

Dear Parents and carers

Autumn Term 6 – Thursday 9th December 2021



December 2021	
Friday 10 th December	Save the Children Christmas Jumper Day
Wednesday 15 th December	Year 1 Trip to see the Panto at the Octagon Theatre Living Nativity and recording of the Christmas Carol Service
Thursday 16 th December	Online Whole School Christingle with Rev. Ann
Friday 17 th December	Non-School uniform day – No charitable donation required Christmas Parties Last Day of the Autumn Term
January 2022	
Tuesday 4 th January	INSET Day – School closed to all children
Wednesday 5 th January	All children return to school
Friday 14 th January	Manor Court Art Exhibition at the Guildhall



Save the Children Christmas Jumper Day

Tomorrow we will be participating in the National fundraiser for Save the Children and wearing our favourite Christmas Jumpers to school. If they wish, children are to wear their favourite Christmas jumper and the rest of their normal school uniform, minus their tie for a 50p donation to the charity.

Christmas activities

Next week is a very busy week with lots of exciting festive activities planned for your children. Please do ensure that you have checked the letter sent home last week that explains the plans and check with regularity your ParentPay and email addresses for any updates as we would hate for your child to miss out. The letter can be found on the website at:

<https://primariesite-prod-sorted.s3.amazonaws.com/manor-court-community/UploadedDocument/4d88b400-4205-4c5a-b832-12b980c61891/manor-court-community-school-christmas-activities-2021.pdf>



Mayor's Christmas Carol Concert

It is not too late to come and watch our choir in the Mayor's Christmas concert tomorrow evening. Tickets are only £2.50 for adults and £1.00 for each child and can be purchased directly from the Guildhall.



Year 6 Social Action Project

Last Friday selected Year 6 children presented their work about the dangers of County Lines to invited guests from Numatic, The Rotary Club, The Town Council, Tesco's and Mr MacCormick (Head Teacher of Holyrood Academy). The high-quality booklets that they made were sent home to every child and over 1500 have been distributed throughout Chard. We are grateful for our link with Yeovil Town Community Sports Trust and the Premier League Primary Stars.

Living Nativity – A message from Mr Clode

Next Wednesday we are very excited that our children will have the opportunity to participate in a Living Nativity. All children will be able to meet the animals provided by our friends at Drift farm and if they wish, to have their photograph taken with the animals as part of the Nativity, they need to bring their costumes to school to change into. Please see the letter that was sent home early this week for further information.

E-Safety news from Miss Thompson

Childnet have created six easy-to-follow, 10 to 15-minute video lessons for families to look at together. Each video covers key online safety messages and is narrated by one of the Childnet education team. You can find them all here: <https://www.childnet.com/resources/video-lessons>



Chard Museum Christmas Tree Festival

This coming weekend is the Chard Museum Christmas Tree Festival for which Manor Court has decorated a tree. At the end of the newsletter, we have included the Museum's poster that advertises the event and provides more detail about the workshops with local artist Jenny Melling.

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



Public Health Guidance

The Somerset Public Health Department have decided that with the unknown measures caused by the new Omicron variant and the fact that any changes that they make next week will cause late disruption to parents, all Somerset Schools should remain in the Amber measures of the contingency framework.

This means that as a school we continue to have staggered starts in which parents collect and drop off from outside the school gate, staff will continue to wear facemasks and we will ask children to wash their hands with regularity.

EYC news from Natalie!

Christmas is well under way at preschool this week! I have been helping the elves build toys in our Santa's Grotto in our new role playroom, decorating the Christmas tree and doing lots of Christmas crafts and singing! Jingle bell is our favourite as we get the instruments out to sing along with!



Make the Rules fundraising day for the FMCA – Friday 3rd December

The FMCA held another enjoyable 'Make the Rules Day' on Friday 3rd December and raised over £299.56 for their funds. Thank you for supporting this day and thinking of such creative and fun ways to break the school rules!

Carols around the Beacon

On Saturday a number of Manor Court children came dressed as angels to meet Mr Clode and walked to the Beacon to join members of Chard's community to sing Christmas Carols and watch the lighting of the Beacon. This was a fantastic community event after which many people went home feeling very Christmassy. If you haven't yet seen the nativity scene made by the Men's Shed lit up at night, it really is worth driving past as it is excellent.



Parking at the rear of the school

Parking at the rear of the school continues to be an issue on the mornings that a member of staff is not standing there. Please do be mindful of everyone's safety and do not stop your car in places that could cause an accident and endanger other members of our school community. Thank you.

School uniform

We expect all children to conform to the school uniform expectations and for parents to support us in this. We do have a uniform bank for families when they are unable to provide school uniform. This uniform bank contains clean and pre-used shirts, trousers, jumpers, coats, shoes and ties.

Christmas Cards for Oak Lodge

Our Y4 children and school council have made and sent over forty-seven cards to the residents of Oak Lodge. The children hope that this will bring some much-needed Christmas cheer to the residents and hope to be able to visit them again in person soon.



Year 4 rainforest music with Miss Prater

As part of their Rainforest project, Year 4 worked with Miss Prater last Friday to play their kalimbas (that they had made in the morning), writing and performing two different rainforest songs. The children and staff had so much fun to complete this together and utilising Miss Prater's musical skills.

Congratulations to Mrs Prevett

It is great pleasure that we are able to announce on Mrs Prevett's behalf, the safe arrival of Alfred 'Freddie' Prevett. Freddie was born on the 23rd November and he and Mrs Prevett are both doing really well.

After School enrichment clubs

The booking for the Spring Term enrichment clubs is live on ParentPay. Please do take the time to book the club that you wish for your child. As discussed, we have arranged for clubs to be allocated in year group bubbles so that they can continue without fail each week as long as Government guidance prevails.



magic
breakfast
fuel for learning

Magic Breakfast – A message from Mrs Terry

Magic Breakfast is a charity who deliver healthy breakfast foods to schools across England and Scotland, to provide all children at risk of hunger a nutritious start to the day with fuel for learning. At Manor Court, we recognise how important it is that our pupils eat in the morning to set themselves up for the rest of the day. Feeling hungry affects how a pupil feels, and they may not be ready to learn.

We are going to be working closely with Magic Breakfast to ensure that **all** our pupils have access to food in the morning. We will be offering free bagels and fruit **every morning during breaktime** to satisfy any hungry tummies and have received a very

generous anonymous donation from a local benefactor to cover the school contribution towards the project.

However, before we can start working with this charity, we need a chest freezer in school in which we can store the bagels as they will be delivered weekly, and they will be frozen before defrosting daily. We are appealing for anyone who has a chest freezer that they could donate to us and for anyone who could come into school and complete a PAT (portable appliance test) on it for us.

This new venture is very exciting. If you can help, please speak to Mr Talmage or Mrs Terry, or email via your child's year group address.

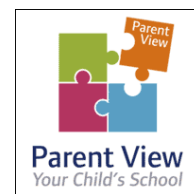
Thank you.

Safe television viewing

We've had a few conversations with children over the past few weeks about television programmes that they have watched or heard their older siblings talk about. Please do ensure that your children are not accessing television programmes that are not age appropriate for them.

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



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.



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.

CCTV camera fundraising

Thank you to the parent who has taken the time and initiative to set up a crowd funding page to purchase CCTV cameras for the front of the school after speaking to Mr Talmage. We love sharing our children's work with you all and will carry on doing so, but it would be great for it to be in place for longer without the risk of it being damaged or destroyed. If you're able to contribute to the revised quote of £6000 we would be ever so grateful. The link to the Just Giving page is <https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/manorprimaryschool>



Mazel Tov! – Year 2 Religious Education lessons about Judaism

This term the Y2s have been learning about Judaism and enjoyed learning about Jewish weddings last week. At the end of the lesson, they practised some of the dance moves of a traditional Jewish dance performed at weddings

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/>



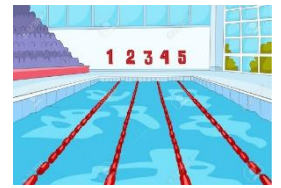
If you or any of your friends would like to visit the school, please contact the school office and we can arrange a socially distant school visit.

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

Swimming lessons

We are thrilled to be able to confirm that we have managed to secure a confirmed swimming slot at Chard's new leisure centre. Manor Court children will attend their sessions on a Friday afternoon, starting with the Year 3 children in January 2022. This will be a great opportunity to support the new leisure centre and keep the costs of school swimming lessons down for all children as they will no longer require travelling on a coach to Crewkerne. Spaces are available to book on ParentPay until Wednesday 5th January 2022.



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



Mr Luke Talmage
Head Teacher



Mr Alan Clode
Deputy Head and Inclusion Leader

Chard and District Museum



CHARD MUSEUM'S CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL RETURNS AFTER A TWO-YEAR BREAK Friday 10th – Sunday 12th December 10:30 to 16:00 each day

Come and see the Festive Trees and Nativity Scenes that Schools, Young People Groups and any others interested groups have designed to welcome in the Festive Holiday. Your journey around the Festival will be safely managed using the Museum's one-way system.

There is:

- no cost, although any donations are always welcome
- no need to book in advance and,
- festive refreshments, tea, coffee or a soft drink and mince pie's will be available

In addition, and as a SPECIAL event, artist Jenny Mellings will be hosting two family workshops on **Saturday 12th December** from 10:30 – 12:30 and 13:00 to 15:00. The themes are:

Trees of Chard: as well as the decorated Christmas trees celebrate some of Chard's most distinctive trees, such as the apple, oak and ash through drawing and printing on fabric. In this workshop you're invited to make images for Chard community's new textile banners project.

Ornamental Edging: create decorative motifs based on signs, symbols and objects from the museum's collection. You will be printing and stencilling to create border designs for Chard community's new textile banners.

Proud to be a Consortium
Member of Culturally Chard



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"uncovering yesterday's heritage, history and hidden stories".
Registered Charity Number 1190620



Christmas Carol Concert

Mayors welcome with a selection of traditional Christmas Carols

The Guildhall Chard

Thursday 9th December 2021

Redstart School & Avishayes

Friday 10th December 2021

Holyrood Academy & Manor Court

Performances will start at 6.00pm

Doors Open at 5.30pm



**Tickets will be on sale from The Guildhall Reception Desk
from 22nd November 2021**

Adults - £2.50

Children - £1

