

Dear Parents and Carers,

Spring Term Newsletter 1 – Thursday 11th January 2018



Happy New Year! We hope that you had an enjoyable, peaceful and relaxing Christmas holiday and that your child has enjoyed their first week back at school. We are anticipating that within this next half term, that there will be a lot of important news to share with you all, so please do take the time to check your child's backpack and the school website for letters and up to date news. Our Twitter page is another key place to find accurate information and gain accurate insight into our school

Key dates (please note that these may change.)



January	
Thursday 11 th January 2018	Bumblebees and Dragonflies French day
Friday 12 th January 2018	Celebration assemblies recommence Year 2 swimming at Cresta starts
Monday 15 th January 2018	Coffee mornings begin – 8:45 to 10:00am
Tuesday 16 th January 2018	Inter-school cross country competition
Wednesday 17 th January 2018	Primary Stars project begins with Yeovil Town Football Club
Friday 19 th January 2018	EAL 'drop in' sessions FMCA Quiz
Wednesday 24 th January 2018	SASP Healthy future's project begins for Y5 and Y2
Tuesday 30 th January 2018	Year 3/4 Tag Rugby Festival at Chard Rugby Club
February	
Thursday 1 st February 2018	Year 4 Fabdrumming workshops
Tuesday 6 th February 2018	Year 5/6 Indoor Cricket festival at Holyrood Academy (selected children)
Tuesday 6 th , Wednesday 7 th , Thursday 8 th and Friday 9 th February	Bikeability course
Friday 9 th February 2018	Last school day of this half term
Monday 19 th February 2018	Children return to school
Tuesday 20 th February 2018	Parents evening (3:30-6:00pm)
Wednesday 21 st February 2018	Parents evening (4:00-7:00pm)
Wednesday 28 th February 2018	Year 5 residential meeting in the school hall - 3:30pm



Coffee mornings

Each Monday between 8.45am-10am, Miss Gregory will be hosting a friendly, informal peer support coffee morning for parents and carers of pupils attending Manor Court. Tea, Coffee and biscuits will be available as well as a friendly face's to talk to. This will be located in the Hub. Manor Court recognises that Family life can be difficult at any time. We are here to offer practical, emotional and friendly help to parents, either at school or in your own home, on areas of family life such as development of pupil self-esteem, confidence and emotional wellbeing, friendship issues/bullying: including social networking, family issues: bereavement, new baby in the family, parent's separation/divorce, key transitions including moving between schools/classes, behavioural concerns, and support for adults around finances, housing, mental health and adult education. Guest speakers from health, housing, education, behavioural support and children's mental health will be in attendance at various coffee mornings to offer support and advice.

All support is confidential and non-judgemental. We listen carefully to your needs and adapt a support package suitable to meet these. If you wish to speak to someone outside of the 'drop in' session or would like to arrange a visit, please contact the Miss Gregory on the school telephone number **(01460) 62350**.

Year 1 French day

Today our Year 1 children have been exploring the country of France and French culture, as the starting point to their new topic 'Bonjour! I'm new here'. The children looked fantastic in their outfits and enjoyed the many different activities including tasting different French foods (croissants, quiche Lorraine, snails (pretend of course!) and macarons, learning simple French words, cooking crepes and building the Eiffel tower with Lego. You will find on the school twitter page lots of photos taken throughout the day.



Celebration assemblies

It is always wonderful to see so many family members at our celebration assemblies and we are pleased to inform you that they start again tomorrow (Friday 12th January). This half term, KS1 assembly will be between 8:50-9:10am and KS2 will be between 10:50-11:10am. As you leave the assembly can we please ask you not to walk down the main corridor but to leave via the door opposite the Year 6 block.



EAL drop in

We are proud of the number of families that we have in our school community that do not have English as their first language. We appreciate that at times, communicating with school and understanding some of the information that comes home can be difficult. We have arranged a fortnightly informal 'drop in' session located in the intervention room, run by two experienced and skilled LSAs who themselves have English as a second language. This will commence next Friday (19th January) at 2pm.

Author visit

In partnership with Chard Bookshop, we have arranged for award winning author Emma Carroll to visit Manor Court on Thursday 8th February. Emma will complete an hour long workshop with Years 4, 5 and 6, in which she will talk about her books and spend fifteen minutes answering the children's questions. Emma will complete a book signing of her published books, this can be purchased in advance of the workshop from Chard Bookshop, or at the end of the workshop for £6.99.

It's been written about Emma Carroll "As the author of several bestselling children's novels, including *Letters from the Lighthouse*, *In Darkling Wood* and *Frost Hollow Hall*, Emma has done hundreds of school events and appeared at Hay, Edinburgh, Bath and Cheltenham Festivals – at the latter of which she was named "Top Five events to see for Kids" by the Telegraph"

This will be another exciting opportunity for the children and increase their love of reading and writing.

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



Staffing

Mrs Scott has started her maternity leave and we have employed an experienced replacement, Mr Durant to teach her class for the first half of the week and Mrs Jones will continue to teach the latter half of the week. Before Christmas we employed Ms Lara Hackett as the Deputy Supervisor for the Early Years Centre and Mrs Emma Johns as an additional teacher within the school.

After School clubs

All after school clubs recommence next Monday. Please check your child's book bag to see the letter which informs you and your child, the club that they have been successful in achieving a place for. Children will have another opportunity to select a different club.

Building works

At Manor Court, we are working hard to improve all aspects of your child's education. One aspect of this is to improve our school facilities to make them more purposeful and comfortable. Our next task is to make the roof at the front of the school water tight. This, as you can imagine, is a huge task and one that may cause some disruption in the 14 weeks that it is anticipated to take to complete. Please be patient with us throughout this time. A further letter will be sent home next week to provide you with further information.



Year 2 Swimming

Magpies and Nightingales will start their swimming sessions tomorrow afternoon. Please remember to bring your money and swimming costumes to school.

Severe Weather advice

It is getting close to the time of the year when severe weather, snow especially, is becoming possible. We will endeavour to keep the school open, but as a considerable number of staff do have to travel, if not enough staff can get to the school, food cannot be provided for the children who have hot meals or if the heating breaks, then regrettably we will have to close. This decision is never taken lightly and will always be as the very last resort. Mr Talmage will be consulting with Mrs Emery (Premises Manager) to ensure continuity across the school grounds.

If the weather does turn for the worse, up-to-date information about the possibility of school closing will be found in the following places.

1. The scrolling bar on the front page of our school website: www.manorcourt.somerset.sch.uk
2. The school twitter page: @ManorCourtChard
3. Somerset Learning Platform <https://slp.somerset.gov.uk>
4. Information will be broadcast on the following radio stations
 - BBC Somerset. 95.5 FM, 1566MHZ
 - Heart FM. 102.6 FM, 96.5 FM (Taunton Area)

Library

Our Library is in the middle of being revamped, with newly created seating areas and will soon be open two evenings a week, so that children can choose with their adult which book to take home to read for their pleasure. The displays have been updated, with many having a Lauren Child (current children laureate in the United Kingdom) theme. Our thanks must go to Mrs Terry, Miss Boobyer and Mrs Nadeau (our recently appointed Year 6 HLTA and school Librarian) for all of the extra time that they have given to making the Library look even better.

We will confirm in the letter next week about the roofing project when the Library will open in the afternoons.

EYC

Laura and the EYC team have had a busy start to the academic term too, with two positive improvements being introduced. The EYC has created its own twitter page and have started to post photographs and recent information on this page. You can find them on twitter at @ManorCourtEYC

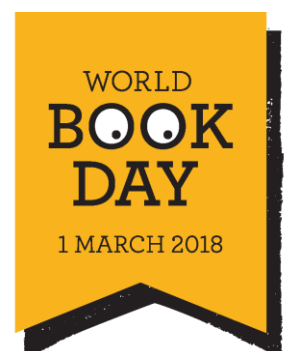
Like many other pre-schools in the country, a uniform has been introduced which can be purchased at Barrons in Chard. The uniform is currently voluntary but from this September all children will be expected this to all of the sessions.

You may not be aware, but the EYC offers breakfast club from 8:00am for their children like the main school does.

World Book day – Advanced notice

Manor Court will be celebrating World Book Day on Thursday 1st March. Once again, we are planning a range of engaging activities to raise the profile of reading. There is no specific national theme this year, but we have decided to have a Beatrix Potter focus. The children will be following a Beatrix Potter trail of her favourite characters like Peter Rabbit, Miss Tiggywinkle and Jeremy Fisher around the school, and there will be fun activities in the classroom. We are inviting children to come dressed as a character from a book by Beatrix Potter, or any book that they enjoy. Alternatively, pupils could bring in a prop/artefact or something they have made that relates to their favourite book or a character, which they can share with the class.

Each child will be issued a £1 National Book token to spend. More details to follow nearer the date, but have a look at home for any Beatrix Potter classics you might already have.



Thank you for your continued support,

A black ink signature of Mr L Talmage.

Mr L Talmage
Head Teacher

A blue ink signature of Mr A Clode.

Mr A Clode
Deputy Head Teacher/Inclusion leader