

Dear Parents and carers,



Spring Term Newsletter 5 - Friday 13th March 2020

Key dates (please note that these may change)

March	
Tuesday 17 th	Yr 6 Butlins Residential - 2 nd payment deadline KS2 Cross-country (selected pupils)
Friday 20 th	Yr 4 trip to Somerset Museum Yr 3 Football Competition at Yeovil College (selected pupils) Foundation Mother's Day event.
Monday 23 rd	Yr 3 Trip to Charmouth Heritage Centre
Tuesday 24 th	Yr 3/4 Tag Rugby Competition (selected pupils)
Friday 27 th	Foundation & Yr 6 Heights & Weights Measurements

World Book Day

It was an extremely busy and enjoyable day last Thursday in the corridors and the library as all children took part in book trails around the school, with some choosing to wear fancy dress (they all looked fantastic) and many in comfortable clothing or their pyjamas. This, alongside the class book swaps and 'Rock up and Reads' with parents, is promoting a positive culture of reading within our school. Thank you to the sixty plus parents that came to read with their child.



Mrs Terry and the children arranged with the owners of Chard Bookshop to take all children from KS2 to the shop to redeem their £1 book token. It was wonderful to not see the tokens discarded on the playground floor at the end of the school day and for the pleasure that the children had in choosing their books. Please do try and support this treasure of a local shop when purchasing books for your children.

Coronavirus - for your information

This week I (Mr Talmage) have uploaded a statement onto the school website providing information to parents about the Coronavirus. We will remain open unless advised otherwise by the Department of Education. Please read the statement below for your information and continue to encourage your child to maintain good personal hygiene.

As per recent Government/ NHS guidance we are reminding children to wash their hands on a regular basis.

If your child is unwell, showing signs of a cold/cough then please keep them at home as per the latest Government guidelines.

If staff levels are affected by the virus, we will communicate school arrangements on our website and through our usual bad weather contingency plans.

We continue to monitor the situation and will take our lead from the advice given by the Department for Education.

Contact details

At times it is necessary for members of staff to telephone home to pass on a message or to inform you that your child is unwell. It is becoming increasingly difficult to contact some families as we do not have the most recent telephone number. If you have changed your telephone number recently, please give this to the school office.

Oak Lodge visits

The Year 4 children have started their visits to Oak lodge care home in the past fortnight. The children and residents are truly benefitting from this intergenerational work and the relationships being formed. To protect the vulnerable people within the care home from infection, we have decided to postpone these visits temporarily but will resume them when the risk of the Coronavirus has passed.



Multiplication check workshops

This Wednesday Miss Parsons ran a workshop for Y4 children and their families in which she informed them about the multiplication check at the end of this year and how we as a school support the children and how adults can help the children at home. We are sure that this was of use to those that attended. Please speak to the office or Miss Parsons directly if you would like a copy of the information.

Parents evening

Thank you to the parents who met with their child's teacher last week. We believe and are pleased that communication is regular between teacher and family's in our school, but these meetings are always important

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

to share good news and areas for improvement. We completed our Spring Term parent survey during this time and results were published in a letter sent home earlier this week.

EYC news from Laura



Over the last few weeks we have been busy exploring the world and our community. We have visited Chard library where we have had a music session with Lyn and the focus was 'under the sea'.

We have been busy baking, making crafts, gardening, practising our letter sounds through a range of different activities, and also doing a weekly science experiment!

Next week we are celebrating Mother's Day with an afternoon tea, and we will also be doing some exciting Easter activities over the coming weeks.

FMCA Bingo

The FMCA work tirelessly to raise money for all children who attend our school. Their latest fundraising event is the Easter Bingo on Friday 27th March. Please speak to a member of the committee or contact them through the FMCA Facebook page to book a place!



Tag Rugby at Holyrood

On Tuesday the Y5/6 Tag Rugby players competed in the Tag Rugby festival at Holyrood Academy on Tuesday. The children competed well and came third and especially muddy.

School uniform

Please remember that school uniform is an important part of school life and that there is an expectation that all children wear their school tie daily and that they are not to wear large earrings or unsuitable footwear. This is for their personal safety.

Rocks and Fossils with Mr Wilkins

A huge thank you to Mr Wilkins, Mrs Wilkins husband, for coming into school on Tuesday afternoon to talk to our Year 3 children and letting them handle some interesting rocks and fossils. Coincidentally this coincided with the 173rd anniversary of the death of Mary Anning, a famous English fossil collector and Palaeontologist that the children have been learning about in their work.



Dropping and collecting your child to school

We understand that the school drop off and collection point at the end of the school day is often a busy and sometimes stressful time. However, it is important that we have your cooperation in keeping all children safe during this time. For this reason, please do not mount the pavement at the end of the school nearest the Church or use the Staff carpark at the rear of the classroom.

Sport Relief

All the children put in a fantastic amount of energy to our Sport Relief fundraising efforts today by completing laps of the school. Thanks to your support we have managed to raise over £260!

Foundation Stage visit to Axe Valley Wildlife park

The Foundation Stage children had an exciting first school trip last week. The children were brave and touched or held the spiders and snakes and saw lots of animals too.



Celebration assembly

This half term our KS2 celebration assembly will start at 8:55am and KS1 will be in the later slot of 10:45am.



Yeovil Town Community Trust workshops

Our pupils enjoyed a writing workshop delivered by fabulous local author Tamsin Cook last week at Huish Park. This was a creative writing opportunity in which children were able to improve their writing and enthusiastically share their love of reading. The children received a signed copy of Tamsin Cook's latest book to take home.

This initiative is sponsored by the Premier League Stars, a subsidiary charity of the FA Premier League.

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Good quality preloved books

We are continually looking to restock our classrooms with books. If you have good quality preloved books at home that you no longer require, we would appreciate your donation. Please drop them into the school office.

Online safety news from Miss Thompson

Childnet are releasing a book for 4 and 5 year old children which follows a girl who plays on a game on her mum's tablet. The story helps young children know what they should do if they see something strange or upsetting online as well as practising their phonic sounds. You can find a preview of the story here: <https://www.childnet.com/blog/explore-online-safety-with-under-5s-with-our-new-learning-to-read-book>



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. Designated Safeguarding Lead: Mr Clode and Deputy Designated Safeguard Lead: Miss Gregory and Mr Talmage. The school Safeguarding & Child Protection Governor is Mrs Jo Boyland.

Mr Jackson

It is bittersweet news for us to inform you that Mr Jackson will be leaving his employment at Manor Court and his last day with us is Tuesday 17th March. He has been offered and accepted working with SASP to engage disadvantaged children in education through sport.

We would like to thank Mr Jackson for the excellent work that he has completed at Manor Court and wish him well for his future career.

Pupil Premium

The pupil premium is additional funding that the Government provides for each child that 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 let the school know.

After school clubs

We are delighted to offer such a variety of afterschool clubs to the children. Please do ensure that your child attends the club that they have signed up to each week as many clubs have a long waiting list. If your child does not attend for three of the possible weeks available, they will be removed from the register and the place will be given to another child. Thank you for your understanding in this.

The new list of clubs for the Summer term will be sent out via ParentPay within the next few days so please keep an eye on your emails and ParentPay to be able to enrol your child to their chosen club.



VE Day Bank Holiday

The Government has changed the date of the Bank Holiday in May, to enable us all to commemorate the 75th anniversary of VE Day. Friday 8th May is now the Bank Holiday and school is open on Monday 4th May. All children are expected to be in attendance on Monday 4th May 2020. As a staff we have started to make plans as how to commemorate this date in a memorable and enjoyable way with our children. We will provide more information nearer the time.

Term Dates 2020-2021

The term dates for the 2020-2021 academic year have been published can be found on the school website.

Weather warning

It is coming to the time of year when more extreme weather may be experienced. We will always endeavour to keep the school open and will only shut if it is becoming dangerous for the children, if we are unable to provide a warm learning environment or if food is unable to be delivered to the school from the caterers.

Up-to-date information about school closure will be found in the following places.

1. The scrolling bar on the front page of our school website: www.manorcourt.somerset.sch.uk
2. The school twitter page: @ManorCourtChard
3. Somerset Learning Platform <https://slp.somerset.gov.uk>
4. Information will be broadcast on the following radio stations

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- BBC Somerset. 95.5 FM, 1566MHZ
- Heart FM. 102.6 FM, 96.5 FM (Taunton Area)

Healthy snacks

As part of the science, PE, and PSHE lessons, we teach the children the importance of a balanced diet. We are becoming aware that some of the snacks, which some children are eating during morning break, are not the healthiest. Please ensure that your child does not have nuts, chocolate, sweets or fizzy drinks in their bag to eat. We appreciate your support in this matter.

KS2 SATs

Year 6 children are working especially hard at the moment in preparation for their end of Key Stage assessments, in Reading, Mathematics and SPAG (Spelling, punctuation and grammar). These assessments are between Monday 11^h May and Friday 15th May.

Thank you for your continued support,



Mr L Talmage
Head Teacher



Mr A Clode
Deputy Head Teacher/Inclusion Leader