

Dear Parents and carers



### Autumn Term Newsletter 3 – Friday 10<sup>th</sup> October 2025

October 2025	
Saturday 11 <sup>th</sup> October	Year 4 participating in the Children's Carnival as part of their MC48
Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> October	Flu jabs for the children whose parents have consented
Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup> October	Foundation Stage 'All about me' Art exhibition. 14:45 in the school hall
Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup> October	Jungle Book Theatre for Schools performance to whole school
Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> October	Children break up for October half term
November 2025	
Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> November	Children return to school after the half term holiday
Monday 10 <sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 11 <sup>th</sup> November	Parents Evening. More information to follow nearer half term.



#### Harvest Festival

We had a wonderful time at St Mary's during the morning of Monday 29<sup>th</sup> September as we celebrated Harvest Festival together. The church was packed with 400 children as we sang together, listened to Autumn poems read by children in Year 6, enjoyed the choir and Miss Prater perform and heard Revd John talk about the Harvest and the story in the Bible when the little boy shared his loaves and fishes with Jesus to feed the 5000. We are extremely grateful for your generous donations to The Lords Larder (that displayed in the photo is only a small fraction of it). Rev John and Mr Talmage took it straight to the Lords Larder and Mr Talmage's car was overflowing!

#### Pre-school provision.

We are delighted that the renovation works for our enhanced and expanded pre-school provision started on Monday. More information was sent home in a letter via ParentPay last week.

#### Starting school for the first time in September 2026

The application process for starting the Foundation Stage in September 2026 opens on Monday 29<sup>th</sup> September and closes on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2026! If you would like your child to join our happy, caring, fun, high academically achieving school then do apply through this link.

<https://www.somerset.gov.uk/children-families-and-education/applying-for-school/apply-to-start-school-for-the-first-time/>

If you'd like to look around before making your final decision, please contact the school office to make an appointment with Mrs Terry, Mr Clode or Mr Talmage.



#### Have we got your correct details? – A message from the school office

To keep your child safe, please make sure that if you have changed your telephone number, email address or home address that you remember to let the school office know so that we can update our records.

#### Blythswood Christmas shoe box appeal

Once more this year we are participating in the Blythswood Christmas shoe box appeal and providing Christmas gifts for children living in poverty in England and countries abroad. Shoe boxes, or individual items should be handed in by Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> November. Please see the poster at the end of the newsletter and the leaflets that have been sent home for more information about what items can be added to the collection. Thank you for your generosity.



#### Do you think your child needs a Medical Health Care Plan? A message from Mrs Terry

Parents of children with medical conditions are often concerned that their child's health will deteriorate when they attend school. This is because pupils with long term and complex medical conditions may require ongoing support, medicines or care while at school to help manage their condition and keep them well. Others may require monitoring and interventions in emergency circumstances. At Manor Court Community Primary, we want our parents to feel confident that we will provide effective support for their child's medical condition and that our pupils feel safe. In making decisions about the support, we provide, we may need to have a meeting with you to discuss your child's needs. I have the responsibility of meeting with parents to ensure that Medical Health Care Plans are in place for those children who need one, but if you are unsure or if your child has a health condition that you don't feel that the school is fully aware of, please speak to your child's class teacher or make an appointment through the school Office to speak to me.



We take child protection extremely seriously at our school. If you have a concern, you can speak to any of the school's designated and trained Child Protection officers: Mr Clode, Miss Gregory, Mrs Terry, Mrs Wilkins, or Mr Talmage. Alternatively, you can ring Children Social Care on 0300 123 2224 or email [childrens@somerset.gov.uk](mailto:childrens@somerset.gov.uk)

### The Community Fridge – A message from Miss Gregory (Early Intervention Officer)

The Community Fridge is for everyone in Chard and the local area to use without referral. It is open, when there is food available, at set times and is staffed by a team of volunteers. The Fridge is based in the front room, of Chard's Community Hub (in the old library in Boden Street) and there are also shelves of food in the food room which is at the back of the premises; items here include dried food, tins, toiletries, pet food and some baby food. The Community Hub also have freezers which can have donations from the local supermarkets and local shops for people to help themselves to.



### Mr Wolf spilt the beans!

Mr Wolf visited Year 4 on Tuesday morning to tell the pupils his side of the story. It would seem that Little Red Riding Hood may not be so innocent after all! Mr Wolf visited and created a fantastic WOW English lesson to kick start the twisted fairytales unit.

### Trim Trail – A message from Mrs Jones

Can we please remind all parents that children are not to use either Trim Trails at the start, or end of the day, and must only use them under the supervision of school staff during the school day.



### Rock up & Read! – A message from Mrs Terry

As part of our continual drive to encourage reading for pleasure, we would like to invite you to join us and your children in school for a 'Rock Up and Read' session. Each year group has a set date and time this half term, where we would welcome parents, grandparents and carers into the school hall to listen to our pupils read. You do not need to tell us if you are coming, but we will ask you to sign in if you choose to visit. Please wait outside the top doors by the corridor if attending an 8:50am session, and our staff will sign you in. If you are coming to a 2.45pm session, a member of staff will meet you by the school front gate to walk you up to the hall. If you cannot attend your child's session, please do not worry as some of our older pupils will be supporting any child who does not have somebody to read to. We will run the sessions again during the spring term.

Date and time	Year group
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> October between 2.45pm-3.10pm	Year 6
Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> October between 2.45pm-3.10pm	Year 4
Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup> October between 8.50am – 9.20am	Year 3
Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> October between 2.45pm-3.10pm	Year 1
Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> October between 2.45pm-3.10pm	Year 2
Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup> October between 2.45pm-3.10pm	Foundation
Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> October between 2.45pm-3.10pm	EYC
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> October between 2.45pm-3.10pm	Year 5



### Healthy snacks at play time – A message from Mrs Terry

We encourage each pupil at Manor Court to lead a healthy lifestyle. At play times we provide all of our Foundation Stage, Year 1 and Year 2 pupils with fruit or vegetables and pupils have the option of eating a bagel as part of our 'Magic Breakfast' scheme.

If you provide your child with snacks that do not fit into the cereal, fruit, or vegetable category, these will be kept in their bags or lunch boxes to be eaten at lunch time. Please speak to your child's class teacher if you have any concerns regarding our healthy play times.

### Careers Club met the catering team

Monday's Careers Club saw the children become chefs! They were joined by Mrs Parkes and Mrs Phillips, who are part of our catering team. The children were impressed by their skills to cook for so many children, they enjoyed seeing where the magic happens and then had a go at being chefs to make a fruit salad!



### EYC news from Miss Warren

Preschool have completed their first MC48 of the year - den building! The children worked together to use lots of different materials to create their own dens. The adults were very pleased to see the teamwork and perseverance during this activity. As part of World Space week, the children have also taken part in some super investigating! We've experimented with fizzing rockets and made our own slime! Our rock up and read is happening on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> October at 2.45pm in the school hall. It would be lovely to

see as many of you there as possible (even if your child does not attend with us on this day)!



### Football success against Chard School

The Year 5 & 6 football teams had an excellent match day on Tuesday against Chard School. Both the boys and girls teams won their games. The girls match finished 7-2 to us. Darcie scored four goals and Mara scored three! The boys game finished 6-0 to Manor Court. Daniel scored four goals, and Lincoln and Leon scored a goal each.

### International Walk to School month Zoom Assembly

Mrs Terry has led our whole school assembly today. This week's theme is International Walk to School month which is always held in October. We spoke about the benefits of walking to school when we can and she encouraged us to join the 200,000 children who walked to school in Britain during October last year.



### Pupil Premium

The pupil premium is additional funding that the Government provides for each child who they believe may be disadvantaged in achieving their best in education. At Manor Court Community 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](https://secure1.somerset.gov.uk/forms/PortalShowForm.asp?fm_formalias=freeschoolmeal)



### Online Safety news from Miss Hamilton

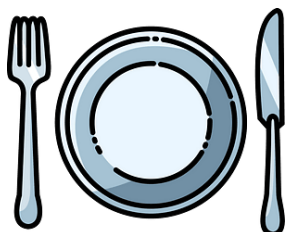
With many popular games continuing to attract younger players, it's more important than ever to stay informed about how children interact in online gaming spaces. Recent reports have highlighted that some games, even those rated as child-friends, may expose children to inappropriate content through chat functions, online play etc. Games like Roblox, Fortnite, and Minecraft remain hugely popular among primary -aged children and while they offer creative and social opportunities, they also carry large risks. We recommend regularly checking game settings, using parental controls, and encouraging your child to talk openly about their in-game experiences. You can use tools like Internet Matters to check age appropriate games and get guidance on managing screen time.

### PE Days for the Autumn Term

Our PE Days have been set for the next half term and are unlikely to be changed, if we need to change them, we will inform you through your Eylog or ParentPay account. Children should wear their PE kits to school on the days listed below. Last year we noticed that some children are wearing their PE hoodies into school on different days and on all other days it is important that full school uniform is worn.

The children who have chosen to have swimming lessons during the school day will have their school lessons on a Thursday.

Classes	PE Day on which PE Kits must be worn
Squirrels & Hedgehogs	Monday
Dragonflies & Bumblebees	Wednesday
Nightingales & Magpies	Wednesday & Thursday
Owls & Kingfishers	Tuesday & Thursday
Eagles & Puffins	Thursday & Friday
Foxes & Badgers	Monday & Thursday
Hérons & Otters	Wednesday & Thursday



### Hot meals parental feedback – A message from Mrs Hunt

Our onsite kitchen is now providing a hot meal for over 200 children each weekday and it appears to us that the children within the school are enjoying the meal that is being offered to them and parents have selected for them through ParentPay.

We would like to ask parents to provide feedback, positive or negative, as to the food that we are providing to your child. If you would like to share this feedback with us, please do email the school office.

If for any reason you are unhappy with the meals provided, please do email the office and we can arrange for our catering manager to contact you to rectify this.

### More volunteer readers needed – A message from Mrs Terry

Do you have spare time that you could commit to volunteering at our excellent school in 2025? We are looking for more adults who can spend time listening to our children to read. Full training (including safeguarding) and lots of friendly children and staff will be provided. Each volunteer will require a DBS (paid for by the school) before they can start. If you would like to find out more information, please contact the school office to speak to me, Mrs Terry (Assistant Headteacher), or Mrs Hunt (School Business Manager).

We take child protection extremely seriously at our school. If you have a concern, you can speak to any of the school's designated and trained Child Protection officers: Mr Clode, Miss Gregory, Mrs Terry, Mrs Wilkins, or Mr Talmage. Alternatively, you can ring Children Social Care on 0300 123 2224 or email [childrens@somerset.gov.uk](mailto:childrens@somerset.gov.uk)

## 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. The Designated Safeguarding Lead is Mr Clode and Deputy Designated Safeguard leads are Miss Gregory, Mrs Terry, Mrs Wilkins, and Mr Talmage. The school Safeguarding and Child Protection Governor is Mrs Sue Wakeman.

**Safeguarding  
is everyone's  
responsibility**

## 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](http://www.parentview.ofsted.gov.uk)



### Wet and cold weather – please send your child to school with a named coat

The weather has started to become unpredictable with lots of rain and cold weather to be expected. It is important that every child is sent to school with a named coat so that they can stay dry, warm and not become unwell.

## Celebration Assemblies

Family members are very welcome to join us at our KS1 (not Foundation Stage until after half term) and KS2 celebration assembly each Friday. KS1 Assembly will start at 08:50 in the school hall and KS2 Assembly will start at 10:50 in the school hall. After half term the order of the assembly’s swap and KS2 is first thing in the morning and KS1 is after the children’s morning break.



### Wrap around care telephone number

The telephone number for our wrap around care provision (breakfast & after school club) is **07471 412147** Please save this telephone number to your phone if you use wrap around care. Breakfast club is held in the school hall and our after-school wrap around care is held in The Den (a room in the Y1 block). To ensure that we have the correct ratios please ensure that you contact the school office the day before you require club.

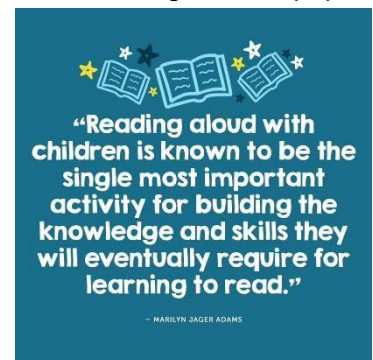
## Reading expectations – A message from Mrs Terry

At Manor Court Community Primary School, we seek to ensure that children are supported to be confident, lifelong learners with a love of reading. Reading plays a very important role in developing children culturally, emotionally and socially and we believe literature plays a key role in such development. Reading enables pupils both to acquire knowledge and build on what they already know.

In school children in KS2 are heard reading on a 1:1 basis at least once a week by their class teacher and Learning Support staff and this is much more frequently in Foundation Stage and KS1. Those pupils not at an expected reading level are heard daily. The EYFS and Key Stage 1 reading books follow a clear progression of banding, ensuring fluency is developed. This academic year, you may find your child has a book sent home that they have already read at school, and this is something that is now promoted in all schools. The more a child reads, the larger their vocabulary becomes. When a child reads or hears the same book multiple times, they become familiar and comfortable with a greater number of words. Fluency is the ability to read text “accurately, quickly, and with expression.”

Repetitive reading allows a child to read without stumbling or stopping, and reading time becomes more pleasant for everyone. Once a child masters one book, it makes moving on to another more appealing. Reading comprehension is the ability to understand all the components of a story — from plot to character development to symbolism. Comprehension is “the essence” of reading. Each time your child reads or hears a book read to them; they learn more about the story itself. Each pass through the text or illustrations allow them to dive deeper into the story’s meaning, preparing them for more complex narratives down the road. Children who progress from the banded scheme to ‘free readers’ are able to access their class library, and the school library, and can be supported to select appropriate books by staff. Pupils are encouraged to take home fiction and non-fiction texts.

Children are expected to read at home 5 times a week, ideally daily, as this helps to develop confident and fluent readers. We would recommend 20 minutes of reading a day. Children’s reading logs are checked to ensure this is taking place. Where children are not reading the required amount in school, they are invited to attend a lunchtime reading club. There is also opportunity to read to a member of staff at Homework Club and After-school Club.



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### **Attendance our school expectations – A message from Miss Gregory**

Pupil attendance and punctuality is a key focus and priority within our school. Individual attendance will be monitored and reviewed on a bi-weekly basis. We would like to kindly remind parents that the school's expectations on individual pupil attendance is 95% and above, with the aim of having 100% pupil attendance. Should your child fall behind the school's expectations a monitoring process is

triggered, and we may ask you to come into school to discuss your child's attendance with us. Should you have any questions or concerns relating to your child's attendance please do not hesitate to contact me within the school.

### **Careers Club – A message from Miss Bagnall**

This term, I am holding a 'When I grow up' careers club after school on Mondays until 4.15pm. I would love to involve parents where possible, so if you would like to share your career journey and would be willing to give up some of your time, then please contact the office and I will be in touch with more information. Thank you.



### **The FMCA needs you!**

The FMCA is a group of parent volunteers who spend time raising money (whilst having fun) for activities or equipment to be used for the children in the school. The work that they do is vital, and the committee needs more volunteers to help them achieve more for the children.

If you would like to find out more about their work and how you can get involved, please do email them on [contactfmca@gmail.com](mailto:contactfmca@gmail.com) or contact them through their Facebook page.

### **Staff car park - A message from Mr Talmage**

Can I please remind all parents that the staff car park at the rear of the school is not to be used by parents at any point as a place to park during drop off or collection times. Please remember that the school provides free parking permits for parents to park in Sainsbury's car park at the start and end of the school day

### **Year 4 Diva lamps**

Year 4 have made Diva lamps in the afternoon this week as part of their Religion and Worldview lessons. The children enjoyed modelling the lamps with clay and will paint them brightly when the clay is dry.



Thank you for your continued support.

Mr Luke Talmage  
Headteacher

Mr Alan Clode  
Deputy Headteacher and Inclusion Leader



## BLYTHSWOOD CHRISTMAS SHOE BOX APPEAL 2025

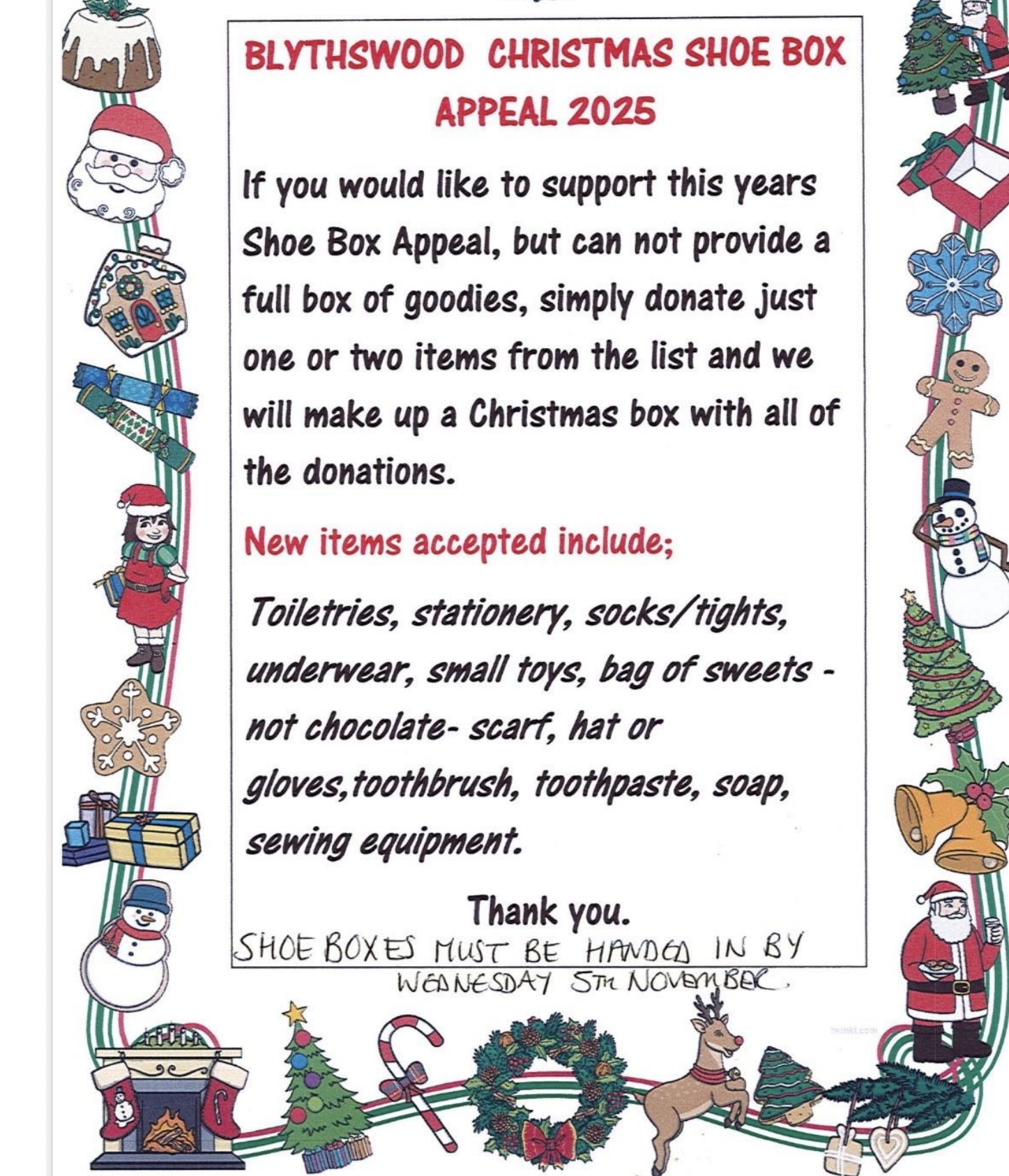
If you would like to support this years Shoe Box Appeal, but can not provide a full box of goodies, simply donate just one or two items from the list and we will make up a Christmas box with all of the donations.

**New items accepted include;**

*Toiletries, stationery, socks/tights, underwear, small toys, bag of sweets - not chocolate- scarf, hat or gloves, toothbrush, toothpaste, soap, sewing equipment.*

**Thank you.**

SHOE BOXES MUST BE HANDED IN BY  
WEDNESDAY 5TH NOVEMBER.



# The Cerdic - JD Wetherspoon



**Challenge Your Mind and Win a Cash Prize!**

**Tuesday  
7th October  
STARTS AT 7PM  
Booking preferred**

**£2  
per person  
Maximum team size:  
6 people.**

**HOSTED BY KRISTIAN ROCKETT!**



**We are proud to support Manor Court School. 50% of the money raised will be contributed directly to their cause.**



Designed by SMS  Repairs 01460 65745

Somerset  
Mobile Bars

&

CHARD  
GUILDHALL

PRESENTS

# MUSIC BINGO!

**Chard Guildhall - 24th October 25**  
**Doors: 6:45pm - Eyes Down 7:30pm**

**£10 per ticket**

**Tickets available from Hairs  
Johnny Barbers, or Scan the QR  
Code!**



**Limited tickets available, book your place for a fun night of  
Bingo!**

**Age 11+ , Under 18's must be accompanied by an adult**

**All proceeds go to Chard Girls U12s, U14s & U16s Rugby Teams**

**For more information contact Somerset Mobile Bars**

**FREE  
AFTER SCHOOL  
COOKING  
CLUB**



**PROJECT FOOD**



# COOKING WITH KIDS

**Offering support for:**

- Meal time challenges
- Fussy eating
- SEND
- Cooking on a budget

For children in Key Stage 2 and their parents or carers.

**Starts**

**Tuesday 30 September  
until**

**Tuesday 11 November**

**3.45pm - 5.15pm**

**Chard Baptist Church,  
Holyrood Street**

Scan the QR code to register your interest or get in touch.



**Free recipe bag to take home**

Email [info@project-food.org.uk](mailto:info@project-food.org.uk), call 01297 631782 or WhatsApp 07305 004631 for more information.

[www.project-food.org.uk](http://www.project-food.org.uk)

Tel: 01297 631782

[info@project-food.org.uk](mailto:info@project-food.org.uk)

Registered charity 1173120



FIRST 2  
SESSIONS  
**FREE**

# COME SCORE YOUR TRY!



**SUNDAYS FROM 10AM  
YEARS: RECEPTION - YEAR 6**

**CHARD RFC  
ESSEX CLOSE  
CHARD  
TA20 1RH**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO  
REGISTER YOUR INTEREST CONTACT:  
GORDON HICKTON, MINIS LEAD  
TEL- 07710 231862  
EMAIL- [minislead@chardrfc.co.uk](mailto:minislead@chardrfc.co.uk)**

WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP WITH

**star** 

# didirugby Somerset

18mths - 6yrs

SATURDAY

**TAUNTON**

0900-0940, 18m-3y

0940-1020, 3-6y

**FREE  
TRIAL**



SUNDAY



**CHARD**

0900-0940, 18m-3y

0940-1020, 3-6y



**NORTH**

**PETHERTON**

0900-0940, 18m-3y

0940-1020, 3-6y



[Ella.thomas@didirugby.com](mailto:Ella.thomas@didirugby.com)