

Dear Parents and carers,

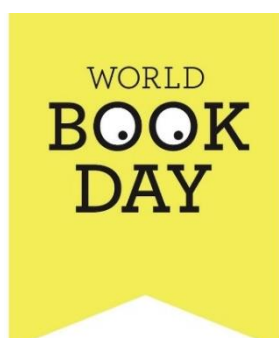


Spring Term Newsletter 4 - Friday 28th February 2020

Key dates (please note that these may change)



March	
Monday 2 nd	Foundation trip to Axe Valley Parents Evening Yr 2/3 Swimming Yr 4 Visit to Oak Lodge Nursing Home
Tuesday 3 rd	Yr 5/6 Netball at Holyrood (selected pupils)
Wednesday 4 th	Yr 6 & Foundation Heights & Weights Parents Evening
Thursday 5 th	World Book Day
Monday 9 th	Yr 2/3 Swimming Yr 4 Oak Lodge
Tuesday 10 th	Yr 5/6 Tag Rugby at Holyrood (selected pupils)
Wednesday 11 th	Yr 4 Times Tables Workshop



World Book Day reminder from Mrs Terry – Thursday 5th March 2020

Just a reminder that next Thursday, 5th March is World Book Day. We are not having an author or book type theme this year but are instead focussing on our daily pledge to encourage reading for pleasure. We are therefore inviting the children to come to school dressed in their pyjamas. Alternatively, the children may choose to wear 'relaxed' clothes such as leggings or jogging bottoms and a comfortable jumper. If they would still like to dress as their favourite book character, we would encourage that too, but there is no need to buy something new. Alternatively, pupils could bring in a prop or something they have made that relates to their favourite book or character, which they can share with the class.

We encourage all pupils to bring in their favourite book from home (please make sure it is clearly named). During the day there will be a class swap and trails around the school.

We are also having a Rock up and Read session next week for each year group at the following times:-

Early Years Centre - Tuesday 3rd March at 9:00am

Foundation Stage – Squirrels and Hedgehogs on Thursday 5th March at 8:45-9:15am

Year 1 – Bumblebees and Dragonflies on Friday 6th March at 8:45-9:5am

Year 2 – Magpies and Nightingales on Tuesday 3rd March at 2:45-3:15pm

Year 3 – Kingfishers and Owls on Wednesday 4th March at 8:45-9:15am

Year 4 – Eagles and Puffins on Friday 6th March at 2:45-3:15pm

Year 5 – Badgers and Foxes on Thursday 5th March at 2:45-3:15 pm

Year 6 – Herons and Otters on Thursday 5th March at 8:45-9:15am

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.

Boccia County Champions

We are delighted to announce that our Year 4 Boccia (Boccia is a precision ball sport, similar to bowls and the French version pétanque) team are the county champions, winning the competition that they attended on Wednesday. It was not a surprise to us, but the boys were complemented for their behaviour and sportsmanship was exemplary.



Good Hygiene Practise

In light of the Coronavirus outbreak, we have introduced even more antibacterial gel to all classrooms and the reception area to help minimise the risk of general infections. This gel is not a substitute for good handwashing routines and we continue to encourage children to regularly wash their hands thoroughly. We would appreciate your support in encouraging children to also do this at home and to remind them to do this 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, or Mr Talmage. Alternatively, you can ring Children Social Care on: 0300 123 2224 or email childrens@somerset.gov.uk

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.

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 into the school office.

Tree Planting

Yesterday children from KS2 planted sixty trees of varied varieties, Oak, Yew, Cherry and Pine with Chard's mayor, Jason Baker, Mrs Hunt and Mrs Stoker. The children showed great enthusiasm in their work at Snowdon Park.



Careers week – News from Mr Pidgeon

Between Monday 15th June and Friday 20th June, Manor Court will be hosting its annual careers week. This is an opportunity for all children to learn about the many jobs that they could aspire to do once they have finished their education. I am looking for members of the community who would like to come into school to speak to the children about their job and how they chose this as a career. Please do contact me if you would be able to volunteer.



Online safety news from Miss Thompson

Before half term, we celebrated Safer Internet Day along with schools and organisations around the world. The theme in the UK this year was how young people explore and express their identity online. The UK Safer Internet Centre, who promote the day, have created a series of short films called 'How can parents talk to children about their online lives?' You can find them here: <https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/safer-internet-day/safer-internet-day-2020/i-am-parent-or-carer/film-how-can-parents-talk-children>

Times Tables workshop

Times tables are an extremely important aspect of mathematics which we apply to scenarios in everyday life. In June 2020, the government will introduce a multiplication check which focuses on pupils recall of their times tables for all children in Y4.

We are inviting all parents of children in Y4, to a workshop in the school hall at 2:15pm on Wednesday 11th March. This will be an opportunity for you to work with your child.

Science Week

All the children have participated in the national school's science week this week. The national focus has been 'our diverse world' and the children have enjoyed learning about the environment's diversity through a variety of lessons with their adults, including Art with Mrs Morton.



Mr Jackson

It is bittersweet news for us to inform you that Mr Jackson will be leaving his employment at Manor Court in the middle of 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. Please be assured that plans to ensure that the excellent work that he has started continues are in hand.

Term Dates 2020-2021

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



Manor Court 48

In the final week before half term lots of trips and Manor Court 48 activities were happening. The Y3 children visited the Donkey Sanctuary in Sidmouth to get lost in the maze, Year 2 children learnt to tie their shoelaces and the Year 5 children visited the cinema. It was especially exciting for twelve of the sixty Year 5's who had never watched a film in a cinema.

Year 2 trip to the Fire Station

Just before half term the Y2 children had a great time at Chard Fire Station, the children especially enjoyed using the hoses and climbing into the fire engines. They compared the Great Fire of London to how a fire is dealt with today and learnt a lot from the Fire officers.



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.

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.

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 car park at the rear of the school.

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.



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.

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

Smoking

Please do not smoke/vape outside of the school gates either at the front or the rear of the school. If you do need to smoke/vape, please do so away from these areas. Anyone who is found to be smoking/vaping after this reminder, will be asked to move. Thank you for your co-operation.

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 11th May and Friday 15th May.

Rock up and Read videos

Reading is one of the central features of our school offer. We aspire for all the children who attend Manor Court to find a love of reading. One of our initiatives is called Rock up and Read and is in three parts

Part one: to invite parents to come into school and read with their child at the end of the school day.

Part two: for the school to gather volunteers to hear children read with regularity throughout the week.

Part three: for adults employed in the school to record a video of them reading their favourite childhood story. These videos could be used at home by parents as the bedtime story.

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.

Thank you for your continued support,



Mr L Talmage
Head Teacher



Mr A Clode
Deputy Head Teacher/Inclusion leader