



Key Dates

May 2025	
Wednesday 7 th May	Year 3 Ancient Egyptian Day with Clive Pig. Please see separate letter.
Thursday 8 th May	VE Day celebrations. Please see separate letter and information at end of this newsletter.
Monday 12 th May	Year 6 SATs week
Tuesday 13 th May	Year 2 trip to Westlands for the BSO concert. Please see separate letter.
Friday 16 th May	FMCA Colour run fundraising experience for those who have signed the waiver.
Monday 19 th May	KS1 Sports Day
Tuesday 20 th May	KS2 Sports Day
Friday 23 rd May	Last Day of this half term

Welcome to our school community

We would like to send a very warm welcome to the children and families who recently received notification that they will be starting their education in our Foundation Stage classrooms in September. Mr Talmage enjoyed spending time telephoning parents to answer any questions that they may have and if parents couldn't answer the phone, he left a voicemail for them to listen to. We look forward to building a long and happy relationship with you and providing the very best education for each child.



VE Day celebrations

If you have a family connection to Manor Court, please join us for our VE Day celebrations as we commemorate the 80th anniversary of the end of WW2 in Europe. Please do see the poster at the end of the newsletter which explains what the exciting afternoon will contain.

Multi-Cultural Day – A message from Sra. Gomes

Last Friday, we celebrated our annual Multicultural Day—a special event where we explore and enjoy the rich diversity of cultures around the world and within our school. The children had the chance to learn about different countries, their traditions, and their ways of life.



They took part in fun cultural activities and even made their own passports so they could “travel” to three different countries. This helped them gain knowledge about other cultures and develop important life skills, while also learning to respect and appreciate the world around them.



I would like to say a big thank you to all the parents and Manor Court staff who helped make the day a success. It was amazing to see the school filled with colourful traditional outfits and flags worn by both children and staff. The day was not only fun and creative but also a great learning experience for everyone. Thank you so much for your support and effort!

Year 6 KS2 SATs week

As you will be aware the end of Key Stage 2 tests is 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 Year 6 breakfast club throughout the week to every Year 6 child, for more information please see the letter that was sent home. 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 12 th May	Tuesday 13 th May	Wednesday 14 th May	Thursday 15 th May
English Grammar, Punctuation & Spelling	English Reading	Maths Paper 1 (Arithmetic) & Maths Paper 2 (Reasoning)	Maths Paper 3 (Reasoning)

EYC News from Miss Warren

We had a great time representing England last Friday and the children enjoyed making scones but enjoyed eating them even more! Preschool have been enjoying the sunshine this week. Please make sure your child has had sun cream applied before they arrive. We will then apply more later in the day. We also ask for every child to have a drinks bottle and a named sun hat. The children who are going to join Foundation Stage in September have begun their transition and have had a chance to play in Foundation Stage's outdoor area! They have had a great time, and this will continue until the end of term.





Sun Safety

We have enjoyed some warm and sunny weather this week and we are all hopeful that it may continue. Can you please help us to keep your children safe in the sunshine and hot weather by applying sun cream before school, sending them into school with a sun hat and plenty of water-based drinks to last throughout the day.

Tree planting

Terry Coombe from the Blackdown Hills Hedge Association joined some of our Eco-Warriors yesterday to plant rowan, hazel and crab apple trees on the school field. The trees were given to the school from The Woodland Trust and will provide more biodiversity for our school grounds.



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.

Year 6 advance warning – A message from the Year 6 team

The final term in year 6 is full of exciting events. We will write to you with further details nearer the time, but here are some key dates for your diaries.

1. Monday 12th May - Thursday 15th May SATs week and free breakfast club.
2. Residential meeting for parents Monday 19th May 3.20pm in Herons.
3. Thursday 26th June Y6 school play performance to families @1.30 and 6pm.
4. Monday 30th June - Wednesday 2nd July Y6 residential to Okehampton.
5. Monday 7th and Tuesday 8th July Transition Days to Holyrood.
6. Tuesday 15th July Y6 leaving party (in school time).
7. Thursday 17th July 9.15 Leavers assembly to parents.



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

To help 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.



Sports Day

Last week we sent home a letter about our Sports Days on Monday 19th May and Tuesday 20th May. If the weather is not great for either of these days we will arrange an alternative date for the final half term. Please do refer to the letter that can be found on the school website.

Items from home – A message from Mr Talmage

Can I please clarify our approach to inclusive aids, such as noise reducing headphones, toys and pencil cases/crayons and pens from home etc.

Unless Mr Clode, or I, have given consent children are not to use, or bring from home: noise reducing headphones, fiddle toys, pencil grips or any other educational aid as we have the correct items to give to children in accordance with their need. Please do speak to Mr Clode, or I if you need clarification about this.

Children are not to bring toys, or personal writing or drawing equipment from home and if they do, I have asked the staff to confiscate it until the end of the school day as this will prevent items from 'going missing'.



Healthy Snacks at Play Times

We encourage each pupil at Manor Court to lead a healthy lifestyle. At play times, we provide all of our Foundation Stage, Year 1 and Year 2 pupils with fruit or vegetables and all pupils have the option of eating a bagel as part of our 'Magic Breakfast' scheme.

If you provide your child with snacks that do not fall into the fruit or vegetable category, these will be kept in their bags or lunch boxes to be eaten at lunch times. Wrapper-type snacks at break times also lead to unwanted litter if not placed

into the bins provided.

Please speak to your child's class teacher if you have any concerns regarding our healthy option break times. Further information can also be found at

<https://www.nhs.uk/healthier-families/food-facts/healthier-snacks>

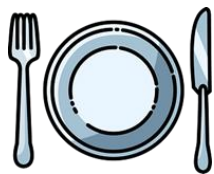
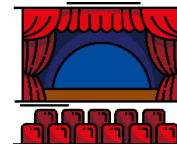
The Community Fridge – A message from Miss Gregory (Early Intervention Officer)

The Community Fridge is for everyone in Chard and the local area to use without referral. It is open, when there is food available, at set times and is staffed by a team of volunteers. The fridge is based in the front room, of Chard's Community Hub (in the old library in Boden Street) and there are also shelves of food in the food room which is at the back of the premises. Items here include dried food, tins, toiletries, pet food, and some baby food. We also have freezers which can have donations from stores and local shops for people to help themselves to. Please see the poster at the end of this newsletter that explains the times that the Hub and Fridge are open.

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, Miss Warren, or Mr Talmage. Alternatively, you can ring Children Social Care on 0300 123 2224 or email childrens@somerset.gov.uk

The Summer Show

The 2025 Summer Show will be held at Holyrood Academy on Tuesday 17th June and Thursday 19th June. As per usual, tickets will be available on Eventbrite and all proceeds will be placed into our creative arts budget to provide additional enrichment opportunities for each of the children who attend our school in the next academic year.



Hot meals parental feedback – A message from Mrs Hunt

Our onsite kitchen is now providing a hot meal for average over 200 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

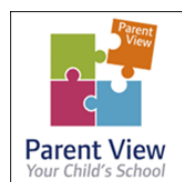
school office.

SEN Support and Parent Carer Forum – A message from Mr Clode

We have been made aware that there are groups in the community that are supporting parents of children with SEND and additional needs. Whilst we would hope the majority are there to help and support, we have been told that some are giving misleading advice and we have even been informed of some parents being asked for money for advice on a case-by-case basis.

If you have any questions around, SEND or additional needs, or need any advice or signposting, please do not hesitate to speak to me at school or contact the Somerset Parent Carer Forum for professional independent advice.

Please do note that we also host regular well-attended Parent Carer Forums with a welcoming and supportive group of parents and led by independent professionals.



Ofsted Parent view

The Netflix short series 'Adolescence' has got a lot of people concerned and talking about misogyny, the manosphere, incels and much more. For parents this can be a difficult conversation to have especially when you don't know where to start.

Thankfully, Internet Matters have a fantastic guide all about this subject, things you need to know, understand the pressures and more. You can find all the information here:

[What is misogyny? Guidance for parents and carers | Internet Matters](#)

Year 2 Science

Year 2 have learned about hydroponics this week in their science lessons. They planted broad bean plants in water and will now wait to see how they grow!



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.

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.

**Safeguarding
is everyone's
responsibility**

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 to not block the pathway as it is exceedingly difficult for wheelchair users or parents with buggies and prams to get past. Thank you.

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.



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Volunteers Needed!



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 2025? We are looking for more adults who can spend time listening to our children to 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 would like to find out more information, please contact the school office to speak to me, Mrs Terry (Assistant Headteacher), or Mrs Hunt (Business Manager).

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. Please remember that the school provides free parking permits for parents to park in Sainsbury's carpark at the start and end of the day.

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

As you will now know, our 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.



EYC relocation

Before Christmas, with the full support of the PPAT central team, Somerset Council and our local governing body, we applied to the central Government for funding towards the cost of expanding and relocating our pre-school. We are delighted that our bid was successful!

We will start the tendering and building process, so that the EYC will possibly be relocated into the current Year 1 block by the start of January 2026.

Our new EYC will have its own entrance at the front of the school, outdoor area and many improved facilities and services. Once we have completed the renovations and move into the new facilities, we will be able to increase the number of children that we can educate between the ages of two and four.

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



Celebration Assemblies

Family members are very welcome to join us at our EYFS & KS1 and KS2 celebration assembly on Friday's. Our assemblies are held every week apart from when we do require the school hall for a whole school event.

The EYFS and KS1 Assembly will start at 08:50 in the school hall and the KS2 Assembly will start at 10:50 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.

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 is 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 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.

Online safety news from Miss Hamilton

90% of children are watching online videos and browsing the internet regularly. Children may love to stream videos and look up information, it's a fun way to learn and relax after all, but they must be guided. The e-space is filled with inappropriate content and dangerous material. It is important that parents as well as teachers can steer their pupils and youngsters, towards the right places when online. Internet Matters has published a guide dedicated to supporting adults in setting digital boundaries for children, so that they can make smart choices and build healthy online habits. In the Internet Matters guide you'll find practical tips on managing content access, the use of safety controls, advice on setting boundaries and ways to educate children on how to stay secure online. To find out more information please visit: <https://www.internetmatters.org/advice/by-activity/watching-and-browsing-online-a-parents-guide/>



VE Day Art

A group of our talented artists from Y1 to Y6 have created their own tribute to those who lived through the war to celebrate VE Day. It's displayed on the railings at the front of the school, please do take the time to enjoy their work.



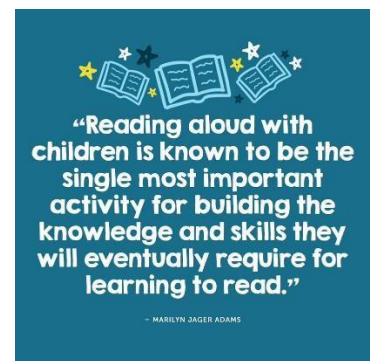
PE requests – A message from Mr McCarten

During each P.E Day we have many children who are coming to school without a water bottle. Please can I reiterate how important it is for all children to have their named water bottle during their P.E lessons to stay hydrated. If you have any enquires about with this, please speak to the school office.

Can I please ask all parents to ensure that your child's name is in their hoodie or jumper to make sure that they return home with the correct hoodie. We do get numerous hoodies and jumpers left in lost property because they are not named and I realise how expensive these are to replace. Thank you.

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 an especially 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.

Chard Hockey Club

Chard Hockey Club are looking for new youth players. Please see the poster at the end of this newsletter for information.

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

The cost-of-living crisis is hitting some hard and we have all noticed that 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 and is based in the Chard Community Hub in Boden Street.



Do you think your child needs a Health Care Plan? A message from Mrs Terry

Parents of children with medical conditions are often concerned that their child's health will deteriorate when they attend school. This is because pupils with long-term and complex medical conditions may require ongoing support, medicines or care while at school to help them manage their condition and keep them well. Others may require monitoring and interventions in emergency circumstances. At Manor Court Community Primary, we want our parents to feel confident that we will provide effective support for their child's medical condition and that our pupils feel safe. In making decisions about the support, we provide; we may need

to have a meeting with you to discuss your child's needs. I have the responsibility of meeting with parents to ensure that Medical Health Care Plans are in place for those children who need one, but if you are unsure or if your child has a health condition that you don't feel the school is fully aware of, please speak to your child's class teacher or make an appointment through the Office to speak to me.

Year 5 Eco-Warrior assembly

Our Year 5 Eco-Warriors led today's assembly alongside Mrs Terry. The children told a story about trees and the important role they play on planet Earth.



Thank you for your ongoing support.

Mr Luke Talmage
Headteacher

Mr Alan Clode
Deputy Headteacher and Inclusion Leader



VE DAY

80TH

ANNIVERSARY



THURSDAY, 8TH MAY - 1.15PM
MANOR COURT PRIMARY SCHOOL

JOIN US IN COMMEMORATING THIS HISTORIC DAY WITH
MUSIC, MEMORIES, AND COMMUNITY SPIRIT. FEEL FREE
TO DRESS IN 1940S ATTIRE OR WEAR RED, WHITE AND
BLUE TO SHOW YOUR SUPPORT.



**PERIOD MILITARY
& CIVILIAN VEHICLES**



**COMMUNITY
PICNIC ON
THE FIELD**



**WW2 MUSICAL
PERFORMER**



**WW2 RE-ENACTMENT
GROUPS**



**TRADITIONAL
TUCK SHOP**



**CAKE
COMPETITION**



**AUTHENTIC LINDY
HOP DANCERS**





Community Fridge

Monday

2pm to 4pm

Tuesday

Closed

Wednesday

10.30am to
12.30pm

Thursday

10am to
midday

Friday

4pm to
5.30pm

Saturday

Closed

Sunday

Closed

Chard Hockey club

Junior Training for ages 7+

No experience
needed and sticks
available

Wednesdays 7-8pm
Girls training

Thursdays 7-8pm
Boys training

Contact: welfare@chardhockeyclub.co.uk



CHARD COMMUNITA
WAFLE
A PLACE FOR EVERYONE

WARM MEALS FOR OUR COMMUNITY

Starting from Tuesday the 10th of December we will be offering hot meals between 2:30pm- 4:30pm to help those who don't have access to warm and nutritious meals.

This is aimed at helping families and individuals have access to:

- Nutritious food
- A warm space
- Friendly company
- Affordable filling meals

PAY WHAT YOU CAN IF THAT IS NOTHING THAT IS OKAY

*Come along, enjoy a hot meal and connect with your community.
Together, we're here for each other.*

*6a Holyrood Street Chard, Ta20 2ah
Contact us on: 01460 497578*

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



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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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