

Dear Parents and carers



Autumn Term Newsletter 2 – Friday 20th September 2024

Key Dates

| September 2024 | |
|--|--|
| Monday 30 th September | Harvest Festival at St Mary's Church |
| October 2024 | |
| Tuesday 1 st October | Cross Country event at Holyrood Academy |
| Thursday 10 th October | Year 5 residential parents meeting |
| Tuesday 15 th and Thursday 17 th October | Parents Evening – Further details to follow |
| Thursday 17 th October | Flu vaccinations for those children who have signed up |
| Friday 25 th October | Last day of this half term |
| November 2024 | |
| Monday 4 th November | Children return to school and the EYC |

Olympian Rebecca Wilde's visit

Last Friday (13th September) each class were visited by local Olympian Rebecca Wilde. The children enjoyed hearing about Rebecca's story and how she was able to win the Bronze Medal in the recent Paris Olympics in the double sculls event. The children were excited to have the chance to hold her medal!

On Monday 9th September, The Apple Tree press (our new school newspaper) met for the first time and researched Rebecca to enable one of the team of newspaper journalists to interview her effectively. The first edition of the Apple Tree press will be out soon.



Level 3 Apprentice

We are currently advertising for a Level 3 Teaching Assistant apprentice (to work in our Foundation Stage), through Somerset Skills & Learning. Please speak to Mr Clode for further information about this role. The closing date for this role is Wednesday 2nd October.

We have shared the link for easy application through our school social media accounts – Facebook and X.

Harvest Festival



We are looking forward to taking the children to our first visit of the school year to St Mary's Church for our annual Harvest Festival Assembly on Monday 30th September. This will be our first opportunity to meet the newly appointed vicar of St Mary's, Reverend Nick Jerrett.

The soon to be elected School Council will arrange collection of food products that will be donated to The Lord's Larder (Chard's food bank). If you would like to donate suitable items, please look at the list of items on the poster at the end of this newsletter and bring donations into school, to give to your class teacher, between Friday 20th September and Friday 27th September.

Rock up & Read – A message from Mrs Terry

As part of our school drive to encourage reading for pleasure, we would like to invite you to join us and your children in school for a 'Rock up and Read' session. This is an initiative we successfully ran last year. We welcome you to read with your child/ren in the school hall.

We are going to run the sessions over the course of three weeks. The school will open from 08:50am on the dates listed below. Please enter the hall through the door by the top corridor, where we will sign you in and you will be able to stay for half an hour.

Each year group has a different designated day to ensure that parents can support as many of their children as possible. If you cannot attend this time, please do not worry as we will ensure that every child has a reading partner by inviting different classes to make up numbers. Our EYC children are invited into school on Thursday 10th October between 09:30 and 10:30am. Please read the Eylog message from Miss Warren.

| Year group - classes | Date |
|--|---|
| Early Years Centre | Thursday 10 th October (09:30 – 10:30am) |
| Foundation Stage – Hedgehogs & Squirrels | Tuesday 15 th October |
| Year 1 – Bumblebees and Dragonflies | Monday 30 th September |
| Year 2 – Magpies & Nightingales | Monday 14 th October |
| Year 3 – Kingfishers & Owls | Thursday 17 th October |
| Year 4 – Eagles & Puffins | Thursday 3 rd October |
| Year 5 – Badgers & Foxes | Wednesday 2 nd October |
| Year 6 – Herons & Otters | Monday 7 th October |

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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.

King Hal visit

Musical instrument playing, singing, jousting, foot wrestling and fighting Kings from France all took place during our busy day with King Hal.



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 on Wednesday via ParentPay for further details about the service that will be provided to Manor Court families.

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 very difficult for wheelchair users or parents with buggies and prams to get past. Thank you.



EYC news from Miss Warren

Our children are settling well into preschool life. We have enjoyed planting flowers, reading stories and getting to know our new friends! It has been lovely to watch our older children supporting our new starters. If you have not already done so, please can you provide a pair of wellies to be kept with us. If your child is due to start school in September 2025, primary school applications can be made from Monday 30th September. You have until January to apply for school places. Online applications must be made via the Somerset County Council Admissions page.

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 myself if you require any further information.

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.

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.



Food Hygiene visit

After our (unannounced) visit from the environmental health food agency on Monday morning, we are delighted to have maintained our 5* rating. The inspector commented that "our school production kitchen is the cleanest school kitchen that he has seen in a very long time!"

Roald Dahl Day

Mrs Terry led us in our whole school Zoom assembly last week to explain about Roald Dahl Day, as we joined schools around the country to celebrate what would have been his 108th birthday on Friday. On Friday each child in the school completed Roald Dahl themed activities, even our youngest children got involved with Roald Dahl Day. They created some very hungry crocodiles!



Building work

It has been a very productive few weeks and the construction team are working so effectively in the background of the workings of our busy school, that they have become part of the furniture. The brick work, for the block and beam flooring, is currently being prepared and the foundations will be finished within the next week or so. We're very pleased with the progress so far and the work of the builders.

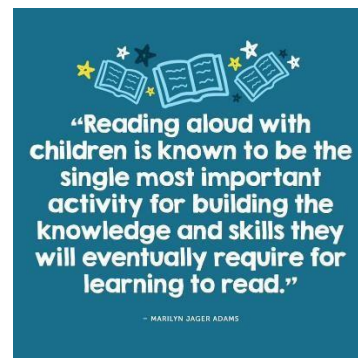
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Reading expectations – A message from Mrs Terry

At Manor Court Community Primary School, we seek to ensure that children are supported to be confident, lifelong learners with a love of reading. Reading plays a very important role in developing children culturally, emotionally, and socially and we believe literature plays a key role in such development. Reading enables pupils both to acquire knowledge and build on what they already know.

In school children in KS2 are heard reading on a 1:1 basis at least once a week by their class teacher and Learning Support staff and this is much more frequently in Foundation Stage and KS1. Those pupils not at an expected reading level are heard daily. The EYFS and Key Stage 1 reading books follow a clear progression of banding, ensuring fluency is developed. This academic year, you may find your child has a book sent home that they have already read at school, and this is something that is now promoted in all schools. The more a child reads, the larger their vocabulary becomes. When a child reads or hears the same book multiple times, they become familiar and comfortable with a greater number of words. Fluency is the ability to read text “accurately, quickly, and with expression.”

Repetitive reading allows a child to read without stumbling or stopping, and reading time becomes more pleasant for everyone. Once a child masters one book, it makes moving on to another more appealing. Reading comprehension is the ability to understand all the components of a story — from plot to character development to symbolism. Comprehension is “the essence” of reading. Each time your child reads or hears a book read to them; they learn more about the story itself. Each pass through the text or illustrations allows them to dive into the story’s meaning, preparing them for more complex narratives down the road. Children who progress from the banded scheme to ‘free readers’ can access their class library, and the school library, and can be supported to select appropriate books by staff. Pupils are encouraged to take home fiction and non-fiction texts. Children are expected to read at home 5 times a week, ideally daily, as this helps to develop confident and fluent readers. We would recommend 20 minutes of reading a day. Children’s reading logs are checked to ensure this is taking place. Where children are not reading the required amount in school, they are invited to attend a lunchtime reading club. There is also opportunity to read to a member of staff at Homework Club and After-school Club.



Lost Property

We have a lot of unnamed lost property piling up already in the lost property box. Please remember to name every item of your child’s belongings so that it can be returned to the correct owner.



Online safety news from Miss Hamilton

UNICEF have shared an article with some nice, clear and simple advice for parents/carers about online gaming. The article covers how to create a positive and safe gaming environment, how parents can engage with their children, what the benefits of gaming are and more.

You can find more information here <https://www.unicef.org/parenting/child-care/video-games-explainer>

KS2 SATs meeting – Advanced warning for the Year 6 parents

Our Year 6 children will take their end of Key-Stage 2 assessments between Monday 12th May and Thursday 15th May 2025. Each child will be assessed in a variety of tests that will judge their competency and understanding in Maths, Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar and Reading.

Mrs Jones will be holding a parent information session to explain what these assessments entail and how parents can help their children at home. Please do join Mrs Jones at 14:45 on Thursday 7th November.

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

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



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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.

Year 5 renewable energy workshop and visit to a local solar farm

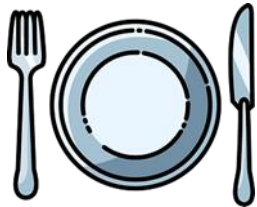
Year 5 enjoyed their renewable energy workshop led by Kate from Earth Energy Education on Tuesday morning. They focussed on how electricity is generated by wind turbines and investigated a range of wind turbine blades and used their breath to power a light bulb, motor and buzzer, measuring the voltage they could generate. On Wednesday morning they visited a solar farm, only ten minutes from school. They learned how the solar panels convert sunlight into electricity.



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



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.

Wrap around care booking reminder from the school office

Our wrap around care provision is very popular but we are having an increasing number of children attend who have not been booked on to sessions. Whilst we make every effort to accommodate them, we cannot always guarantee that there is space.

Please may we remind you of the following booking deadlines:

After school care – 2.00 pm on the day.

Breakfast club – 2.00 pm the day before.

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.



Celebration Assemblies

Family members are very welcome to join us at our KS1 (not Foundation Stage until after half term) and KS2 celebration assembly each Friday. KS1 Assembly will start at 08:50 in the school hall and KS2 Assembly will start at 10:50 in the school hall. After half term the order of the assemblies' swap and KS2 is first thing in the morning and KS1 is after the children's morning break.

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 KeyStage 1 playground and walking around the back of the hall.

Thank you for your continued support.

Mr Luke Talmage
Headteacher

Mr Alan Clode
Deputy Headteacher and Inclusion Leader

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HARVEST FESTIVAL

Manor Court Primary School is
accepting donations towards our
Harvest Hamper for the Lords Larder.



We will really appreciate any tinned or packet
grocery items. Please make sure all goods are well in
date and are un-opened.

Donations can be sent into class with your child by
September 27th. We will present the hamper during our
Harvest Festival. Thank you.



APPRENTICESHIP
VACANCY



Teaching Assistant Apprenticeship

As a Teaching Assistant Apprentice you will be working in Foundation stage supported by a highly staffed and very supportive team of two teachers and five LSAs.

Location: Chard

Working week: Monday – Friday,
8:45-3:15. Term time only

Total hours per week: 30.00

Annual wage: £8353.00
This equates to an apprenticeship
wage of £6.40 per hour.

Level and expected duration:
Level 3, 18 months.

Call Somerset Skills & Learning for more information / apply online

0330 332 7997 [sslcourses.co.uk](https://www.sslcourses.co.uk)

SOMERSET SKILLS & LEARNING



Tuning in to Kids



In partnership with **Manor Court Community Primary School**

What is Tuning in to Kids®?

Tuning in to Kids® is a suite of parenting programs that focus on the emotional connection between parents/carers and their children, from pre-schoolers to teens. The evidence-based programs have proven success in improving parenting, parent-child relationships and children's emotional competence and behaviour.

Venue: Manor Court Community Primary School, Duck Ln, Chard TA20 2ES

Tuning in to Kids is a FREE Six Week Course:

Monday 4th November 2024
Monday 11th November 2024
Monday 18th November 2024
Monday 25th November 2024
Monday 2nd December 2024
Monday 9th December 2024

Starts 10am to 12 noon



Spaces are limited, please contact your Primary School for a Tuning in to Kids booking form.

For more information on Tuning in to Kids, please contact:

Whitney Gibbins – Parent & Family Support Adviser on 07818 580 632



Parents from other local schools 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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PROFESSIONAL WRESTLING



AXMINSTER

5th October 2024

GUILDHALL | AXMINSTER

£10 ADULTS | £8 CHILD / OAP | FAMILY OF 4 £30

DOORS OPEN 6:30PM | SHOWTIME 7PM

TICKETS AVAILABLE ON EVENTBRITE

OR AVAILABLE ON THE DOOR

SCAN THE QR CODE NOW!



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AMETHYST PRESENTS

TOP SECRET

Memo

THE MAGIC OF SCIENCE

AXMINSTER GUILDHALL
25TH OCTOBER 2024
TICKETS FROM £10

IS IT MAGIC... OR IS IT SCIENCE...?

**A THRILLING SCIENCE PACKED
MAGIC SHOW FOR ALL THE FAMILY**

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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