

Dear Parents and carers



Spring Term Newsletter 5– Friday 17th March 2023

March 2023	
Monday 20 th March – Wednesday 22 nd March	Y5 residential to Magdalen Farm
Tuesday 21 st March	Y3 Ukulele performance to parents at 15:30
Monday 27 th March	Y4 & Y5 performance of Cinderella Rockerfella to parents at 16:00
Tuesday 28 th March	Y4 & Y5 performance of Cinderella Rockerfella to parents at 13:30
Wednesday 29 th March	Y4 & Y5 performance of Cinderella Rockerfella to parents at 9:30
Tuesday 28 th March – Thursday 30 th March	Spring Term parents evening
Thursday 30 th March	Y5 trip to Cineworld
Friday 31 st March	Last day of this half term before the Easter holidays
April 2023	
Monday 17 th April	Children and staff return to school after the Easter holidays

Comic relief

We have had an enjoyable day today raising money for Comic relief. The children and staff have bathed themselves in red or funny clothing. We'd like to thank you for your generosity in sending the children into school with a charitable donation, and as soon as we have counted the money, we will inform you of the amount raised.

School shoes and ties

We have noticed that several children are coming to school each day wearing trainers and ankle boots. This is not school uniform or appropriate footwear for the children to be wearing to school. We have also noticed that some children have not been wearing their school tie to school on a regular basis. Please be prepared for a member of staff to mention the footwear and lack of tie to you and ask when your child will be attending school in appropriate school uniform.

Year 6 advance warning – A message from the Y6 team

It is a busy time of the school year for the Y6 children with a focus on their end of KS2 assessments. Very soon after this week our focus will turn towards further curriculum enrichment, your child's transition to their Secondary school and the traditional school play – this year it's The Greatest Show!

We've been asked by a few parents to inform them of these important dates at the end of the school year so that time off from work can be booked. Please put these dates in your diary so that you do not miss these important events.

1. Thursday 13th July – Afternoon performance of The Greatest Show in the school hall a 13:30 start
2. Thursday 13th July – Evening performance of The Greatest Show in the school hall an 18:00 start
3. Wednesday 19th July – Y6 Leavers assembly in the school hall a 13:30 start



Nut free school

We aim to be a Nut-Free school. The school aims to protect children who have allergies to nuts yet also help them, as they grow up, to take responsibility as to what foods they can eat and to be aware of where they may be put at risk. We do not allow nuts or nut products in school lunch boxes.

Our "Nut-Free Policy" means that the following items should not be brought into school:

- Packs of nuts.
- Peanut butter or Nutella sandwiches.
- Fruit and cereal bars that contain nuts.
- Chocolate bars or sweets that contain nuts.
- Sesame seed rolls (children allergic to nuts may also have a severe reaction to sesame).
- Cakes made with nuts.
- Any home cooked meals for packed lunches that are made from nuts.

Rugby coaching with Chard Rugby and Chard Cricket Clubs

We were delighted that the children were able to participate in excellent sessions of Rugby and cricket coaching from the coaches of Chard Cricket and Rugby clubs. The children had loved the sports and we have some natural players. Please do consider taking your children to these clubs to join their teams.



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

Magdalen Farm trips

Last week Year 4 and Year 3 children spent a delightful morning at Magdalen Farm. They first completed an orienteering challenge, and we were so impressed at how well the children used maps and compasses to find clues around the farm. The children also took part in a den-building activity in teams to build their very own Stone Age and Iron Age houses! Well done to every child who attended the trip.

Year 6 dance trip to the Octagon theatre – A message from Mrs Morton

On Monday children from Year 6 Dance Club visited the Octagon Theatre in Yeovil. They had a detailed and interesting backstage tour including the dressing rooms, green room, and orchestra pit. They got to dance on the stage and press a load of buttons in the lighting booth. After the tour they participated in a high energy dance workshop led by Natalie from Somerset Youth Dance.



Staffing changes

After teaching at Manor Court for the past seven years, Mrs Cheryl Scott has decided to leave Manor Court at Easter to start a new phase of her career as a secondary English Teacher at Axe Valley School in Axminster. We wish Mrs Scott all the very best of luck in her new role.

For the Summer Term Kingfisher class will be taught by Mrs Gomes and Mr Staddon who has been teaching Kingfishers every Thursday and Friday since Christmas. Both teachers are familiar faces to the children, and we believe that this will provide the best provision for the children.



Online safety news from Miss Thompson

The Internet Watch Foundation have put together an incredibly useful and detailed guide about protecting your children online. One of the most important things that parents can do is talk to their children about what they do online. It's tricky when a lot of us didn't grow up with it as children are having to nowadays and it's also very easy to blame children when things go wrong. The guide has some brilliant conversation starter ideas and a lot of helpful guidance. You can find it here: <https://talk.iwf.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/Parent-Resource.pdf>

Foundation Stage trip to St Mary's Church

Last Tuesday the Foundation Stage children enjoyed their visit to St Mary's Church where they were taught by Rev'd Ann and Rev'd John about Baptism and The Holy Communion as part of their RE lessons. The children were exceptionally well behaved and learnt a lot from their visit.

Pupil Premium

The pupil premium is additional funding that the Government provides for each child who is believed to be disadvantaged in achieving their best in education. At Manor Court Primary School, we provide high quality education and enrichment opportunities for all our pupils 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 https://secure1.somerset.gov.uk/forms/PortalShowForm.asp?fm_formalias=freeschoolmeal

Very nearly an oversubscribed school

We are sure that you will agree that we are an academically high achieving, caring, diverse, vibrant, happy, and fun school. We will soon be at the capacity of sixty children in each year group from Foundation Stage to Year 5 (we have no spaces in Year 6). If you know of parents of children who may wish to join the Manor Court School Community, we would love to show them around for a place before it is too late. Please ask them to make an appointment with the school office and Mr Talmage, Mr Clode or Mrs Terry would be delighted to show them around.

**A GREAT
PLACE TO BE...**

Year 4 trip to Taunton Museum

Year 4 visited the museum of Somerset to learn about The Romans. They spent time exploring the different exhibits and were absolutely fascinated by all the artefacts. A particular favourite was the Frome hoard (a discovery of Roman coins in 2010 in Somerset). Children were even given opportunity to handle some of artefacts and made some educated guesses as to what they were. They discovered that The Romans had a device to help get the wax out of their ears. YUCK!

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, Mrs Wilkins, and Mr Talmage. The school Safeguarding and Child Protection Governor is Mrs Sue Wakeman.

**Safeguarding
is everyone's
responsibility**

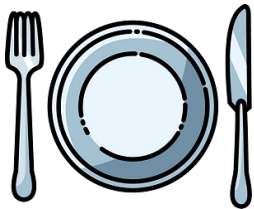
Warm Space

We have been delighted with the positive impact of our weekly warm space for our children who have attended and the visitors who have come each week. As the weather is starting to warm up as Spring arrives, and the busyness of the Summer Term, we will be stopping it at Easter and will recommence after the October 2023 half term.



Prime Drink

There is a national trend/craze impacting teenagers and now children in Y5/6 encouraging the purchase of a brand of drink called Prime. This is a drink that is being advertised by Youtubers and people making TikTok videos. I am sure that you will all agree that this is not a drink that is suitable to be drunk in school so will support us by not allowing your children to bring this into school, we will be confiscating this and allowing children to take this home at the end of the school day.



Hot meals parental feedback – A message from Mrs Hunt

Our onsite kitchen is now providing a hot meal for 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.

If for any reason you are unhappy with the meals provided, please do email the office and we can try to rectify this.

Bank Holiday for the coronation of King Charles III

The Government and Royal Family have announced that Monday 8th May 2023 will be an additional Bank Holiday to celebrate the coronation of King Charles III which is happening on Saturday 6th May. **Our school will be closed to all children and staff on Monday 8th May 2023.**

This additional Bank Holiday will have a knock-on effect for the Y6 KS2 assessments. These assessments will now start nationally on Tuesday 9th May and all Y6 children will be expected to attend school throughout this week and can join us early each morning for a free breakfast with their friends.

We have started to make plans for our whole school celebrations and will release these to the children and parents as soon as we possibly can.



EYC news from Stacey

This week in EYC we have been looking at different science experiments. The children have had fun taking part in a different science experiment each day.

We wanted to say thank you to all the parents who attended our parents evening. If you still haven't spoken to your child's key worker, then ask one of us on drop off or pick up.

School term dates for 2023-2024

Our school term dates for the 2023-2024 school year have been published on our school website and shared via our social media accounts. Please find these at the end of this newsletter for your information.

Year 4 and 5 Production - Cinderella and Rickerfella

This month we will see the return of a Year 4 and 5 production. **Cinderella and Rickerfella** is a modern, panto-style reworking of a classic tale. Year 4 pupils will be producing our choir, while the Year 5 pupils will be treading the boards! We have reintroduced a Year 4 and 5 production to fill the gap between the Year 2 Christmas show and the Year 6 final performance. Rehearsals are already underway, and we are already so proud of how well the children are learning the song lyrics and script. Information has been sent home this to enable parents to order tickets. Please add these show dates to your diary:



Monday 27th March 2023 at 4.00pm (doors open at 3:45pm)

Tuesday 28th March 2023 at 1.30pm (doors open at 1:15pm)

Wednesday 29th March 2023 at 09:30am (doors open at 09:15am)

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



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



Wrap around care telephone number

The telephone number for our wrap around care provision (breakfast & after school club) has changed to **07471 412147** Please save this telephone number to your phone if you use wrap around care. We are also having a number of parents regularly giving us less than four hours' notice that their child requires to use the breakfast or after school club. 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.

PE Days

Our PE Days have been set for the next half term and are unlikely to be changed, if we need to change them, we will inform you through your Eylog or ParentPay account. Children should wear their PE kits to school on the days listed below. We have noticed that some children are wearing their PE hoodies into school on different days and on all other days it is important that full school uniform is worn.

Classes	PE Day on which PE Kits must be worn
Squirrels & Hedgehogs	Tuesday
Dragonflies & Bumblebees	Thursday
Nightingales & Magpies	Wednesday
Owls & Kingfishers	Thursday & Swimming on Friday
Eagles & Puffins	Wednesday & Friday
Foxes & Badgers	Monday & Friday
Hérons & Otters	Monday & Friday



Attendance our school expectations

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.

Thank you for your continued support.

Mr Luke Talmage
Head Teacher

Mr Alan Clode
Deputy Head and Inclusion Leader

Come & Join us for a
FREE work out & a cuppa!



SELF DEFENCE, FITNESS, PAD WORK & A CUPPA

Friday 3rd, 10th, 24th & 31st March
4.30 - 5.30pm: Ages 5 to 11yrs
7.15 - 8.15pm: Ages 12yrs & Above
@ The Unit, Chard Business Park, TA20 1FA
DM The Page or call 07796950134 to book



www.chardtagb.co.uk

Manor Court Community Primary School

2023-2024 Term Dates & Holidays



September 2023					October 2023					November 2023								
M		4	11	18	25	M		2	9	16	23	30	M		6	13	20	27
Tu		5	12	19	26	Tu		3	10	17	24	31	Tu		7	14	21	28
W		6	13	20	27	W		4	11	18	25	W	1	8	15	22	29	
Th		7	14	21	28	Th		5	12	19	26	Th	2	9	16	23	30	
F	1	8	15	22	29	F		6	13	20	27	F	3	10	17	24		
Sa	2	9	16	23	30	Sa		7	14	21	28	Sa	4	11	18	25		
Su	3	10	17	24	Su	1	8	15	22	29	Su	5	12	19	26			
December 2023					January 2024					February 2024								
M		4	11	18	25	M		1	8	15	22	29	M		5	12	19	26
Tu		5	12	19	26	Tu		2	9	16	23	30	Tu		6	13	20	27
W		6	13	20	27	W		3	10	17	24	31	W		7	14	21	28
Th		7	14	21	28	Th		4	11	18	25	Th	1	8	15	22	29	
F	1	8	15	22	29	F		5	12	19	26	F	2	9	16	23		
Sa	2	9	16	23	30	Sa		6	13	20	27	Sa	3	10	17	24		
Su	3	10	17	24	31	Su		7	14	21	28	Su	4	11	18	25		
March 2024					April 2024					May 2024								
M		4	11	18	25	M		1	8	15	22	29	M		6	13	20	27
Tu		5	12	19	26	Tu		2	9	16	23	30	Tu		7	14	21	28
W		6	13	20	27	W		3	10	17	24	W	1	8	15	22	29	
Th		7	14	21	28	Th		4	11	18	25	Th	2	9	16	23	30	
F	1	8	15	22	29	F		5	12	19	26	F	3	10	17	24	31	
Sa	2	9	16	23	30	Sa		6	13	20	27	Sa	4	11	18	25		
Su	3	10	17	24	31	Su		7	14	21	28	Su	5	12	19	26		
June 2024					July 2024					August 2024								
M		3	10	17	24	M		1	8	15	22	29	M		5	12	19	26
Tu		4	11	18	25	Tu		2	9	16	23	30	Tu		6	13	20	27
W		5	12	19	26	W		3	10	17	24	31	W		7	14	21	28
Th		6	13	20	27	Th		4	11	18	25	Th	1	8	15	22	29	
F		7	14	21	28	F		5	12	19	27	F	2	9	16	23	30	
Sa	1	8	15	22	29	Sa		6	13	20	27	Sa	3	10	17	24	31	
Su	2	9	16	23	30	Su		7	14	21	28	Su	4	11	18	25		

Key:

	School Holiday
	Bank Holiday
	Term Time
	Inset Days

Term dates summary:

Term 1: 04 September – 20 October 2023 (35 days)
Term 2: 30 October – 15 December 2023 (35 days)
Term 3: 02 January – 9 February 2024 (29 days)
Term 4: 19 February – 28 March 2024 (29 days)
Term 5: 15 April – 24 May 2024 (29 days)
Term 6: 03 June – 24 July 2024 (38 days) **TOTAL = 195**

Bank and public holidays 2023/24

Christmas Day Bank Holiday	25 December 2023	Easter Monday	1 April 2024
Boxing Day Bank Holiday	26 December 2023	May Day Bank Holiday	06 May 2024
New Year's Day Holiday	01 January 2024	Spring Bank Holiday	27 May 2024
Good Friday	29 March 2024	Summer Bank Holiday	26 August 2024



Manor Court Community Primary School

invites you to

Share Our Warmth

Please come and enjoy a warm drink, in a warm space,
with a warm welcome

EVERY Wednesday
(term time only)

Beginning 5th October 2022

Manor Court School Hall

Please arrive at 13.15pm
at the front School gates
Finish time 15.15pm

NO charge

NO registration

#keepwarmthiswinter

Children and Staff welcome you to play a board game, share a book
and enjoy a drink and cake while keeping warm in our School Hall this Winter



OPEN DAY PLANT SALE & CHARITY RAFFLE

Saturday 18th March



FROM 10AM - 2PM

At Incredible Edible Flowers

New Road, Chard, TA20 4HT



**Refreshments
and cakes available!**



www.incredible-edibleflowers.co.uk