead to join the team in September!

We are recruiting early to give us time to get the best KS2 teacher and Mathematics Lead to commence employment in our team in September. Please do share the advert (that can be found at the end of this newsletter) for this role with any qualified and experienced teachers that you know would like to work in our hard-working, high achieving and friendly school. Mrs Terry, Mr Clode or Mr Talmage would love to show suitable candidates around.



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 trip to Magdalen Farm

Year 4 had a wonderful day at Magdalen farm last week to support their Geography learning about rivers. Children measured the depth of a tributary, how fast the water flowed and the size of rocks. They also learnt how to read OS maps and drew wonderful sketches of the river. The highlight of the day for many was seeing a wild deer.

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.

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

More volunteer readers needed – A message from Mrs Terry

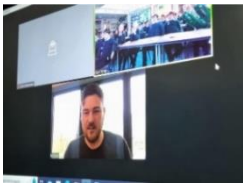
Do you have spare time that you could commit to volunteering at our excellent school in 2024?

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).



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Year five zoom interview with an inventor

Last Monday, Year five interviewed Mr Cain, an inventor who previously worked for Dyson and designed and created the first hand-held wireless vacuum cleaner! He has since invented other products to solve everyday problems, including anti-roll stationery and a mini-coffee machine.

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.

EYC news from Sophie

The preschool children have had a great start to the new term. We have been learning about 'Traditional Tales' and the children have enjoyed listening to a variety of stories including, Red Riding Hood, Goldilocks, and The Three Little Pigs. We have had some great retelling of these stories alongside a number of different craft activities. The children have also been excited to see our frogspawn grow, that we had collected from the school pond. We will be holding our parents evening on the 14th and 21st March. Please make sure you sign up for an appointment. The sign-up sheets will be available every afternoon, when you collect your child.



P.E News from Mr McCarten

In our P.E lessons throughout February we had lots of fun lessons, including Dodgeball and many other sports. We are pleased to have ordered lots of brand-new equipment to support with P.E Lessons and After School Clubs, Basketball Club is coming soon! We have a very exciting March ahead! We have lots of activities and events as many of our children will be representing Manor Court across March!

Year 5's taking part in MOTIV8 Fortnite Nerf Battle at Yeovil College

10 Year 5 children are heading to Yeovil College on Tuesday 19th March to take part in an exciting Nerf Battle! The theme of the Nerf Battle is Fortnite. One of the most popular online games that children like to play. It will be full of fun, exciting battles throughout the day for them to compete against their friends!

Football School Week in P.E

Just before half term, all classes were excited about Football Week! In each class for P.E, we managed to celebrate football for the girl's and the boy's game. The children learnt about the different rules in football and participated in some fun football activities and small sided games! Check out the photo!



Girls Football Development Day at Yeovil Town Football Club

We have many girls at Manor Court who love football and we are excited to be heading to Yeovil Town Football Club for two days of development training and tournaments. It will take place on the 15th & 22nd of March. The girls will get to experience playing together and learning new skills and techniques.



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.

Drop off and collection of children at the end of the school day

We have had reports from parents and members of the public that some parents are stopping their cars in an unsafe manner when dropping and collecting their children to school. Can all parents please take more care and be respectful to other road users when stopping outside of the school during these busy times. This will keep every child (and parent) safe, and we do not wish to have any accidents.

Do remember that we can provide a free parking permit to enable cars to park for up to thirty minutes in the Sainsbury's or Crowshute car parks, please ask at the school office if you would like a new permit.

Foundation Stage Manor Court 48

On the last day before the Half term holiday, Foundation Stage completed their latest MC48 and used a knife and fork. They practiced cutting up their pancakes with their knife and used their fork to eat them; they were yummy!



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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



The Japan Society visit Year 5

On Monday, Eiko Sensei visited from the Japan Society to teach Year 5 some Japanese calligraphy. The children practiced their brush strokes with ink, in which they paid particular attention to the order and then wrote two Japanese Kanji spelling out Japan (Nihon). The children loved experimenting with the way to hold the paintbrush, applying the ink and constructing the strokes.

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

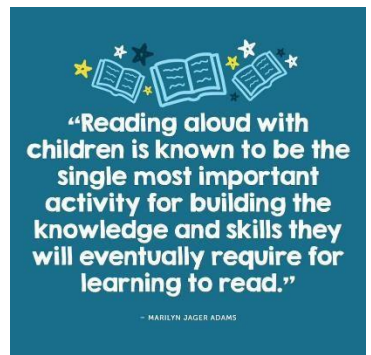
If you think you might be interested in the following free training course, please speak to Miss Gregory or Mr Clode for more details.

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.





Attendance our school expectations – A message from Miss Gregory

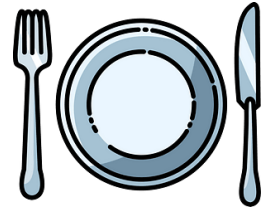
Pupil attendance and punctuality is a key focus and priority within our school. Individual attendance will be monitored and reviewed on a bi-weekly basis. We would like to kindly remind parents that the school's expectations on individual pupil attendance is 95% and above, with the aim of having 100% 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.

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.



Remote learning in case of the need to close our school this winter

We are in 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 (printed copies were sent home last week in the storms) 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.manorcourtcommunityprimary.co.uk/remote-learning-in-case-of-school-closure/>

Measles and vaccination

Cases of measles are currently rising nationally. According to data from the UK Health Security Agency, there were 1,603 suspected cases in England and Wales in 2023, compared with 735 in 2022, 360 in 2021, and 695 in 2020.

Measles outbreaks happen when not enough children have been vaccinated. Measles can be a very serious disease, leading to ear and chest infections, fits, diarrhoea, and damage to the brain. Measles can kill.

The average number of children starting school having had both MMR doses has dropped to 85%. The World Health Organisation recommends that at least 95% of children be inoculated for diseases that can be stopped by vaccines.

Your child is therefore at risk of measles if he or she hasn't had the measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR) vaccination.

Two doses of the MMR vaccine are needed to get the best protection.

If your child is due to have 2 doses of MMR but has not yet received them, no matter what age they are, you should contact your GP to get them vaccinated as soon as possible.

PE Days for the Spring Term

The PE days for each class for the Spring 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

Online safety news from Miss Hamilton

Internet Matters have a wonderful set of resources on their website specifically for schools and parents of early years children. The resources are a 4-episode series covering good habits, being mindful, device safety and digital chats. You can find all the resources

at <https://www.internetmatters.org/advice/0-5/online-safety-video-guides-early-years/#good-habits-start-early>



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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.

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.



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

Miss Gregory – Early Intervention Officer

We have recently welcomed Miss Laura Gregory back to work from her year long maternity leave. Miss Gregory's role within our school is as The Early Intervention Officer; a part time role that provides practical help and emotional support to families experiencing short or long-term difficulties. Laura's goal is to empower families to address various challenges and ultimately reducing problems and risks. The Early Intervention Officer is one of the Deputy Designated Safeguard leads and is also the attendance lead of Manor Court Community Primary School.



Swapping of collectable cards and stickers (Pokémon, football etc.)

We understand that children may wish to swap collectable cards and stickers with their friends during morning and lunchtime breaks. However, we are aware that, within our school and each school nationally, these swaps are not always fair and that this can cause friction and disappointment between the children.

Can we please remind all parents and children that cards and stickers must not be brought into school for swapping or trading and that we cannot be responsible for these, unfair deals or arranging the return of cards and stickers that parents may feel have been traded unfairly to their child. We have asked all staff to confiscate cards and stickers found in school and to give them back to the children at the end of the school day to take home safely.

Thank you for your continued support.

Mr Luke Talmage
Headteacher

Mr Alan Clode
Deputy Headteacher and Inclusion Leader

St. Mary's Church, Chard

Family Craft Afternoon

Get Ready for

Mothering Sunday and Easter



Saturday 2nd March 2024

1.30pm to 4pm

THERE WILL BE CRAFTS AND CARDS TO MAKE FOR MOTHERING SUNDAY AND EASTER WHICH ARE ALL FREE.

(Donation to help cover costs of the craft materials would be welcome)

Also available– Refreshments, Raffle, Tombola, Gifts , Games and a Playdough Table.

IN AID OF THE CHILDREN'S SOCIETY

FREE ENTRY

ALL WELCOME



Saturday
9
March

10.30am-
3pm
Guildhall
Chard



**Dragon Parade from 10am
starting at the Guildhall Chard**



- Performances
- Workshops
- Stalls
- Foods from around the world



**Family Friendly
Dragon Egg hunt**

SCAN
ME



For more information about the event contact: Serena 07793 074 039

@chardtogether





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

MANOR COURT SCHOOL COUNCIL
EASTER COMPETITION

Decorate an Easter bonnet or an
egg (hardboiled).

Entry - 50p per child, in aid of
our charity of the year -

 Little
Princess
Trust™

All entries must be handed in from Friday
March 15th until Monday March 18th. Please
make sure they are labelled with child's name
and class. Money in a named envelope. Thank
you!

