

Dear Parents and carers,

Autumn Term Newsletter 2 - Friday 21st September 2018

Key dates (please note that these may change)



September	
Friday 21 st September	Y1 Maths family learning
Tuesday 25 th September	Emma Carroll visit
Friday 28 th September	Year 4 SAMBA day. No KS1 or KS2 celebration assemblies
October	
Monday 1 st October	Harvest festival at St Mary's Church Holyrood roadshow 5:30-6:30pm
Friday 5 th October	EAL drop-in session 2.30pm
Friday 12 th October	Year 1 Vision Screening
Monday 15 th October	Y6 assessment week
Monday 22 nd October	Whole school assessment week 1 Parents evening 3:30-6:00pm
Tuesday 23 rd October	Parents evening 4:00-7:30pm
Friday 26 th October	Last day of half term

Open days

As a result of the success of last year's Open day, we have arranged two more for Monday 8th October and Wednesday 10th October. These days are for current parents, family members, the wider community and for prospective family members to view the school as it runs on a daily basis. Please phone or pop into the school office and let them know that you would like to attend.

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 8:50. 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.



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/>

Year 4 Samba day

As part of the 'Manor Court 48' and linking to the children's learning about Carnival and Brazil, Year 4 children will participate in a whole day SAMBA drumming workshop on Friday 28th September. There is no charge for this workshop, but as the hall will be in use all day, there will be no celebration assemblies for KS1 or KS2 on Friday 28th September.



Parent Pay

There are still some families who have not activated their ParentPay account. Please do ensure that you take the time to do so, as we would hate for your child to miss out on the many exciting opportunities that they are offered at school and despite many reminders, some parents are still being rather disgruntled with the office staff, as their children have missed out. If you have misplaced your activation code, please do come to the school office and they will be pleased to help you.



Harvest Festival

On Monday 1st October all of the children will be attending St Mary's church to participate in our Harvest festival. We will be collecting non-perishable food items (UHT milk, fruit squash, sugar, rice, pasta, tinned food etc.) for the Lord's larder in Chard. If you would like to donate an item please bring it into school on Friday 28th September.

EAL drop in

We are pleased that our EAL 'drop in' sessions will be starting again soon. Just a reminder that these will be held fortnightly on a Friday afternoon starting at 2:30pm on Friday 5th October. Please do come to these informal meetings, where we hope to be able to explain any misconceptions over a cup of tea or coffee. Please speak to the school office if you require any further information.

Head lice

Part and parcel of young children mixing together in all schools around the country is Head lice. Can you please check your child's head regularly.

Twitter

The only social media that we as a school use is our twitter page. This page is full of the most up-to-date news and photographs. Our Twitter page is @ManorCourtChard so please start to follow us.

The 'Manor Court 48'

We appreciate that a remarkable education is more than excellent teaching, but is learning through a variety of opportunities, life skills and experiences and some of these may solely be opportunities to 'simply have fun'!

The 'Manor Court 48' is a selection of 48 opportunities (one per half term in each year group and the EYC) that we consider children should experience before they leave Primary education. It is our expectation that by the school providing these opportunities, it will ensure that all children will have an even greater love of learning and a particular passion or hidden talent will be found.

Year 5 and 6 Boys football at Holyrood

This week the Year 5 and 6 boys' football team represented the school fantastically in the Y5/6 Chard schools tournament, reaching the final and ending as runners up. They won the first two games against Ashill and Tatworth, lost their third game narrowly to Avishayes, then beat Redstart 3-2, before losing 1-0 to them in the final with a goal conceded in the last minute.



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.

School uniform and PE kit

It is wonderful to see the children looking smart in their new school uniform. Can we please take the opportunity to politely remind you, that nail polish is not to be worn in school at any time and that brightly coloured or extreme hairstyles, including tram lines or shaven stars are not acceptable. Girls skirts need to be of an appropriate length with tights in the Autumn and Spring terms and children from Year 2 and above must be wearing formal school shirts and not polo shirts.

Please be aware the only piercings acceptable at school are a single stud in the ears and that they have to be removed during PE. Please ensure that your child has their full PE kit with them every day.

Parents' evenings – Advanced warning

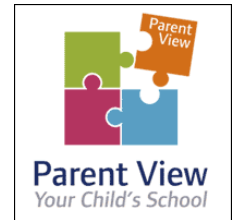
Our next Parents evenings will be held on Monday 22nd October (until 6:00pm) and Tuesday 23rd October (until 7:00pm). These appointments are invaluable for parents and teachers alike, where information can be shared, next steps created and children's progress and attainment can be celebrated. Further information will be sent home next week.

Emma Carroll Visit

Local author Emma Carroll will be visiting Manor Court for a second time on the 25th September. She will talk about her new book with pupils from Year 4 – 6 and then complete a book signing. Her new book 'Secrets of a Sun King' takes place in 1922. It's about a discovery from Ancient Egypt; a cursed package, and the untold story of a young pharaoh. We already have a copy in our school library!

Ofsted Parent view

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



Preston Primary Academy Trust

On the 1st of September Manor Court Primary School was sponsored by the Preston Primary Academy Trust. Preston Primary School is the highest performing school in Somerset and has for the past ten years been in the top 250 schools for academic performance in the United Kingdom. This new partnership will be excellent for all of the children who attend the school and no negative change will be seen. Mr Talmage worked at Preston Primary School as Assistant Head Teacher before moving to Hamp Academy in Bridgwater to become Head Teacher. For further information about Preston Primary School and the Preston Primary Academy Trust, please look at their website www.prestoncofeprimary.co.uk

Thank you for your continued support,



Mr L Talmage
Head Teacher



Mr A Clode
Deputy Head Teacher/Inclusion leader