



Dear Parents and carers

Autumn Term 2 – Friday 1st October 2021



October 2021	
Monday 4 th October 2021	Carnival bus visit to school (year 4).
Thursday 7 th October 2021	Harvest Festival at St Mary's Church.
Saturday 9 th October 2021	Chard Carnival procession.
Friday 15 th October 2021	RNLI virtual assembly.
Monday 18 th and Wednesday 20 th October 2021	Parents evening – please see separate letter that will be sent home next week for further information.
Monday 18 th , Tuesday 19 th and Wednesday 20 th October	Open Mornings – please book your preferred day/time on ParentPay
Thursday 21 st October 2021	Last day of this half term. Non-school uniform day charity fundraiser for Cancer research.
Friday 22 nd October 2021	School closed for all due to the Somerset County Council Queens 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.

Harvest Festival

Next Thursday we will have our annual Harvest Festival assembly with St. Mary's Church. The KS1 assembly is at 09:30 and the KS2 assembly is at 11:00 in St Mary's Church. As usual we would gratefully receive donations of tinned goods, UHT long-life milk, jams and marmalades, biscuits all within date for The Lords Larder. If your child would like to make a donation, please bring these into school from Monday 4th October and give them to your class teacher.



Year 6 Trip to the Houses of Parliament



Last Friday the Year 6 children had a brilliant day in London visiting the Houses of Parliament and Lords and learning more about British Democracy and British Values. The children and staff left school at 6:30am arriving in London (after their comfort break at Fleet services) at around 10:45am. The tour and workshop was informative and engaging, with many moments of awe and wonder for the children and adults.

The coach arrived back to school at around 19:45am after a long but enjoyable day in which the children as expected were impeccably well behaved.

#HelloYellow Day – A message from Mrs Scott

On Friday 8th October we are joining schools around the country and supporting the charity Young Minds by taking part in #HelloYellow and raising vital funds to support the work of the charity. On the day the children can wear non-school uniform with an item of yellow clothing for a donation of 50p.



School charity of the year

Our school council have chosen the RNLI to be the school charity of the year. The children have chosen this charity because 'we live near the coast and they save lives at sea and teach children about water safety'. We look forward to working with and raising much needed funds for this worthwhile cause.

Our first event with the RNLI is a virtual assembly during the afternoon of Friday October 15th.



Lifeboats

Coats

The weather is starting to change for the worse and becoming more unpredictable. Please do make sure that your child has a coat with them at all times to protect them from the rain and cold weather.

School Council used book sale for the RNLI

The school council were delighted to hold their first fundraising event, a used book sale, on Monday. They raised £81.50 for the RNLI and would like to pass their gratitude onto their friends and their parents.



Coming soon - 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". This will allow parents to order and pay for meals more easily than our current process. Parents will also have access to an App on their smartphone. We hope the new system will be in place by November but please look out for activation letters with PIN codes details coming soon.

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

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.

FMCA AGM – Wednesday 13th October at 15:30 in Hedgehogs classroom

The FMCA is a group of parents (and a registered charity) who support the school by raising money for those 'extras' that the school budget will not stretch to. We are extremely grateful for their hard work and for all that they do for the children, it really does make a difference.

The FMCA would like new committee members and invite all parents, carers and teachers to their AGM on Wednesday 13th October at 15:30 in Hedgehogs classroom. The FMCA have posted the following message on their posters around the school *"We invite you to join us for the Annual General Meeting of the FMCA. All parents, carers and teachers are welcome. We are always looking for new committee members and would encourage parents from all year groups to get involved. This meeting will give you the chance to see a bit more of what we do. We would like to thank you for your continued support, which allows us to provide fun projects and resources for the children and families of Manor Court Community Primary School."*

Please do support the FMCA and attend the AGM if you can.



EYC news from Natalie!

The past weeks we have been have great fun exploring where we live. We have had lots of budding doctors and nurses in our Doctor role play area. Our books of the week were the Gruffalo which we enjoyed a lot and Oi Frog which the children thought was very funny. We are looking forward to some more autumn fun in the coming weeks.

Parents Evenings

Our first parent evenings of the academic year will be held on Monday 18th October and Wednesday 20th October. Please save the dates and we will send further information home in a letter next week.



Take Art project with local artist Jenny Mellings

This week local artist (our artist of the term) Jenny Mellings worked with a selection of children from KS2 to design a new banner for the Guildhall. They did still life work using paints made from locally sourced materials, created mosaics and created etchings in the style of Donyatt pottery.

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>

Loosening of Covid restrictions

We are delighted to be loosening some of the Covid restrictions that we have had in place for the past eighteen months on Monday. Mr Talmage made a video yesterday to explain which doors the children are able to access the school building through. This video will be added to our school Vimeo account and shared via Twitter and Facebook, so please do take the time to watch this video before Monday morning.

Year 4 Swimming

Swimming for the year 4 children starts on Monday 1st November. Please sign your child up through ParentPay.



Attendance: our expectations

A message from Miss Gregory (Early intervention & attendance officer)

As we approach week 5 of this new academic year, pupil attendance and punctuality will become 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.

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



Carnival Toys

At the end of the school day next week, the FMCA are selling official Chard carnival toys. These will be slightly cheaper than the price that you will pay on the day of the carnival and proceeds of the amount sold will go to the FMCA funds.

If you need financial help

We appreciate that for some 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.

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



We need you

If you are kind, diligent, hardworking and fun, you might be the person that we are looking for. We are hoping to recruit individuals to join our premises team for fifteen hours a week. No experience of cleaning is required as full and sufficient training will be provided. We also aim to recruit two lunchtime supervisors to work between 11:40 and 13:10 each day with our wonderful children. If one, or both, of these roles interest you, please contact Mrs Diana Hunt on 01460 62350.

Year 4 Carnival

As part of their Manor Court 48 opportunities, the children in Year 4 will participate in Chard carnival on this coming Saturday 9th October. This year's procession is a walking procession and the children have been learning a fantastic dance routine entitled 'Made in Chard'. Please do come along and support the children on the evening and hopefully it won't be raining!

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. 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.

<https://www.manorcourt.somerset.sch.uk/starting-school-for-the-first-time-in-september-20/>



Open Days

Due to the Covid pandemic parents have not been able to visit the school for over eighteen months and most of our Year 1 and Foundation Stage parents have not been into the buildings. We have arranged three open mornings on Monday 18th October, Tuesday 19th October and Wednesday 20th October. We still have limited spaces available to show parents around so please do take this opportunity to attend by booking a slot through your ParentPay account.

Year 2 local history visit

Year Two have enjoyed their local history visits recently and learning about the history of John Stringfellow. Seeing our town through their eyes has been such a wonderful thing for the staff to do.



Christmas Card fundraiser

The children will be bringing home a Christmas Card design that they have completed in school to raise funds for the FMCA. If you would like to buy some cards, please return your order form by Friday 15th October.



Blythswood shoe box appeal

Once more this year we are participating in the Blythswood 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.

Rangoli patterns

Year 4 created rangoli patterns using rice yesterday as part of their learning about Hinduism. The art work they have produced looks fantastic!



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 6 Football tournament at Holyrood Academy

Last week the Year 6 football team played in their first tournament of the year at Holyrood Academy.

The children won two of their four group games and progressed to the semi-finals in which they lost 1-0. It was a brilliant afternoon and great sportsmanship shown by all players.



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.

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.



E-Safety news from Miss Thompson

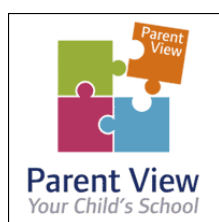
You might have heard of Twitch, which is becoming more and more popular as live streaming of games becomes more popular. Childnet have put together a great article about Twitch explaining what it is, why it's popular, the type of content you'll find on there and some useful tips and advice. It's well worth a read because children can be exposed to inappropriate content as all the videos are live, which means they are difficult to filter. You can

find the guide here: <https://www.childnet.com/blog/twitch-a-guide-for-parents-and-carers>

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



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



SOMERSET
County Council

Activity Calendar

Community Inclusion
and Activity Team

October Half Term
Monday 25 - Friday 29 October 2021



Monday 25 October

Community Inclusion Activity Team Young Person's Day at Hollywood Bowl

Taunton, TA1 2LP.
2 games of bowling and food. Young people new to our service will need to attend with a parent/carer. Young people can be dropped off at 5pm and collected at 7.30pm. Costs £10 pp. For 8-18yrs.

To book, call 07977 412199 from 10am on 6th October.



Tuesday 26 October

Community Inclusion Activity Team Family Day to Crealy Theme Park.

Sidmouth Rd, Clyst St Mary, Exeter, EX5 1DR.
Meet at venue. Staff will be on site to support you from 10am to 3pm. Costs £10 pp.

To book, call 07977 412199 from 10am on 6th October.



Wednesday 27 October

Yeovil Inclusion Partnership

Fairmead School, Mudford Road, Yeovil, BA21 4NZ
Fun packed day including activities such as: arts & crafts, bouncy castle, SASP Sport and cooking. 10am to 3pm. Costs £15 per young person or £25 per family. For ages 4-19yrs

To book, call Steve Coles 07786992229 or email SCColes@educ.somerset.gov.uk



Thursday 28 October

Community Inclusion Activity Team Family Day to Crealy Theme Park.

Sidmouth Rd, Clyst St Mary, Exeter, EX5 1DR.
Meet at venue. Staff will be on site to support you from 10am to 3pm. Costs £10 pp.

To book, call 07977 412199 from 10am on 6th October.



Nova Sports: Surfing at The Wave

Washingpool Farm, Main Rd, Easter Compton, BS35 5RE.
Beginners surf lessons for young people with learning disabilities. 10.30am to 1pm. Costs £20 pp for 8-18yr olds.

Beginner surf lessons for young people with physical disabilities. 2pm to 4.30pm. Costs £20 pp for 8-18yr olds.

For bookings, contact Jenny Rutter jenny@novasportsandcoaching.co.uk or call 07880 743453



ACTIVITY PACKS

Community Inclusion Activity Team
Autumnal themed activity pack including arts & crafts, recipes, puzzles and more! £2 per pack.

To order, please email cdateam@somerset.gov.uk by Monday 11th October for doorstep delivery w/c 18th October. Payment on delivery please.



Friday 29 October

SSE Outdoors - Kilve

Kilve Court, Kilve, Somerset, TA5 1EA.
Outdoor activities, such as climbing, grass sledging, archery and abseiling. 9.30am - 3.30pm. Costs £10 pp for 7 - 18yr olds.

To book, please email sseoutdoors@somerset.gov.uk



For ALL children and young people in Somerset with a disability or additional needs
*You DO NOT have to be referred to any service to access these activities, unless otherwise stated.

Improving
LIVES

Tuesday 26 October

Neroche Woodlanders

Young Wood, Staple Fitzpaine, TA3 5AZ.

Seasonal Forest Activities. This includes gathering around the fire-circle, exploring, playing games, as well as a campfire cooking activity, such as making small pancakes, biscuits, or popcorn. 11am-2pm. Costs £10 per family.

To book, please fill in the form on www.nerochewoodlanders.org or email info@nerochewoodlanders.org or sarah@nerochewoodlanders.org



Wednesday 27 October

Nova Sports

Frome Youth Centre, Vallis Road BA11 3EF.

Powerchair Multi-sports for young people with physical disabilities. 10am-11.30am. Costs £7.50 pp for 8-18yr olds.

Wheelchair Basketball for young people with physical and/or additional needs. 12.30pm-2pm. Costs £7.50 pp for 8-18yr olds.

For bookings, contact Jenny Rutter jenny@novasportsandcoaching.co.uk or call 07880 743453



Thursday 28 October

Neroche Woodlanders

Young Wood, Staple Fitzpaine, TA3 5AZ.

Seasonal Forest Activities. This includes gathering around the fire-circle, exploring, playing games, as well as a campfire cooking activity, such as making small pancakes, biscuits, or popcorn. 11am-2pm. Costs £10 per family.

To book, please fill in the form on www.nerochewoodlanders.org or email info@nerochewoodlanders.org or sarah@nerochewoodlanders.org



Friday 29 October

Wilderwoods Forest School

Drayton Woods, Drayton, Langport, TA10 0JZ.

Scary Halloween Walk. We will help you create a lantern or a character to be part of a scary trail. Parents invited at dusk to take part if they dare! Hot chocolate, hot dogs and marshmallows available for survivors (vegetarian options available). 2pm-7pm. Costs £15 per child. Siblings of same family: £10. No cost for adults. For 8-18yr olds.

To book, contact Hannah Aitken on 01458 252463 or hannah@wilderwoods.org



Shared Earth Learning

Vallis Veg Agro-ecological Farm, Frome, BA11 3JQ.

Outdoor activities, including nature-studies, crafts, gardening, games, shelter-building and simple campfire cooking. All geared towards environmental awareness and appreciation of the natural world. 10am to 2.30pm. Costs £10 pp for 7-16yr olds.

To book call Alex Hart on 07935068254 or email: sharedearthbookings@gmail.com



Nova Sports: Skiing

Mendip Activity Centre, Winscombe, BS25 5PQ.

Beginner's skiing taught by instructors at the Activity Centre but with the added bonus of having a specialist inclusive coach from Nova on the slope with them. Timings TBC. Costs £20pp for 8-18yr olds.

For bookings, contact Jenny Rutter jenny@novasportsandcoaching.co.uk or call 07880 743453



Wilderwoods Forest School

Drayton Woods, Drayton, Langport TA10 0JZ.

Inclusive Family Play. Exploration trail & free play, ropes and swings. Lighting campfire and toasting snacks, followed by craft activities according to age and ability. Lantern and mask making. 2pm-4.30pm. Costs £7 per child, or £12 per family (max 3 children). For 0-8yr olds (siblings up to 10yrs)

To book, contact Hannah Aitken on 01458 252463 or email hannah@wilderwoods.org



What's on across the week?

Friday 22 - Friday 29 October

Brookside Academy, Street, BA16 0PR

A variety of indoor and outdoor activities, including arts & crafts, cookery, Wii games and sports!

For 4-13 years (must be school age), 9am - 3pm, £24pp.

For 14-18 years, 9am - 3pm, £27pp.

Booking is required with Jess Travella or Sandra Cinicola at extendedschools@brooksideacademy.co.uk

SAVE
THE
DATE

SATURDAY
18 DECEMBER
2021

The Community Inclusion Activity Team will be taking young people on the Winterlights magical and illuminated train journey!

More information to follow...

Key for activities:



Family Activity - for all members of the family to attend and enjoy



Child/Young person can attend on their own under group supervision or with parent/carer if additional 1:1 support is required - please call the organisation to have a chat



Child/young person must attend with a parent or carer



Staff provided by the organisation to support the child/young person 1:1 if required - please call the organisation to see what they can provide as this may not include personal care



Some parts of the activity are wheelchair accessible please call the organisation to find out more



Accessible changing facilities are available please call the venue to find out more



Activities aimed at young people/teenagers/young adults

Useful Information

Who are the people offering the activities? Organisations who have experience of working with children and young people with a disability or additional need and their families. Activities can be adapted to suit the children and young people who would like to attend. Please call them to chat about your child / young person's needs.

Activities offered by the Community Inclusion and Activity Team - Dependant on the child / young person needs, we can provide a day out without parent / carer as we offer group supervision. If it is the first time your child / young person has accessed a trip with our team, a parent / carer will need to attend. We require payment a minimum of 2 weeks prior to the day. Please note, spaces for children and young people with a disability or additional need will be prioritised first, with spaces offered to siblings once bookings have closed if we have room. Online payment at www.somerset.gov.uk/cwd

Don't forget our Activity Day Passes - Available to ALL families in Somerset with a child or young person with a disability or additional need - Puxton Park, Noah's Ark, Bristol Zoo & The Wild Place, Abbotsbury, Ferne Animal Sanctuary, Hestercombe gardens, Court farm. Call the CIA Office on 01823 358117 to find out more or visit www.somerset.gov.uk/cwd to view the flyer.

Max Card - A FREE card for all children and young people with a disability or additional need in Somerset aged 0-25 years. This card can be used at many places all over the UK offering discounts and special rates when you show the card. Visit www.mymaxcard.co.uk for more info. Cards can ONLY be issued by Somerset County Council to people living in Somerset. Call 01823 358117 or email ciateam@somerset.gov.uk

If you would like help with the calendar and how to access activities, call the Team office on 01823 358117. If you no longer wish to receive this information, please email: CIAteam@somerset.gov.uk and we will remove your details from our mailing list.