

Dear Parents and Carers,



### Spring Term Newsletter 4 – Friday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2018

What a ‘crazy’ few weeks we have experienced, with such amazing and unpredictable weather. For once the weather forecasts were correct! We are pleased that we remained open on Thursday (much credit should go to our staff) and the children were able to enjoy the activities that were planned. Please do follow us on Twitter as this and the school website proved to be a quick and secure way of informing parents of what was happening.

Mr Talmage and Mr Clode have this week been speaking at a conference for other Somerset Head Teachers and Deputy Heads about the journey of improvement that the school has been on recently. Mrs Wilkins kindly offered to make a video that was used in this presentation. This video has been uploaded to the school website, in the About Us dropdown for you all to view.

**Key dates** (please note that these may change.)



March	
Monday 12 <sup>th</sup> March	Foundation trip to Axe Valley
Wednesday 14 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 4 performance of Aladdin to parents
Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> March	All after school clubs for this term finish. FMCA Bingo evening
Tuesday 20 <sup>th</sup> March	Games competition v East Coker Primary School (selected children)
Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup> March	Year 3 Egyptian day
Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> March	Last school day of the Spring term Sports relief
April	
Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> April	Inset day
Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup> April	All children return to school
Wednesday 25 <sup>th</sup> – Thursday 26 <sup>th</sup>	Year 4 Wildwood Residential



#### World book day – Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> March

Last Thursday, despite the snowy conditions we celebrated World Book day, with our chosen theme of Beatrix Potter, famous for her stories about Peter Rabbit and friends. The KS2 children participated in a grammar trail around the school and KS1 had to find Peter Rabbit who was hiding in a variety of places. The classes persevered with their sharing of books with one another. At the end of the day all children received a £1 book token that they could spend in the scholastic travelling book fair, Chard bookshop or other reputable book stores. Our children were encouraged to take part in a variety of competitions and some of our lucky winners received a £5 voucher that could be spent at the book fair!

#### Year 4 production of Aladdin

Next Wednesday our Year 4 children will be performing their interpretation of the story of Aladdin to their parents, carers and no doubt grandparents too! They are looking forward to sharing their talents with as many audience members as possible, so please do try and attend. All children will be expected to stay after school and we will be providing a sandwich tea for them to eat.



#### Punctuality

We are disappointed that the same children are still consistently late to school, despite our encouragement for parents to ensure that their child attends school on time. We will be inviting parents to meet with Mr Talmage and Miss Gregory to discuss issues and to inform parents of the next steps. Parents who we would like to talk to will receive a letter informing them of their meeting time.

#### Car Parking

There are an increasing number of parents parking in the staff car park at the rear of the school. Please be aware that this car park is for Manor Court staff only and should not be used by parents of either school children or pre-school children at any time during the day. We appreciate your support in keeping all our children safe by adhering to the parking rules. Parking permits for Bath Street and Crowshute car parks can be obtained through the School office.

## Year 5 and 6 Football

Since our last newsletter the Year 5 and 6 boys football team played against Tatworth Primary School. They were proud to be the first team to wear the new kit, sponsored by D&G Builders LTD. Many thanks to Mr Eddie Gage (one of our grandparents), whose business purchased the kit for us. The boys looked fantastic and they are so proud to represent the school in this kit!



## Book fair

In the two days that the book fair was open last week, £372 worth of books were sold! Scholastic will bring the fair back later in the academic year and it is our plan to have a whole week to celebrate books and different authors. This week will also involve lots of dressing up.



## Parents' evenings

Parents' evenings were once more a great success and there was a positive atmosphere in the school hall. We have collated the parental responses to the survey and these will be sent home in a separate letter next week. We do value your support in your child's education.

## Choir performance at Holyrood Academy

On Wednesday evening, our school choir performed at Holyrood Academy. The children performed Bridge over troubled water, with a stunning solo by Corey and the 1966 Monkees classic, I'm a believer. They were a credit to themselves and the school and we are extremely proud of them.



## FMCA Bingo

We are fortunate to have an active 'friends of school' committee who work tirelessly to raise funds that are used to enrich the experiences that all children receive. Their next fundraising evening is next Friday (16<sup>th</sup> March), which is a prize bingo evening. Please try and attend this evening if you can.



## KS2 SATs

Year 6 children are working especially hard at the moment in preparation for their end of Key Stage assessments, in Reading, Mathematics and SPAG (Spelling, punctuation and grammar). These assessments are between Monday 14<sup>th</sup> May and Friday 18<sup>th</sup> May and there is to be no Year 6 absence in this week please. If children are poorly, please send them into school to do their tests and then we will send them home as soon as it is finished.

## Manor Court Time Travellers – A Message from Dr. Matt Reed (Chair of Governors)

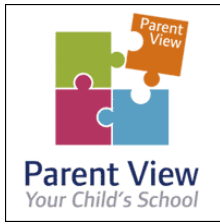
I was very struck recently by Professor Stephen Hawking saying that we are all time travellers - we are all going into the future together not knowing what it is going to bring. We spend a lot of time measuring and assessing the performance of the children in the school. The overall story is that 'we' are making good progress, that 'we' are the children, you as their parents and carers, the teachers and support staff at the school, the governors and the broader community of specialist advisors who serve the school. All of the professionals hold themselves to very high standards, and from time to time we make changes.

These high standards we ask of ourselves are necessary as we do not know what sort of world we are preparing the children for; only that it will be different. The children at Manor Court will work in jobs that we cannot yet imagine, on technologies we can just dimly envisage and as well as facing eternal human problems there will be new ones. Few of us could imagine everyday devices such as smartphones before they arrived but none of the children in the school can remember a time before they were available. We can prepare the children by making sure they have the skills of reading, writing, mathematics and grammar but we need to do more. They will need to have the confidence, imagination and ability to support one another to make the most of these changes. As we continue to improve the school and make it a place where all the children thrive we are making sure their achievements are deeply rooted, so they do well in whatever their future as time travellers brings to them.

## EYC and Foundation Stage Mothers' day assemblies

This week the children of the EYC and the foundation stage welcomed their Mum's into school for special Mothers Day assemblies. They prepared special cakes, art work and cards to give to their mums and thoroughly enjoyed showing off what they have made. It was lovely to see so many Mums and other special ladies coming in to join in our celebration.





**Ofsted Parent view – We need your responses**

Please take the time to create an account and respond to the Parent view survey, we've only had one response in the past year. Just to remind you, 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](http://www.parentview.ofsted.gov.uk)

**School uniform**

Our school uniform looks extremely smart when worn correctly. Can we please remind you of our uniform expectations for all children. If you are unsure of anything, then please do come and speak to us or check the school website.



Boys	Girls
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Navy blue and red tie</li> <li>• White formal shirt for all year groups, apart from Reception and Year 1</li> <li>• Navy blue V-neck sweatshirt with school logo.</li> <li>• Black or grey trousers or shorts for the summer</li> <li>• Black school shoes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Navy blue and red tie</li> <li>• White formal shirt for all year groups, apart from Reception and Year 1</li> <li>• Navy blue V-neck sweatshirt or cardigan with school logo.</li> <li>• Black or grey trousers or skirt or a pinafore dress for the summer</li> <li>• Dark coloured tights</li> <li>• Black school shoes</li> </ul>

Thank you for your continued support,

Mr L Talmage  
Head Teacher

Mr A Clode  
Deputy Head Teacher/Inclusion lead