

Dear Parents and carers

Autumn Term 5 – Friday 26th November 2021



November 2021	
Monday 29 th & Tuesday 30 th November	YR5 Chard Museum Visits
December 2021	
Wednesday 1 st December	Flu Immunisation for all year groups
Wednesday 7 th December	YR4 & YR5 Stargazing Evening
Wednesday 15 th December	YR1 Panto Trip

Noodles ice cream visit

The children and staff will all be enjoying an ice-cream or ice-lolly from the Noodles ice-cream vans on Wednesday 1st December. The decision was made to reschedule the Noodles visit because of the torrential rain today.



Year 1 Panto Trip to watch Mother Goose – A message from Mrs Johns

Twenty-seven years ago, I taught a young man named Richard Lawrence. Recently, he got back into contact to thank me for having what he felt had been a big impact on his life. Sadly, this lovely communication came with some very upsetting news – Richard lost his son, Ben, in March of this year. Richard is working hard to do many things in honour and memory of his son. One of these acts was to set himself the challenge of climbing three mountains in three days, whilst raising funds: some of the money raised was to go to Ben's favourite teacher's chosen charity, some for a park bench with plaque in Ben's favourite

park and some was for the children in Y1 of Manor Court. I am pleased to share the news that Richard has presented the school with enough funds to pay for every child in the year group to be able to have their MC48 Christmas trip to the pantomime this year. I am sure you will join me in thanking Richard for his kindness. If you want to learn more about his and Ben's story, there is a more information to be found at Ben.world.

Ongoing Public Health England advice

As a school we are one of many schools in Chard and in further afield parts of Somerset who continue to follow Public Health England advice to keep all members of our school community safe and well. Compared to many schools locally we have very few confirmed cases of Coronavirus currently and have had relatively few throughout the pandemic. We will continue to work with our current safety measures for the rest of this academic term.

Christmas arrangements

We are busy planning for our Christmas activities and productions and have pencilled in dates for the Foundation Stage Nativity and Carol Concerts at St. Mary's. As you will have read in a letter sent home yesterday, because of the required restrictions that the school and all parents would have required to abide by, we have made the decision to record all performances for families to enjoy at home. Please note that the children who participate in the Manor Court Children's choir can and will still join in the Mayor's Christmas concert due to different risk assessments governing this event. Please see the poster that advertises this at the end of the newsletter and do consider coming along to support the children.



As always, we have a fun packed period of December for the children (and you) to enjoy and please do read the letter explaining all of our plans that will be sent home via ParentPay next Tuesday.

Flu immunisation

The Flu immunisation team will be in school on Wednesday 1st December to provide Flu immunisation for the children. Letters containing further information were sent home last week via ParentPay and offering explanation as to how you are able to give consent. Please do sign the electronic consent for your child to help prevent them becoming poorly with flu this winter.



E-Safety news from Miss Thompson

Most social media sites have an age rating of 13+. Internet Matters have a page dedicated to social networks which are designed with children in mind to help them develop the maturity and understanding required for using social networks. You can find the article

here: <https://www.internetmatters.org/resources/social-media-networks-made-for-kids/>

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

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

The FMCA will be holding another enjoyable 'Break the Rules Day' on Friday 3rd December. For more information, please see their poster towards the end of this newsletter.



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.

Jeff Kinney workshop

Last week many of our classes took part in a draw-along with author and illustrator Jeff Kinney! There are many children at Manor Court who love the Diary of a Wimpy Kid series of books. This picture is an example of what was drawn by the children in Year 6.



Rotary club writing competition a message from Mrs Terry and Miss Diffey

Further to the success of one of our current Year 5 pupils winning the local heat award last year, we are encouraging our Year 3, 4, 5 and 6 pupils to take part in a writing competition organised by Chard Rotary Club.

The National Young Writer Competition is a well-established and successful competition promoted by Rotary International in Britain and Ireland (Rotary GB&I). It is a three-stage competition designed to support and encourage development of writing skills.

This competition aims to encourage young people to:

- use their writing skills
- write with imagination and creativity

Who can take part?

The competition is open to all schools and college communities including those that are home educated and any other young peoples' community organisations. The three age groups are:

- Junior 7 to 10 years old
- Intermediate 11 to 13 years old
- Senior 14 to 17 years old

Entrants must not be above the age parameters for each group on 31 August 2021.

Competition Guidelines Task

- To produce a written or typed story in prose entitled, '**Environment**'.
- The written entry could be fiction or non-fiction, prose, or a poem, as long as the piece relates to the theme.
- Up to maximum of **550 words** for prose entries. Up to a maximum of **40 lines for poetry** entries.
- No pictures/drawings to be part of the entry.
- All entries to be legible. Can be written or typed.
- Entries should be sent into school by **Wednesday 8th December**
- All entries will need to have a permission slip signed by an adult - these will be sent home when an entry is handed in.

If you would like further details of this competition, please email your child's year group address, or your child can talk to Miss Diffey or Mrs Terry in 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



Foundation Stage visit to St. Mary's Church

Foundation Stage enjoyed their first school trip last week and had a wonderful morning at St Mary's Church. The children discovered that the church was built in the shape of a cross, it has beautiful stained-glass windows and visitors sing, pray and celebrate at church. All the children were amazed and loved seeing Reverend Ann in person and not on the screen in assembly time.

Facemasks in the vicinity of the school and the reception area

We appreciate that it is no longer compulsory to wear a facemask in public, but we have had a few requests from parents asking if more would wear them at drop off and collection time, please do consider if this is something that you could do. We are requesting that when 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.

Children in Need

We had a fantastic day dressed in our spots, stripes, and squiggles last Friday and participated in lots of fun activities whilst learning about the work of Children in Need. As a school we raised the grand total of £152.70 for this worthwhile cause!



EYC news from Natalie!

We have been looking at festivals and carnivals the last couple of weeks! We have been enjoying learning about each other's, and different countries special occasions. Next week we are going to be fixing vehicles in our role play garage as we look at Transport. Beep Beep!

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.



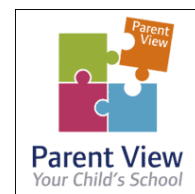
Christmas Angels for St Mary's Church

In the build up to Christmas there will be scenes from the Biblical Christmas Story designed, made and placed in places in the town. We have been asked by Reverend Ann to make angels to display at the front of the school to point the way to the manger that will be placed by the Beacon which will be lit that afternoon. Some of our talented artists have prepared the angels and these will be displayed at the front of the school from Wednesday 1st December. They are truly wonderful so please do take the time to come and view them.

Reverend Ann would like as many of the children (dressed as angels if they wish) and their parents to walk in procession to the beacon from the church, meeting at St Mary's at 16:30 on Saturday 4th December. Please see the poster towards the back of the newsletter for further information.

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



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.



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.

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



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.

Year 5 trip to Bovington Tank Museum

The Year 5 children had a fantastic day last week at the Bovington Tank Museum. The day was extremely informative and the children learnt about the jobs that people had to do during WW11, compared shops and homes from the 1940s to today's modern way of living. They were shocked that children were rationed to 3oz of sweets a week and saw so many different types of tanks. It is such a worthwhile trip as the children learnt through role-play, artefacts and costumes.



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/manorprimarieschool>

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

New Sport for PE – Cheerleading!

Puffins and Eagle class enjoyed trying cheerleading last week within their PE lessons with their qualified Cheerleading coach, Miss Diffey.



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 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 need to travel on a coach to Crewkerne.

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.

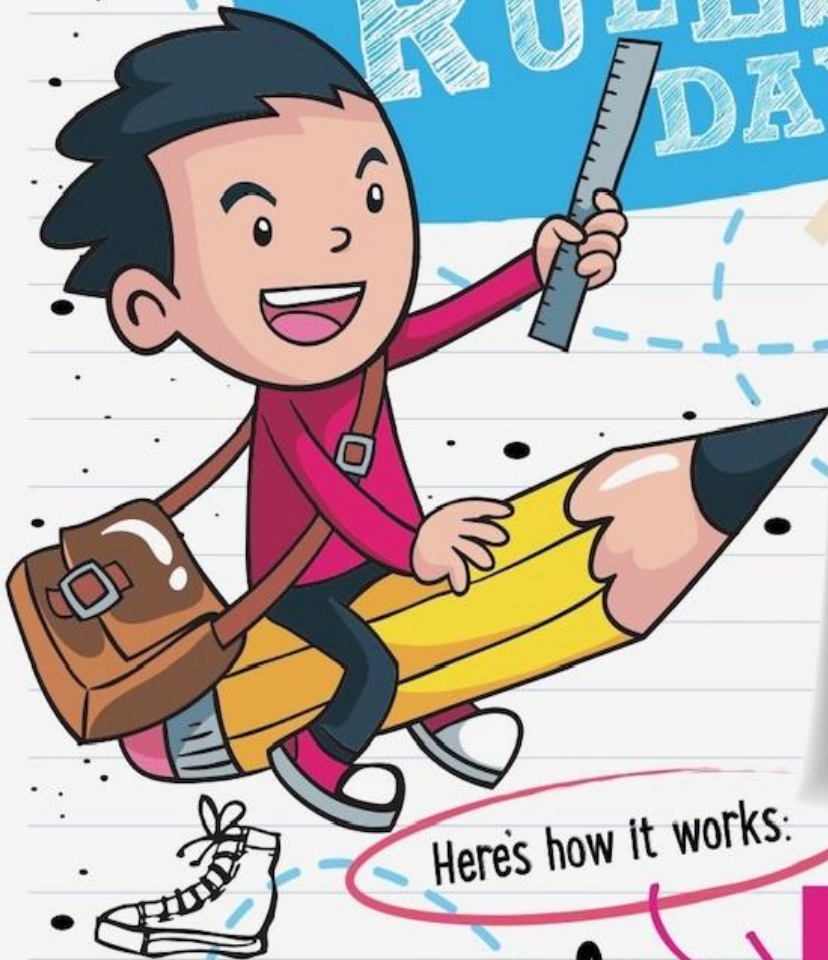
Thank you for your continued support and with all good wishes.

Mr Luke Talmage
Head Teacher

Mr Alan Clode
Deputy Head and Inclusion Leader

Friends of Manor Court School

MAKE the RULES DAY



Rules to be made include:

1. Non School Shoes
2. Wacky, Crazy, Coloured hair or Christmas hat
3. Have a temporary tattoo
4. Wear nail varnish
5. Wear bright socks or tights
6. Wear a crazy or Christmas tie

Here's how it works:

When?

Friday 3rd
December

Parentkind
Member Association

Wear your uniform but pick a new rule from the list above!

Pay 50p for every rule you would like to break, up to a maximum of 4 rules



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



Chard Churches Together invite you to:

Carols at Chard Beacon



Saturday December 4th 4pm.

Meet outside Manor Court School to walk with a host
of Angels to The Beacon.

All children are welcome to dress as Angels. (wrap up warm)

Bring a torch!

**See the lighting of the Silhouettes made by
'Men's Shed'**

Supported by Chard Town Council and Carnival club