

Dear Parents and carers



Autumn Term 3 – Friday 15th October 2021



October 2021	
Monday 18 th October 2021	Olympic gymnast visit to school No after school enrichment clubs Parent/Teacher meetings on Zoom or via Telephone
Tuesday 19 th October 2021	Year 3 Railway trip
Wednesday 20 th October	Non-school uniform day charity fundraiser for cancer Research & recording of Andy and the Odd Socks video Parent-Teacher meetings on Zoom or via Telephone
Thursday 21 st October 2021	Last day of this half term
Friday 22 nd October 2021	School closed for all due to the Somerset County Council Queen's Jubilee Day.
November 2021	
Monday 1 st November 2021	All children and staff return to school after the half term holiday. Year 4 swimming at Crewkerne Aqua Pool starts.
Thursday 10 th November 2021	Year 2 Fleet Air Arm Museum trip – details to follow
Monday 15 th November 2021	National Geography awareness week
Thursday 18 th November 2021	Year 5 Bovington Tank Museum trip

Year 4 carnival procession

Last Saturday the Year 4 children participated in Chard's walking carnival and danced throughout the route to Take That's song Shine. Their entry 'Made in Chard' was inspired by the range of Henry vacuum cleaners made at Numatic and their costumes and dance truly had a Henry feel to it.

The Year 4 staff would like to thank family members for coming to cheer the children on and making this such a memorable opportunity for them.



Friday 22nd October

The school and Early Years Centre will be closed next Friday to all children and staff. This is because it was chosen by Somerset County Council as the day to be taken in lieu of the additional Bank Holiday in 2022 for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations.



Harvest Festival

It was a pleasure returning to St Mary's last week for our Harvest Festival and was the first time that we have stepped into the Church for eighteen months. We enjoyed singing our favourite Harvest songs together, listened to Rev Ann and some excellent Y3 and Y6 children who completed their readings.

The many donations were taken to Chard's Foodbank – The Lord's Larder this week and they were extremely grateful to receive them.

Enrichment after school clubs on Monday 18th October

Due to our parent/teacher meetings next Monday we are unable to hold our enrichment clubs. If your child attends a club on Monday, please collect them at the end of the school day or arrange for them to be in our paid for wrap around care provision.

Abuse of staff – A message from Dr. Matt Reed (Chair of Local Governing Body)

As social media is becoming the ever increasingly popular method of airing feelings and communicating with others, the Governors of Manor Court Community Primary School would like to make it clear that under no circumstances will defamatory comments or personal abuse of any member of staff be tolerated.

We expect our staff members to be treated with respect and courtesy at all times, whether in person or virtually. Please be aware that any instances of abuse passed to us will be reported to the Police as we have a zero-tolerance policy on such behaviour.

EYC news from Natalie!

We've had great fun with harvest the last two weeks! Snipping green beans, planting up vegetables, painting with fruit and shape sorting with pumpkins! Next week we are really looking forward to our party on the last day!



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

Year 4 Swimming

Swimming for the year 4 children starts on Monday 1st November. Please sign your child up through ParentPay if you would like them to swim.

House Captains

Our House Captains received their badges this week and all represent our school brilliantly and uphold our ASPIRE values.



Cancer Research fundraiser and Andy and the Band recording Day

It has been another busy half term and it is wonderful that the school is coming alive again with many opportunities. This coming Wednesday we are having another day of colour to raise money for Cancer research and to record our Andy and the Band video. Please allow your children to wear their brightest coloured clothes (no football shirts or inappropriate slogans!) for the video and if you wish, bring a donation to this wonderful charity that raises money to research a cure for cancer.

Further information will be sent home on Monday about the recording, including a consent form, and this will need to be returned the next day if you would like your child to be in the video that is made on Wednesday.

#HelloYellow Day – A message from Mrs Scott

Last Friday the school was awash with children and staff dressed in bright yellow as we raised awareness of children's mental health and raised money for Young Minds UK. The children spent time looking at ways in which they can improve and maintain their mental health. We are delighted to have raised £168.08 which has been sent to the Young Minds UK charity!



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.



Year 6 girls Football tournament at Holyrood Academy

Mrs Prevett and Mr Talmage had the pleasure of taking the Year 6 girls football squad to Holyrood on Tuesday. The girls participated superbly in each of their matches and showed excellent commitment to their sport and each other.

Parent – Teacher meetings

Our first parent evenings of the academic year will be held next Monday (18th October) and Wednesday (20th October). You should have received your appointment time from your child's teacher, and we do hope that you find these meetings beneficial.

Facemasks in the school reception area

We appreciate that parents do need to come to the school reception area at times to hand information across. Can we please request that in this tight indoor space that parents wear their facemask.



E-Safety news from Miss Thompson

Twitch is a popular live streaming site, particularly for gamers. Last week, they had a huge data breach and it's possible that some user details have been compromised. If you know your child uses Twitch, it would be worth asking them to change their password. It's also possible to use the website <https://haveibeenpwned.com/> to check if your email or phone number appears in any data breaches.

RNLI Assembly

This afternoon the children enjoyed an online assembly led by the RNLI (the school council's charity of the year) in which they learnt about their work and how they keep us all safe from the dangers of the sea. The children are looking forward to learning more about their work as we raise money for them in this school year.

Noodles ice cream competition

The good news keeps coming! After a little nudging from some parents, Mr Talmage entered the Noodles Ices competition on Facebook. We are delighted to announce that we are one of the five lucky winning schools in Somerset and each child and staff member will receive an ice cream or ice lolly on Friday 27th November.



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Long hair

Many of our girls (and some of our boys) have long hair that is below shoulder length. For their personal safety, especially on PE days, can we request that this is tied back.



New online meal ordering and payment system

We are moving forward with our caterers, Aspens, with plans to implement their online payment and ordering system "Select". We realise that there have been a few teething issues this week and hope that these have been rectified or will be rectified very soon.

We do expect that this will make the ordering of food and making payments easier in the long run, so please do accept our apologies if you have had difficulties this week.

Please make sure you have registered your child for the Select system and ordered their food for Monday 1st November onwards to ensure they continue to receive a school meal. Aspens are unable to provide food for any child who has not had a meal ordered.

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



Gymnast visit

Next Monday, international gymnast, Isabel Haigh is visiting our school to complete workshops and assemblies with the children in our school. This will be an inspirational day for each of the children as they hear Isabel's journey from their age to representing Great Britain at the Olympics.

If you need financial help

We appreciate that for some of our families, life is tough at the moment with additional financial constraints. If you do need help please contact the school and we can signpost you to organisations that can help during this time.



David Walliams Assembly

On Tuesday we all enjoyed participating in a pre-recorded assembly with author David Walliams and Blue Peter presenter Richie Driss and celebrated ten years of the very funny book Gangsta Granny.

David was, as you would expect, extremely funny and the children learnt top writing tips too!

National Geography awareness week

During the week of Monday 15th November, we will participate in national Geography week and have a focus on Chard and the local environment. The children in the school will enjoy extra Geography studies.

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.



Parental Survey

Twice a year we ask parents to complete an anonymous parental survey of the school. This parental evaluation, based on the Ofsted parent view survey, enables us to refine and further improve our work for the children within the school. Please complete the survey for each of your children who attend Manor Court before the deadline of Friday 29th October

The questionnaire is accessible on your mobile phone, tablet or computer by following this link.

<https://forms.office.com/r/hqS5tgnP90>



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.

Mrs Wilkins

We are delighted to inform you that Mrs Wilkins had her daughter earlier this week. Ophelia Grace Peggy Wilkins was born weighing 8lb 4oz and both Ophelia and Mrs Wilkins are home and doing extremely well at home!



Safe television viewing

We've had a few conversations with children this week 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.



Blythwood shoe box appeal

Once more this year we are participating in the Blythwood Christmas shoe box appeal and providing Christmas gifts for children living in poverty in England and in countries abroad. Information leaflets have been sent home if you would like to participate in this and a collection date will be confirmed. However, filled boxes can be brought into school from November 1st.

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.



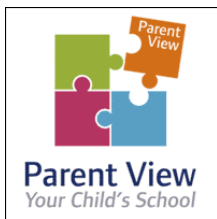
Twitter and Facebook

If you are not already following our official school accounts on Twitter or Facebook, do consider following us as this is an excellent way to find current information about the school. Our school twitter account is @ManorCourtChard and you can find us on Facebook at @manorcourtchard

School milk

All children under the age of five are entitled to milk each day in school, typically this means children in EYC and Foundation until their fifth birthday. This is provided free and funded by the Government.

We are finding that a lot of children are not drinking their milk and we are throwing away lots of cartons. If you do not want your child to have milk in school or they do not drink milk, please complete the opt-out form issued via ParentPay to inform the office that you wish to opt-out of the free school milk scheme. This will help us avoid unnecessary wastage. Thank you.



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

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

Mr Luke Talmage
Head Teacher

Mr Alan Clode
Deputy Head and Inclusion Leader