

Dear Parents and carers

Autumn Term Newsletter 5 – Friday 15th November 2024

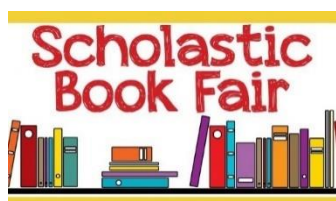


Key Dates

November 2024	
Tuesday 19 th November	Parent/Carer Forum in The Hub (Year 1 block) 9am-11am
Wednesday 20 th November	Year 2 Trip to Fleet Air Arm Museum
Tuesday 26 th November	Scholastic half price book fayre to arrive at school
Friday 29 th November	Y6 'Make £5 grow' Christmas Fete in hall 9am-10am

Whole School Remembrance Assembly

On Monday morning 'We Remembered' during our whole school Remembrance assembly. Reverend John spoke to us about the importance of remembering and led us in our time of silence, Clive Saunders (local poet and Army veteran) shared a poem that he had written, Mrs Terry and Mr Clode shared the brilliant artwork produced by each class, the whole school sang together, the choir sang a beautiful song and two Y6's read a poem called 'I am wearing a poppy'.



Scholastic Book Fair – A message from Mrs Terry

We will once again be hosting a Scholastic **HALF PRICE** book fair next half term, from Tuesday 26th November to Monday 2nd December. All books will be half the cost of their normal stated price. There will be books aimed at 2 years olds, all the way up to teenager texts. The book fair will be open every day after school between these dates, and you can purchase the books by either cash or card - please note you will need your bank card present. On Friday 29th November, the book fair will be open for

twenty minutes after each celebration assembly. The school will receive a percentage of the money raised, so you will be helping the school library out too!

Ofsted report

It was our immense pleasure, earlier this week, to share with you the outcome of our two-day Ofsted inspection in October and the exemplary and first-rate report. This is the highest judgment that our excellent school could achieve in this inspection and unusually Ofsted have given us no points for development!

Ofsted said '*pupils enjoy attending school and are enthusiastic about the activities on offer. They behave well throughout the day and are kind, polite and considerate*'. Our children really impressed Ofsted during the two-day inspection. Ofsted particularly highlighted how '*Manor Court provides exceptional education and care*.' We are incredibly proud of each pupil and each member of staff who are a credit to the school. Our hard work and high expectations will continue as we strive to improve further.

A copy of the full report and a letter sent home on Tuesday through ParentPay, can be found on the school website.



Youth Speak Competition at Herne View School

We are very proud of our Year 6 'Youth Speak' teams who on Wednesday participated in an event in Ilminster against other local primaries. The chosen topics were about discrimination in PE and the importance of arts education for all. Both teams spoke clearly and confidently.

Save the dates for our Christmas performances

We are swiftly moving into the Christmas period and the children will start to prepare our Christmas events to perform to you. We want to give you plenty of advanced 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. We have sent letters home to explain ticketing.



Thursday 5 th December at 14:15	Y1 & Y2 Christmas production in the School Hall (first performance)
Friday 6 th December at 14:15	Y1 & Y2 Christmas production in the School Hall (second performance)
Tuesday 10 th December at 14:15	Foundation Stage Nativity in the school hall (first performance)
Wednesday 11 th December at 14:15	Foundation Stage Nativity in the school hall (second performance)
Thursday 12 th December at 09:30	Year 3 and Year 4 Carol Service at St Mary's Church
Thursday 12 th December at 11:00	Year 5 and Year 6 Carol Service at St Mary's Church

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

To keep your child safe, please make sure that if you know that you have changed your telephone number or email address that you remember to let the school office know so that we can update our records.

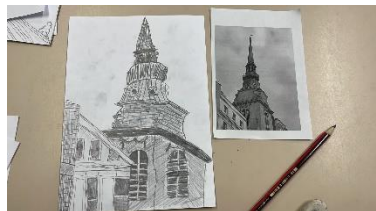
Children in Need

We had a fantastic time raising money for Children in Need today and showing our spots and raising lots! We will reveal the final amount raised next week when Mrs Hunt has counted it.



After School Wrap Around Care on Thursday 19th December 2024

On Thursday 19th December it is necessary to close our wrap around care provision at 17:15. This is to enable each member of the school staff team to attend our Christmas meal. We will not be taking any bookings for the final session on this day. Please do ensure that you pick your child up promptly on this day.



Art Gifted and Talented Day – A message from Mrs Morton

In Art this term all pupils are learning about architects and designers. Last Friday our gifted artists looked at buildings designed by Sir Christopher Wren. The Year 1's to Year 4's did super quick (10 minute) continuous line drawings in pen with watercolour washes. The Year 5 and Year 6's have copied some of his buildings with 4B pencils and each of the results were incredible.

Foundation Stage Art Exhibition

Foundation Stage held their Art Exhibition last Friday afternoon in which the children showed the fantastic work focusing on 'All About Me' that they had produced. They enjoyed sharing their wonderful creations with members of their family.



Chard food pantry – A message from Miss Gregory (Early Intervention Officer)

The cost-of-living crisis is hitting some families hard and the cost of food has increased incredibly. The Chard Community Pantry is a local initiative that provides food and household supplies for only £5 a week. Please speak to Mr Clode or me if you require any further information.

Year 5 interactive Science lesson

Mr Staddon (AKA The Nutty Professor) investigated the effects of burning materials last Thursday morning with Year 5. It was a spectacle to see and lots of moments of awe and wonder was observed!

Newly elected Wellbeing Council

Our newly elected Wellbeing Council met for their first meeting last week. They have created a list of ideas and plans to improve the wellbeing of pupils and staff - starting with support in making healthier food choices!



Trim Trail – A message from Mrs Jones

Can we please remind all parents that children are not to use either Trim Trails at the start, or end of the day, and must only use them under the supervision of school staff during the school day.



House Captains Radio Interview

The Year 6 House Captains and Mr Talmage have recently met Pudsey bear and were interviewed on BBC Radio Somerset at Chard Leisure Centre. They were asked questions about the school, Chard and the importance of raising money for Children in Need. You can hear the interview, by clicking the link below on BBC Sounds. It starts at 1:38:30 <https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/p0jy2kgd>

First edition of the Apple Tree Press

Read all about it! Our first edition of The Apple Tree Press has been published. Every classroom has a printed copy and here's a link to it on our website for you to peruse at home at your leisure. <https://primariesite-produced.s3.amazonaws.com/manor-court-community/UploadedDocument/55073092-cd94-4161-a1cb-a72aa16ac89d/apple-tree-press-edition-1.pdf>



Miss Langdown

We are delighted to announce that Miss Langdown and her partner are expecting their first child at the very end of April 2025. We will start the process of appointing a new teacher to join the Manor Court teaching team to cover her absence in the next few weeks and will inform you as soon as we know the outcome.

Please help us – A message to all parents (especially our new Foundation Stage parents)

Please be mindful of parents and children trying to get past the Foundation Stage area and into the main school. Please try not to block the pathway as it is exceedingly difficult for wheelchair users or parents with buggies and prams to get past. Thank you.



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.

Celebration Assemblies

Family members are very welcome to join us at our EYFS & KS1 and KS2 celebration assembly each Friday. KS2 Assembly will start at 08:50 in the school hall and KS1 and EYFS Assembly will start at 10:30 in the school hall.

Please enter the school site through the main gate at the front of the school and enter the hall via the normal door, after crossing the Key Stage 1 playground and walking around the back of the hall.



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.

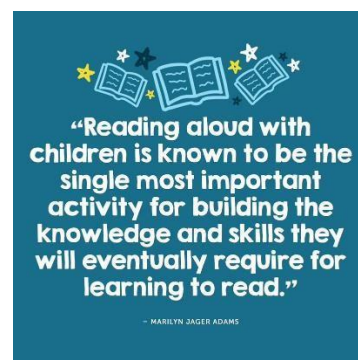
If you would like to find out more about their work and how you can get involved, please do email them on contactfmca@gmail.com or contact them through their Facebook page

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 five 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.



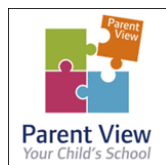
FMCA Activities

The FMCA have planned lots of exciting and varied fundraising activities for this school year. Please see their poster at the end of this newsletter for further information.

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Year 6 Eye Man visit

On Monday morning, as part of our Science topic, Year 6 were visited by the brilliant Simon from Robert Frith opticians who taught us all about the eye and showed us some fantastic optical illusions.



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

Staff car park – A message from Mr Talmage

Can we please remind all parents that the staff car park at the rear of the school is not to be used by parents at any point as a place to park during drop off or collection times. The school does provide free parking permits for parents to park in Sainsbury's carpark.

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, and Mr Talmage. The school

Safeguarding and Child Protection Governor is Mrs Sue Wakeman.

Come and join us in September 2025

The application process for starting Foundation Stage in September 2025 has now opened through the Somerset County Council portal. If you would like your child to join our happy, caring, fun and academically achieving (the highest results in Chard for many 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.

**COME
AND
SEE**

Year 6 Make £5 grow – Christmas Fete

Our Y6 children will be hosting a Christmas Fete throughout the morning on Friday 29th November where they will be selling items that they have made for their 'Make £5 grow' Young Enterprise project. The event will open at 09:00, where parents are invited to come into school to view and purchase items until 10:00. After 10:00, children in each of the other year groups will have the opportunity to support their Y6 friends and buy items. On this day, children in the other classes may wish to bring a small amount of money into school to buy products.



Online safety news from Miss Hamilton

If your child is a keen gamer and uses a range of consoles or devices to play the latest games, make sure to set them up safe. Take a look at our list of parental control how-to guides to get up to speed on how to set the right level of protection to give them a fun and safe experience while playing video games.

[Video gaming, consoles and platforms parental controls | Internet Matters](#)

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

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 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 on our school website and can be printed at home.

<https://www.manorcourtcommunityprimary.co.uk/remote-learning-in-case-of-school-closure/>

Please do make sure that your child is equipped with the correct clothing for cold weather.



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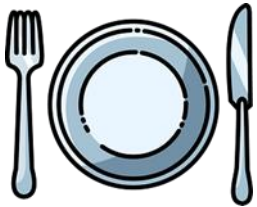
EYC news from Miss Warren

Preschool have been busy planting daffodils as part of our learning about growing and changes in season. Once the daffodils have begun to grow, the children can take them home. Our children have also enjoyed lots of autumnal activities. Our first outdoor learning has taken place. Each child will create an autumn wreath over the next few weeks. Please make sure your child has a waterproof coat now that the weather is changing. We look forward to seeing you at parents evening next week, please book an appointment if you have not already done so.



After school enrichment clubs – A message from Mr Clode

Please can I politely remind all parents that our afterschool enrichment clubs finish at 16:15 and ask you to arrive promptly to collect your children.



Hot meals parental feedback – A message from Mrs Hunt

Our onsite kitchen is now providing a hot meal for average 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.



Foundation Stage Festivals and Celebrations topic

Foundation Stage are enjoying their new topic of Festivals and Celebrations. They have enjoyed potion making and creating bonfires and fireworks using different media and materials. They have also completed some fabulous writing about fireworks.

Wrap around care booking reminder from the school office

Our wrap around care provision is extremely 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 – 14:00 on the day.

Breakfast club – 14:00 the day before.

Year 5 and Year 6 Girls Football tournament at Bucklers Mead School – A message from Mr McCarten

Our Year 5 and Year 6 football team had a wonderful time yesterday at the Bucklers Mead School football tournament in Yeovil. The girls came second out of seven schools in the tournament– winning four games, drawing one and losing just one game. The school that they lost to (Huish Primary in Yeovil) won the tournament!

Lacie and Maisie were the players of the tournament. Lacie for superb tenacity in her defending throughout each game. Maisie worked incredibly hard, scored a goal and the energy she gave was brilliant!



School uniform provider – A message from Mrs Hunt (Assistant School Business Manager)

As you will now know, our new school uniform provider is South-West School wear. The uniform can be purchased from the Taunton store, or online. Please see the letter that was sent home via ParentPay and can be found on our website for further details about the service that will be provided to Manor Court families.



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 Year 1 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 Panto Train PRESENTS

CINDERELLA

*An Interactive Pantomime Experience on a
Train for the Whole Family!*

Scan to find out
how you can help
Prince Charming!



TICKETS FROM £25
RUNNING ON SELECT DAYS IN DECEMBER
FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO BOOK TICKETS, VISIT:
WWW.WEST-SOMERSET-RAILWAY.CO.UK

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FMCA



Events Calendar

2024-2025

23 Oct

FMCA Annual General Meeting

22 Nov

Christmas Wreath Workshop

03 Dec

Break the Rules Day

14 Dec

Children's Table Decoration Workshop

31 Jan

Winter Quiz

12 Feb

Non School Uniform & Disco

06 Mar

World Book Day- Talmage Treat Bar

28 Mar

Easter Bingo

16 May

Colour Run

Other events TBC

TOGETHER ON TUESDAY

A club for primary school children
and their parents, carers & siblings

**Join us for Crafts, Cooked Tea,
Songs & Story**

New craft each week
Cooked tea provided

Short bible story and song

**Every Tuesday during term
time**

**Starting the 10th September
3.30pm - 5pm**

St Mary's Church rooms

THIS IS A FREE CLUB BUT DONATIONS ARE WELCOME



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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FREE CHRISTMAS CONCERT

FEATURING: LYME REGIS TOWN BAND



FREE
ENTRY



AXMINSTER GUILDHALL
22ND DECEMBER 2024
15:00

TICKETS NEEDED FOR NUMBERS
WWW.AXMINSTER-GUILDHALL.CO.UK

All profits made will support:

children's hospice SOUTH WEST & arc



Scan QR code for info and tickets

PLYMUG presents

AXMINSTER BRICKTACULAR

28th December 10am to 4pm
Axminster Guildhall, 5 West St, EX13 5NX



Axminster's first LEGO® charity event

Children's activities and prizes

A range of fantastic displays - Quiet session 10 to 11.30



This event is officially sponsored by Unique Displays, the perfect solution for your premium display needs

LEGO® is a trademark of the LEGO Group of companies which does not sponsor, authorize or endorse this group/event



Christmas Eve Movie Night



Tuesday, December 24th

3 PM - 4:30 PM

Axminster Guildhall

£1 per ticket

(includes drink and mince pie)*

*see booking page for more details

www.axminster-guildhall.co.uk