

Dear Parents and Carers,



Spring Term information newsletter 2 – Monday 4th February 2019

We hope that you and your children had a happy and safe day in the snow on Friday. We apologise for any inconvenience that keeping the school closed caused. School closure is always the last resort and the safety of all children and staff is paramount in the decision, as is our ability to feed the children.

Key dates (please note that these may change)

February	
Tuesday 5 th February	E-safety day for all children
Thursday 7 th February	Foundation Stage Super hero day
Monday 11 th & Wednesday 13 th February	Parents evening, no after school clubs on these days except Drama & Nature clubs
Thursday 14 th February	FMCA Valentine discos
Friday 15 th February	Children break up for half term
Monday 25 th February	Children return to school after half term



E-Safety News from Miss Thompson

Tomorrow (Tuesday 5th February) we will be participating in the national E-Safety day with many other schools around the country. All children will be accessing age appropriate resources to learn how to keep themselves safe online.

As adults, it can be hard to know how to support our children to become healthy and confident users of technology. Technology allows them to connect, share and learn in all sorts of ways but as recent research has shown, being online can put pressure on children or expose them to upsetting experiences. Childnet has produced guidance to support parents in this. It's organised into different age groups from 3-18 year-olds and provides support for parents with children of all ages: <https://www.childnet.com/parents-and-carers/hot-topics/digital-wellbeing>



Parent Communication

As you are aware, we now use ParentPay as our main method of communication with parents/carers. Using this system, we will communicate newsletters, class letters, after school clubs information including cancellations, and all other information relevant to your child. Please remember to check your e-mails and set up the alerts section on your ParentPay account to notify you of new messages. Email alerts are free of charge, however if you opt for SMS text alerts there is a small charge per text payable by the parent.

If you are unsure on how to do this, please see the below help section taken from the ParentPay website:

How to set up alerts:-

1. Login
2. Go to Communications
3. Go to Alert Settings
4. Select the type of Alert (low balance and/or new item) and select how you want to receive alerts, email and/or SMS Text.

Parents' evening – Monday 11th February and Wednesday 13th February

Our next Parents' evening will be held on Monday 11th and Wednesday 13th February in the school hall. Please see the separate letter that was sent home last Thursday and return your appointment slip as soon as possible. During the evening there will be an opportunity to speak to Mr Clode and Miss Gregory and complete the Ofsted Parent View survey.

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

Y3/Y4 dance competition.

We are proud to announce that children from Manor Court won the Y3 and Y4 Holyrood cluster dance competition. This event was held at the Kelly Leigh dance studio in Chard. We have received many compliments about the talent of the children and their ability to work together. Well done to all those involved as you were a credit to the school.



EYC News

We have had a very busy few weeks. Our topic has been winter. We have been exploring ice and melting, learning about different winter animals and taken part in lots of winter crafts. Declan the music man has been attending weekly. The children have been learning about rhythm, and moving to music. Our topic for February is transport. We are organising for some vehicles to visit us. The children have started using the 'school ready' room, where they are practising activities to get them ready for school. We have been focusing on Letters and Sounds phase 1 and the children have been learning Jolly phonics.

Extreme weather

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 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)



FMCA (Friends of Manor Court Association) Valentines disco

The FMCA work hard throughout the year to raise additional funds to support the education and opportunities that we can offer the children who attend our school. Their next fundraising event is the KS1 Valentine school disco and the KS2 Valentine school disco on Thursday 14th February. Please see their letter for further information.

Residential Payments

If your child is joining us on our Year 4 and Year 6 Residential trips later in the year, please do remember to keep an eye on payment date deadlines on ParentPay and as outlined in the payment instalment letters sent out for both trips. These deadlines are important as they keep payments in line with the requirements from both activity centres.

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.

Youtube and Social Media

It has come to our attention that some children are using social media and accessing videos on Youtube that are not age appropriate. Please be aware of the age appropriateness of what your children are viewing and using on the internet. Our school website provides some useful e-safety tips for parents.



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.

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.

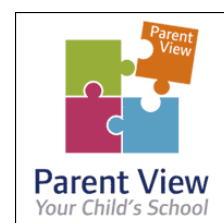
Healthy snacks

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

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.

Library update

This term our library has had a bit of an update! We have moved away from Accelerated Reader and books are now arranged by author, topic or genre. This is to allow the children to choose more freely from a wider range of books and not feel restricted by the points system. Not only will they be able to focus on books that interest them, they'll get to experience how libraries work in the wider world. While the children get used to the new system, they will be supported in changing their books during scheduled times with an adult so they are able to find books that they are excited to read and which are appropriate. They will be able to choose both fiction and non-fiction books. If you have any questions about this at all, please feel

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free to speak to your child's teacher. We would also gratefully accept any children's books (in good condition) which are no longer read at home. If you have any that you would like to donate, please drop them in to your child's class teacher.

Thank you for your continued support,



Mr L Talmage
Head Teacher



Mr A Clode
Deputy Head Teacher/Inclusion leader