

Dear Parents and Carers,

Autumn Term information newsletter 6 – Friday 23rd November 2018

We anticipate that the weather is now going to becoming increasingly cold and wet. Please ensure that your child has their coat with them at all times, as they will not be allowed out to play and lunchtime without it. In the build up to the Christmas period please take even greater notice of the key dates and save them in your diaries to save disappointment.

Key dates (please note that these may change)



November	
Friday 23 rd November	Governors training day at Manor Court. FMCA Christmas Fayre 6pm to 8pm
December	
Monday 4 th to Friday 7 th December	Whole school assessment week 2
Thursday 6 th December	Christmas bingo to raise money for the Early Years Centre. Doors open 6pm - eyes down at 6.30pm.
Friday 7 th December	Y6 sleepover in the school hall as part of the Manor Court 48
Monday 10 th December	Y5 pantomime performance. This will include a short performance from Manor Court Brass band during the interval.
Tuesday 11 th December	Y1 trip to watch Aladdin at the Octogan theatre, Yeovil
Wednesday 12 th December	Year 5 & Year 6 Carol Concert - 11am – 12pm at St. Mary's Foundation nativity 2.30pm – 3.15pm in the school hall
Thursday 13 th December	9:30 – 10:30am Year 3 and Year 4 Carol Concert at St Mary's 2:30pm EYC Nativity in the School Hall. Tea and coffee will be available.
Friday 14 th December	Year 1 & 2 Christmas Performance – 9.30am – 10.30am in the school hall. Save the children 'Christmas jumper day' - £1 donation required if your child would like to wear their Christmas jumper
Monday 17 th December	6pm Drama club and Choir Christmas concert to parents
Tuesday 18 th December	Year 1 & 2 Year 1 & 2 Christmas Performance – 1.45pm – 2.45pm in the school hall.
Wednesday 19 th December	Christmas dinner in the school hall. Further information to follow
Friday 21 st December	End of Autumn Term

HMI monitoring visit

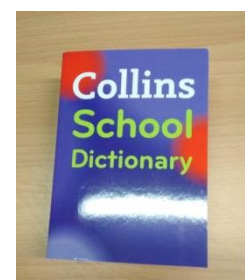
Thank you to the parents that came to our two recent Parent Forums to discuss our recent monitoring visit from Ofsted. It became apparent that some parents may have been confused by the content of the monitoring visit letter. This recent visit was not a full two day inspection therefore the school would not have been able to move formally out of its current judgment of 'Requiring improvement'. This full inspection, known as a 'section 5' inspection, is likely to be in the Summer or early Autumn Term. The inspector who inspected us believes that the school is making effective steps to becoming 'Good' in our next inspection.

FMCA – Dictionary for the children

We are extremely grateful for all of the committed fundraising that the FMCA complete for the children who attend Manor Court. They have donated over £1000 this year alone, to pay for the 'little extras' that we as a school aspire to give our children.

The FMCA have recently purchased a dictionary for every child from Year 1 to Year 6, after a conversation about the importance of each child understanding key vocabulary. They will also benefit children's spelling which is under closer scrutiny, and can be used for clarification in guided reading lessons, and alongside all other subjects to support writing and reading.

The dictionaries will be sent home to support home learning, and for the pupils to show their parents and carers, but the expectation is that they are kept in their book bags to use also in school. Your teacher may decide to keep your class set in school from next week, but to send them home when needed for homework. Should one become damaged, parents will need to buy a replacement from the FMCA.





Foundation stage school trip

Last week the Foundation Stage children enjoyed their first school trip to Chard Library. They were made to feel extremely welcome and loved choosing their own books!

Year 6 – School sleepover

As part of the Manor Court 48, the Y6 staff are busily arranging for an overnight stay in the school hall. This will be held on Friday 7th December, further details will be sent home soon

Children in need non-school uniform day

Last Friday the children made a fantastic effort to raise money for Children in Need. We raised the grand total of £341. Thank you for your generosity that helped us to achieve this amount



Phonics workshop

It was fantastic to see so many family members at our phonics workshops this week. We hope that you found them beneficial.

Mrs Wilkins

We are pleased to announce that Mrs Wilkins and her husband are expecting their first child. She will leave to start her maternity leave in February and will return to work at Manor Court in December 2019. We are currently working with Preston Primary Academy Trust to find a suitably qualified replacement for the remainder of the school year.

Blythwood Christmas shoe box appeal

We were overwhelmed this week with the generous donations for the Blythwood shoe box appeal. The boxes were collected yesterday and are now on their way to their destinations.



Christmas jumper day in aid of Save the Children

On Friday 14th December, thousands of people throughout the country will put on their Christmas jumper to support the Children's society Christmas jumper day. If you would like to support this charity, your child can wear their Christmas jumper (you don't have to buy a jumper especially but maybe decorate an old jumper) to school for a £1 donation.

Scholastic book fair

The half price scholastic book fair is arriving again, this time from 27th November for a week. A wide selection of fiction and non-fiction books for all ages, from pre-school to teens, plus exciting school accessories will be available. It will be held in the school library after school every afternoon until 4pm. There will be lots of bargains for Christmas!



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 post 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/>



Punctuality

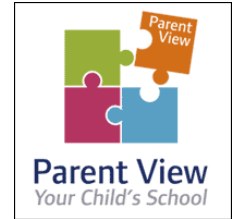
It has come to our attention that the same children are coming to school late on a regular basis. Can we remind all parents that the bell rings at 8:45am every morning and that registers officially close at 8:50am. We appreciate that children in KS1 must be walked to school by their parents and their lateness is not their fault and from Monday 24th 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*.

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.

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



Paperless school community

To become more environmentally friendly, it is our intention to become as 'paperless as' we can by January 2019. Initially, we will trial sending home the fortnightly newsletters, via email and ParentPay and by uploading them to the school website from November, with the intention of converting to this method by January. All letters that we send home can be found on the school website.

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)

Thank you for your continued support,



Mr L Talmage
Head Teacher



Mr A Clode
Deputy Head Teacher/Inclusion leader