

Dear Parents and Carers,

Autumn Term Newsletter 8 – Friday 18th December 2020

Key dates (please note that these may change.)

January 2021	
Monday 4 th January	Inset Day
Tuesday 5 th January	Return to school for pupils
Tuesday 12 th January	M&M Pantomime Production to whole school (Covid secure)

Mr Talmage's review of the year

It is difficult for us all to remember the three months at the start of 2020 prior to the emergence of Coronavirus when our school was enjoying the success of our recent Ofsted inspection. The school atmosphere was pulsing (as it is once again) with hard working children and buzzing with the joy of collective and individual success for the children in events such as the County Boccia Championships, a mental health and wellbeing day arranged by our wellbeing council, an Art Exhibition in the Guildhall in which over six hundred people came to view each child's piece of artwork and the 360-degree online safety award that we achieved.

A word that has been repeated time and time again since March is 'unprecedented'. For many of us, this year has presented challenges that we have never experienced in our lifetime and challenges that we hope to never experience again.

However, when faced with the indescribable challenge of National lockdown in March, it provided new opportunities and I believe that whilst many schools and organisations wavered during the year, the Manor Court school community has grown in strength and unity as we were driven by our core principals to 'care, learn and achieve together'. We now feel closer to each other, to your children and you as parents than we previously had, and I would like to thank you for your understanding and support through this challenging year as Mr Clode and I made decisions to protect and educate your children.



As I approach in April, the four-year anniversary of working at Manor Court, I remain proud of our achievements and continue to be impressed each day with your children and the dedication, hard work and caring nature of the staff team who work at Manor Court. I look forward to the future years of collective success and growth in our community.

With my very best wishes,
Mr Luke Talmage

The Reindeer came!

The reindeer came on Wednesday despite the rain and each of the children were delighted to see these beautiful creatures. We have posted photos onto our Facebook and Twitter pages for you to look at.



Covid-19 Track and Trace email address

Please remember to keep safe a copy of our recent letter detailing our procedure in the event of a positive Covid case for someone within our school during the first part of the Christmas holiday. The email address to use should you need it is covidcase@manorcourt.ppat365.org. This email address will be monitored twice a day until 3pm on Christmas Eve. Please do not send any other communication to this address.

Save the Children Christmas Jumper Day

We confirm the amount raised last Friday for Save the Children was £255.25. Thank you for your continued generosity at this time of year!

Mrs Hall

It is with great excitement that we have the pleasure of informing you that the first of our Christmas babies was born yesterday. Many congratulations to Mrs Hall who safely delivered her second son at 9:31pm yesterday. He is a very healthy 8lb 5oz and he and Mrs Hall are both doing extremely well and as you can see, he is a very handsome chap.



Thank you

On behalf of each member of staff we have been overwhelmed with the generosity that you have shown us once more this year in the cards and gifts that you have given to us. Thank you.



School applications for September 2021

For all parents with children starting school in September 2021, you can now apply for your child's school place by following the link below. If you or any of your friends would like to visit the school please contact the school office and we can arrange a socially distant school visit.

Please follow the link below to complete your application for a school place.

<https://www.somerset.gov.uk/education-and-families/school-admissions-policy/>

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.

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?fm_formalias=freeschoolmeal

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.

We wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a peaceful and prosperous new year.

Mr Luke Talmage
Head Teacher

Mr Alan Clode
Deputy Head Teacher/Inclusion leader