



MANOR COURT
Community Primary School
 Incorporating
 Manor Court Early Years Centre

Duck Lane, Chard, Somerset, TA20 2ES

Head Teacher: **Mr L Talmage**
 Deputy Head Teacher: **Mr A Clode**

Telephone 01460 62350
 Email sch.091@educ.somerset.gov.uk
 Website; www.manorcourtschool.sch.co.uk
 Twitter; @ManorCourtChard

11th September 2018

Dear Parents and carers,

At Manor Court Primary school, we take pride in the social and academic achievements of all children and the enriched curriculum that we offer. For the start of this academic year, we have further refined and enhanced our approach to teaching and learning and are now in a position to share this with you.

Curriculum update from Mrs Jones and Mrs Hall

Throughout the past two academic terms, staff at Manor Court have written a new school curriculum, incorporating all aspects of the National Curriculum, which has been personalised for the children who attend Manor Court Primary School. We believe that it will provide a further enriched curriculum for each child and lead to even higher academic standard of achievement for all.

Each academic term has an overarching whole school focus (Autumn Term – ‘Chard’. Spring Term – ‘Around the world in 80 days’. Summer Term – ‘What price progress’? A focus on sustainability), in which the learning in all subjects has a close link. High expectations for all children and a focus on the teaching of key skills in all subjects, especially in English and Mathematics, remains the foundation of what we do.

It is the expectation that throughout the learning, there is a real life outcome so that the learning is purposeful and real for the children - this might be an exhibition of work, a performance or recital or even the creation of something which enriches the school environment (such as a piece of art). To make the learning as interesting and fun for the children as possible, each class will be going on one trip and welcome one visitor into school per half term. We are looking forward to an exciting term!

This term our whole school focus is Chard. Each year group, in KS1 and KS2, will spend the term investigating a different area of history or modern life in Chard.

Chard	
Year 1	Who am I?
Year 2	How did Stringfellow change the way we live?
Year 3	How did the Railways change Chard?
Year 4	How does the carnival bring people together?
Year 5	Is now the best time to live in Chard?
Year 6	How did Margaret Bondfield shape British democracy?

Mathematics update from Mr Glentworth - September 2018.

There are just a few changes to the teaching of mathematics this year. We are refocussing on the teaching of multiplication facts (times tables). Pupils now must know their tables, up to 12 x 12 by the end of Year 4. The government are introducing a new on-screen multiplication-fact test for Year 4 pupils beginning in the 2019-20 academic year. Tables will be taught daily in class and pupils will be beginning ‘Table Races’ as a way of judging their progress. Learning multiplication facts is an essential skill that is so important as pupils move into upper KS2, it would be fantastic if you can help your child practice their tables at home. If you would like any guidance, please speak to your child’s class teacher.

Over the past few years we have been subscribing to Mathletics in school, as a way to encourage home learning and it has been popular with many pupils. However, the expectation is now that all children complete their homework in the CGP books and the fact that unfortunately, the price of Mathletics has increased to such an extent that is now very expensive, we have stopped our subscription. Maths homework is now being set through CGP workbooks from Y1 to Y6 - these were used in KS2 last year with great success

English update from Mrs Terry - September 2018

Phonics and Spelling

We are now following the Learning Exchange program for the teaching of Phonics and Spelling. This year, children in Foundation Stage up to Year 3 will receive daily phonic teaching. We hope to fill any gaps in learning with careful interventions. We are going to ensure that spelling patterns and rules are fully understood so that they can be applied to support writing. With this in mind, your child's weekly spelling homework may look different from before. There will still be occasions when your child has to complete a Look-Cover-Write-Check spelling grid, but there will also be times when they have to complete spelling investigations, handwriting of spellings, or apply the rule they are learning to words in sentences. The children will still have a weekly spelling test, however these words may not be the exact words sent home, as it is the children's understanding of the rule that we are assessing.

Reading

We have increased further the expectation in the number of times your child reads at home, to 5 times a week. This can include Saturdays and Sundays. Your role is to record every time your child reads to an adult or older sibling at home. This can be Mum, Dad, Grandparents, Auntie, Neighbour and anyone else who is happy to help. Please record it in their reading record stating the date, list of what was read, quick comment and a signature or initials. We have also decided to change the way we encourage our pupils to read. We are not going to be using the train (KS1) and rocket (KS2) systems this year or extending our subscription to accelerated reader past December.

In every classroom there is now an inviting book corner with age appropriate books that the pupils can access. We have opened up the school library to ensure that pupils can take non-fiction books home to read too. We are also ensuring that key reading skills are developed in daily Guided Reading sessions.

'Manor Court 48'

We are particularly enthusiastic about our final initiative and are excited to share this with parents, carers and most importantly the children. We appreciate that an 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 these opportunities will ensure that all children will have an even greater love of learning and a particular passion or hidden talent will be found.

The 'Manor Court 48' in its entirety can be found on the reverse of this letter and will soon be published on the school website.

Thank you for your continued support.



Mr L Talmage
Head Teacher



Mr A Clode
Deputy Head Teacher/Inclusion Leader

The 'Manor Court 48'

	Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2
Pre-school	Make a mud pie creature.	Build a den.	Splash in muddy puddles.	Look after an animal.	Have a picnic in the park.	Fly a kite.
FS	Make a mud slide.	To have toasted marshmallows on an open fire.	Taste something new and use a knife and fork.	Incubate Chicks.	Eat something you have made yourself.	Have your face painted.
1	Visit the beach and a seaside village.	To have watched a performance at the theatre.	To have played in the woods and made a shelter.	Go inside a plane.	Farm to Fork (TESCOS).	Go on a Bug Hunt.
2	To be able to sew a button onto a shirt.	Make and fly a kite.	Tie shoe laces and teach others.	Visit an animal sanctuary and raise to money to support.	Visit a bakery and make own bread.	Fruit picking.
3	To go on a train ride.	To perform using a musical instrument.	Get lost in a maze.	To know what to do in an emergency.	To have grown vegetables from seed.	Make own picnic and enjoy it in the park.
4	To enter into the Carnival.	To go star gazing.	To cook a dish from another country.	To help somebody in need.	. To have watched a live sporting event.	To take part in an Eco Project.
5	To know basic First Aid.	To have a conker fight.	Go to the cinema.	To be able to read a map and compass.	To take part in a water fight.	To have visited Bristol.
6	Visit London.	School Sleepover.	Plan, prepare and make a meal for a friend for £2.	Know how to iron a shirt.	Go on a cycle ride.	To have experienced the thrill of sailing.

