

Dear Parents and carers



Autumn Term Newsletter 2 – Friday 26th September 2025

September 2025	
Monday 29 th September	Whole school Harvest Festival at St Mary's
October 2025	
Monday 6 th October	Rock up & Read sessions start – please see below for more details
Friday 10 th October	Hello Yellow Young Minds Day
Saturday 11 th October	Year 4 participating in the Children's Carnival as part of their MC48
Monday 13 th October	Flu jabs for the children whose parents have consented for them to have it
Tuesday 21 st October	Foundation Stage 'All about me' Art exhibition. 14:45 in the school hall
Thursday 23 rd October	Jungle Book Theatre for Schools performance to whole school
Friday 24 th October	Children break up for October half term
November 2025	
Monday 3 rd November	Children return to school after the half term holiday



Green Tree Schools Award - GOLD! A message from Mrs Terry and Mrs Burns

We have struck GOLD! We found out over the summer holidays that the school has been awarded the Gold Level in the 'Green Tree Schools Award' by the Woodland Trust. The program works by the Woodland Trust rewarding schools for doing environmental projects such as tree planting, reducing CO2 emissions and visiting woods. Schools collect points for each activity they complete, progressing through bronze, silver and gold levels. Over the last year, Manor Court's Eco-Warrior council, submitted enough evidence to be awarded the Gold standard, earning a special certificate and plaque to be displayed in the school.

All Eco-Warrior meetings have minutes that are shared with the school community, helping to track, guide and prompt activities. The council have led assemblies, created posters and organised events for the whole school to take part in that are fun and practical, while helping the environment and improving our grounds.

The award involved both indoor and outdoor activities. Pupils created anti-littering posters, thought of ideas to reduce single-use plastics, informed staff they needed to restrict laminating and even wrote to their MP about climate change! Thirty hedge and copse trees were planted on the school grounds.

The school took part in the Great School Clean Up week, made bug hotels and bird boxes and took part in the Big Birdwatch. The Eco-council asked the site manager, Mr Perham, to build hedgehog houses for the school – and he did! The school greatly benefitted from its local area involvement with such outside organisations as Wessex Water, The Blackdown Hills Association, Ferne Animal Sanctuary, Daisy's Dairy and Magdalen Farm. There has been learning about global issues firmly in the Geography, Science and Art Curriculum.



Pre-school provision.

We are delighted that the renovation works for our enhanced and expanded pre-school provision will commence on Monday 6th October. More information was sent home in a letter via ParentPay this week.

Starting school for the first time in September 2026

The application process for starting the Foundation Stage in September 2026 opens on Monday 29th September and closes on Monday 15th 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.



House Captains

At the start of the school year our Y6 children wrote to Mr Talmage and their class teacher to nominate themselves to be a House Captain for one of our four houses (Bondfield, Gillingham, Stringfellow or Gifford). After a selection process we have chosen the following children to represent the houses and the school. The children were given a coloured tie today that represents the colour of their house and the new house captains will wear these as part of their school uniform.

Bondfield House	Treesa & Noah	Stringfellow House	Chloe & Kobie
Gillingham House	Mara & Charlie	Gifford House	Emelia & Alex

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

Year 5's Solar Farm Trip

Year 5 had a great time visiting Chard Solar Farm last week! We found out how the panels make electricity and where it goes. We also talked about why solar power is good for the planet, as well as some of the tricky parts.

The trip linked really well to our science workshops the week before, when we tested solar panels, tried joining cells to make more electricity, and thought about the best places to put them.

It wasn't just about energy though — we also learnt about the plants and animals living around the solar farm. We collected and identified insect samples and spotted lots of different wildlife. It was a fun and interesting day that mixed science with nature!



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.

Year 4 trip to Chard Museum

Eagles and Puffins classes had a fantastic visit to Chard Museum, where they explored the rich history of local carnivals. The children enjoyed discovering how past celebrations were brought to life and loved learning more about this special community tradition.



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



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 or contact them through their Facebook page.

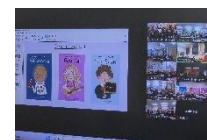
The FMCA's AGM will be held at 19:30 on Wednesday 1st October at the Ballroom at the Phoenix Hotel.

Chard Rugby Club

Chard Rugby Club are looking for new primary aged players to attend their training sessions. Do look at the poster at the end of this newsletter for more information.

Career Champions Online assembly

Miss Bagnall and our school Career Champions led this week's online assembly. They informed us of their afterschool club, careers dress-up day on November 7th and careers week next March! The message in assembly was to Dream Big!



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



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.

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.

Year 4 Carnival talk from Mrs Hooper

A huge thank you to Mrs Hooper who gave up some of her time this morning from the school office to talk to our Year 4's about being a Carnivalite! She has been part of Harlequin Carnival Club since she was 5 years old! We all enjoyed trying on some of her colourful costume creations!



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.



EYC news from Miss Warren

We have been learning about people who help us. The children have very enthusiastically become road sweepers, dentists, police officers and fire fighters! We enjoyed an autumnal walk where we collected lots of leaves to turn into some beautiful artwork. This then linked with our visitor from the RSPCA who talked to us about animals we might see in the cooler weather and how to keep them safe on bonfire night. Please can you make sure you have provided a pair of wellies for your child to keep at preschool. This allows your children to access our outdoor area in all weathers. Thank you.

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.

World Mental Health Day 2025 – Advanced warning

On Friday 10th October 2025, lots of people will be marking World Mental Health Day. It's a global event designed to raise more awareness about mental health conditions.

To celebrate, we are encouraging our staff and pupils to wear something yellow to support the message, #HelloYellow. This could be as simple as yellow socks, a yellow hair band or if you have anything already at home, maybe a yellow t-shirt or jumper. All classes will have the opportunity to make yellow rosettes to wear. This is not a non-uniform day, just a day to accent school uniform with something yellow. Some people have *mental health* conditions like *depression* or *anxiety*, which means they have feelings that won't go away and which start to really affect day-to-day life. There are two main goals of the event. The first is to educate people about them. The second is to remove feelings of shame, worry or embarrassment about talking about or having them.



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

**Volunteers
Needed!**



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

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.



Online Safety news from Miss Hamilton

As the most popular game on the planet with children, Roblox gets a lot of coverage and understandably so. It's an amazing platform to explore but it isn't without its faults, some of which are very significant.

Recently, Revealing Reality carried out an investigation into Roblox due to serious concerns of what children were experiencing within the game. From this report there have been some

changes including Adjustments to content maturity ratings, ID verification for certain games and experiences, Stricter moderation, Enhanced parental controls. You can find the report here:

<https://esafety-adviser.us4.list>

<https://esafety-adviser.us4.list/manage.com/track/click?u=cdb59b76f0e1ad9db768db345&id=e60e6816e3&e=25503b3754>

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

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**

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).

Our new school council

We would like to introduce our wonderful School Council for 2025-2026! The children were presented with their certificates in celebration assembly last Friday. The children will be the voice of their peers and help to make decisions that will benefit the children who attend our school.



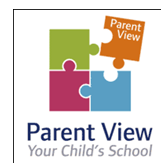
Cooking with Kids

The Cooking with Kids workshops start again next week at Chard Baptist Church. The sessions for Key-Stage 2 children and their parents run between 15:45 and 17:15. Do use the QR code on the poster at the end of the newsletter to book a place for you and your child.

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

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



Wetherspoons fundraising Quiz for the FMCA

Chard 'Spoons' is hosting two fundraising quizzes for the FMCA. Please see the poster at the end of the newsletter and try to attend to support these fundraising evenings.



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 KS2 is after the children's morning break.

Year 5 & 6 Tag Rugby at Holyrood Academy

The Year 5 & 6 Tag Rugby players had a brilliant time at Holyrood Academy on Tuesday afternoon. They practiced lots of rugby skills and enjoyed using these skills in matches against the other schools in attendance for the afternoon.



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.

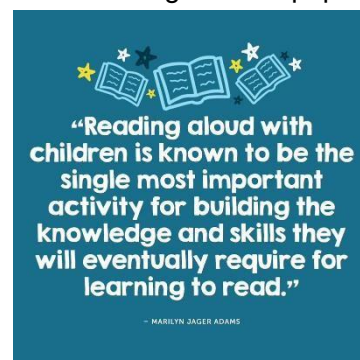
Reading expectations – A message from Mrs Terry

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 allows 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.



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



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.

The 2025-2026 Careers Champions – A message from Miss Bagnall

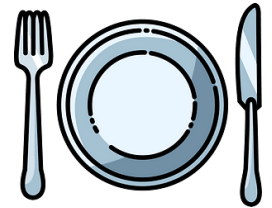
Last week, the new careers champions of 2025 - 2026 were announced to the children in assembly. They have already been very helpful and carried out a Zoom assembly with Miss Bagnall to share the many successes, and future plans. They were pleased to announce that we will be holding a Careers Day on Friday 7th November where children can dress up and show us what they aspire to be. The careers champions will be receiving a very special badge to wear with pride as soon as they are delivered

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.



Thank you or your continued support.

Mr Luke Talmage
Headteacher

Mr Alan Clode
Deputy Headteacher and Inclusion Leader



Friends of
Manor Court
Association



AGM

Annual General Meeting

Everyone is welcome



WEDNESDAY 1ST OCTOBER 2025 | 7.30 PM

Venue: The Ballroom at the
Phoenix

**STAY INFORMED
AND
GET INVOLVED**



The Cerdic - JD Wetherspoon

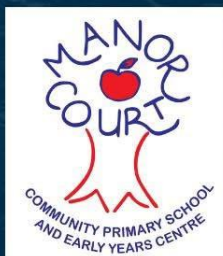


Challenge Your Mind and Win a Cash Prize!

**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

**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, call 01297 631782 or WhatsApp 07305 004631 for more information.

www.project-food.org.uk

Tel: 01297 631782

info@project-food.org.uk

Registered charity 1173120





FREE Swim Trial

Contact Chard Leisure Centre on
01460 315007 or email

suzanne.mallett@freedom-leisure.co.uk

to book your child's FREE Swim Trial

Offer ends 20 September 2025



Learn to Swim
Programme



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**

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