

Dear Parents and carers

Autumn Term 4 – Friday 12th November 2021



November 2021	
Monday 15 th November 2021	National Geography awareness week Odd Socks Day Hedgehogs Forest School Session
Thursday 18 th November 2021	Year 5 trip to Bovington Tank Museum
Monday 22 nd November 2021	Squirrels Forest School Session
Tuesday 23 rd November 2021	Individual Pupil Photographs
Friday 26 th November 2021	Noodles Ice Cream vans to school
December 2021	
Wednesday 1 st December 2021	Flu Immunisation
Tuesday 7 th December 2021	Year 4 Stargazing Evening
Wednesday 8 th December 2021	Year 5 Stargazing Evening

Public Health England advice

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 currently have very few confirmed cases of Coronavirus and have had relatively few throughout the pandemic. Please read carefully the letter being sent home today explaining the measures that remain in place at Manor Court.

Staffing changes at Manor Court Community Primary School

After over twenty years commitment and excellent teaching at Manor Court Community Primary School, Mrs Michelle Davies has decided to leave teaching to pursue other commitments outside of the profession, including supporting the management of the local Art Gallery that she has recently purchased. We are sad to see Mrs Davies leave but support her in this decision and wish her the very best of luck in this new adventure. We are delighted to inform you that last week we appointed Mrs Angela Hart to work with Mrs Farwell for the remainder of this academic year. Mrs Hart will start working alongside Mrs Farwell, Mrs Davies and Miss Grabham in the next few weeks to ensure a smooth transition for the Squirrels children.



We also would like to inform you that after sixteen years as a dedicated LSA and HLTA, Mrs Tracey Stoodley has decided to seek employment elsewhere and leaves us on Friday for a new role in a school in Beaminster. We are pleased to inform you that Miss Emily Bilboe has been appointed to work with Miss Moore in Kingfisher class and will start her employment with us on Monday 15th November.

Year 2 visit to The Fleet Air Arm Museum

Year 2 had a wonderful day this Wednesday at the Fleet Air Arm Museum. The children learnt all about how planes have developed over the years. The highlight from the day though, was walking through Concorde for their Manor Court 48 experience.

Flu immunisation

The Flu immunisation team will be in school on Wednesday 1st December to provide the Flu immunisation for all children from Foundation to Year 6. Letters containing further information were sent home this 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 the flu this winter.



National Geography awareness week

Next week, 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 Geographical studies as they learn about the environment and their place in the local community.

Mrs Morton Advent Calendar competition

Mrs Morton is holding her advent calendar competition again this year. The deadline for all entries is Friday 19th November and please see the poster at the back of this newsletter for further information if your child would like to enter the competition.

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

Remembrance Assembly

Yesterday Mr Talmage led us in our whole school Remembrance assembly and two-minute silence for all children and staff. Unfortunately, the weather was too wet to meet on the school field, so we gathered together on the KS1 playground. As in Manor Court tradition the children made a remembrance display to show in the assembly as a visual way to explain the meaning and understanding of the importance of remembering the sacrifice of many and the symbolism of poppies for the children. Children in Mrs Scott's class even read some of the excellent poems that the children had written the day before in their English lessons.



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.

Christmas arrangements

We are busy planning for our Christmas activities and productions and have pencilled in dates for the Nativity, Year 3/4 and Year 5/6 Carol Concerts. The way in which these arrangements happen will all be dependent on PHE Covid restrictions, and we hope to invite parents into the school hall or St Mary's Church but may require to record these and share them with you to watch at home. Please bear with us as we make the necessary safe plans to make this a memorable experience for you and your children.



Children in Need

We are looking forward to raising money for BBC Children in Need next Friday with children throughout the country. The school council have chosen a theme of 'Spots, Stripes and Squiggles' and would like children to join in by wearing their craziest clothes to school!

ParentPay have created a working relationship with Children in need and if you would like to add to the School collection please bring your 50p on the day or donate through this link.

<https://app.parentpay.com/ParentPayShop/Foc/Default.aspx?shopid=5461>

CCTV camera fundraising

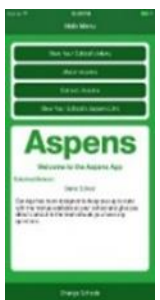
Thank you to the parent who has taken the time and initiative to set up a crowd funding page to purchase CCTV cameras for the front of the school after speaking to Mr Talmage. We love sharing our children's work with you all and will carry on doing so, but it would be great for it to be in place for 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>

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 that will be lit that afternoon.

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.



Hot school meal ordering

Thank you to the parents who have successfully started to place their meals on the new Aspen food ordering App. We hope that this continues to prove to be a success for the children, parents, and school alike. Please remember that is parent's responsibility for ordering food by 09:00 and that we will not be able to provide food for children if this deadline has been missed, simply because we will not have any onsite. If food is not ordered in time, we will need to phone parents to bring a packed lunch into school to ensure that your child has lunch.

Do remember that you can order lunches for the whole half term in advance so this may save food not being ordered for the children and for them missing out on their dinner that day.

Year 6 Activity week

This year we have decided to complete a three-day residential with our Y6 children in a Covid secure location (to ensure that the trip can happen despite any further covid restrictions) at Huish Woods in May. The rest of the week will involve other exciting opportunities for each of the child and the cost has been limited to £106. Further information has been sent home to all Year 6 parents via ParentPay and a non-refundable deposit is required to be paid by January. We will send a reminder of this payment nearer the time and hope as many Year 6 children can attend this residential towards the end of their time with us at Manor Court.

Art Councillors

Last week the new Art Councillors had their first meeting, where they received their badges and discussed future projects. Here they are with the Advent Calendar competition posters for their classrooms.



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 5 – pomegranate tasting

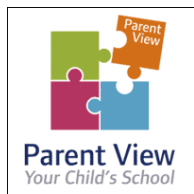
To understand the story better, Y5 have tried pomegranates, as featured in the book 'The Boy at the Back of the Class' by Onjali Rauf. There were differing opinions to the taste, as you can see in this photo!



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.



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

Andy and The Band video

Andy and the Odd Socks have released their new song 'One Kind word' and many of our children have a starring role in the video that raises support for the anti-bullying alliance and anti-bullying week. Do take the time to check out the video which we have shared on our Facebook page and the FMCA Facebook page.

Year 1 Panto Trip to watch Mother Goose

Our Year 1 staff are off to the Octagon Theatre ('Oh no they're not!') to watch Mother Goose on Wednesday 15th December. The letter and booking information were sent home via ParentPay so please do sign your child up for this exciting trip.



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 parents wear their facemask.

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

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

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 have to travel on a coach to Crewkerne.



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.



E-Safety news from Miss Thompson

Many parents and carers worry about their children staying safe when using technology. Research shows that one of the best ways to keep them safe is to talk to children about the technology they use, when they are using it. But knowing how to talk to children about technology can be challenging. This [saferinternet.org.uk](https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/blog/five-tips-talking-about-online-safety-young-children) blog sets out five tips for talking to children of all ages

about their technology use. These are:

- 1) Play games together
- 2) Read together
- 3) Explore the online world together
- 4) Watch shows and films online together
- 5) Laugh together

Read the full details of these tips at:

<https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/blog/five-tips-talking-about-online-safety-young-children>



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 26th November.

EYC news from Natalie!

The children have enjoyed their return to preschool! We had an exciting, colourful week looking at fireworks and Diwali last week. It's been all things animals this week as we explore the book 'Dear Zoo'. The children have loved practising their animal sounds all week – Don't worry the lion roars were just us not real lions!



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 as Manor Court Primary School



Odd socks day

On Monday 15th November, we are asking children and staff to wear their brightest pair of 'odd socks' as we participate in the BBC Odd Socks Day and join many other schools around the country in an anti-bullying week. Please do look at our social media accounts over the next few days as we share with parents lots of useful information.

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.

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



Attendance Matters

Every student. Every day.

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.



YTFC workshops

Year five continued their work with Yeovil Town this Wednesday by taking part in an anti-discrimination workshop. They discussed whether or not gender would affect what kind of person you are, or your career.

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

Mr Luke Talmage
Head Teacher

Mr Alan Clode
Deputy Head and Inclusion Leader



MANOR COURT'S CHRISTMAS ART COMPETITION 2021



Make a Christmas or Winter picture for our Online Advent Calendar!

Your picture needs to be on A4 paper or card, can be landscape or portrait, and done in pen, pencil, paint, collage or whatever you like. You can add glitter, sequins, cotton wool, or anything else you have at home!

Make sure your name and class are on the back of your picture and hand it in to your teacher by Friday 19th November.

This competition was extremely popular last year, with over 100 entries to choose from. Be as creative as possible, and do as much of the work as you can by yourself. Details of how to view the winning pictures will be sent out in the last week of November.

Good luck and get making!



 **CHRISTMAS** 
PRIZE BINGO
IN AID OF MACMILLAN CANCER SUPPORT



IN MEMORY OF MY DAD

Please join us

Saturday 4th December

Doors Open 6.30pm, Eyes Down 7.30pm

In Crowshute Centre, Chard

**To raise money in memory of my
Dad, Guy Warren**

Space limited so booking advisable

**To book, message our event page on facebook 'Christmas
Prize Bingo, in aid of Macmillan, in memory
of my Dad, Guy Warren'
(Cash Only Payments)**



Event to include:

Prize hampers and line prizes very kindly
sponsored by many local businesses
Lots of Tea, Coffee and Homemade Cake
Raffle, with lots of donations from many
local businesses
Knitted/Crocheted gifts for sale
AND LOTS OF FESTIVE SPIRIT!

Without Macmillan,
my dads last 19 days,
after diagnosis, would not
have been as comfortable
as they were, surrounded
by his family who he loved
and thought
the world of, as
we do him.

