

February 2022	
Monday 7 th February	Y4 & Y5 Stargazing Evening
Wednesday 9 th February	Y5 & Y6 E-Safety Family Learning Workshop
Friday 11 th February	Foundation Stage Family Learning Workshop – 1 st Session
Friday 18 th February	Non-School Uniform day for Ugandan Orphanage



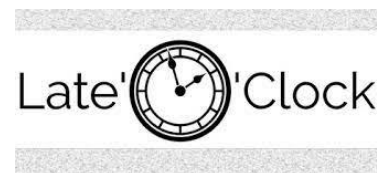
SASP (Somerset Activity and Sports Partnership) Early Years Physical activity

We are delighted to announce that we have achieved the SASP (Somerset Activity & Sports Partnership) Early Years Physical Activity accreditation.

This accreditation acknowledges and celebrates all the fantastic physical activity that the children in the EYC and Foundation Stage enjoy.

Punctuality!

We are observing a number of children who are regularly late to school and missing the vital learning at the start of their school day. We appreciate that on occasion this cannot be helped but have explained to the children who are regularly late that they will be staying in at morning break or lunchtime to catch up on any work they have missed. If your child is late for school, we know that this is the responsibility of the parent so please help us to educate your child by ensuring they get to school on time every morning.



Covid safety measures – A message from Mr Talmage

Despite the Government announcing a lifting of Covid restrictions, at Manor Court with the full support of our Local Governing Body, I have decided to lift these measures at a 'slow and sure' pace. We all can't wait to be back to the way of schooling as it was before the pandemic, but I am very aware that the pandemic is not yet over.

After speaking to Public Health England earlier in the week about the relatively few cases in our school they have informed me that some Primary Schools locally and further afield in Somerset have 20% of the children positive with Covid – we are nowhere near that number. A direct quote from the gentleman that I spoke to is "You're doing really well and getting off lightly compared to other Somerset Schools, so keep doing what you're doing!"

He also stated that our intention to steadily lift covid safety measures/restrictions was the most sensible approach and that we knew our school community better than those making decisions remotely or from London! He stated that the schools that have removed covid safety measures too soon are those that are seeing the biggest upturn in number of positive cases and have been required to shut whole year groups and move them to remote learning at home.

Our current covid safety measures continue to remain in place for the foreseeable future, including staggered starts, year group bubbles, online assemblies and face masks in communal areas.

If you need advice about coronavirus or to inform us about a positive LFT test, please do email the specific covid case email address covidcase@manorcourt.ppat365.org as this enables us to help quicker. This email address is checked throughout the day from 07:30 and until 21:00 each day.

Year 3 trip to the Donkey Sanctuary

Last Thursday the Year 3 children had a fantastic time at the Donkey Sanctuary and enjoyed the sunshine even if it was very cold! They learnt a lot about donkeys and the important work that the Sanctuary does, and definitely completed our Manor Court 48 challenge - to get lost in the maze!



EYC news from Natalie!

This week the EYC children have had lots of fun learning all about numbers, practicing their counting, recognising numbers and singing lots of number songs. The children have really enjoyed learning in the craft area this week, practicing their cutting, painting and improving their fine motor skills with playdoh. The children have been budding football and basketball stars, practicing their kicking, throwing and catching. On Tuesday we were lucky to have another fabulous weekly sing along with Declan the musician.

Cold weather

The weather has been especially cold and wet since we have returned to school after the Christmas holidays. Please ensure that you send your child to school with a suitable coat and ideally a hat and gloves that are named.



E-Safety Family Learning workshop for Y5 & Y6 children and their parents

We are looking forward to holding a family learning workshop for Y5 & Y6 parents to work with their children. This workshop will be held in our school hall (with sensible covid safety measures) between 13:30 – 15:00 on Wednesday 9th February. If you would like to attend to work with your child, please do email the year group email address by Friday 4th February to guarantee your place.

Eco-Warriors assembly

Our Eco-warriors led our whole school assembly on Wednesday afternoon, discussing their 'eco-news' including their latest project the RSPB 'Big bird watch' and all of the recycling that they complete in school. Please do help the Eco-Warriors in their mission by allowing your child to bring in used batteries and crisp packets from home.



RSPB Big Garden Bird Watch!

Be wowed by your local wildlife. The Big Garden Birdwatch is for everyone, whether you're a complete beginner or a birding expert. Simply count the birds you see in your garden, from your balcony or in your local park for one hour between Friday 28th and Sunday 30th January 2022.

If you would like to participate Please tell the RSPB what you saw at [rspb.org.uk/birdwatch](https://www.rspb.org.uk/birdwatch) before Sunday 20th February. We have included a picture sheet at the end of the newsletter that has pictures of the common birds that you may see to help you identify them.



E-Safety news from Miss Thompson

Internet Matters have partnered up with Barclays to create a new resource which gives facts, support, advice and information about scams on social media. Although the advice is tailored to social media, it can also be applied to gaming which is important as scams are increasing in gaming leaving children particularly vulnerable.

You can find the resource here: <https://www.internetmatters.org/resources/online-money-management-guide/social-media-scams-advice-guide-to-support-young-people/>

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



Pupil voice survey

We were delighted to send you the results of our pupil voice survey earlier this week. These surveys were completed confidentially and the results are overwhelmingly positive, showing that the children are happy and motivated in all of their learning.

Artist & Composer of the Spring Term – A message from Mrs Morton

During this Spring Term each child within our school will focus on the work of a famous composer and artist. The composer that I have chosen for this term is French composer, Camille Saint-Sans (1835 – 1921) a child musical prodigy who at the age of three had composed his first piece of music! His most famous work is the child friendly Carnival of the Animals.

Our artist of the term is Eric Carle. Eric Carle was an American author, designer and illustrator of children's books. His picture book The Very Hungry Caterpillar, first published in 1969, has been translated into more than sixty-six languages and sold more than fifty million copies.

Edna Clayton

You may have heard about Edna Clayton on the BBC Radio 2 Breakfast show with Zoe Ball. This week we have posted cards to Edna Clayton, who will be celebrating her 101st birthday on Monday! Sadly due to Covid restrictions, Edna celebrated her 100th birthday alone. Some of our cards open up like a book, others like a banner. We hope she enjoys reading them



Y4 and Y5 Stargazing

We can confirm that the new date for our stargazing evening is Monday 7th February 2022 from 6.30pm to 8pm. Confirmation and further details will be sent home via the year group email addresses.

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

Non-School uniform day

On Friday 18th February we are holding a non-school uniform day to raise money for the mayor's charity of the year. This charity is raising money for resources for a school and orphanage in Uganda. Children and staff can wear non-school uniform (ideally something red, black or yellow) for a 50p donation.



Sports sponsorship



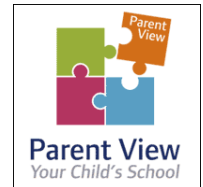
In the autumn term, Manor Court pupils raised an incredible £3805.73 in sponsorship for the sports challenge with acrobatic gymnast Isabel Haigh. This has allowed us to buy plenty of new PE equipment to benefit all children in the school, including a set of new gym mats, netball posts, tag rugby equipment and a range of different resources for throwing and catching skills. We are very proud of the children for their fundraising efforts! We would also like to say a huge thank you to all the families and friends who supported this.

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 and Mr Talmage. The school Safeguarding and Child Protection Governor is Mrs Jo Boyland.

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



Emotion coaching

The PFSA Team (Parent Family Support Advisors) currently have some availability to offer Emotion Coaching to any parents who might be interested. Please speak to Mr Clode for more details.



Tesco community grant

If you shop in the Chard branch of Tesco you may have noticed that we are one of three worthy causes trying to collect the blue tokens to be the winning community grant. If you shop in Tesco, we'd love your support to help us with our 'radical reading project' to provide even more high-quality reading books. As they say 'every little helps' so please remember to pick up your blue coin & drop it in our tube.



Attendance: our expectations A message from Miss Gregory (Early intervention & attendance officer)

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 will be triggered. We are of

course aware that the current Covid-19 situation may affect your child's attendance, and this will be taken into consideration during the monitoring phase. Should you have any questions or concerns relating to your child's attendance please contact Miss Gregory within school.

Thank you for your continued support and with all good wishes.













Mr Luke Talmage
Head Teacher

Mr Alan Clode
Deputy Head and Inclusion Leader

What did you see?

Can you find a way to make it easy for you to note down the highest number of each species that you **see together at the same time**? There is room below each bird's name for you to add your idea for doing this.

Your name

	<p>Woodpigeon</p>		<p>Blackbird</p>
	<p>Carrion crow</p>		<p>House sparrow</p>
	<p>Starling</p>		<p>Black-headed gull</p>
	<p>Magpie</p>		<p>Blue tit</p>
	<p>Robin</p>		<p>Feral pigeon</p>
	<p>Great tit</p>		<p>Chaffinch</p>

Did you notice anything in particular about the birds you saw? Differences in how they moved or what they were doing? Or perhaps you managed to see and identify a bird not shown here? If so, note these things in the space below or on a separate sheet. Don't forget you can get help from rspb.org.uk/wildlife/birdidentifier

For more information, visit: rspb.org.uk/schoolswatch

The RSPB is a registered charity in England & Wales 207076,
in Scotland SC037654. Drawings by Mike Langman. 327-0089-20-21



RSPB Wildlife Explorers and RSPB Phoenix are the junior and teenage memberships of the RSPB.

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