

Key dates (please note that these may change.)**April 2021**

Thursday 1 st April 2021	Last day of the Spring Term
Monday 5 th April 2021	Track & Trace stops – no need to report positive Coronavirus cases to the school. Please follow all NHS advice
Monday 19 th April 2021	All children return to school After School enrichment clubs begin

**Roman Day**

The Year 4 children had a fabulous day learning about the Romans on Monday. They began the day by making Roman honey cakes, in the afternoon they enjoyed a Roman feast including different types of bread, the honey cakes they made in the morning and a favourite Roman delicacy ... 'stuffed dormice'! The day ended with the children marching as a legion and trying out different formations including the turtle and the orb!

Staffing news

After fourteen years working at Manor Court, Mrs Becky Larcombe has resigned from her position at Manor Court Primary School to work as a PSFA at Wadham school. This position is Becky's dream job and we wish her much happiness in her new role.

At the end of the academic year, we say farewell to two valued members of staff and in the past week have worked hard to replace them with skilled replacements. Miss Laura Hamilton has been the EYC manager for the past four years and has led the centre through an exciting period of transformation and it is now so popular that it is full for most sessions with a waiting list. Laura will start her PGCE and will train within the year to become a Primary School Teacher. We have replaced Laura with Mrs Natalie Randall and we look forward to welcoming her into our school community. We also say goodbye to Mr Neil Pidgeon who has been promoted to the position of Maths Leader and Upper Phase Leader at Kingfisher Primary School in Yeovil. Neil is an excellent teacher and has made a massive difference to many children during his time at Manor Court. We are sad to see him leave but are delighted that he remains within our expanding family of schools. We received twenty-six applications for the recently advertised teaching position and have replaced Neil with Miss Lily Kitto who will start to visit the school during the Summer Term in readiness for a September start.

**Easter Competition**

Thank you to everyone who took part in our Easter competition. We had almost 100 entries across KS1 and KS2. All the decorated eggs and bonnets were amazing, well done!

The winners for KS1 were: Reece Bagg, Stevie Doel, Alexander Kilde and Stanley Ward.

The winners for KS2 were: Anabelle Bagg, Grace Earnshaw, Mackenzie Field and Charlotte Kilde. We hope they enjoy their prizes!

**Track & Trace**

The Government has asked for all primary schools to support track & trace for the first five days of the Easter Holidays. If your child has a confirmed case of Coronavirus in the time up to and including Monday 5th April (Easter Monday) please contact the school through our coronavirus email address: covidcase@manorcourt.ppat365.org

EYC News from Laura

Over the last couple of weeks, we have been watching our tadpoles grow and have planted sunflowers! We have thoroughly enjoyed outdoor learning, following the children's interests of constructing, animals, babies and mark making in different ways!

This week has been eggciting! We have been busy with Easter activities! We have made hot cross buns in the mud kitchen, had an Easter hunt, and decorated rabbits and eggs!

Please do follow us on social media and get in touch if you would like your child to join us. We hope you all have a lovely Easter break!

**Red Nose Day**

We raised the great sum of £308.95 for Comic Relief! Thank you for your generosity in helping the children raise this money for such a worthwhile cause.

Enrichment clubs

We are delighted that we can restart our Enrichment after school clubs after the Easter Holidays. These will be in the year group bubbles and will start on Monday 19th April.

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, Miss Gregory or Mr Talmage. Alternatively, you can ring. Children Social Care on: 0300 123 2224 or email childrens@somerset.gov.uk

Manor Court has joined with St Mary's Church to create our display of birds across both sites inspired by the poem 'Hope is the thing with feathers' by Emily Dickinson. This display is part of the Chard Community Trail of Hope over the Easter weekend. If you are looking for an outdoor activity then please click on this link to find the map, where you will see all the locations who have joined in the project. <https://forefront.org.uk/diary/hope-community-art-project/>



The Term Dates for the 2021-2022 academic term have changed slightly this week as the Government announced that there will be an additional Bank Holiday in 2022 to celebrate the Queen's Platinum jubilee. Please see the school website or the final page of this newsletter for the updated term dates that have been set for the next school year.



The Year 1 children enjoyed using drills, hammers and a saw (all safely supervised) yesterday to make a bug hotel as part of their project to improve their environment. The finished hotel was fantastic and is now open for its new residents in the pond area.

In order to keep your child safe, please make sure that if you have changed your telephone number, email address or home address you remember to let the school office know.

As a parent, there is a huge amount to think about when keeping your child safe online, especially when things change so quickly. If you are interested in more detailed online safety guidance and advice, Alan Mackenzie, who is an e-safety adviser, writes a free newsletter each half term. It's detailed, informative and full of the latest guidance. You can find the most recent issue here: <https://www.esafety-adviser.com/latest-newsletter/> You can also subscribe so you get them sent straight to you when they are released.



This week the Year 6's completed their history studies about the Mayan's by spending a whole day delving into this history topic. The children enjoyed learning more about Mayan culture, buildings, food and studying historical sources of the time.

If your friends have been impressed by what we have been doing for your children during remote learning, we have space for more children in all year groups apart from Y5 and Y6. We would love to welcome more children into our caring, inclusive and academically high achieving community.

After a day of hustings and secret ballots, our school council was elected last week. The new councillors are looking forward to helping the Senior Leadership Team and local governors to make some key decisions over the next academic year.



It has been a shame that we have not been able to go to St Mary's this year for our traditional Harvest, Christmas or Easter celebrations. However, yesterday afternoon Reverend Ann led us in a fantastic Easter assembly focusing on the Easter Story and how forgiveness benefits us all.

The pupil premium is additional funding that the Government provides for each child who 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 apply through this hyperlink https://secure1.somerset.gov.uk/forms/PortalShowForm.asp?fm_formalias=freeschoolmeal

Self-Isolation

We are working extremely hard to keep all of the children in our school safe and well at the moment. It is important that if you are sending your child into school as a critical worker or that they are coming into school as a child that is classed as vulnerable, that you do not mix with any other households during the evenings or at weekends. This will ensure that those children and staff in school and their families remain safe, healthy and well.

The Somerset Inclusion Inquiry

The Inclusion inquiry is **open now** and this opportunity for people to have their say will close on **Friday 30th April 2021**.

What is the Inclusion Inquiry?

As part of Somerset County Councils work to improve SEND services within our county, SCC have launched an 'Inclusion Inquiry' in order to find out about educational inclusion within Somerset. This is not an audit or an evaluation but a conversation. SCC would like to hear from you about your experiences of education inclusion in Somerset. By education inclusion, we mean that children and young people with any additional needs or disabilities are able to access and participate in education without experiencing issues and barriers. SCC would like to hear from children, young people, parents, carers, families, professionals, community members and anyone who would like to contribute. They are interested in what has been a good experience for you, what could have been improved and what you would like to see happen in the future in school, in your community and if relevant, in any clubs or leisure activities. Your views will be used to help understand what SCC do well and what they could do better.

You can find more information about the Inclusion Inquiry, including video clips and a poster/leaflet by visiting <https://choices.somerset.gov.uk/025/send-news/send-written-statement-of-action-improvement-priority-6-1-inclusion-inquiry/send-news/>

If you need financial help

We appreciate that for some of our families, life is tough at the moment with financial constraints and especially with the recent news about Oscar Mayer. If you do need help, please contact the school and we can sign post you to organisations that can help you during this time.

Tesco Pamper Box.

Last week Mr Talmage gratefully received (on behalf of the whole staff team) some lovely goodies from Tesco's in Chard. We'd all been nominated to receive a pamper pack from a parent of a child in Y4. The nomination in the card read:

To the entire Manor Court Team

You have been nominated to receive a Pamper Hamper.

This is for the outstanding work you have done to keep all of the children safe and happy. The children who are working remotely have been supported the same as if they had been in school. You were amazing before the pandemic and you have gone above and beyond into a new level since!



School applications for September 2021

For all parents with children starting school in September 2021, you can now apply for your child's school place by following the link below. If you or any of your friends would like to visit the school, please contact the school office and we can arrange a socially distant school visit.

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 Leads: Miss Gregory and Mr Talmage. The school Safeguarding & Child Protection Governor is Mrs Jo Boyland.

Thank you for your continued support and we hope that you have a wonderful Easter holiday,

Mr Luke Talmage
Head Teacher

Mr Alan Clode
Deputy Head Teacher/Inclusion Leader

Manor Court Primary School 2021-2022 Term Dates



September 2021						October 2021						November 2021					
M		6	13	20	27	M		4	11	18	25	M	1	8	15	22	29
Tu		7	14	21	28	Tu		5	12	19	26	Tu	2	9	16	23	30
W	1	8	15	22	29	W		6	13	20	27	W	3	10	17	24	
Th	2	9	16	23	30	Th		7	14	21	28	Th	4	11	18	25	
F	3	10	17	24		F	1	8	15	22	29	F	5	12	19	26	
Sa	4	11	18	25		Sa	2	9	16	23	30	Sa	6	13	20	27	
Su	5	12	19	26		Su	3	10	17	24	31	Su	7	14	21	28	
December 2021						January 2022						February 2022					
M		6	13	20	27	M	3	10	17	24	31	M		7	14	21	28
Tu		7	14	21	28	Tu	4	11	18	25		Tu	1	8	15	22	
W	1	8	15	22	29	W	5	12	19	26		W	2	9	16	23	
Th	2	9	16	23	30	Th	6	13	20	27		Th	3	10	17	24	
F	3	10	17	24	31	F	7	14	21	28		F	4	11	18	25	
Sa	4	11	18	25		Sa	1	8	15	22	29	Sa	5	12	19	26	
Su	5	12	19	26		Su	2	9	16	23	30	Su	6	13	20	27	
March 2022						April 2022						May 2022					
M		7	14	21	28	M		4	11	18	25	M	2	9	16	23	30
Tu	1	8	15	22	29	Tu		5	12	19	26	Tu	3	10	17	24	31
W	2	9	16	23	30	W		6	13	20	27	W	4	11	18	25	
Th	3	10	17	24	31	Th		7	14	21	28	Th	5	12	19	26	
F	4	11	18	25		F	1	8	15	22	29	F	6	13	20	27	
Sa	5	12	19	26		Sa	2	9	16	23	30	Sa	7	14	21	28	
Su	6	13	20	27		Su	3	10	17	24		Su	1	8	15	22	29
June 2022						July 2022						August 2022					
M		6	13	20	27	M		4	11	18	25	M	1	8	15	22	29
Tu		7	14	21	28	Tu		5	12	19	26	Tu	2	9	16	23	30
W	1	8	15	22	29	W		6	13	20	27	W	3	10	17	24	31
Th	2	9	16	23	30	Th		7	14	21	28	Th	4	11	18	25	
F	3	10	17	24		F	1	8	15	22	29	F	5	12	19	26	
Sa	4	11	18	25		Sa	2	9	16	23	30	Sa	6	13	20	27	
Su	5	12	19	26		Su	3	10	17	24	31	Su	7	14	21	28	

Key:

	School holiday
	Bank holiday
	Term time
	Inset day

Term dates summary:

Term 1: 06 September – 22 October 2021 (35 days)
 Term 2: 01 November – 17 December 2021 (35 days)
 Term 3: 04 January – 18 February 2022 (34 days)
 Term 4: 28 February – 08 April 2022 (30 days)
 Term 5: 25 April – 27 May 2022 (24 days)
 Term 6: 06 June – 26 July 2022 (37 days)

TOTAL = 195

Bank and public holidays 2021/22

Christmas Day Bank Holiday	27 December 2021*	Easter Monday	18 April 2022
Boxing Day Bank Holiday	28 December 2021*	May Day Bank Holiday	02 May 2022
New Year's Day Holiday	03 January 2022*	Spring Bank Holiday	30 May 2022
Good Friday	15 April 2022	Summer Bank Holiday	29 August 2022

*Replacement Bank Holiday day when the bank holiday falls on a weekend