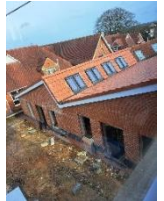


Key Dates

February 2025	
Friday 14 th February	Last day of this half term and our celebration of the NSPCC Number Day
Monday 24 th February	Children return to school & EYC after the half term holidays
Tuesday 25 th February & Thursday 27 th February	Parents Evenings in the school hall. For further information please see the letter that has been sent home.
March 2025	
Thursday 6 th March	World Book Day – Please see separate letter from Mrs Terry
Friday 21 st March	Comic Relief fundraising day

Progress update on the new classrooms

Building progress update! We're getting closer to the completion of our two new classrooms. The scaffolding is down, the roof is finished, and the first fix of electrical wires has been installed. The external windows were installed on Wednesday and the building is now fully watertight and we are delighted that the builders have started working on the internal wall and floor fittings.

**Miss Brown teaching Eagles class for the Summer Term**

Miss Langdown is due to start her maternity leave at Easter time. We are delighted that Miss Brown will be returning from her maternity leave at the end of March and will teach Eagles for the duration of the Summer Term.

**Year 5 trip to Exeter**

Year 5 arrived in a beautifully sunny Exeter last Thursday for a day of exploring the closest City to Chard. Their first stop was the Cathedral in which they enjoyed their tour of the Cathedral and seeing the stunning *Museum of the Moon* installation by world-famous artist Luke Jerram, in the magnificent nave of Exeter Cathedral. In the afternoon the children discovered the Royal Albert Memorial Museum (RAMM) is full of wonders!

Holiday Breakfast Bags

Our friends at St Mary's and The Lords Larder are offering free breakfast bags that will last for all of next weeks half term holiday. Please see the poster at the end of this newsletter for more information about this brilliant and much needed free initiative.

**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. Since September, I have taken on 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 6 Shirt Ironing

Year 6 have learnt to iron their shirts this week in readiness for attending their new school in September. They are very proud of their efforts in this latest MC48 experience.

**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. The next Parent Carer forum at Manor Court is on Thursday 13th March between 9 - 11am.

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 Three Little Pigs in the Foundation Stage

Foundation stage had fun in DT creating 'The Three Little Pig' houses using a range of different materials. They enjoyed using their own ideas to construct a house and ensuring that they had each of the key features!



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.



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.

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**

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.

Chard Together Festival assembly

We were joined by Luan, Serena and Ella on Wednesday morning, who are organisers for this year's Chard Together festival, to be held on Saturday 22nd March. They explained a special poster competition that we can all enter. Details can be found on the poster at the end of this newsletter.



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.

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.

EYC News from Miss Warren



We have enjoyed exploring our topic of modern stories. We made our own stick men, Supertato and rocket ships. We had great fun making our own sandwiches for snack. This was based on 'The Tiger Who Came To Tea'. The children chose their own fillings and used a knife to spread the filling. Please can I remind you that toys from home should not be brought into preschool. We would not want anything to get lost or broken - thank you.

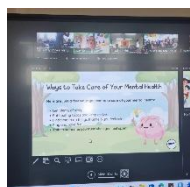
Chard Hockey Club

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

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

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.



Children's Mental Health week assembly

Mrs James led last week's online assembly about Children's Mental Health Week. She talked about strategies to make us feel better and how we can support our friends. Mrs James spoke about why we would wear our scarves to school last Friday to show our support for Children's Mental Health Week.

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



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.

After half term the order of the assemblies will change again. The KS2 Assembly will start at 08:50 in the school hall and the EYFS and KS1 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.

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:

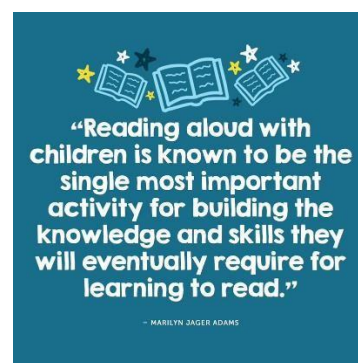
After school care – 14:00 on the day. Breakfast club – 14:00 the day before.

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.



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

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.



Online safety news from Miss Hamilton

Childnet have a book for 4- and 5-year-old children which follows a girl who plays on a game on her mum's tablet. The story helps young children know what they should do if they see something strange or upsetting online as well as practising their phonic sounds. You can find a preview of the story here: <https://www.childnet.com/blog/explore-online-safety-with-under-5s-with-our-new-learning-to-read-book>

Year 1 visit to St Mary's Church to learn about Christian forms of prayer

Year 1 visited St Mary's Church last week to learn how and why Christians pray. We're all enjoying getting to know Reverend Nick.



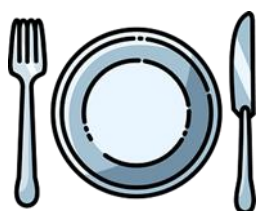
Pupil Premium

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

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.



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.

Apple Tree Press

The Apple Tree Press is hard at work putting together the first edition of 2025. They would like to say a very big Thank you to the FMCA for providing hi-vis jackets, lanyards and clipboards and feel very professional now!



Can you help?

The 'Chard Together' event, which showcased a number of local artists, businesses, food, charities and cultures last year returns again in 2025, on Saturday 22nd March. The committee are currently seeking a face-painter for the event. If you know of anyone suitable, please email the office or pass some details to Mrs Terry. Keep your diaries free for what promises to be another successful day celebrating all that is Chard.

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 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 and wet weather.





FMCA Discos

Thank you to the FMCA who arranged four fabulous discos (EYC & Foundation Stage, Year 1 & Year, Year 3 & Year 4 and Year 5 & Year 6) on Wednesday afternoon. The children (and staff) from the EYC to Y6 loved making some shapes throughout the afternoon!

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.

Class Assembly

Badgers Class led the Key Stage 2 assembly on Wednesday morning for this half term with a fascinating presentation about Space and Beyond.



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

The cost-of-living crisis is hitting some 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 and is based in the Chard Community Hub in Boden Street.



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.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Mr Luke Talmage
Headteacher

Mr Alan Clode
Deputy Headteacher and Inclusion Leader



Holiday Breakfast Scheme.



Holiday Breakfast Bags are back For the Half Term Holiday

Do you think it may help you and your family to start the day with a good solid breakfast?

We will give you a free, no questions asked bag/s, to last a week, which will contain everything that is needed, regardless of your family size.

**Just turn up at the St. Mary's Centre on
Monday 17th February 2025
8am to 10am**

Anyone from the family can pick them up. Stay and join us if you would like for coffee and toast while you are here.

The children's clothes bank will also be open!





POSTER COMPETITION

CATEGORIES:

- ▶ Reception
- ▶ KS1
- ▶ KS2

INCLUDE:

- ▶ Name
- ▶ School
- ▶ Age

ENTRIES TO:

- ▶ Chard Library
- ▶ or School
- ▶ before 7 March


MAX SIZE:

A4



Winning entries will receive a prize and all posters will be displayed in Chard Library and around Chard.

if you would like to be involved please contact us on FB

 @Chard Together



Chard
Town Council



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

Chard Together

DELIVERING A MULTICULTURAL EVENT
AT CHARD'S GUILDHALL & LIBRARY

22
MARCH
2025

10:30
- 3pm

FREE
EVENT

ALL
WELCOME

☐ Premiere of Chard Pupils,
'Film Installation'
celebrating friendships

if you would like to be involved
please contact us on FB

 @Chard Together

- ☐ Friendship Arts & Crafting
- ☐ Poster Competition
- ☐ Food from around the World
- ☐ Live Music and Dance
- ☐ Indian Drumming
- ☐ Blackdown Morris
- ☐ Engine Room
- ☐ South West Heritage
- ☐ Somerset Art Works
- ☐ Cultivate
- ☐ Chaffcnbe Reservoir Dogs
- ☐ and so much more . . .



Chard
Town Council





FREE FAMILY COOKING



Registered Charity 1173120

Chard Baptist Church, 9 Holyrood Street, TA20 2AH

Tuesday 18 February

10.30am - 1pm



In association with
Abri Homes for their tenants
and families on low incomes

**INCLUDES A
RECIPE BAG
TO
TAKE HOME**

Booking is essential and spaces are limited, contact Project Food

T: 01297 631782 E: info@project-food.org.uk www.project-food.org.uk



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.

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

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