



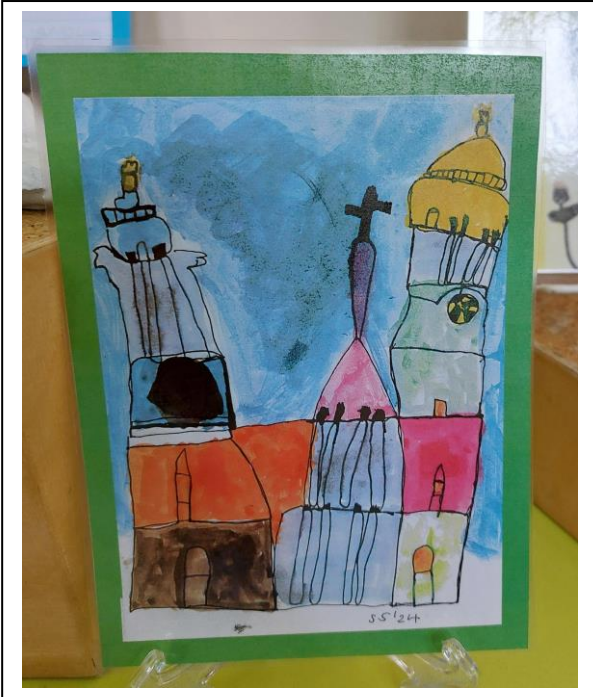
# Apple Tree Press



Manor Court Primary School

Edition 3

February 2025



This term our new newspaper is focused on the amazing art that took pride of place in the Guildhall on January 24th. Many parents and carers came to see the astonishing work that children from early years right up to year 6 created. Some pieces of art were given the esteemed Mayor's choice award- they are currently on display at the local community waffle house as we speak. All of the art was wonderful so well done everyone. Anyway, that is the main highlight of the Apple Tree Press edition 3, but inside this newspaper it is jam-packed full of amazing fun so read on because in this edition we have more facts and fun for you!

“Being at school and learning is really important but having a rich curriculum outside of these subjects is essential. Hobbies and interests are all based around those creative things and they make our lives better and more enriched. I value them above anything else that we do in a school. When you grow up its not the days that you were sat doing maths that you will remember, but the visits to museums, dance festivals and performances.”  
Reverend Nick

“I believe that drama and the arts are very important to teach in all schools for it can help a child express themselves. A school shouldn't just focus on Maths, English and Science as the arts are a vital part of a child's development.”  
Mark Ducker CBE

## In This Edition

**Mrs Morton our very own Artist in Residence.**



**Mark Ducker CBE visits Manor Court.**



**Reverend Nick talks to us about returning to Chard.**



**Year 5 reach for the moon!**



**Mr. Ducker CBE** met Mr. Clode 24 years ago. He was a headteacher at a school in Croydon in 2002, Mr Clode was a supply teacher there. Mr Ducker saw him teach and thought that he'd be good teacher so he gave him the job! On the 17<sup>th</sup> January he visited Manor Court to see how his protégé was getting on!

## Who is Mr Ducker?

Mark Ducker CBE was inspired to go into teaching by his parents, especially his mother who was a pre-school teacher.

*" I saw teaching as something that I would enjoy and thought I would be quite good at it! "*

Mr. Ducker was a headteacher by the time he met Mr Clode 24 years ago. He then went on to build up a family off schools from which he came the Step Academy Trust. There were around 20 schools in it which weren't doing very well, he supported them to make improvements and working hard alongside the teams they all became great schools.

By doing this his work was recognized and rewarded by the Queen.

Firstly, Mr. Ducker got an OBE which stands for OFFICER OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE. Which he was given by the Queen herself. 7 years later he accepted a CBE which stands for COMMANDER OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE, in recognition of his and The Steps Academy contribution to education. He was given that one by Princess Anne. He went to Windsor Castle to receive both.

Mr Ducker is now retired but still does small amounts of work with schools. Family time, enjoying the beautiful city of Bath, where he lives, walking and spending time with his cockapoo are all things he now enjoys doing.



*Mr. Ducker was very excited to hear about the play that drama club will be putting on at the end of the year. Plus he loves musicals. Mr. Ducker has also watched wicked and loved it; and can't wait for part 2.*



## Best Moments!

For Mr. Ducker the best moments of being a head teacher were watching children develop and learn new skills

*" Being able to watch schools who were having a difficult time become successful is one of the best experiences!"*

## Has Mr. Clode gotten better at teaching since he started?

MR. DUCKER SAW THAT MR. CLODE WOULD HAVE A BRIGHT FUTURE IN TEACHING.

“MR CLODE WAS SOME-ONE THAT ALWAYS WORKED AS HARD AS HE POSSIBLY COULD. HE GOT THINGS WRONG BUT HE ALWAYS TOOK THINGS ON BOARD AND WORKED HARD TO LEARN FROM HIS MISTAKES.”

COMING TO MANOR COURT AND SEEING HIM BE THE TRUE TEACHER HE REALLY HAS MADE MR DUCKER VERY HAPPY.

“I CAN SEE AS I WALK AROUND YOUR SCHOOL JUST HOW GREAT A TEACHER HE HAS BECOME. I KNEW HE HAD A TALENT AND NOW I CAN SEE IT REALLY FLOURISHING IN THE ROLE HE IS IN. “



## Did Mr. Ducker ever have to tell Mr. Clode off?

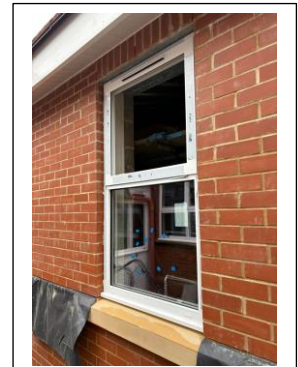
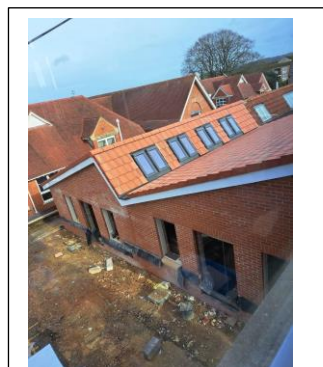
Apparently not often ( I know unbelievable) but sometimes he had to remind him to tuck his shirt in as he could be a bit scruffy!



“Seeing schools become successful because of the hard work of teachers, like Mr Clode, is a great feeling. I’ve walked around Manor Court and it feels like the schools I used to lead. The children are all so well-behaved, smart and you can see that they are really enjoying their classes. The high expectations that you have in your school are the same as I had in mine. “

## Build Update!

**We are reaching the final stages of the build!! The rain hasn’t stopped progress. Since our last edition we now have a roof, and windows are starting to go into place! Plasterers will soon be on site and the first set of wiring is planned. We cant wait to see the progress when we get back from the half term holidays.**



MANOR COURT ART EXHIBITION  
24<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2025

FRIDAY THE 24<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY SAW THE ANNUAL ART EXHIBITION AT THE GUILDHALL IN CHARD.

THIS YEAR WE SHOWCASED WORK INSPIRED BY THE LIFE AND WORKS OF ARCHITECTS AND DESIGNERS.

THESE DESIGNERS WERE: I M PEI, JANE & MARY PARMINTER, SIR CHRISTOPHER WREN, ZAHA HADID , ANTONI GAUDI, CHARLES RENNIE MACKINTOSH AND MIMAR SINAN.

THE EXHIBITION WAS OPENED BY THE MAYOR WHO ALSO AWARDED SPECIALS MAYOR'S CHOICE AWARDS TO 2 PIECES THAT SHE FELT EXCELLED IN EACH YEAR GROUP.

DURING THE DAY THERE WERE MANY VISITORS WHO ALL TOOK TIME TO LOOK AT THE ARTWORK PRODUCED BY ALL CHILDREN AT MANOR COURT FROM EYFS TO YEAR 6.

OUR ART COUNCILLORS HOSTED THE EVENT AND INTRODUCED THEIR YEAR GROUPS PIECES TO VISITORS.

ALL PUPILS ALSO HAD THE CHANCE TO ATTEND AND SEE THEIR MAGNIFICENT PIECES ON DISPLAY.



**Mayor's Choice  
Winners**

- Year 6 – Martin and Mia
- Year 5 – Seren and Chloe
- Year 4 – Connie and Poppy
- Year 3 – Molly and Marcie.
- Year 2 – Damon and Harlie

Bernie, Priya, Maisie, Adrian and Chithila all also received Mayor's choice awards.

EYFS and Year 1 all got a year group special mention for their amazing collaborative art pieces.

APPLE TREE PRESS REPORTERS ATTENDED THE GRAND OPENING AND SPENT TIME TALKING TO THE MAYOR, VISITORS AND ART COUNCILLORS.

We split into teams and really enjoyed talking to everyone and finding out what they thought.

Lots of children said that they really liked art as it was fun. They also said they were really happy to be able to see their pictures up on the walls. All the children felt really proud.

A visitor told us that they felt art was important as it gives people a chance to express themselves and show their true personality.

Mr Gudge commented:

“ Every year it surprises me, this year the colours really stand out”

Year 5's sewing was very popular and was Mrs Burn's favourite.

Grayson a pupil at Manor Court said that he felt Art was very important and helped him and his friends be able to express themselves.

The year 4 clay sculptures were a favourite of Miss Finn. The exhibition really showcased all textures, materials and variety across the year groups.



*“THE GIFTED AND TALENTED ART REALLY SHINES WITH THE VIBRANT COLOURS. ITS GREAT TO WATCH CHILDREN BECOME MORE CONFIDENT IN THEIR ART. ”*



## YEAR 5 GO TO THE MOON AND BACK

### 2 RECOUNTS, IN THEIR OWN WORDS, OF THEIR AMAZING DAY IN EXETER.

On Thursday the 6<sup>th</sup> of February, Badgers and Foxes walked to the coach. I sat in a three-seater with my friend Orlando to play some Uno, no mercy. The seats were rather spacious and comfortably padded! After playing uno I gave some ideas to my friend as he was illustrating in his blank comic book. We went to Exeter as it was linked to our Geography topic linked with settlements and was our Manor Court 48: we arrived at 9:30 am. We all split into our groups and began our whimsical journey.

After a short stroll, we arrived at the Cathedral, which was an ancient, towering building (and the biggest building in Exeter!) A few of the groups gathered and went inside for a guided tour. Whereas the group I was in, stayed outside for a bit and admired and mesmerized the scenery. Afterwards, we, as a group went into the beautiful Cathedral: they handed us activity sheets to complete. For most of the time, our group did a self-guided tour. Although, we had a ten-minute guided tour if you were in Ms Finn's Group. There were carvings/statues of Choristers high up, as when the Cathedral first opened: Choristers sang high up to portray angels singing.

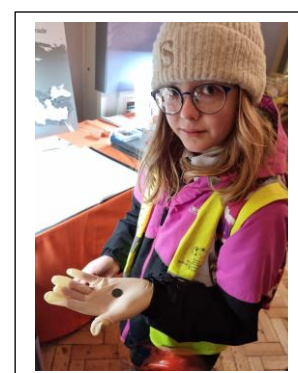
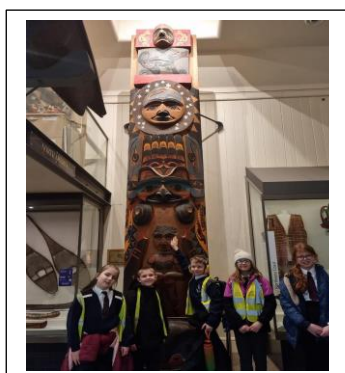
After the tour, everybody in year 5 went to eat some lunch, where they talked about their favourite part of the cathedral and what fascinated them! The sun was beaming down onto our tables, and the ground beneath our feet was made by the romans themselves.

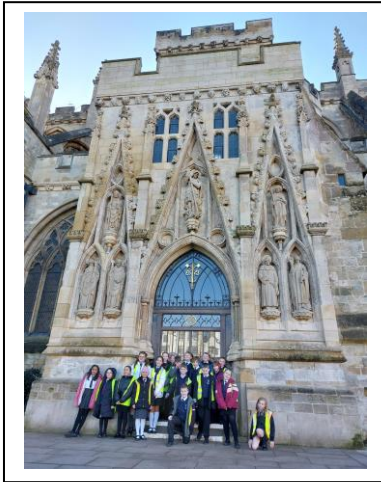
After a short but painful walk, we arrived at my favourite part of the trip; The Royal Albert Memorial Museum (RAMM) It showed the timelapses of Earth's revolution for example: the Jurassic period. The museum was very interactive, and we saw multiple roman coins. We saw huge animal statues like Giraffes and Polar bears! As well as that, we saw Tutankhamen's Sarcophagus one of the previous Kings of Egypt! We as a group also saw hieroglyphics written on the walls. There was a video of Earth's timelapse like terrestrial, Jurassic and the stone age.

After a bit of walking, our group discovered a room full of animals, like barbaric beetles, and beautiful butterflies. Even scary scorpions and a few other aggressive animals. My favourite was the wide range of birds! Then we went to the gift shop where there were key-chains and necklaces and much more. When we got back to the coach, me and some friends ended up drawing Mr Johnson in a tutu!

In conclusion, I would without a doubt, recommend the Museum. Although, if you have free time, you should definitely pop down to the cathedral as there are interesting facts. The museum has one of the oldest things ever! A piece of an asteroid from millions of years ago. My favourite part was spending quality time with friends.

Oresta





### Our Exciting Trip To Exeter

On Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> of February Manor Court Community Primary School went to Exeter for the day! They went to explore the marvellous artifacts scattered around the City. The children left the school at 8:30 am prompt and travelled by coach. I was really excited on the coach and I wouldn't stop talking about how excited I was for the trip. When we got to the Cathedral, we looked outside the Cathedral it looked... AMAZING! There were Saints and gargoyles scattered around. The whole cathedral had flying buttresses to hold it up. Exeter Cathedral was built in between the 12<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> centuries. It was still under construction during the black death. Exeter Cathedral has the longest medieval vault in history.

Inside the Cathedral, there was SOOOO! Much to see, it was amazing in there. We got told that the Cathedral got bombed in WWII and one of the stained glasses shattered and broke and since then some of the windows are just plain ones because its so expensive to replace them! We then got a chance to lay underneath the moon, I layed right in the centre of the moon and it looked amazing! We then got to do this space activity where we got to hold space balloons and put ourselves in order of the solar system. ( The whole time I was asking ' when is it lunch')

LUNCH TIME!!! Finally I was so hungry I was waiting for this moment the whole day.

After lunch, we went to the RAMM museum ( Royal Albert Memorial Museum) when we got inside there was the museum in lego bricks! We were able to see some coins from a very long time ago! We had to hold it with a really tight glove to protect it and us. We went upstairs and saw many animals, there was a moose on the ceiling! We then entered another area where there was a tall giraffe and a very interesting elephant. The best part there was a bench, well a metal pole that looked like one and we all sat on it, well some of the people in my group did including me.

After a sit down we were able to see some old fashioned clothes and to be honest they were very elegant, we then entered this room where it had some cultural mask, clothes statues etc and some looked very peculiar. We went into the bug room and I almost cried in there!! I HATE! Bugs I'm completely terrified of bugs! All I wanted to do was leave the room!

Then we went downstairs to the shop and I bought some Sakura chopsticks and the lady speaks Japanese! We both were speaking Japanese and she told me how to say blossom in Japanese.

In conclusion I loved it there! I recommend going! You will definitely learn a lot of stuff! And I definitely recommend going to the cathedral and get a tour guide. My favourite part was laying underneath the moon, overall I had the best time ever! And I hope you will too if you go to Exeter!

Francisca

## How did Mrs Morton get into dance?

Between the ages of 3 – 11 Mrs Morton took ballet classes but found it wasn't something that she was very good at but she really enjoyed it. It was here that her creativity and musicality started to shine through. She began to find it became boring the more serious it got and was no longer fun.. Following in the footsteps of her friend Ange she moved across to tap and modern dance and found her love for it again. At university she continued with her dance and learnt Indian and African dancing. All things that Mrs Morton has shared with dance club.

**“Arts in schools are extremely important because they help to boost esteem and self-confidence. You need to be creative in this world to do any job. You need to be able to solve problems, think on the spot and work in teams, all skills that the arts can help you develop.”**

*MRS MORTON LOVES DANCE SO MUCH THAT SHE WILL OFTEN LISTEN TO MUSIC AT HOME AND MAKE UP HER OWN DANCES AS SHE COOKS, SHE EVEN GETS HER HUSBAND TO JOIN IN!*



**Creative Arts at Manor Court are led by Mrs Morton. We met with her to find out more about her!**

**In 25 years of teaching Mrs Morton has always ran a dance club for pupils and shared her enjoyment of it with them. Just think how many children that means have had this amazing opportunity because of her!**



**DURING LOCKDOWN MRS MORTON FILMED LEARN TO DANCE VIDEOS AND PUT THEM ON HER YOUTUBE CHANNEL, “MRS MORTON MOVES”, FOR MANOR COURT CHILDREN TO LEARN.**

## ART EXHIBITION AND SUMMER SHOW

In 2018 Mrs Morton and Mr Talmage discussed being able to show parents the incredible work that their children were doing at Manor Court. They both thought it was important to be able to not just show parents but also members of the public what we do. This then turned into our art exhibitions at the Guildhall. Not happy with just an art exhibition the idea of a summer showcase was put forward. This has also become an annual event of music and dance, which couldn't happen without Mrs Morton giving her time and vision to produce it. It's something that we all really enjoy being part of.

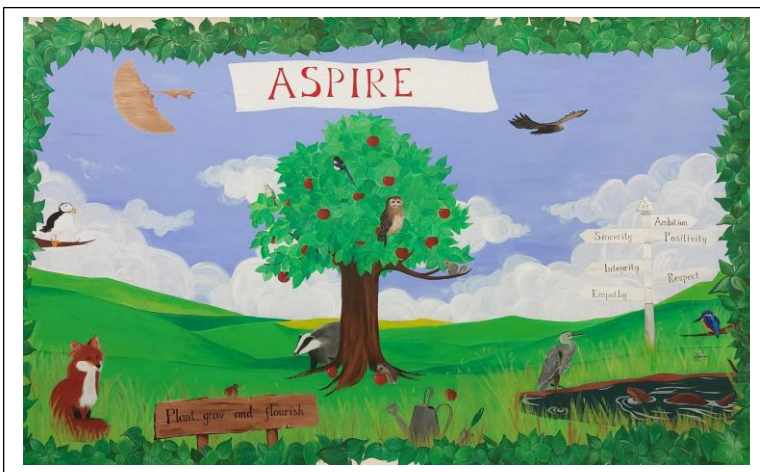


Money Raised from the Summer Show goes back into providing opportunities for pupils at Manor Court School. We have had musical and drama performances throughout the year. Preparation starts for Mrs Morton straight after the show ends for the following year. There is a lot that has to be planned.

**Mrs Morton has always had a love of art. She enjoyed making things at home and giving them to her friends. After a while she started to sell her art work. Unfortunately she doesn't get the time to do it at the moment but hopes to be able to do it again in the future.**



**Mrs Morton originally trained as a class teacher and has taught in America as well as in England. After having to take a break due to illness she returned to Manor Court with a focus on Art. The ASPIRE mural that can be found in the hall was painted by Mrs Morton. It has all of the animals and birds that our classes are named after.**



## Sports Round- Up

Our Year 5  
Cross Country  
Team.



### Cross - Country

This half term at Manor Court we took part in another cross country at Holyrood school, this time it was our year 5 pupils turns - if you were not aware, a cross country is where competitors race to a finish line. The cross country that our year 5s completed was across three fields. Schools that competed included Chard school, Redstart and many other schools from across the Chard area. All of our pupils in key stage 2 have had the opportunity to take part across the year. Doing a crosscountry is arduous work, you get way too tired and then you have a little bit of energy but so far to go. I know this because I have done many cross countries before. Well done if you completed this challenging task.



### Dodgeball

This term our pe lessons have included Dodgeball, a very popular sport across our school.

Dodgeball is a team sport in which players on two opposing teams try to throw balls and hit each-other whilst avoiding balls them-selves. The goal of the game is to eliminate all of the opposing team members to win.

Dodgeball is a very fun game which many play it is mainly a American sport where you can compete for prizes. Dodgeball is played in halls; each team has a maximum of 5 players which all line up on the wall to begin the game when the referee blows the whistle you all sprint to the middle trying to grab a ball. If you catch a ball then the person who threw it is out and one of your teammates comes back in. At Manor Court we can often have teams of up to 16 players which just adds to the fun!

### Basket-ball

This term has seen the start of after school basket-ball club led by Mr McCarten - an avid basketball fan himself – as well as a friendly match against Chard School. Both teams used their dribbling and ball skills to net numerous baskets. Manor Court came out the victors on this occasion winning 44-37.





## Reverend Nick - Tells us about his journey to becoming a vicar and coming back to Chard.

### Q. What made you decide to become a vicar?

**A.** My journey of faith began when I was 18 years old, I started going to church and became a Christian. I went to church very week, usually in the evening because I spent my Sundays mornings playing sport. I went on to become a teacher for a number of years. Over this time my love of God grew and as a result of that a vicar came to talk to me one evening at church and told me that he thought I could be an amazing vicar. That was unexpected. I liked going to Church but I also liked being a teacher and decided I didn't want to stop being one. A number of years went by and one evening I was sat on my bed after being at church I could hear God talking to me, encouraging me to become a vicar. I talked to my vicar and now here I am!

### Q. What do you have to do to become a vicar?

**A.** First thing you need to do is to have a conversation with your vicar like I did. You then go through a series of interviews that you have to pass. If at the end of that the group of people say yes you can become a vicar then you need to go to college to train for 2 years. After

completing that I then had to become a trainee vicar for 3 years. Its quite a long process and was about 8 years from me having the first conversation to me finishing my Curacy.

### Q. You were previously a Design and Technology teacher, what skills have you been able to bring to your role?

**A.** I think a teacher is always a teacher and those skills don't leave you. Coming and talking to you today is one of my most favourite things to do, being able to work with children and pupils in school. I can carry out assemblies, complete cooking tasks like we did with year 5 and many other things that being a teacher taught me.

### Q. What made you want to come to Chard.

**A.** I grew up in Tatworth then I moved away, became a teacher, got married, had a son and lived in Taunton for about 30 years. At the end of my Curacy I was looking through the paper for jobs and Chard jumped out at me. Its lovely to be back, I went to school at Holyrood so have lots of friends here.

### Q. What is your favourite part of your role?

**A.** This! Teaching and working with children has always been at the heart of my life. During my Curacy I thought I might have had to move away from that. I still feel like I am a teacher, I get to do all the fun stuff that teachers do but without all the marking!



Year 5 worked with Reverend Nick on World Religion Day.

**Q. What are the most challenging parts of being a vicar?**

**A** The boring answer is all of the paperwork you have to do and sitting in meetings. The most challenging is funerals as you are supporting people who are grieving and upset. It is also the most rewarding, as when people are feeling at their saddest you can bring them some joy, comfort and some hope.

**Reverend John with some of our pupils on a recent visit to St Mary's Church.**



**Q. How does the church help others in the community?**

**A.** Most people think of a church being only Sunday mornings but we do so much more than that. We have a tots group on a Tuesday, then in the afternoon reverend John runs our Tuesday club after school where there are crafts, activities and food for your age group. We also have Community breakfasts on Saturday mornings, warm space for people needing somewhere to go for a meal and warmth. We do lots of things that people don't associate with the church. Church is all about is being there for the community.

**Q. Do you have to attend church to be able to go to all of the events and activities?**

**A.** No you don't. That's the wonderful thing about Church, its about welcoming people in who don't come on a Sunday and we wouldn't expect to come to all the events and activities. We have concerts, lunches and lots of other things that happen in the church. Its with the community and for the community.

**Q. Are there more things you would like to introduce at St Marys?**

I have a massive long list! But im not going to tell you those because everyone at the church will read your newspaper and see what I have planned before I've told them. Being a vicar its important to not do what you think is right, but to do what you think is right for the community.

**Weekly Activities at St Mary's Church**

Welcome to our Community Space here at St Mary's



COME ON IN AND JOIN US EVERY Wednesday between 12.00 and 2.00pm We share Lunch together, and then tea with cake available.

Just sit and chat or read the paper, you can play games, or join in with a jigsaw puzzle, whatever you enjoy most.

**T.O.T.S**  
Tots On Tuesday  
@stmaryschurch

**PLAY DOH** **PUZZLES**

**PLAY CRAFT SING**

10-11.30AM EVERY TUESDAY (TERM TIME)  
ST MARY'S CHURCH ROOMS

£1 DONATION FOR UNLIMITED TOAST, FRUIT, PANCAKES, YOGURTS ETC TEA AND COFFEE

ALSO FREE CLOTHES BANK FOR AGES 0-5YRS

**BUBBLES** **SLIDE** **CLIMBING FRAME**

**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  
Back on 7th January 2025  
3.30pm - 5pm  
St Mary's Church rooms

THIS IS A FREE CLUB BUT DONATIONS ARE WELCOME

# Riddles, Quizzes and Fun!

## Quiz Time – Test your knowledge

Can you name all 7 continents?

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Can you name the five Oceans?

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

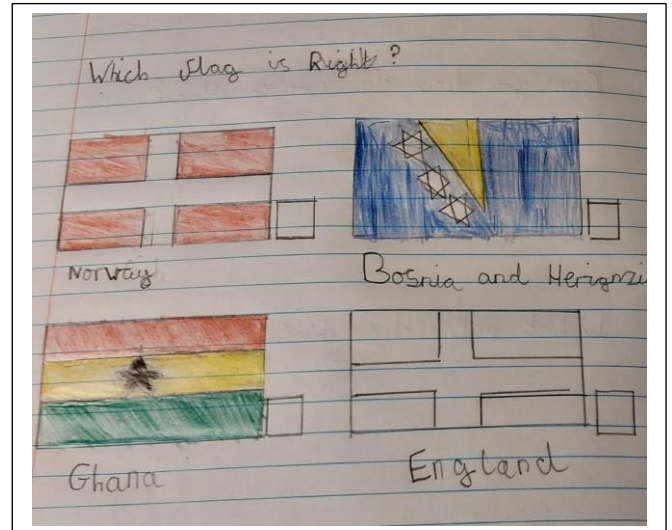
Can you draw the Monaco Flag?

Can you name the Capital Cities?

Engand

Japan

Australia



## Riddles to get your brain active.

If there are 4 sheep, 2 dogs and a herdsman, how many feet do they have?

What comes once in a minute, twice in a moment, but never in a thousand years?

You can see it every day but can never touch it. What is it?

Which of Santa's reindeers can be seen on Valentine's Day?

I have 2 hands but I cannot scratch myself, what am I ?

# Creative Arts Thrive At Manor Court Meet Our Art Council.

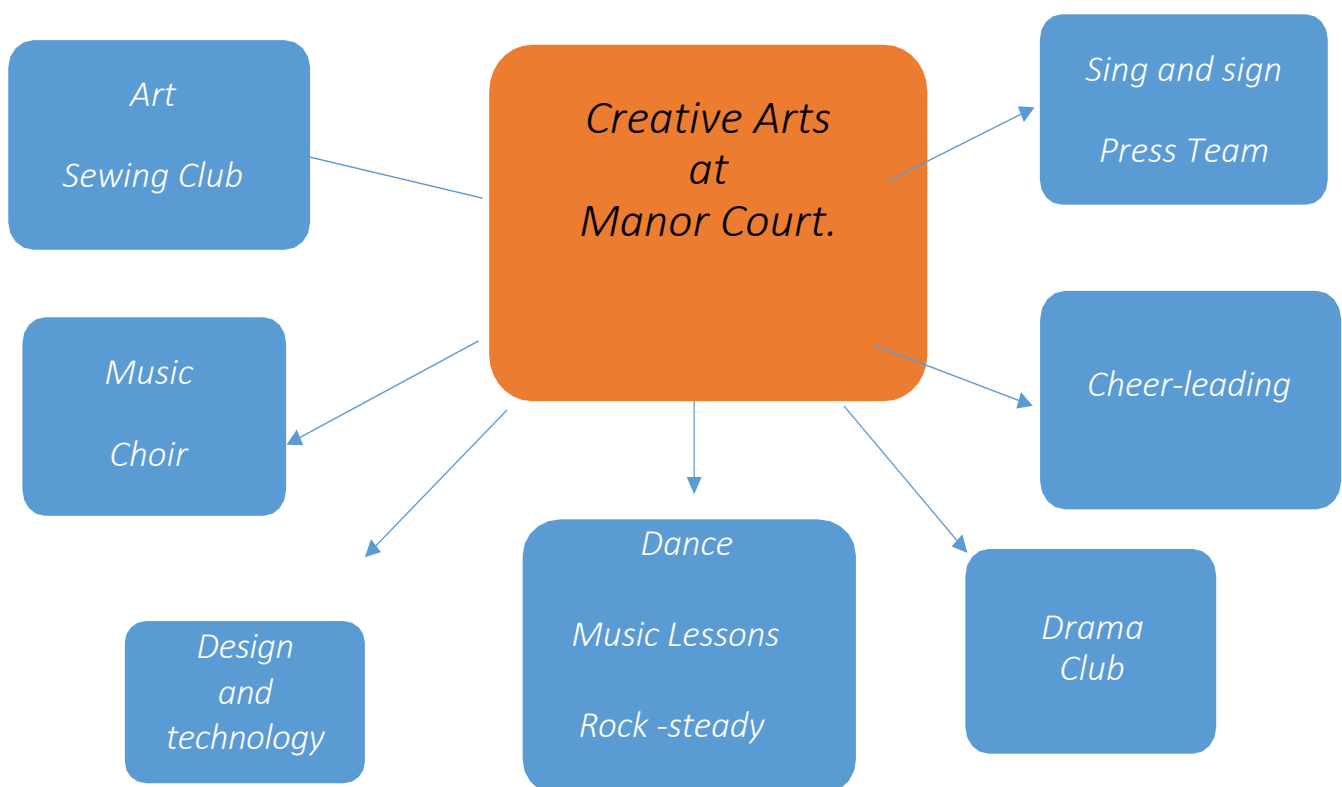
Art councillors help organise and host events including the summer show and art exhibition at the Guildhall. At Manor court we think it is very important for children to be able to express themselves and we have lots of ways that they can do this. Art councillors work with Mrs Morton and Miss Grabham to help represent the school, but to also run competitions such as creating posters and advent calendars.

“You can be an art councillor by showing an interest in any of the creative arts we do at school, you don’t have to be the best at them. “

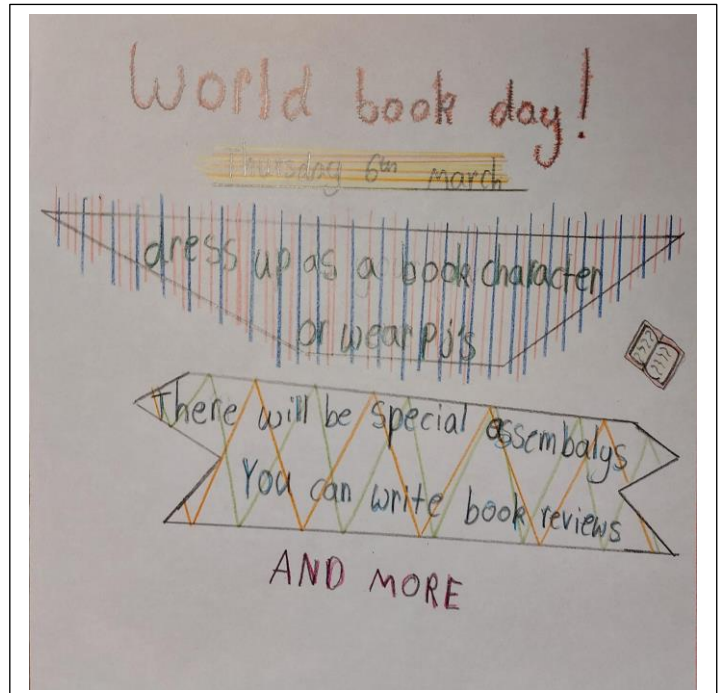
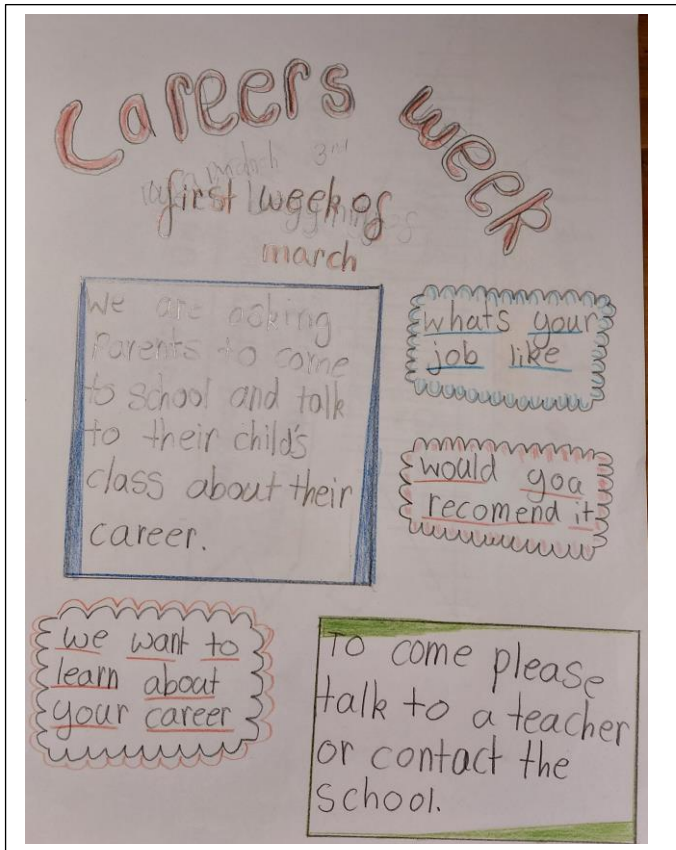
*Francisca*

“In 2023 we held the art exhibition upstairs in the Guildhall. Parents and carers came up an saw all of the artwork displayed. We even got to wind the Guildhall clock before going back to school. “

*Noah*



## Upcoming Events



**Up for a Challenge?**  
Take part in the FMCA

**Ready, Steady, Read**

Saturday 1st March - Sunday 9th March

Get sponsored for the number of pages you read

You've got to be in it, to win it.  
Prizes to be won!

Reading can include anything from books, comics and magazines, to websites, recipes or TV guides - anything with words.

Get friends and family to sponsor you either per page you read or as a total donation.

There will be prizes for the student who reads the most in KS1 and KS2, plus everyone that participates will be entered into the Year Group raffle.

Sponsorship forms will be emailed out to parents/guardians and Parent Pay to be printed at home or can be collected from the school office.

All forms and any money raised can either be paid in full via PayPal or cash by Friday 14th March via the Red Post Box at school reception (all forms need to be posted via post box)

Winners announced on Friday 21st March

To celebrate World Book Day, the FMCA are running a reading challenge competition. With the aim to get children inspired by reading but at the same time raising funds for the FMCA.

# The Press Team

THANKYOU FOR READING THIS EDITION OF THE APPLE TREE PRESS. ALL ROLES WITHIN THE PRESS TEAM HAVE BEEN FULFILLED BY PUPILS FROM YEARS 5 AND 6 AT MANOR COURT. THEY HAVE RESEARCHED AND FACT CHECKED ARTICLES, PREPARED AND CARRIED OUT INTERVIEWS, CREATED PUZZLES, TAKEN PHOTOS, PUT TOGETHER FINISHED ARTICLES AND BEEN INVOLVED IN ALL ASPECTS OF CREATING THIS FOR YOU. WE HOPE YOU HAVE ENJOYED IT AND LOOK FORWARD TO STARTING WORK ON OUR NEXT EDITION.

THE PRESS TEAM ARE:

NADIA, MIA, BERNIE, TOBY, AMELIA, DARCIE, KITTY, NOAH, FRANCISCA, FREYA & LACIE.

IF YOU HAVE ANY STORIES OR EVENTS THAT YOU WOULD LIKE TO SEE IN THE PAPER PLEASE TALK TO ONE OF THE TEAM, OR CONTACT MANOR COURT PRIMARY SCHOOL.

## Want a paper copy of the Apple Tree Press?

**You can pick up your copy at..**

**The Guildhall, The Community Hub, Chard Library, The Communitia Waffle House and, new this term, St Mary's Church.**

