

Dear parents and carers,

Summer Term Newsletter 5 – Friday 2nd July 2021



Key dates (please note that these may change.)

July 2021	
Thursday 8 th July	Meet the teacher afternoon
Friday 9 th July	End of year school reports will be sent home Owls class trip to Sidmouth
Wednesday 14 th July	Non-school uniform – 50p donation
Monday 19 th July	Volunteer induction day
Friday 23 rd July	Last day of term for this academic year



Year 4 creative poets!

Year 4 pupils entered a Somerset Literacy Network poetry competition back in May. Each poem had to be a set amount of lines and on the topic of 'Faces'. We are so pleased to announce that Ricardo came second in the competition out of 2016 entries! Taya, Daisy and Jessica were also recommended 'Highly Commended'.



Please continue being vigilant!

Confirmed cases of coronavirus have been on the rise again over the past two weeks and another local primary school has been required to shut bubbles because of confirmed cases. We are continuing to be maintain our vigilance and will send children home if they are unwell. Please do continue to wear your facemask during drop off and collection time and we will send children home if they show any of the expected symptoms. We do hope to manage to get to the end of the school year without having to shut anymore bubbles.

Thank you for your ongoing support in this.



Year 6 Activity week

Year 6 have had a brilliant activity week! They've stayed away for a night at Huish Woods Scout Camp, where they tried archery, the zipline, orienteering in the woods, making paracord bracelets, caving and finished off the busy day toasting marshmallows over a campfire. They've also made sushi with Hide from Kinori, created artworks for the churchyard at St Mary's, had rounders coaching from SASP, eaten some incredible pancakes from the Pancake Pod, made insects out of clay, and tie-dyed t-shirts. It's been a busy week of trying new things and we've all loved it.

Meet the new teacher afternoon

The children within the school will have the opportunity to spend time with their new teacher, LSA (and in year groups 2, 3 & 4, their new classes) and in their new classroom on Thursday 8th July. More information about this afternoon and the class structure will be sent home on Monday 5th July after we have confirmed the appointment of two new LSAs this afternoon.

Year 4 Viking Day with Clive Pig

On Wednesday, Puffins and Eagles had an incredible time hearing Viking stories from the amazing storyteller Clive Pig. The children enjoyed dressing as Vikings and made some excellent dragon artwork with piercing eyes. If you haven't seen the photographs on Facebook or Twitter do check them out as they are incredible.



Manor Court Holiday Club

During the Summer holiday we are holding a holiday club for children in each of the year groups. This club will be staffed by members of our staff team and will run in the week beginning Monday 26th July and in the week beginning Monday 23rd August. Please check your ParentPay account for letters that will be sent home early next week.



Kingfisher school trip to Stonehenge

Kingfishers had a fantastic time at Stonehenge on Wednesday. We learnt how the henge was built, became archaeologists for the day and even hugged a bluestone to benefit from its magical properties. The children loved going inside a Neolithic house and examining the tools that were used to create the henge and farm the surrounding lands. Best of all though was seeing Stonehenge itself – the whole class (including teachers!) were thrilled to be so close to a real prehistoric monument! It was a day that we will all remember for a long time to come.

Arrival at School

Some children are arriving far too early to the front of the school to wait for school to open. Please ensure your child does not arrive any earlier than 8.25am, the gates are opened at this time and children can be safely seen into school instead of waiting outside of the gates near the road.

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

Pete the Poet

We look forward to welcoming 'Pete the Poet' to our school in the week after next (week beginning 12th July) to complete poetry workshops about diversity and inclusion with each class in the school.

Congratulations to Daisy

Huge congratulations to Daisy in year 4 who has been awarded 1st place in the District Level Rotary Club 2021 story competition!



Sun protection

We are hopeful that the (unusually) good weather that we are currently experiencing will continue for a good period of time. Please can you ensure that you apply suncream to your child before they come to school and that they have plenty of fluids to drink and a hat to wear when they are outside.

Lunchtime supervisor role

We are looking to recruit a kind, friendly and positively assertive person to join our team as a lunchtime supervisor in September. If this is a role that is of interest to you please contact Mrs Hunt in the school office for further details.

Chard Scarecrow competition

Due to the success of our 'Chard Safari' last year, we are getting ready to launch a new Chard-wide community challenge. This year's theme is the 'Scarecrow Olympics' and we are looking to launch the project to coincide with the start of the Tokyo Olympic Games on Friday 23rd July. This is also the last day of the school term, so we are hoping families will take the opportunity to continue the challenge over the summer holidays. More information to follow next week.



Advanced warning – Non-school uniform day arranged by Y5 for childline

We have a fantastic working relationship with Yeovil Town Football club who have been working with year two and five this term. Our Year 5 children have been working on two community action projects and will be holding a non-school uniform day on Wednesday 14th July. All money raised will go to Childline their chosen charity and the children can wear non-school uniform (anything bright or which makes them happy – please allow your children to wear clothing that is sensible for school) for a 50p donation.

End of year school reports

Copies of the children's end of year school reports will be sent home on Friday 9th July. If you require a second copy of your child's school report, for a parent who does not reside with the child, please do let the school office know and we will prepare a copy for you.



EYC news from Laura

We are enjoying our last half term before our 'school ready' children leave us to start in Foundation! They have been thoroughly enjoying their transition and are all very excited about starting in September.

We have been growing butterflies and this week we released 5! It was so exciting!

Save the date: Our leavers party will be on Wednesday 21st July at 2:15, this will be for ALL children.

Unfortunately, due to restrictions we are unable to invite the parents to stay as well.

If you are looking for a space for September for 3-4 year olds, please do get in touch. 15/30 hours available.

Public Health England advice

Public Health England have this week made us aware of an increasing number of cases of non-Covid-19 acute respiratory infections (RSV and HPIV) in nurseries and childcare facilities in Somerset. Please be assured that we continue to practise scrupulous hygiene routines including regular handwashing, wiping of surfaces and equipment, staff Covid testing etc, but please help us by keeping your child at home should they display signs of respiratory infection or Covid-like symptoms.

School Uniform

Please ensure your children are dressed correctly and appropriately in their school uniform. A reminder of our uniform requirements is at the end of this newsletter. We ask that skirts are worn no shorter than knee length.

Nail polish should not be worn to school and if your child comes to school wearing it, we will remove it. Make-up should not be worn either.

Manor Court Online Safety Tips book

Our E-Safety Council have created a 'Manor Court Online Safety Tips' book which contains important information and advice about how to use the Internet. Members of the E-Safety council from Foundation Stage to Year 6 have all contributed to this book and enough copies have now been published for each classroom and has been placed in a prominent position in Chard public library.



Volunteering opportunities

We anticipate that from September we will be able to welcome volunteers into school to hear children read and be part of the school community. We know that this is mutually rewarding for the children and those that volunteer and we are recruiting for more people to come and help within the school from September. On Monday 19th July, will be holding a training session (where all of the appropriate safeguarding training will be led by Mr Clode). If you would like to volunteer (subject to appropriate police checks) please do contact the school office as we would love to hear from you.

Foundation Stage induction programme 2021

We are looking forward to welcoming our new foundation stage children into our school community in September. The parents of our new starters will have received a new letter this week to explain the changes to the Induction programme as the Government has changed the guidance.



Nightingales trip to the Fleet Air Arm Museum

Last Thursday Nightingales Class visited the Fleet Air Arm Museum. The children enjoyed going inside a rescue helicopter, submarine model, Flight Deck Simulator and we went inside Concorde too! This was one of our MC48 as well as an incredibly rare opportunity. The children also saw a huge variety of other planes and helicopters. The adventure playground was thoroughly enjoyed too!

Variety Show

Unfortunately, due to the ongoing Covid restrictions we are unable to hold our variety show at the Guildhall again this year. However, we are delighted that the children will still have opportunity to perform as they will be recorded to make a video to showcase their many talents.



Punctuality

We have noticed that some children are persistently arriving at school later than the time that has been allocated for them. Please do ensure that you are arriving each morning on time and at the correct entrance point to ensure that your child is ready to start their school day.

Have we got your correct details? – A message from the school office

In order to keep your child safe, please make sure that if you have changed your telephone number, email address or home address you remember to let the school office know.

We have space for more children!

If your friends or family have been impressed by what we have been doing for your children during the school year, we have space for more children in all year groups apart from Y5 and Y6. We would love to welcome more children into our caring, inclusive and academically high achieving community.

Dropping off and collection of children at the rear of the school

We have received multiple complaints from parents about how children are being dropped off at the start and collected at the end of the school day.

May we politely remind you that parents may not enter the staff car park, must be respectful of each other and the members of the community who live in the vicinity of the school. Due to complaints from those who live nearby and parents within the school, we have requested that the local parking attendant and PCSO spend time patrolling the rear of the school.

We have also received a complaint from local businesses as parents have been using their private car park when dropping off/collecting children at the beginning and end of the school day. Please do not use the gravel car park opposite the front of the school.

Please remember to wear a face covering when dropping off and collecting your child, unless you are medically exempt.

A polite reminder

Please ensure your child has everything they need for the school day when they arrive at school. Increasingly, lunch boxes, drinks bottles, coats etc are being brought to school throughout the day because children have forgotten them. This causes disruption to classes by staff having to interrupt lessons to deliver forgotten items.

E-Safety news from Miss Thompson

The Internet Watch Foundation (IWF) and Childline have joined forces to create a new tool called Report Remove. It enables children and young people to report a nude image or video of themselves and the IWF can have it removed from the Internet. While this is less likely to affect younger children, it is important to know about if you have older children or as your children grow up. It is a really positive step in being able to protect children online. It is even possible to report a photo which hasn't yet been uploaded or shared. The IWF can assign a 'hash' to prevent the photo from being shared by anyone. The tool can be found here: <https://www.childline.org.uk/info-advice/bullying-abuse-safety/online-mobile-safety/remove-nude-image-shared-online/> There is a BBC article about it here: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-57562152> and more information from the IWF here: <https://www.iwf.org.uk/news/new-tool-empowers-children-and-young-people-stop-spread-nude-images-online>



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

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 Leads: Miss Gregory and Mr Talmage. The school Safeguarding & Child Protection Governor is Mrs Jo Boyland.

Pupil Premium

The pupil premium is additional funding that the Government provides for each child who 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 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 apply through this hyperlink <https://secure1.somerset.gov.uk/forms/PortalShowForm.asp?formalias=freeschoolmeal>

If you need financial help

We appreciate that for some of our families, life is tough at the moment with financial constraints and especially with the recent news about Oscar Mayer. If you do need help, please contact the school and we can sign post you to organisations that can help you during this time

Thank you for your continued support,



Mr Luke Talmage
Head Teacher



Mr Alan Clode
Deputy Head Teacher/Inclusion Leader

School Uniform

At Manor Court uniform is compulsory for all children as we believe it encourages a sense of pride, loyalty and a sense of belonging. It also avoids discrimination between children and prevents arguments at home about what is suitable to wear to school. All items of clothing should be clearly named. The school cannot accept responsibility for any lost items.

All children from Foundation to Year 6 should choose from:-

- Navy blue V-necked sweatshirt or cardigan with the school logo.
- School ties
- Grey or black trousers/shorts/skirts/skorts. Skirts to be worn at knee length
- White shirt
- Optional blue gingham summer dress
- Black sensible shoes. Trainers are not to be worn to school.

PE Kit

All children from Foundation to Year 6 should have

- Navy Blue T-shirt with Manor Court logo
- Black shorts and/or jogging bottoms
- Grey tunic, skirt or trousers
- Plimsolls/trainers
- Optional Manor Court PE hoodie



Jewellery, Hairstyles etc

Children should not wear any jewellery other than one stud earring per ear and a watch. For the safety of the children, they should not wear any jewellery during any PE lessons.

Please ensure that your child has a sensible haircut at all times.

Children are not allowed to wear nail polish or make-up to school unless as part of a celebration day or costume in which case you will be informed in advance.



Tuning in to Kids Parenting Group

A **free** 5 week course for parents and carers of children aged 4-11.

Would you like to learn how to:

- be better at talking with your child?
- be better at understanding your child?
- help your child learn to manage their emotions?
- help to prevent behaviour problems in your child?
- teach your child to deal with conflict?

Dates: Wednesday 22nd and 29th September, October 6th, 13th, 20th.

Time: 9.30a.m. - 12.noon

Venue: Manor Court School, Chard

For more information on this course and to book your place, please contact Parent & Family Support Advisers,
Whitney Gibbins 07818580632
Or Emma Connolly 07825357613