

Dear Parents and Carers,

Autumn Term information newsletter 8 – Friday 21st December 2018

As this is the final newsletter of 2018, we would like to take the opportunity to wish you all a very happy and safe Christmas and a prosperous 2019. We look forward to seeing you all on Tuesday 8th January 2019 after our much needed holiday.

Key dates (please note that these may change)

January	
Monday 7 th January	Inset Day
Tuesday 8 th January	Return to school
Monday 14 th January	After school clubs commence First swim session for Year 4 & 5 pupils
Thursday 17 th January	Robin Hood performance to whole school
Friday 18 th January	Lowry Art Exhibition in the Guildhall - 9.30am to 5pm



Christmas Activities

It has been wonderful seeing so many of you at the Christmas events in the build up to the Christmas period. The variety of events that the teachers have arranged for the children to participate in has increased this year. The traditional Nativity plays and Carol concerts are treasured year on year and the Y1 and Y2 play 'Happy Birthday Jesus' allowed many children to showcase their hidden talents and confidence to their parents.



Mrs Prett

Mrs Prett starts her maternity leave today and we wish her much luck and happiness. We will inform you of her news as soon as we can. Mrs Scott and Mr Clode will teach Badgers for the rest of the academic year.



Christmas jumper day in aid of save the children

On Friday 14th December, thousands of people throughout the country put on their Christmas jumper to support the Children's society Christmas jumper day. We raised over £250 for this worthwhile charity. Thank you for your generosity, it is appreciated.

E-Safety news – from Miss Thompson

E-Safety is important and is now a requirement of the National Curriculum which is taught to every child in their ICT lessons. The school website has been updated recently and you can now find useful information on the Parent's drop down section on the website.

We anticipate that some of the Y6 children may receive mobile phones for Christmas. We thought that it would be suitable to inform you that the BBC have announced that they will launch a new 'Own it' app early next year. It's aimed at children getting their first smartphone and the app will support children's wellbeing as they learn to use social media healthily. Find out more at <https://www.bbc.co.uk/mediacentre/latestnews/2018/childrens-app-own-it>

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 the Foundation Stage staff.



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

After School clubs

All afterschool clubs will start in the week beginning Monday 14th January. Please collect your child at 4:15pm from the classroom in which it is being held.

Parent Pay

Do make sure that you have activated your ParentPay account. From the start of 2019, all letters will be shared this way and on the school website. Thank you for your support in this!

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

School admissions

We currently have places for children in all year groups, apart from Y4 and Y6, in which we are oversubscribed. Please do tell your friends and family members!

The way in which parents of children due to start school in 2019 has changed. To save money, Somerset County Council no longer posts letters home to parents to explain the application process. For further information about the process, please follow this link or come and speak to us in the school office and we would be delighted to help you.

<http://www.somerset.gov.uk/education-learning-and-schools/choosing-a-school/apply-to-start-school/>

Extreme weather

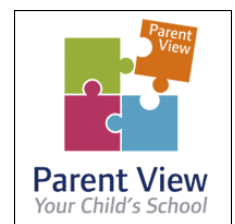
It is coming to the time of year when more extreme weather may be experienced. We will endeavour at all times to keep the school open and will only shut if it is becoming dangerous for the children, if we are unable to provide a warm learning environment or if food is unable to be delivered to the school from the caterers.

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)

Ofsted Parent view

Thank you to those parents who have recently completed the Parent view survey, but it would be great to receive more survey responses in preparation for our next inspection. 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



Thank you for your continued support,



Mr L Talmage
Head Teacher



Mr A Clode
Deputy Head Teacher/Inclusion leader

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