

Dear Parents and Carers,

### Spring Term information newsletter 1 – Friday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2019

Happy New Year! We hope that you had an enjoyable, peaceful and relaxing Christmas holiday and that your child has enjoyed their first two weeks back at school. During this term, the National Curriculum will be taught through the whole school structure of 'Around the world in 80 days'. This, alongside the Manor Court 48, will ensure that the childrens' experiences of school are exciting and relevant.

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

January	
21 <sup>st</sup> & 28 <sup>th</sup>	Yr 4 & 5 Swim Sessions
23 <sup>rd</sup>	Yr 6 Eden Project Trip
24 <sup>th</sup>	Yr 3/4 Football @ Avishayes. Further details to follow.
28 <sup>th</sup>	Foundation Stage Forest School Session
29 <sup>th</sup>	Yr 3/4 Tag Rugby at Chard Rugby Club. Further details to follow.



#### Lowry inspired Art Exhibition in the Guildhall

Our children were excited to see their work displayed in Chard Guildhall today. Please do try and pop in after school if you haven't managed to yet. We have posted photographs on our school Twitter page. We are very grateful for the hard work of Mrs Morton and Miss Grabham, who spent a lot of time organising this special event.

#### M&M Production performance of Robin Hood

Yesterday all of the children were enthralled to watch M&M productions performance of the pantomime Robin Hood in the school hall. These productions are always wonderfully received by the children and much laughter can be heard throughout the school. We have already booked M&M Productions pantomime for next year!



#### 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](http://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)

#### Year 6 trip to the Eden Project

Next Wednesday, the Year 6 children and staff are travelling to the Eden Project. This will be an exciting opportunity for the children to learn about different eco-systems in the world. Please see the letter sent home yesterday for more information.



#### Advance notice – Spring Term parents evening

Our Spring Term Parents' evenings will be held on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> February in the school hall. Further information will be sent home in a letter nearer the time.

## 360 degree safe award – News from Miss Thompson

As a school, we are working hard to ensure that our children are safe, happy and confident users of technology and the internet. We are working towards an accreditation called 360 Degree Safe which recognises best practice in online safety. We recently qualified for the 'Certificate of Progress' which demonstrates our commitment to online safety and our progress towards the accreditation.



### Wet weather access

When it is raining we always attempt to allow the children access to their classrooms as quickly as possible. It has come to our attention that in year 1 in particular, some parents are rushing to the door and preventing the staff from helping the children to access the rooms easily. Please do enter in an orderly manner.

### Staffing

Mrs Wilkins will begin her maternity leave on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> February and we have employed Mrs Tracy Haines and Mrs Tanya Robertson to teach Owls until the Easter holidays. This is a temporary solution starting on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> February until Easter. With the help of Preston Primary Academy Trust, we have re-advertised for a more permanent member of staff. We are pleased to announce that Miss Gregory is expecting her first child.

### 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<sup>h</sup> May and Friday 17<sup>th</sup> May and there is to be no Year 6 absence in this week please.



### Celebration assemblies

It is always wonderful to see so many family members at our celebration assemblies. This half term, KS1 assembly will be between 8:50-9:10am and KS2 will be between 10:50-11:10am. As you leave the assembly can we please ask you not to walk down the main corridor but to leave via the door opposite the Year 6 block.

### 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.

### Items needed

We are currently restocking our supplies of toys and dressing up clothing for the EYC and Foundation Stage. If you have any good quality items that your children no longer play with, we would gladly receive them. Please pass any items to the Early Years Centre or Foundation Stage staff.



### 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.

## 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 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.

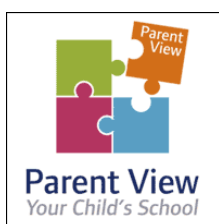
## Punctuality

It has come to our attention that the same children are coming to school late on a regular basis. Can we remind all parents that the bell rings at 8:45am every morning and that registers officially close at 8:50am. We appreciate that children in KS1 must be walked to school by their parents and their lateness is not their fault and from Monday 24<sup>th</sup> September once a child has accumulated thirty minutes of lateness parents will be asked to meet with Miss Gregory and or Mr Talmage. KS2 children will be treated slightly and they will be kept in during their playtime to catch up on the work that they have missed. Please see the school website for the punctuality and attendance phases. These can be found in the *Parents* drop down.



## FMCA (Friends of Manor Court Association)

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 support is invaluable to us as a school community. The committee are looking for new members. If this is something that interests you, please contact them directly through their email address, [contactfmca@gmail.com](mailto:contactfmca@gmail.com) or alternatively through their Facebook page.



### 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](http://www.parentview.ofsted.gov.uk)

Thank you for your continued support,,

Mr L Talmage  
Head Teacher

Mr A Clode  
Deputy Head Teacher/Inclusion leader