

Dear Parents and carers,

## Autumn Term Newsletter 8 - Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> December 2019



As this is the final newsletter of 2019, we would like to take the opportunity to wish you all a very happy and safe Christmas and a prosperous 2020. We look forward to seeing you all on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2020 after our much needed holiday.

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



December	
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup>	Last day of term
January	
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup>	Inset day
Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup>	Return to school
Friday 10 <sup>th</sup>	Yr 6 EscapeLine workshop – details to follow
Monday 13 <sup>th</sup>	Yr 4/5 swim sessions recommence After school clubs start
Friday 14 <sup>th</sup>	Pantomime performance to all children

### Christmas performances

It has been wonderful seeing so many of you at the Christmas events in the build up to the Christmas period. The variety and quality of events that the teachers have arranged for the children to participate in has increased this year.

The traditional Nativity plays and KS2 Carol concerts held at St Mary's Church are treasured year on year and it has been beautiful seeing children sing in Portuguese and French this year, building on their Modern Foreign Language lessons. Russell in Year 4 deserves a special mention for sharing his talent on the Cornet with us all.



The Y1 and Y2 play 'The Bethlehem Star', allowed many children to showcase their hidden talents and growing confidence to their parents.

### Mrs Prevett and Miss Prater

Miss Prater will finish her maternity cover for Mrs Prevett tomorrow and Mrs Prevett will return to teach Dragonflies full time from January 7<sup>th</sup>. It has been a pleasure having Miss Prater with us at Manor Court and observing her sharing her passion for learning and music with our children. Miss Prater will return to Manor Court in a different capacity in February.

### EYC News

We have been very busy at the EYC getting into the festive spirit! The children have been busy decorating wrapping paper, making reindeer food, Christmas cards, snowmen, baubles and biscuit houses. The children are excited to take their Christmas box home to share with their family.

We visited Chard library for a fun Christmas session, and we learnt some new songs. We also took part in Rock up and read in which the children really enjoyed sharing their favourite stories with their Mum's and Dad's.

This week we held our Christmas party. We sang songs around a campfire, we had learnt these from our weekly music session with Declan. Also, we had a surprise visit from Santa! We look forward to welcoming new children and their families into Manor Court after Christmas!



### Times Tables Rockstars

We have recently launched Times Table Rockstars with children from Year 1 to Year 6. All children have had an opportunity to log on and play already at school. Until January 16<sup>th</sup> all children are able to compete in the battle of the bands. They will be battling as a class to beat the other class in their year group. All they have to do is play games and their score will be added to their class total. There is no limit on how many times they can play. They can access Times Table Rockstars through the website on a laptop, tablet or ipad or through the app. The idea of the Battle of the Bands is to encourage pupils to practise their recall of their times tables in a fun competitive way. There will be an update after the Christmas holidays to let pupils know midway who is winning. Let's see who the winning class is in each group.

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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)

## 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)

## EYFS Physical Activity Audit

We are very pleased to announce that we have achieved the EYFS Physical activity audit for our commitment to the power of physical activity in our Foundation Stage and Early Years



## Ofsted Inspection

As you know we were inspected earlier in December and have been due an inspection since last July. We appreciate that you will want to know the outcome of this visit, however due to the confidential nature of the inspection process we are unable to tell you the result at the moment. The full report will not be published until after Christmas. We are very pleased with the outcome and it is as we had expected.

## Year 1 trip to the Pantomime as Part of the Manor Court 48

As part of their Manor Court 48 experiences, the children in Dragonflies and Bumblebees enjoyed the performance of Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs at the Octagon Theatre. The children had fantastic seats in the front rows and clearly made their 'boos and hisses' heard!

## After School clubs

All afterschool clubs will start in the week beginning Monday 13<sup>th</sup> January and finish on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March. Places can be booked through Parent Pay from Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December and are allocated on a first come first served basis. Please collect your child at 4:20pm from the classroom in which it is being held.

## Christmas Jumper Day

It was fabulous seeing so many children wearing their snazzy or traditional Christmas jumpers last Friday on Christmas jumper day! From the donations received we were able to send £185 to the Save the Children charity



## 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.

We have initially made seven videos (a new one will be uploaded each week) and you can find our 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).

## Somerset County Cricket Club

Last Friday the Year 5 children and Mr Glentworth (a lifelong Somerset County Cricket Fan) were very proud to pick up the award for being the SCCC school of the month for November. The children were presented with the award by Somerset cricketer Jack Brooks and enjoyed the afternoon touring the stadium and playing cricket in the Centre of Excellence. They even bumped into Somerset legend Marcus Trescothick!



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## 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.

## School admissions

We currently have places for children in all year groups, apart from Y5 and Y6, in which we are oversubscribed. Please do tell your friends and family members!

The way in which parents of children due to start school in 2020 has changed. To save money, Somerset County Council no longer post letters home to parents to explain the application process. For further information about the process, please follow this link or come and speak to us in the school office and we would be delighted to help you.

<http://www.somerset.gov.uk/education-learning-and-schools/choosing-a-school/apply-to-start-school/>

## E-Safety news from Miss Thompson

Based on the surveys we've carried out in school, YouTube is easily the most popular site for children to spend time on but not everything out there is suitable for all ages. Fortunately, YouTube have just released an app and website aimed at children under the age of 13 which is perfect for the children who love watching videos.



App: <https://youtube.com/kids/>

Web: <https://www.youtubekids.com/>

Thank you for your continued support,

Mr L Talmage  
Head Teacher

Mr A Clode  
Deputy Head Teacher/Inclusion leader