

Dear Parents and carers,

## Autumn Term Newsletter 6 - Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2019



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

November	
Tuesday 26 <sup>th</sup> – Friday 29 <sup>th</sup>	Scholastic book fair
Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup>	Yr 4 Boccia competition at Westfield (selected children only) FMCA non-uniform day – Year 2 only
Friday 29 <sup>th</sup>	Yr 2 Fleet Air Arm Museum trip FMCA non-uniform day
December	
Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup>	Choir performance at Crowshute House
Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup>	Choir performance at Snowdon Grange Yr 5 Christmas performance (1.45pm)
Friday 6 <sup>th</sup>	Yr 5 Bovington Tank Museum trip Choir performance at Chard Museum FMCA Christmas Bingo
Monday 9 <sup>th</sup>	Yr 5 Christmas performance (6pm)
Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup>	Yr 1 Pantomime trip Choir performance at the Guildhall
Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup>	Foundation Nativity (2.30pm)
Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup>	Foundation Nativity (2.30pm)
Friday 13 <sup>th</sup>	Christmas jumper day (further details to follow)
Saturday 14 <sup>th</sup>	FMCA Christmas film afternoon



### Somerset Activity and Sports awards 2019

We are very pleased to announce that we were runners up at the SASP (Somerset activity and sports award). A huge well done to Mr Jackson who received recognition for the impact at the eventual winners, Hamp, as well as the brilliant work that he's done at Manor Court! Mr Talmage was also recognised for appointing Mr Jackson in both schools and successfully placing sport at the centre of the curriculum in both schools.

### 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 themselves 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 our first video starring Mrs Terry was uploaded to our school website last week 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).

### Scholastic travelling book fair

The scholastic travelling book fair is in school for four days from Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> November. This is the half price fair, in which all books are half price just in time for Christmas and some books start from as little as £1.49! The children in all classes have written book reviews of their favourite book for a competition run by the Y4 librarians. One winner in each class will receive a £5 voucher to spend at the book fair.



### Children in Need

On Friday 15<sup>th</sup> November we raised money for the Children in Need charity by wearing 'Crazy Carnival colours' and were delighted to have raised a fantastic £348! Thank you for your support.

### **Unwanted school uniform**

We would appreciate donations of any unwanted and reusable school uniform; jumpers, cardigans, polo-shirts, school shirts, trousers, skirts and shoes. These would be stored as a bank of items for children who may have got wet on the way to school or to give to families who may be struggling financially. Please hand any donations to the school office or to your child's class teacher.

### **Forest School morning**

Our Foundation Stage children enjoyed spending Tuesday morning with their family members completing Forest school activities. The children made wands, dens and fairy pictures with the abundance of leaves on the school field.



### **Children's Hospice South West**

Our school council charity of the year is the Children's Hospice South West (CHSW). On Monday, the school council held a second hand book sale, as the first of many charitable events this year and raised £41.11. We were fortunate to have an assembly led by Emma Parker from CHSW yesterday, in which the children learnt more about the work of the hospice.



### **Optometrist visit**

As part of the Y6 children's work in Science, the children were visited by Simon (an optometrist) on Monday, who shared his knowledge of the eye and showed them the power of optical illusions.

### **Fencing around the pond**

Between Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> November and Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> November, Somerset Landscapes will be on site to remove the old fence from around the pond and replace with a new mesh fence. This area will be securely fenced off with barriers whilst the work is carried out. Please do ensure that your child stays away from this area before and after school. Thank you for your support.

### **Coding workshops**

Andrew, who runs the Code club each month at Chard library, came in to do a workshop on coding with each year 4 child last Friday. The children created basic programs on Scratch and added sounds to them. The children can't wait to practise their new skills.

We are pleased that Andrew has agreed to lead a workshop with the Year 3 children on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> November.



### **Shoebox appeal**

On Monday, the Christmas shoebox appeal charity, Blythswood, collected all the wonderful shoebox presents donated for less fortunate people to give them a gift at Christmas time. We were thrilled by your response to this appeal and were very pleased to be able to hand over 35 gifts. Thank you for your generosity.

### **Message from the Chair of Governors**

What do governors do? I've had a couple of conversations with parents and carers in the past few months, which have made me realise that the role of governors is not always well understood. I thought I would take this chance to explain a little about my role and that of the rest of the governing body.

As chair of governors, I have been appointed by our multi academy trust, The Preston Primary Academy Trust (PPAT). My job is to work with the staff in the school, the governors and community to help Manor Court and in reality, we all work together. Members of the Local governing body sit with the CEO of PPAT to review the Head's performance; we ensure complaints are handled properly, we oversee the progress of the school, and like the staff, we will meet with OFSTED when they come to assess the school. Some of these governors are parents with children in the school; others have professional experience that is useful to the school and volunteer their time. Do check out the website, and you will see who the members of the local governing body are.

## FMCA news

We had a fantastic response to our Christmas card fundraiser and hope you are all happy with them. Our next fundraiser is a non-uniform day on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> November (28<sup>th</sup> November for Year 2 children because of their school trip). This is for a donation of 50p per child which will raise funds for the school.

Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December is our Christmas bingo evening which is now sold out! If you would like your name added to the waiting list for a space, please let us know.

We are excited to be holding The Polar Express movie afternoon on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> December. Tickets for this event will be sold on the playground on 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> December after school. Places are limited to 100 children. A letter with full details will be sent home soon. Finally, we thank you for your continued support.

## 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: Mr Talmage. The school Safeguarding & Child Protection Governor is Mrs Jo Boyland.

## Autumn Term Parent Survey results

During Parents evening this term we completed the annual Parents survey of the parents who attend our school using the same questions as the Ofsted Parent view survey. We have received 197 responses which is 57% of the parent community. We are pleased with the results and will continue to work hard to provide a good education for your children.

	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	My child has not been bullied	I have not raised any concerns
My child is happy at school.	74%	25%	1%			
My child feels safe at this school.	79%	20%	1%			
The school makes sure its pupils are well behaved.	69%	30%	1%			
My child has been bullied at the school dealt with the bullying quickly and effectively.	14%	19%	6%	1%	60%	
When I have raised concerns with the school they have been dealt with properly.	66%	12%	4%	1%		17%
The school has high expectations for my child.	71%	29%				
My child does well at this school.	82%	17%	1%			
The school lets me know how my child is doing.	72%	26%	1%	1%		
There is a good range of subjects available to my child at this school	77%	23%				
The school supports my child’s wider personal development.	70%	29%	1%			
I would recommend this school to another parent.	70%	29%	1%			





# Tuning in to Kids Parenting Group

A **free** 5 week course for parents and carers of children aged 4-11.

Would you like to learn how to:

- be better at talking with your child?
- be better at understanding your child?
- help your child learn to manage their emotions?
- help to prevent behaviour problems in your child?
- teach your child to deal with conflict?

**Dates: Wednesday January 15th, 22<sup>nd</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup>,  
February 5<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>.**

**Time: 9.30a.m. - 12.noon**

**Venue: The Purple Pod, Greenfylde School,  
Ilminster.**

For more information on this course and to book your place, please contact Parent & Family Support Advisers, Lesley Cable 07825054695 Or Emma Connolly 07825357613

**We will give you tea/coffee support and a toolbox of strategies for helping you in your valuable and demanding role as a parent**



# **Triple P Parenting Group**

**This 'Positive Parenting Programme' is one of the only evidence-based parenting programmes available, with over 25 years of proven clinical research to back it up.**

**A free 6 week course for parents & carers**

**Dates: Tuesday January 14<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup>  
February 4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup>**

**(Please note that there is a break for half-term on February 18th)**

**Time: 9.30a.m. – 12.noon**

**Venue: Clare House, Chard**

**For more information on this course and to book your place, please contact Parent & Family Support Advisers,  
Lesley Cable on 07825 054 695  
or Jane Czerniak on 07818 580 632**



THE  
POLAR EXPRESS  
*Movie Day*

*Saturday 14th December*

*2pm-5pm, in the hall.*

*£3.50 per ticket*

*includes a drink & sweets.*

*Plus a surprise guest!!*