

Dear Parents and carers

Autumn Term 7 – Friday 17th December 2021

We would like to thank you all for your support throughout 2021 and to wish you all a very happy and safe Christmas holidays and look forward to seeing your children in the New Year. Thank you for your generosity in giving us cards and presents, it is not expected but very much appreciated by us all.



| January 2022 | |
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| Tuesday 4 th January 2022 | INSET Day – School closed to all children |
| Wednesday 5 th January 2022 | All children return to school |
| Friday 14 th January 2022 | Manor Court Art Exhibition at the Guildhall |



Mr Talmage's review of 2021

The experience for us all throughout this last calendar year has often been challenging and constrained by the restrictions of the seemingly never-ending Coronavirus pandemic. At this time of writing, we do not know what the next year will bring to your children and family, and I certainly hope that it does not involve another short or prolonged period of remote learning. It has been wonderful for me to observe the children in school learning, having fun and enjoying the aspects of the excellent education that we provide at Manor Court. Please be assured that Mr Clode and I

have made plans for all eventualities that our government will inevitably direct us in!

This past year has been about much more than Covid for us as a school community and I am proud to state that our school has continued to improve and develop and that unlike in some schools nationally and more locally we haven't used the pandemic as an excuse to not provide the best education possible for the children who have been entrusted to us. A particular highlight was the school achieving the Gold standard EAL Quality mark and being told verbally and in the report "that it is evident that every child's needs are met at this school". This is something that we have always aspired to be the case and is something that all who are employed at Manor Court are passionate about.



Over the past few weeks, at moments of quiet reflection, it has been wonderful for Mr Clode and I to be able to scroll through the Twitter and Facebook pages to see the positive experiences and achievements that we have all had this year and we believe it would certainly be a positive experience for you to complete on a rainy day in the Christmas holidays.

On behalf of everyone employed at Manor Court Community Primary School I wish you a very Happy Christmas and a wonderful 2022.

Farewell Mrs Davies

This week we said farewell to Mrs Davies who is leaving us after teaching at Manor Court for twenty-three years in every year group; being SENCO, staff Governor and member of the senior leadership team during this time. We ate cake, reminisced about the over 700 children that she's taught (some are parents and grandparents of current pupils) and made plans to visit her in the art gallery that she now owns in Lyme Regis. When you're in Lyme Regis do visit her in the Blue Lias gallery.

We are ever grateful for the impact that she's had in our school and her faithfulness in remaining a key part of our school community during the difficult days.

We wish Mrs Davies lots of happiness and success in her future and are pleased to know that she won't be a stranger!



Pantomime trip

Our Y1 pupils had a fantastic time at the Octagon theatre in Yeovil watching the Pantomime, Mother Goose. For many of the children this was their first experience in the theatre, and they thoroughly enjoyed themselves.



Living Nativity

Last year our children experienced a visit from the reindeer and this year the children have enjoyed a visit from the animals from Drift Education (a local farm offering educational experiences for children) as part of our Living Nativity! It was wonderful seeing so many children petting and enjoying being with the farm animals and dressing as characters from the traditional nativity scene. If you haven't already seen the photos on Twitter or Facebook, please do take the time to look at the children (and staff!) in their costumes.

Online Carol Service

We have been busily recording the Carol Service for Year 1 to Year 6 at St Mary's Church. This has been added to our School Vimeo account and the link will be shared with parents through the year group email addresses by the end of the school day for you to enjoy with your family in the comfort of your own home.

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

Covid safety measures

Our current Covid safety measures remain in place for January, including staggered starts, year group bubbles, online assemblies and face masks in communal areas. We will inform you as soon as we know if more changes are needed.

EYC news from Natalie!

Merry Christmas from everyone at the EYC! We have enjoyed celebrating Christmas with the children and showing them that it is more than receiving presents under the tree. We look forward to seeing you all in the New Year.



Online Christingle with Reverend Ann

Yesterday morning the children enjoyed making their own Christingle's and, in the afternoon, participating in the online Christingle service with Reverend Ann. This was a special time when Rev Ann focussed on the meaning of Christmas being more than receiving gifts but being helpful and kind to each other.

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



Mayor's Christmas Carol Concert

It was an amazing experience watching our choir perform at The Guildhall last Friday evening alongside the students from Holyrood Academy. Our children were a credit to themselves, their families and the school, signing beautifully and with such enthusiasm. We'd like to thank Miss Prater and Miss Smith for teaching them the selection of songs and for chaperoning them on the evening alongside Mrs Guyett.

E-Safety news from Miss Thompson

Ditto is a free monthly online safety newsletter full of very useful advice and the most up-to-date information. It's written by Alan Mackenzie who is an expert in keeping safe online. The month the topics are: reflecting on 2021; online safety - the basics; new devices; online sexual harassment; technology tools; how can I...?; Instagram changes; TikTok safety mode. You can find the newsletter here: <https://www.esafety-adviser.com/latest-newsletter/>



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.

School applications for September 2022

For all parents with children starting school in September 2022, you can now apply for your child's school place by following the link below on the school website that will take you directly to the Somerset application page. This link will take you directly to the Somerset County Council admission page. <https://www.manorcourt.somerset.sch.uk/starting-school-for-the-first-time-in-september-20/>



Thank you for your continued support and we all wish you a very happy Christmas and a peaceful 2022.

Mr Luke Talmage
Head Teacher

Mr Alan Clode
Deputy Head and Inclusion Leader

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