

Dear Parents and carers,

## Spring Term Newsletter 3 - Friday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2020



**Key dates** (please note that these may change)

February	
Monday 10 <sup>th</sup>	Yr 3 Trip to Sidmouth Donkey Sanctuary
Tuesday 11 <sup>th</sup>	Yr 4 Wildwood Escot residential 1 <sup>st</sup> payment due
Wednesday 12 <sup>th</sup>	Author Laura James visiting Key Stage 1 children
Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup>	Yr 5 trip to the cinema FMCA Valentines disco
Friday 14 <sup>th</sup>	Yr 4 Farm trip Yr 2 Visiting Chard Fire Station Last day of half term
Monday 17 <sup>th</sup>	Half Term week Yr 6 Butlins residential 1 <sup>st</sup> payment due
Monday 24 <sup>th</sup>	Return to school Yr 2/3 Swimming sessions commence



### Online safety award

Miss Thompson, staff and children have been busily imbedding a culture of online safety over the past two years and we have been awarded the national 360 degree safe award accreditation. This is not an easy achievement and we must thank Miss Thompson who tirelessly led this project to a successful outcome.

### Dropping and collecting your child to and from 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 co-operation 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.

### 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.

### Y3 & 4 Netball tournament

The Year 3 & 4 Netball team came fourth in a Netball tournament this week at Holyrood. Mr Clode who was their coach for this tournament has described their efforts as showing "Great team spirit and enthusiasm. They improved throughout the tournament!"



### 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.

### International children's mental health week

As part of international children's mental health week, the children have spent more time than usual reflecting on their wellbeing and mental health. The theme this year is to be Brave and Miss Grabham and Mr Pidgeon started the week reflecting on this topic during assembly. The children have each day had extended SOLE time and today the children have completed workshops led by the wellbeing council.

### Parents evening advanced warning

Our next parents' evenings are on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> and Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2020. Please inform your child's teacher nearer the time if you require a translator.

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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](mailto:childrens@somerset.gov.uk)

### Early Years News from Laura



We have been very busy at the EYC. We have welcomed lots of new children and their families.

We have been focusing on letter and sound activities. We have been on walks within the community using our listening ears and looking eyes, and we have also made lots of 'silly soup'. The children have also been busy making crafts, bird feed and enjoying the mud kitchen, music sessions with Declan, and making pizzas! We are focusing on 'All around the world' as our topic and over the coming weeks are going to be looking at transport in particular.

### Foundation Stage Superhero day



On Monday the Foundation Stage children had their annual Superhero day. The children spent the day dressed in their costumes and travelling around the school completing missions. They had an excellent day as did the children and adults in the rest of the school!

### Donation of Windows 10 computer

We were very grateful to receive a donation of a Windows 10 PC and monitor this week from Will Smith the managing director of SMS PC & iPhone repairs. The shop can be found on the High street in Chard and the contact telephone number is 01460 65745.

### Somerset FA dragon

The children were subject to a great treat last week. We were challenged to name the new dragon mascot of the Somerset FA and the winning choice of the children was Blaze! We were given lots of goodies that we are very grateful for and will make a big difference to the children.

Mr Talmage cannot confirm or deny the rumour that Mr Clode is Blaze!



### Y4 Wildwood trip first payment reminder

The first payment of £14.50 is due this coming Tuesday (11<sup>th</sup> February) for the Y4 residential to Wildwood. Please make payment through your ParentPay account. The outstanding balance can be paid in instalments by Monday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2020.



### FMCA disco

Next Thursday is the FMCA (Friends of school) valentine discos. As usual they will be holding two discos; KS1 between 5:00pm & 6:00pm and KS2 between 6:30pm & 7:30pm. It will cost £2 for each ticket for KS1 with a snack and drink included in this price. KS2 tickets are £1.50 with drinks, a tuck shop and hot dogs available. Tickets went on sale yesterday and can be purchased after school today.

### Cake Sales to support Manor Court 48 activities

Thank you for your support in the recent cake sales. This has helped to subsidise the cost of the Y3 trip to the Donkey Sanctuary in Sidmouth this coming Monday, in which the children can escape the maze! Money raised will also help to subsidise the Y5 cinema trip next Thursday.



### Year 3 and 5 children participation with the YTFC Premier league Stars project

The Year 3 children had another active afternoon this week as they were put through their paces with the Premier League Primary Stars programme. A range of equipment was used to build teamwork.

As a school we are extremely pleased to continue our partnership with Yeovil Town Football Club. The excellent community officers and coaches from YTFC are highly skilled at delivering a love of reading and learning through sport.

### Foundation Stage visit to St Mary's Church

Last week the Foundation Stage visited St Mary's Church as part of their learning about special places topic.



## Cold weather

The cold and unpredictable weather that we are experiencing seems to be staying for a while. Please ensure that your child is dressed appropriately for cold and wet weather and that they have a coat to wear and possibly a scarf and gloves.



## VE Day Bank Holiday

The Government has changed the date of the Bank Holiday in May, to enable us all to commemorate the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of VE Day. Friday 8<sup>th</sup> May is now the Bank Holiday and school is open on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> May. All children are expected to be in attendance on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2020.

## Weather warning

It is coming to the time of year when more extreme weather may be experienced. We will endeavour at all times 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](http://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)

## 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<sup>th</sup> May and Friday 15<sup>th</sup> May.

## Rock up and Read videos

Reading is one of the central features of our school offer. We aspire for all of 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.

This week's video was Miss Thompson and you can find all of these videos at [www.manorcourt.somerset.sch.uk/rock-up-and-read-with-your-school-adults](http://www.manorcourt.somerset.sch.uk/rock-up-and-read-with-your-school-adults).

## 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'L Talmage'.

Mr L Talmage  
Head Teacher

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'A Clode'.

Mr A Clode  
Deputy Head Teacher/Inclusion leader

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