

Dear Parents and Carers,

Spring Term information newsletter 4 – Friday 1st March 2019

Key dates (please note that these may change)



March	
Friday 1 st March	MET office visit
Thursday 7 th March	World Book Day No After School Clubs on this day
Tuesday 12 th March	Yr 5/6 Tag Rugby Competition (invited children)
Friday 15 th March	Comic Relief

MET office visit

Today the Y6 children were visited by Claire Ross from the MET office. This was an exciting opportunity in which the children learnt all about the work of the MET office, how to present the weather and the children even created their own weather bulletin with the use of the green screen.



Smoking outside the school gates and leaving dogs unattended on the edge of the school premises.

It has become apparent over the past week, that some parents are walking their dogs to school whilst collecting their children and leaving them tied up unattended immediately outside the school gate. As the dogs are not on the school premises, can all parents ensure that they do not allow their children to touch any dog that they do not know.

It is also extremely disappointing that some parents have started to congregate outside of the school gates at the start and end of the school day to smoke. This needs to stop, as it does not reflect well on the school or help to teach the children about healthy living.

World Book Day news from Mrs Terry

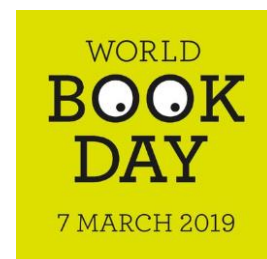
We will be celebrating World Book Day on Thursday 7th March 2019 and are excited to announce that the Scholastic Book Fair returns to school from today.

This year, for World Book Day, we are not having a particular author focus, but are asking the children to think about their favourite story to read or hear before bed. With this in mind, we are suggesting they come to school in their pyjamas or dressed as their favourite book character. Alternatively, pupils could bring in a prop or something they have made that relates to their favourite book or character, which they can share with the class. We shall be encouraging all pupils to bring in their favourite book from home (please make sure it is clearly named).

During the day, classes will be utilising some of the resources from the World Book Day website and will participate in paired reading with children from different year groups. There will also be a book trail around the school for the pupils to follow and competitions to enter.

Each child at Manor Court School will be issued a £1 National Book token on the day, which can be used against the purchase of a book, or used to pay in full for the £1 specially printed World Book day books that will be available at Chard Bookshop.

This year we would also like you to participate in our celebration of reading; so please join your child/children in their class from 2:45pm if you are free.



Comic relief on Friday 15th March

Schools and nurseries helped raise over £5million during the last Red Nose Day. This year we will help to raise money for this worthwhile cause by holding a non-school uniform day on Friday 15th March. Children can wear something red on this day, their official red nose or official clothing for a £1 donation. A limited supply of red noses can be purchased from the House Captains in the week leading up to this day for £1.25. Once these have all sold, we will not be able to buy anymore.



Agreed School Term dates – 2019-2020

Attached to this newsletter are the agreed term dates for the 2019-2020 academic year. These dates can also be found on the parents section of the school website.

Celebration assemblies

Celebration assemblies will resume on Friday 8th March. KS2 will be first thing on Friday morning and KS1 will move to after morning break and start at 10:50am.

Foundation Stage Mother's day assembly – advance warning!

Our Foundation Stage children will be saying thank you to their mummy's or other significant lady in their life on Friday 29th March at 2:30pm. Refreshments will be served, so please save the date.

Early Years Centre news from Laura

This half term we have just finished our Transport topic and we are going to be learning about animals and growing. We are looking forward to our Guinea pigs George and Richard coming back to the EYC and learning to care for them, preparing their food and helping to clean their hutch. We will also be having tadpoles, and learning about how they grow, and what they grow into. We are looking forward to pancake day next week, where we will be cooking our own pancakes and having a pancake race! Also we have our Mother's day afternoon in a couple of weeks where female relations will be joining us for scones and tea!



Lockdown System

Like all schools, ensuring the highest level of safety and welfare of the children in our care is the most important role we play. During the past couple of months, we have been working to produce a policy that focuses on emergency situations that might require the school to go into 'lockdown' for a period of time. These situations may involve an unauthorised person on site, an unruly pupil causing significant distress to other pupils, unrest in the immediate vicinity of the school, a wild animal on the loose or dangerous pollution etc. During singing assemblies next week, Mr Talmage or Mr Clode, will inform children of the emergency procedures. Following this, and again in the interests of safety, in the following fortnight we will have a brief practice so that the children are aware of the system. Once approved by the Governing Body, the Lockdown Policy will then be available on the school website. Please do not be alarmed by this, the safety of each individual child is absolutely paramount.

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.



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 chocolate, sweets or fizzy drinks in their bag to eat. We appreciate your support in this matter.

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.

Attendance

Whole school attendance at Manor Court Primary School is now good 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.



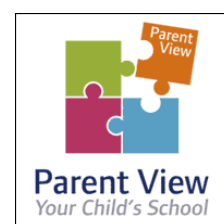
Manor Court Primary school prioritises the monitoring, support and robust action needed to secure high levels of attendance and works in close partnership with parents and the Local Authority to improve attendance. Our aim is that every child will have attendance higher than 96% of all possible sessions (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.

Ofsted Parent view – we still require your responses!

Thank you to those parents who have recently completed the Parent view survey, but it would be great to receive more survey responses, especially as we are due an inspection at some point in 2019.

As you know Parent view is a way in which Ofsted surveys the parents of children within a school to find out their views of the school and how it can be improved further. These opinions become part of the overall judgment of the school. If you would like to pass on your opinions to Ofsted, please complete the survey on the parent view website. The website can be found at www.parentview.ofsted.gov.uk



Pupil Premium

The pupil premium is additional funding that the Government provides for each child that 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 of 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 let the school know.

Extreme weather

It is 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 Aspens at Holyrood.

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
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)

Thank you for your continued support,

Mr L Talmage
Head Teacher

Mr A Clode
Deputy Head Teacher/Inclusion leader

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 Primary School and EYC Term and Holiday Dates 2019/2020 Academic Year

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Key:

	School Holiday
	Bank Holiday
	Term Time
	Inset Day

Term dates summary:

Term 1: 02 September – 25 October 2019 (40 days)
Term 2: 04 November – 20 December 2019 (35 days)
Term 3: 06 January – 14 February 2020 (30 days)
Term 4: 24 February – 03 April 2020 (30 days)
Term 5: 20 April – 22 May 2020 (24 days)
Term 6: 01 June – 20 July 2020 (36 days)
TOTAL = 195

Bank and public holidays 2019/2020

Christmas Day Bank Holiday	25 December 2019	Easter Monday	13 April 2020
Boxing Day Bank Holiday	26 December 2019	May Day Bank Holiday	04 May 2020
New Year's Day Holiday	01 January 2020	Spring Bank Holiday	25 May 2020
Good Friday	10 April 2020	Summer Bank Holiday	31 August 2020

Anticipated start date for the 2020/2021 academic year: 01 September 2020. The Local Authority will consult on prospective dates for the 2020/21 academic year and report the final dates will be published in April 2019.