

Dear Parents and Carers,

Spring Term information newsletter 6 – Friday 29th March 2019

This is the last newsletter of the Spring Term. We wish you a very happy and safe Easter holidays. Today is the last day of the Spring Term after school clubs. Please use ParentPay to book clubs for the Summer Term.

Key dates (please note that these may change)

April	
Tuesday 2 nd April	School Class Photos – full uniform to be worn on this day Year 3 Trip to the Donkey Sanctuary
Weds 3 rd April	Sports & Dance Festival, Millfield School (invited children only)
Thursday 4 th April	Year 5/6 Football match against Hamp Academy
Friday 5 th April	Last day of spring term – non-school uniform
Tuesday 23 rd April	Return to School for all children and staff



New arrivals

We are pleased to inform you that Mrs Prevett and Mrs Wilkins have had safe delivery of their babies and each mother and child are both healthy and well. Mrs Prevett is the proud mother of a daughter, Beatrice and Mrs Wilkins, the proud mummy of her son Rudy!

Year 2 trip to 'We The Curious'

Last Friday (22nd March) Nightingales and Magpies had a wonderful time at the 'We The Curious' museum in Bristol. The children enjoyed taking part in a 'build it workshop', testing the different materials and investigating how to use brick wall patterns, learning about the human brain and animation.



Careers week – News from Mr Pidgeon

Between Monday 17th June and Friday 21st June, Manor Court will be hosting its first ever 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.



FMCA news

The FMCA were delighted to receive such tremendous support at their recent Easter Bingo, where they raised £1004.75!

You may not be aware, but as in all schools, all parents, careers and staff members are enrolled as members of the Friends of School (FMCA). If you would like to become involved in helping such a worthwhile cause at one of their many events or attend one of their meetings, please contact the committee members themselves through their

Facebook page or via their email – contactfmca@gmail.com . Alternatively speak to the office staff or Mr Talmage who will be delighted to pass your details onto them.

Mothers' day celebration

This week, our Foundation Stage and Early Years children, have celebrated and said thank you to their mummy's or other important women in their lives. This is always a delightful event and the children have produced some beautiful gifts for their important female adult. Please check the Twitter page for photographs.

The EYC and Foundation Stage children will be doing something special for their dad in due course.

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

Non-School uniform day

The last day of term (Friday 5th April) is non-school uniform day as usual. No donation for charity is required, but please do remember no football shirts or offensive slogans.

Year 1 visit to Wych Lodge

Last Friday (22nd March) year 1 had an enjoyable morning at Wych Lodge, setting up base camp with the help of Ranger Rob and his dog, Bill. They collected lots of wood to make dens and the children returned to school dirty, but happy!



Equipment needed. Can you help Mr Clode?

Mr Clode is looking for a good quality exercise trampet and additional high quality bean bags for use in the school. If you have any of these items, could you please bring them into school.



Foundation Stage trip to Axe Valley Farm

On Monday Foundation Stage visited Axe Valley Wildlife park. They began the day in the new Safari Tent where the children (and adults) were brave enough to hold various animals such as, snakes, stick insects, giant millipedes/centipedes and Archie the Armadillo! After lunch they excitedly explored the newly renovated park and saw a huge variety of animals before a sleepy coach journey home.

Blythwood Christmas box appeal

On Wednesday we received photographs from Vulcan in Romania of the children receiving the Christmas Shoe boxes made by the children of Manor Court Primary School. Do look at the school Twitter page to see the photographs.

Year 5 food tasting

On Tuesday, Year 5 spent the morning learning about and sampling Japanese cuisine. We'd like to thank Hide Koike for such a brilliant morning!

Hide Koike is available for private cooking lessons, private dinner parties and outside catering. His website for all bookings is www.notjustsushi.co.uk

Calendar on the school website

At the request of a few parents we have updated the dates on the calendar section on our school website. We will try our best to keep this up to date with all of the exciting activities that the children participate in. It is possible to 'sync' these dates with your smart phone to ensure that you're getting regular updates. Please follow the instructions on the website to do this for yourself.



Year 4 Viking day

Year 4 had a brilliant day with Clive Pig on Wednesday. He told us some of the most fascinating stories about the Viking gods, bringing these to life and teaching us lots in the meantime! We also made a fleet of model Viking long ships carved from balsa wood, complete with sails and shields which we're planning to test on the water very soon.

Student teachers

We have three student teachers working with us throughout the next term. We would like to take this opportunity to welcome Miss Nicholls, Miss Arliss and Mr Flitton to our school community.

Chatterbook club news

Our Gifted and Talented readers and members of the chatterbook club (run by Chard Library) visited Chard Library last week. They took part in a scavenger hunt before relaxing with their favourite books.



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Ilminster Literacy Festival – News from Mrs Terry

As a school, we have been invited to take part in the Ilminster Literacy Festival again this year, which is running in June. We have once again been asked to take part in a poetry recital competition. We are only permitted to send one KS1 child and one KS2 pupil to the final, held at Greenfyld School on Tuesday 4th June 2019.



The children who choose to take part will need to learn one poem from a chosen selection. The children will need to go through a process of performance in front of staff and pupils, before being chosen to represent our school. There will be a first round in front of your child's class teacher and peers, held the first week back after Easter, then the top three performers from each class will go through to a Key Stage round held on Friday 3rd May. The judging panel for this round will be made up of Mr Talmage, Governors, and pupils from the school council.

Your child has the Easter holidays to learn their chosen poem off by heart. Rules state that they are not allowed to use any props or costumes during their recital. For more information about Ilminster Literacy Festival please visit <https://ilminsterliteraryfestival.org/>

Polite Reminders

There is still time to sign up your Year 6 child for next term's swimming sessions. Sessions take place on Monday afternoons during the school afternoon at Crewkerne Aquacentre at a cost of £32.00 payable in instalments via ParentPay. This cost covers both the lessons and coach travel and has been subsidised by the school.

Please remember to keep an eye on the payment deadlines for the years 4, 5 & 6 residential trips. Reminders are sent out via ParentPay to keep payments in line with the requirements from the activity centres. Please do speak to the office staff if you are unable to keep to the deadlines.

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 13^h May and Friday 17th May and there is to be no Year 6 absence in this week please.

Viking day



E-safety news from Miss Thompson

Children love competing with their parents! This free quiz from O2 and the NSPCC is a fantastic, fun way for families to have conversations about staying safe online. It can be played on phones, tablets, laptops and even Amazon Alexa, and aims to: *'get families talking about the exciting possibilities of the internet, as well as the risks to look out for.'*

Visit <https://www.o2.co.uk/help/nspcc/parents-vs-kids> to find out more!



There is also lots of information, tips and resources on the e-safety page of our school website under the parents tab if you want to know a little bit more about keeping your children safe online.

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.

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Attendance

Whole school attendance at Manor Court Primary School is now good (96.26% whole school attendance today) and we strive for it to become even better. It has been proven that excellent attendance is linked with greater academic achievement and progress. Children who have regular absence, patterns of unauthorised absence, broken weeks of attendance and high levels of absence for minor illness are unlikely to achieve their academic potential.



Manor Court Primary school prioritises the monitoring, support and robust action needed to secure high levels of attendance and works in close partnership with parents and the Local Authority to improve attendance. Our aim is that every child will have attendance higher than 96% of all possible sessions (mornings and afternoons) each year. When necessary, we will not hesitate to place matters before the court, especially in circumstances where parents or carers do not ensure that their child attends school with regularity and punctually, or who have ignored the support of the school or the Education Welfare Service. In the parent section of the school website, we have posted the Attendance Phases. These are a guide for parents on the steps that Manor Court Primary School will take to support the regular attendance of pupils at school. At every stage of our attendance phases we welcome the opportunity to engage with parents and carers.

Thank you for your continued support,

A black ink signature of Mr L Talmage.

Mr L Talmage
Head Teacher

A blue ink signature of Mr A Clode.

Mr A Clode
Deputy Head Teacher/Inclusion leader

Supporting our local bookshop

Barbara Spencer

Author of: Scruffy, A Fishy Tail, A Serious Case of Chicken-itis, A Dangerous Game of Football, The Bird Children, The Lions of Trafalgar, the Amazing Brain of O C Longbotham, Legend of the Five Javean, Time Breaking, Kidnap, Running, and Turning Point.

at Chard Library
on Saturday April 6, 2019 for the
Somerset Authors

will be reading from 'A Fishy Tail' at 12.15
and Running at 2.45pm.

Pop in and say hello.

