

Dear Parents and Carers,

Summer Term Newsletter 6 – Friday 29th June 2018



We all hope that this glorious weather continues for a while yet. Please do ensure that your child has a hat, sun-cream and maybe an additional drink with them at all times. There are lots of exciting events happening and there will be some spectacular announcements to be made soon, please do remember to check home bags and the school website for up to date letters.

Key dates (please note that these may change.)



| June | |
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| Friday 29 th June | EYC fundraising quiz |
| July | |
| Wednesday 4 th & Thursday 5 th July | Year 6 Transition days to Holyrood |
| Friday 6 th July | Non uniform day for FMCA fete donations |
| Monday 9 th July | M&M performance of Charlotte's Web to the whole school |
| Wednesday 11 th July | Year 1 trip to Animal Farm |
| Thursday 12 th & Friday 13 th July | Bikeability Course (selected pupils) |
| Friday 13 th July | FMCA summer fete School reports to be sent home |
| Tuesday 17 th July | Y6 performance of Lion King to the whole school |
| Wednesday 18 th July | Y6 performance of the Lion King to family members |
| Thursday 19 th July | Y6 second performance of the Lion King to family members |
| Monday 23 rd July 1:30pm | Year 6 leavers assembly to family members |
| Tuesday 24 th July | Last day of the 2017-2018 school year. Non School uniform day for all children and staff. No donation required. |

More good news - Whole School attendance figures

Last week we received our attendance figures and comparative data from Somerset Local Authority. We are very pleased with the progress that we have made in this area and would like to thank all children and their adults for these improvements. We will continue to monitor attendance and punctuality.

The headlines in this information were:-

- Overall attendance is higher than the Somerset average.
- Persistent absence lower than Somerset average.
- No children on part-time timetables.
- No concerns with our schools attendance
- Attendance ranked 70 out of 153 primary schools in Somerset.



Parent Pay

As you are aware, from September Manor Court School will become cashless. This means that all payments for school trips, school clubs and residential trips will have to be paid online through a secure account on a smart phone, tablet or computer, using Parent Pay.

We will also be using this system to make all bookings for after school clubs, on a first come first served basis. At the moment only 18 families have signed up to create a new account. If you do not create an account within the next two weeks, then your child will not be able to book into a club for the Autumn Term. If you were unable to attend one of the two Parent Pay introductory sessions and still need assistance, please do come and speak to us if you're having trouble creating your account.

Lionel the Lion Mascot

It was a great privilege, for four children (two from Year 3 and two from Year 4) and Mr Talmage to attend Chard's Armed Forces community Fun day, where our suggestion for their mascot's name was officially unveiled. Lionel will visit the school soon to meet all of the children. Rebecca F from Puffins chose the excellent name and is in the picture with Lionel.



Transition day and school reports

A letter was sent home today to confirm who your child's new teacher will be for the next academic year. Next Thursday all children will spend the day in their new classrooms with their new teacher. These days are always helpful for easing any small fears that children may have and to enable them to become familiar with their new environments.

School reports will be sent home on Friday 13th July, **please note change of date**. Please do let your child's teacher know if a second copy of the report is required for a parent (with parental responsibility) that does not live with the child.

After school clubs

All after school clubs finish for this academic term on Friday 13th July. Letters will be sent home soon outlining the autumn club availability and to provide instructions as to how to book into these. All clubs will be booked on a first come first served basis through Parent Pay. Do remember to activate your account as soon as possible.

FMCA non-uniform day and school fete

Our hardworking friends of school committee have their next event, the Summer Fete, on Friday 13th July. This will be immediately after school on the school field. This week you will have received a letter from the FMCA about a non-school uniform day next Friday. Please do go along to the Fete and bring an item in.

Year 5 science at Holyrood Academy

The Year 5 children had a wonderful time at Holyrood Academy on Tuesday to use the science labs for experiments. They tested which materials dissolved in three different acids. They learnt a lot as usual and, as expected, behaved impeccably.



English News from Mrs Terry

Thank you to those who attended the volunteer reader workshops on Wednesday and today. The school is taking part in a Government initiative called the SSIF project, and one of our aims is to provide our pupils with more opportunities to read to others, and to develop a richer vocabulary. There is still the opportunity to sign up next Tuesday between 3.00 and 3.45pm, or you could pop in to see Mrs Wilkins or Mrs Terry for more information. You don't need to be a parent of a pupil here to become a volunteer, we welcome grandparents, aunts, uncles, neighbours and everyone from the local community. DBS checks will be completed for all.

Whilst thinking about reading, we would really like to make our school library as exciting and welcoming as it could be. We are asking for any donations of cushions, bean bags or blankets that we could use to create the best possible reading environment. These can be dropped off with your child's class teacher or to the school Office.

The FMCA have kindly decided to fund a dictionary for each pupil from Year 1 to Year 6 in September. The dictionaries will be used in class, and can be taken home to support the understanding of unknown words when reading school books at home.

Gifted & Talented art day

On Wednesday Mrs Morton and Miss Grabham spent the day with children from all year groups, with a passion and aptitude for art. They designed and decorated two new reading chairs that will become a feature in the school library which is being redecorated over the summer holidays. Please look on the school twitter page for photographs.

EYC news from Laura and Lara

This term we have been looking at Transport. The children have been very interested in junk modelling using different materials to make boats, trains, and cars. It was such a pleasure to welcome the children's Dad's and Granddad's to visit the EYC and it appeared that they thoroughly enjoyed their Father's Day bacon sandwich and cup of tea and receiving their cards. We have been enjoying our weekly music sessions with Declan. The children are mesmerised by his guitar and love joining in with the songs he sings and the rhythms he makes. Lots of learning is taking place through these sessions. Lastly we have been growing strawberries, runner beans and sunflowers. The children have been learning to care for the plants and enjoy helping to water them every day! Our leaver's party takes place on Wednesday 18th July, where we will be wishing our children going to school a big 'Good Luck!!'



New security gates

As you know our new security gates were fitted in the half term holidays. The timers have now been set on these gates; they will be unlocked from 7:30 until 9:00am in the morning and from 3:10 until 4:30pm in the afternoon (term time only). Once these gates have been closed they will remain automatically locked at all other times. The perimeter gate at the front of the school will open from 3:00pm every afternoon, so parents no longer have to wait on the pavement outside of the school.

GPDR forms

We still have not received all of the reply slips and teachers have been asked to start chasing for those replies we haven't yet received. Please do remember to return these forms.

Born to Run – A message from our Chair of Governors, Dr Matt Reed

One of the highlights of the summer was the picture on Twitter of Mr Talmage and Mr Glentworth tied together in the three-legged race at sports day. The seconds of training that they put into this paid off; but most importantly they were there, and they were taking part. School life relies on people taking part. We are asked to take part in quite a broad spectrum of activities. Of course, the children have to take part, legally they are required to attend, and over the last year Miss Gregory has been doing a great job helping families get children to school on time. But participation goes much further than that, as we rely on a lot of people who do not have to take part but do because they know how it helps and the school - and is good fun.

At one end of the spectrum of participation is the audience. I never take an audience for granted we need people to be cheering, applauding, smiling and waving - it makes a massive difference to the children the feeling that they have a community around them, it is an excellent role for grandparents, step-grandparents, foster-parents, uncles, aunts, cousins, to support through assemblies and performances. All it requires is for you to turn up, watch and applaud at the right moments. Next is being a volunteer reader, for those people who have some time during the day and can listen to the children show off their reading skills, a vital thing. Yes, parents are listening to children in the evening at home, but this is one good thing we can't have too much of. There is also the chance to take part in the fantastic walking bus that takes children to Holyrood when they go swimming - a high viz sign of how well behaved and smart they are. Coming along to an FMCA event, bring a bit of money and your children to one of their fundraisers, and if you have a bit of time why not joining them in raising money for the school? The money that is raised from these events makes a real difference.

At the more committed end of the spectrum is being a school governor, we provide training and support, but it does mean a few evenings and days a year, plus some reading. Our parent governors are a great asset as they represent the voice of parents and help guide the future of the school.

We offer lots of fun and rewarding ways of taking part in the life of the school, not only are you helping your children but those of your friends and neighbours, come along and join in!

Thank you for your continued support.



Mr L Talmage
Head Teacher



Mr A Clode
Deputy Head Teacher/Inclusion leader