

Dear Parents and carers,

Spring Term Newsletter 6 - Friday 3rd April 2020

Writing a newsletter for a school that has become fully virtual is another surreal experience for us during these strange times. You will notice that there are no key dates at the start of this newsletter and unfortunately we are unsure as to when the children will return to school. Please be assured that as soon as we can, the gates to the school will swing open wide and we will happily greet your children on the school gate each morning.

Despite its current state as a remote virtual school, Manor Court continues to be a vibrant, caring and happy community. Our learning support assistants, lunchtime supervisors, premise staff, nursery staff, office staff and teachers care very deeply for your children and have enjoyed seeing the photos of the children happily and safely learning at home. Please do keep posting the photographs of your children to the FMCA Facebook page and be assured that teachers making the phone calls home do pass on your good wishes to each member of staff that work with your child.

Violet 'Lettie' Pidgeon

It is our pleasure to inform you that Mr and Mrs Pidgeon's daughter has been safely delivered. Violet 'Lettie' Jane Pidgeon weighed a healthy 6:15 and is happy and healthy. Mrs Pidgeon is doing really well too!



Safeguarding – Please read

During this time of school closure safeguarding of children is even more important. Even more than usual, 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 through the school email mailbox and leaving an answer message on the school telephone.

It is also vitally important that you phone Somerset Direct and report your concerns. The telephone number for Somerset Direct is **03001232327**.



Home Phone calls

Staff will continue to make calls home throughout the time of school closure. We've heard that parents, children and staff have benefitted from these telephone calls and if it is agreed that this is mutually beneficial, more than one call may be made each week.

Home learning and year group emails

It is our intention that the work we set should be suitable for children to complete independently. We appreciate that not all parents are teachers or will have completed work like that which is being set for a long time and that supporting your children with their work will cause additional stress. This is the last thing that we as a school community want to do during this time! The work set does not have to be completed at once but throughout the day, we will provide a suggested timetable with each pack to help. Again, this is a suggestion and is not something that will be enforced.

We will send work home through the distribution lists on the year group emails after the Easter holidays. Please do ensure that you email each child's year groups email as this will enable the work to be sent directly to you. This is a new system and different from ParentPay so you will need to contact the email address below. The email address will be checked each day, but not continually. Please be mindful of how much and in what way you contact your child's teacher as we are trying to keep our staff safe and manage their workload as well.

We will also upload the work packs to the school website after the Easter Holidays. Here are the email addresses:

Y1@ManorCourt.ppat365.org

Y2@ManorCourt.ppat365.org

Y3@ManorCourt.ppat365.org

Y4@ManorCourt.ppat365.org

Y5@ManorCourt.ppat365.org

Y6@ManorCourt.ppat365.org

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, or Mr Talmage. Alternatively, you can ring Children Social Care on: 0300 123 2224 or email childrens@somerset.gov.uk

#ManorCourtPicasso Manor Court children sharing the artwork that they are proud of.

#ManorCourtSiblings Manor Court children helping younger or older siblings to read, write or dress.

#ManorCourtGroovers Manor Court children being active through dance.

#ManorCourtHelpers Manor Court children helping within the house by completing chores such as hoovering, washing up and tidying their bedrooms!

#ManorCourtSkillmakers Manor Court children learning new skills such as sewing, knitting or tying their shoelaces.

#ManorCourtGeniuses Manor Court children working extremely hard to overcome something that they had previously found difficult!

Elsa Support

Your child may find it difficult to not be at school and may find social distancing hard and this website might be useful in helping them through these feelings: www.elsa-support.co.uk

Help lists

Last week we also created a list of outside agencies that may be useful during this time for parents. We have attached this on the reverse of this newsletter so please do keep it for reference during this time.

With all kind wishes,



Mr L Talmage
Head Teacher



Mr A Clode
Deputy Head/Inclusion leader

Help is out there....



Chard COVID-19D- Support Group <https://chardcovhelp.org.uk>

Run in conjunction with Chard Town Council and local voluntary organisations to help those residents of the Chard area who need to self-isolate during this emergency period as the Corona Virus (SARS-CoV-2) circulates. Our team of volunteers can: Pick up shopping, collect medicines or other vital supplies, help you access health and local information, make friendly phone calls or walk your dog.

Somerset Support Services:

Somerset Direct 03001232327
Somerset Drug and Alcohol Service SDAS 03003038788
Somerset Integrated Domestic Abuse Service SIDAS 08006949999
CAMHs Advice line 03001245012

The Lord's Larder – Food Bank in Chard

Providing emergency food supplies for people in need. We began as a Chard Churches Together service and as the need grew, in 2017 we became a registered charity in our own right. With the support of our dedicated team of volunteers, we prepare emergency food supplies for people in need

<http://lordslarder.chardct.org.uk> Telephone: 07542498366 (9-1pm on Monday - Friday)

JW Gifford Charitable Trust

A Charity set up to support poorer families and individuals of the parish of Chard. In the past the trust has granted funding for various requests such as white goods, carpet, medical equipment and horse-riding therapy. The Parish Office, St. Marys Church Centre, Holyrood Street, Chard, Somerset TA20 2DN

Telephone 01460 66265 Email: mathewlarks@aol.com

PROMISE works supports a team of trained volunteers who provide a Somerset-wide mentoring service for some of the most vulnerable and disadvantaged young people in the county.

www.promiseworks.org.uk Telephone: 0300 3651900

Citizens Advice South Somerset

Forefront Community Centre 42 Fore Street Chard TA20 1QA

www.citizensadvice.southsomerset.org.uk Telephone 03444 889623

Chard watch Project

A community project based on peer support, helping isolated people make friends through activities, and a supported friendly and fun environment at our Thursday pop-up Project & Peer support courses which run throughout Somerset

C/O Forefront Community Centre 42 Fore Street Chard TA20 1QA

<http://watchproject.org.uk/> Telephone: 01460 261264 or 07506238540

Young Minds Somerset has lots of great resources and signposts to apps and helplines for children and parents/carers for anxiety, mindfulness, CBT, eating disorders, self-harm, suicide, single parents etc.

www.youngsomeset.org.uk Telephone: 01278 722100

Swan Advocacy - Changing Lives across the South West

Since 1999, we have developed a high-quality model of advocacy which ensures the most vulnerable members of our communities have the same rights and opportunities as their fellow citizens.

We believe that everyone has the same right to be heard, be in control of making choices, and to be safe from violence and abuse. Our services are free, confidential and non-judgmental.

www.swanadvocacy.org.uk/services-near-you/somerset Telephone: 0333 344 7928

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Forefront Community Centre 42 Fore Street Chard TA20 1QA

<https://www.citizensadvice.southsomerset.org.uk> Telephone: 03444 889623

<p>School Nurse Team southsomersetsn@somerset.gov.uk Telephone 03003230114</p>
<p>Somerset Carer/Parent Forum Support for parents with children with additional needs-no diagnosis needed. https://somersetparentcarerforum.org.uk/ Telephone 01458 259384</p>
<p>SWISH Advice on contraception, pregnancy tests, emergency contraception and STI Telephone 03001245010</p>
<p>Family Lives – build better family lives together https://www.familylives.org.uk/ Telephone 0808 800 2222</p>
<p>Young Minds Helpline Telephone 0808 802 5544 Mental and emotional support</p>
<p><u>League of Friends of Chard Hospital</u> Provides equipment and facilities for the hospital and patients not available on the NHS to relieve patients and former patients of the Chard and District Hospital who are sick, convalescent, disabled, handicapped, infirm or in need of financial assistance. Telephone 01297 678288 (Mrs Nora Arnold)</p>
<p>Taunton Foodbank Telephone 07761 624216 info@taunton.foodbank.org.uk</p>
<p>Somerset Foodbanks https://www.billhelp.uk/free-food-banks-in-somerset/</p>
<p>Somerset Survivors - Domestic Abuse Support (SIDAS) Offer support to anyone experiencing domestic abuse, whether as a victim or a perpetrator. This helpline will also be the point of contact for professionals making referrals and any members of the public who want advice about domestic abuse. Telephone 0800 69 49 999 Email: here.tohelp@knightstone.cjism.net www.somersetsurvivors.org.uk</p>
<p>Citizens Advice The government is outlining plans to help support people who have been affected financially by COVID-19. If you have been affected in this way, you may be able to access help. www.citizensadvice.org.uk/health/coronavirus-what-it-means-for-you</p>
<p>If someone is in an abusive relationship advice specific can be found here: https://mentalhealth.org.uk/coronavirus/abusive-relationships Freephone 24/7 National Domestic Violence Helpline, run by Refuge: 0808 2000 247 The Men's Advice Line, for male domestic abuse survivors – 0808 801 0327 The Mix, free information and support for under 25s in the UK – 0808 808 4994 National LGBT+ Domestic Abuse Helpline – 0800 999 5428</p>
<p>The NSPCC helpline Parents and carers often have lots of questions, like what's the right age to leave a child home alone, what to do about bullying or how to keep their children safe online. Whatever the issue, they're there to keep children safe. help@nspcc.org.uk Telephone 0808 800 5000 (Monday-Friday 8am – 10pm/9am – 6pm weekends)</p>
<p>Childline To give young people a voice when no one else is listening. Whatever problems or dangers they're facing, we're a place for them to turn for support – any time of day or night. Telephone 0800 1111</p>

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