



Apple Tree Press



Manor Court Primary School

Edition 5

October 2025



The start of a new school year sees some new members joining the Apple Tree Press team. This edition you get to meet some as they share their passions and hobbies. They are all ready to bring you exciting news and adventures from Manor Court School.

We have started the year off with a very colourful start with our entry at Chard's Children's Carnival with lots of our teachers also getting into the Carnival Spirit.

We have new school council, house captains, arts councillor's and Eco-Warriors that we will meet in our next edition.

School Scoops Green Tree Gold!

Over the summer we found out that we had been awarded the Green Tree Schools Gold Award by the Woodland Trust. The program rewards schools for going green and completing environmental projects such as planting trees, reducing CO2 emissions and visiting woods. Schools collect points for each activity they complete progressing through Bronze, Silver and then to Gold. Manor Court's Eco Warriors submitted enough evidence to be able to achieve Gold.



In This Edition

Why I Love Cricket!



Holyrood The Next Step



Our very own Carnival Queen



London In a Day



Year 6 visit London

In September our year 6 children visited London to have a tour around The Houses Of Parliament, and 2 of our reporters were lucky enough to be part of the trip.

The London Eye, Houses Of Parliament, River Thames and Shard were just some of the amazing sights our Year 6 children got to see on a busy and exciting day in London.



We met lots of interesting people and even had a talk with some of the police officers who were there. They talked to us about their jobs and even let some of us try on their hats. They were really friendly and fun.

A DAY IN LONDON

We had to get to school by 6 o'clock to get on the coach if we didn't we would be left behind. We had a 2 story coach, on the first story there were tables and charging ports, we were very excited.

We had a long journey ahead of us and we passed by Stonehenge. After around 3 hours we finally arrived and went to a park where we ate lunch and were assigned groups.

Hérons went to The London Eye first, while Otters went to look across the River Thames before going to The House Of Parliament. We learnt about lots of amazing stuff and the courageous stuff that has happened there. We learnt about King John and the Magna Carta, which he was made to sign by the Barrons as King John was a bad king and made people pay very high taxes.

We found out that the reason the King can't go into the House of Commons was because of King Charles I because he tried to have members of parliament arrested. King Charles I was later found guilty of treason in 1649. He was beheaded outside the banqueting hall. It sounded disgusting but it's a true fact.

After learning so much Otters headed to The London Eye. On the way to The Eye we learnt that The Shard is the tallest building in London we saw it later on. When we got to The Eye we were waving to some more of our class in a different pod then we started to look around at all the famous landmarks.

Near the top of The London Eye, we saw the ... THE SHARD told you we saw it later on. It was amazing you should see it.

Emma



From the top of the London Eye we could see lots of the River Thames. I enjoyed looking at water taxis on the river. If you go to London I would recommend catching a ride in one. They looked like a good way to see the sights!

An Early Start!

LONDON, THE CAPITAL OF ENGLAND IS A BUSY 21ST CENTURY CITY WITH HISTORY STRETCHING BACK TO ROMAN TIMES. I WAS EXCITED TO GO AND SEE IT. WHEN I GOT TO SCHOOL I WAS SO TIRED BECAUSE I WOKE UP AT 4:42AM. WE HAD TO BE AT SCHOOL BY 6AM SO THAT WE COULD GET TO LONDON ON TIME.

WHILE EATING OUR LUNCH IN THE PARK WE COULD SEE BIG BEN. WELL NOT QUITE BIG BEN BECAUSE THAT IS THE BELL, THE PART WE COULD SEE IS CALLED ELIZABETH TOWER.

WHEN WE GOT TO LONDON WE WENT TO THE HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT. IT WAS FUN BECAUSE WE GOT TO ACT OUT DIFFERENT ROLES THAT PEOPLE HAVE THERE.

AFTER THAT WE WENT ON THE LONDON EYE I WAS HAPPY TO GO ON IT, AT FIRST BUT WAS THEN LIKE IS IT GOING TO STOP? WAS LIKE IS IT GOING TO STOP? IT TAKES 30 MINUTES TO GO ALL THE WAY ROUND AND ITS VERY HIGH! AT THE END OF THE DAY WE GOT BACK ON THE COACH AND MADE OUR WAY HOME VERY TIRED BUT HAPPY FROM SUCH A GOOD DAY.

MARA



The Covid Memorial Wall

If you walk along the Thames between the London Eye and The Houses of Parliament you will see the wall of remembrance. It is filled with Hearts and the names of lots of people who died from Covid during the pandemic.

“ I liked getting to say Order in the Court when we went into the House of Lord’s.”

Orlando

“ I was surprised by how big the London Eye was! “

Louie

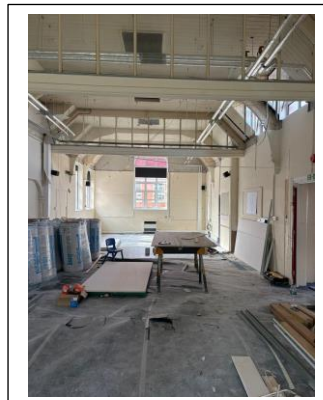
“ London was soo busy! “

Charlie



Build Update – A new build underway!

With our new classrooms finished and Year 4 now using them a new build has started! Our Year 1 block is being changed into a new early years centre! It will have a sensory room and 2 old classrooms are being made into one big play space. Lots more children will be able to come and start at Manor Court School.



Mrs Hooper ... Our Carnival Queen

With Carnival fever hitting Manor Court, Year 4 got to interview our very own Carnival Queen Mrs Hooper. A member of the Harlequin Carnival Club, founded by her parents.

How old were you when you first got involved in carnivals?

I took part in my first carnival when I was just 3, when I was 5 years old my mum and dad started the Harlequin Carnival Club. My mum, dad, brother and sister were all part of the club and lots of our friends joined too.

What is it like being part of a carnival club?

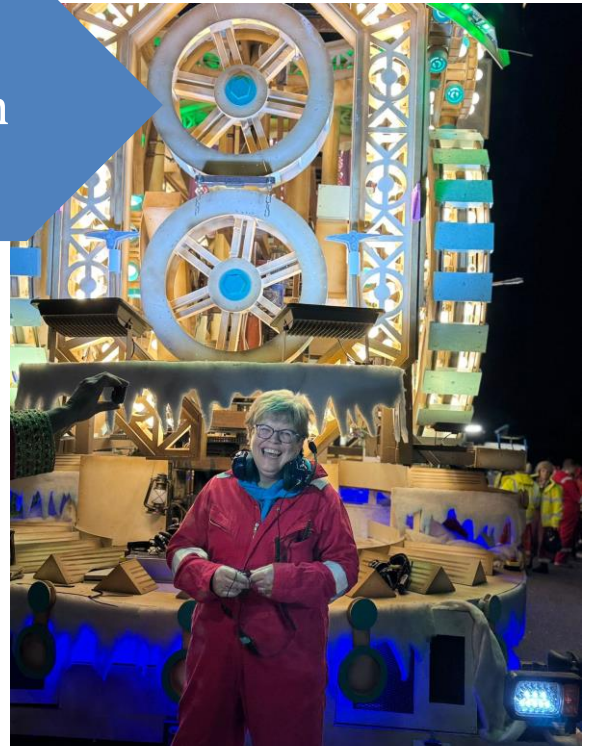
It's really good fun. When you put on a costume and make-up you can become someone else. You can forget all about the worries you've had that day and you become happy! Throughout the year, there are fundraising activities that we take part in. It's like being part of a big carnival family.

Who makes the carnival cart and costumes and how do you decide on a theme?

People in the club put forward an idea and then everyone votes on a theme. To start off with, a scaled model is made and then it takes about a year to make the actual float. There are electricians, carpenters, costume makers and painters in the club, who all work together.

How long is a carnival?

A carnival lasts about one and a half hours, however we get to the town where it is being held at 3.00pm on a Saturday as it takes time to get 30 people dressed and to put on their make-up. We get to the float about an hour before the procession starts. Sometimes by the time I get home, it's 10pm at night!



MRS HOOPER TOOK PART IN HER FIRST CARNIVAL AT THE AGE OF 3. HER MUM MADE HER COSTUME FROM THINGS SHE FOUND IN CHARITY SHOPS. SHE WAS DRESSED AS ONE OF THE 3 MUSKATEERS AND TOOK APRT AS A WALKIING ENTRY.



“ MY FAVOURITE CARNIVAL IS ILMINSTER AS I LIVE THERE AND RECOGNISE A LOT OF PEOPLE IN THE CROWD.”

MRS HOOPER HELPS TO MAKE THE COSTUMES WITH 7 OTHER PEOPLE. IT CAN TAKE UPTO 6 MONTHS TO MAKE ALL OF THE COSTUMES. THERE ARE ALSO 4 PEOPLE WHO DO THE MAKE-UP.



Do you think carnivals will continue into the future?

I hope so. Carnivals raise lots of money for charities but carnivals also have lots of rules to follow. There are a lot of safety regulations, and the floats cost a lot of money to build. We need the younger generation to be interested to keep them going.

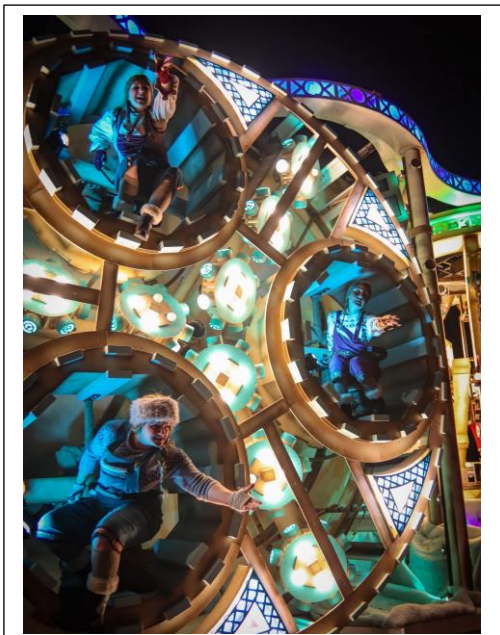
When will you stop taking part in Carnivals?

This year I am not riding on the float but am supporting the procession by walking. Some of the younger members will be dancing. My Mum only stopped two years ago when she was 83 years old – so who knows!



Did you spot the Harlequin Carnival Club at Chard Carnival this year?

They won best feature in class 1, best routine, most original, best build up, chairman's choice and most importantly the public's choice awards with their entry ICE HARVEST.



EVERY YEAR WE FOLLOW THE SAME PATTERN OF CARNIVALS AND WELLINGTON IS ALWAYS FIRST. AFTER THAT IT GOES: ILMINSTER, TAUNTON, BRIDGWATER, BURNHAM-ON-SEA, WESTON-SUPER-MARE, NORTH PETHERTON, SHEPTON MALLET, WELLS AND THEN GLASTONBURY.

Mrs Hooper was interviewed by our Year 4 Students.

WHY I LOVE CARNIVALS WITH MY DANCE TEAM FORTITUDE!

Lacey, one of our very own Apple Tree Press Reporters, couldn't wait to share her own experiences of Carnival this year and what it means to her to be part of the Fortitude Dance Performance Team.



No Pressure and Lots of Fun!

That is how Lacey describes being a member of dance team Fortitude.

When my old dance group shut I really wanted to join another one and that's when my mum found Fortitude. There are 11 members from age 7 up and we go to different schools. There is also going to be a minis section.

We trained twice a week during carnival season but now we are back to once a week. Every so often we might get some special treats at classes as a thankyou and reward for all our hard work.

Its good to be part of the team and I don't feel pressured like in other clubs I've been in, they just want us to have fun. We definitely have lots of fun together!



I have become more confident and brave, even walking in one of the Carnivals without my mum with me. She waved with my family when we danced by. I never thought I would be able to do that

I really love performing and dancing, being in the Carnivals is really exciting but can also be a bit cold.

My favourite thing is being able to see people I know as we dance around and them all waving and smiling at me.

We had some great costumes and I liked the graffiti leggings that we wore best. We had long colourful hair extensions but they were a pain as they kept getting stuck in the Velcro of our coats.

Fortitude took part in South Petherton, Axminster, Chard, Ilminster and Taunton's carnivals this year.

We got 1st or 2nd places in our group in all of the Carnivals we took part in.

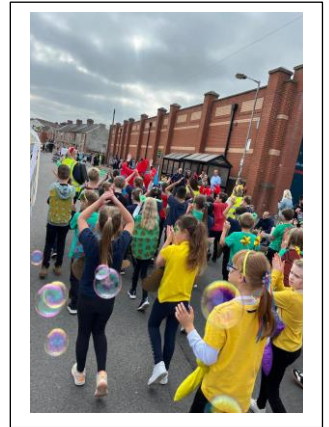


'UNDER THE SEA' WITH YEAR 4



Winning Best Local Entry and getting second in the Schools Category.

Our year 4 team were led by Miss Stewart around the streets of Chard. They danced and sang all the way round and were greeted by the biggest crowds we have seen at the Children's carnival.



DID YOU KNOW?

All of the children made their own costumes at school, they painted and decorated fish, shells, turtles, starfish, jelly fish and sharks!



The Year 4 teachers showed off their best Lobster Moves.

Back in 2018 we decided to enter Chard Children's carnival with a group of year 4s that started a new tradition for Manor Court. Their entry was called "A Taste of Brazil"

and won many awards. Those children are now in Year 11 at Holyrood and fondly recall their memories of that year. Back in 2019 Manor Court was the only school there. Since then Year 4 have entered into the fun and spirit of the children's carnival every year and have led the way for Chard's other primary schools to come and enjoy the fun.



IN 2021 CARNIVAL LOOKED SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT AFTER A MISSING A YEAR DUE TO COVID. OUR YEAR 4'S DID NOT MISS IT THOUGH AND TOOK PART IN THE NIGHT-TIME CARNIVAL INSTEAD WITH THEIR ENTRY 'SHINE.'

Cricket

AS WINTER COMES WE LOOK BACK AT A SUMMER OF CRICKET FOR ONE OF OUR REPORTERS.

Cricket.....

Cricket is a sport many people know about. Cricket is played between two different teams, one team fields and the other bats then they swap around. Most teams want to field first because there is an advantage if you are on the fielding team. You can see what score the batters get so you know your target and go out and BEAT IT!

Nethuli



WHY I LOVE CRICKET!

I started to play Cricket at the age of 3 when I lived in Sri Lanka. My dad would play with me and teach me at home. I really enjoyed doing this with him. When I was 7, we moved to England then settled in Chard and after 2 years I begged my dad to let me join a cricket club. That's when I joined Chard Cricket Club and met my coaches Dan and Lisa who are brilliant. They really support me and help me and know a lot about Cricket!

It is great fun to be able to play cricket with lots of other girls and I've got quite good at it. Being part of a team is very special and I look forward to going to training and playing games. Lots of girls play Cricket at Chard and I'm now part of the girls under 12s team. One day I want to be able to play on the ladies team.

My dad still teaches me and helps me and when I'm older I really want to be able to play at the same cricket club as him. That would make me very proud. I can't wait for Cricket season to start again next year and get back to my team.



My Award

This is very special to me because it is my very first medal for cricket. I got into cricket because of my dad. He played it in his teenage years and he still plays now at a club called Buckland Monachorum Cricket Club.

Fun Facts

There are in fact 3 different formats of the sport played at international level.

Cricket is one of the most popular sports in England, and has been played since the 16th century.

Approximately 30 million players are registered worldwide and about 2.5 billion fans.



Mr Johnson also Loves Cricket!

Mr Johnson is one of our teachers and he also loves cricket and started playing when he was very young. He played in his back garden with his dad as soon as he was old enough to pick up a cricket bat. He enjoys it so much that he now coaches for the under 10s and under 12s teams at Chard Cricket Club wanting to help them find the same enjoyment.

In the last 2 years Mr Johnson completed his formal cricket coaching with Somerset Cricket Board, but before that he was at secondary school when he first started doing coaching with his cricket club.... It was a long time ago.

I like Crickets because it is great fun, you get to hit balls, throw ball, run a round and of course the best part is that you do it in the sunshine.

The only bad thing about cricket is bad weather then we can't play.



Mr Johnson plays for Chard Cricket Club Mens Team.

He loves opening the batting. And said that he is more of a Batsman at the moment. He also Likes fielding because he gets to dive around trying to catch the ball.



Did You Know?

Cricket originated in England as a children's game, and the length of a cricket pitch of 22 yards has remained the same since 1706.



Best cricket memories

Winning trophies when he was a child and then playing for County.

When he went to university he continued playing cricket and made really good friends from those cricket teams.

Mr Johnson's son has also started to play Cricket and watching him learn and enjoy it is also very special to him.

Holyrood Academy – The next step

In July some of our Year 6 reporters visited Holyrood Academy to see what they could expect on the next stage of their school journey. They interviewed some of the students and Mr MacCormick to find out more.

We started by talking to some of the Holyrood students. To start with we were all a bit shy and didn't know what to say to each other but once we started asking questions we realised they weren't that scary at all!

Q. What should we expect at Holyrood as new year 7s?

There are a lot of clubs and your able to do a lot more stuff. But there is a lot more people and that can take a while to get used to.

Q. What is the hardest part of being a year 7?

Getting to know new people, doing homework, its a lot more than at primary! Its not totally awful or too taxing but more than you are used to.

Q. How long did it take you to be able to find your way around to your classrooms without getting lost?

Its not as hard as you think it will be. Finding the right blocks and then where your classroom is in the block is difficult at first but you learn quickly. Once you've done it once you will remember it for next time.

Q. How did it feel going from being the oldest to the youngest?

Weird at first because you feel more relaxed at primary. At secondary you are surrounded by lots of older children. You go from having all the power on the playground to barely having any!

Q. Do you have lots of clubs and how do we get to join them?

There are loads!! And also some for just year 7s so you don't have to be with the older kids and there's also ones just for boys or girls. There are clubs for everything, cooking, drama, sports and board games are just a few.

Q. What does the school do to support you if someone is being unkind or picking on you?

You can tell your tutor or do it online. On the school website there is a report bullying button. In our assembly the other day we talked about it not just being about bullying, it could also be if we need help with our mental health, we are worried about someone else or someone else is getting bullied. You can do it anonymously.

Q. Whats the most challenging thing about being a year 7?

Making friends. You have to make yourself talk to new people and make new friends. You remain friends with your friends from primary but you make new friends and friendship groups.

Q. What was the best advice you would give to a new year 7 at Holyrood?

Get to know lots of new people and make friends and avoid getting into arguments. Enjoy being the youngest while you can!



Students told us that there favourite things about Holyrood were...

The Food!
Bacon Sandwiches
Design and Technology
Getting to use lots of different machinery.
Cooking
All the clubs
Being with friends
School trips

And that the teachers were ok too.



Next we spoke to Mr MacCormick, who seemed really cool for a Headteacher!

Q. You Became Headteacher in 2020, what made you want to become the headteacher of Holyrood Academy?

I've worked in Chard at Holyrood since 2016. I really love working with the people and young children in Chard. I think it's a very special school and I wanted to be able to make it even better than it already was.

Q. What is the most challenging thing about being a headteacher?

Trying to get it right for everybody, the decisions that I make affect a lot of people. We have about 230 staff at Holyrood which is a lot more than most primary schools and 1400 children and their families. That means that sometimes some people like the decisions that I make and sometimes people don't. It can be quite difficult to try and get it right for everyone.

Q. What do you do at Holyrood if you feel like you are struggling, things are too hard or you have a problem?

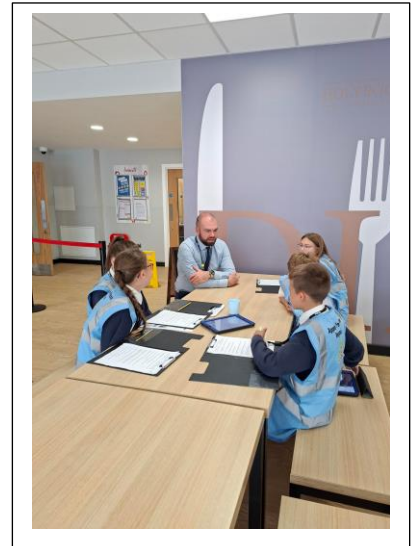
Depends what the problem is, if it's something to do with your learning and you feel like you need a bit of help in the classroom you can ask your teacher for that, the same as at primary school. If there is a problem in terms of your mental health or wellbeing the best person to talk to is your form tutor who can help you with that type of stuff. If there's been an issue where someone has been unkind to you there are three ways of getting help, 1st is to talk to your tutor, email the anti-bullying email address or fill in the form on the website. If you are worried about someone not being safe or you not being safe then you can go and see the safeguarding team.

Q. We have seen Holyrood at lots of events that we go to, what events do you do at Holyrood?

Lots! The school shows are amazing. There is loads of sport and last year we won 54 county championships. So that means Holyrood was the best in the county 54 times! Annual sports day where everyone can sign up to do something and get involved. Year 7 walk, you get taken to Ilminster and then walk back to Holyrood and when you get back you get given your house badge. Year 7 Cardiff trip, Year 8 London, Year 9 get a variety of choices, Duke of Edinburgh Bronze, Silver and Gold. There are too many to remember!

Q. What has been your favourite event at Holyrood?

Year 11 celebration day every year! The Turning circle gets opened and the year 11s all arrive like celebrities. They have a celebration at school then go onto to have a prom party in the evening. Year 7's get to be the Guard of honour.



**Work Hard
BE Kind
Join In**

Come in with a good attitude, be prepared to work hard and get involved in all the clubs and trips and you will have a really fun time here.



Mr MacCormick's favourite lessons at school.

History
English.
PE
Science
Design and Technology

We think he especially liked football because of his favourite team Celtic, who he talked about lots!

SUPER CARS ARE JUST COOL!

Cars Word Search
Can you find the words hidden in the puzzle?

A	Y	M	S	P	I	E	N	R	E	D	B
O	F	R	E	A	O	V	L	O	V	R	M
I	L	E	A	B	L	A	C	K	O	Y	W
N	J	S	R	R	R	M	P	T	L	B	L
T	O	T	D	R	E	E	G	J	K	E	U
E	W	D	F	I	A	T	R	A	S	N	E
S	R	H	P	A	U	R	A	R	W	T	A
L	F	A	D	A	G	F	I	U	A	L	P
A	M	Z	D	T	I	R	R	G	G	E	D
P	A	R	J	A	G	U	A	R	E	Y	H
M	V	T	U	A	D	Z	H	O	N	D	A
P	S	I	L	E	X	U	S	A	N	S	T

FIAT FERRARI LEXUS
 BMW HONDA JEEP
 JAGUAR VOLVO BENTLEY
 VOLKSWAGEN MAZDA TESLA

Did you Know?

The best selling car in the world is the tesla model Y.

Cars were first invented in 1885 by Carl Benz. Today, the world has an estimated 1.47 billion cars.

Most cars are left parked for about 95% of their lifetime.

The first speeding ticket was issued in 1902. Modern airbags can deploy in just 30 milliseconds!.

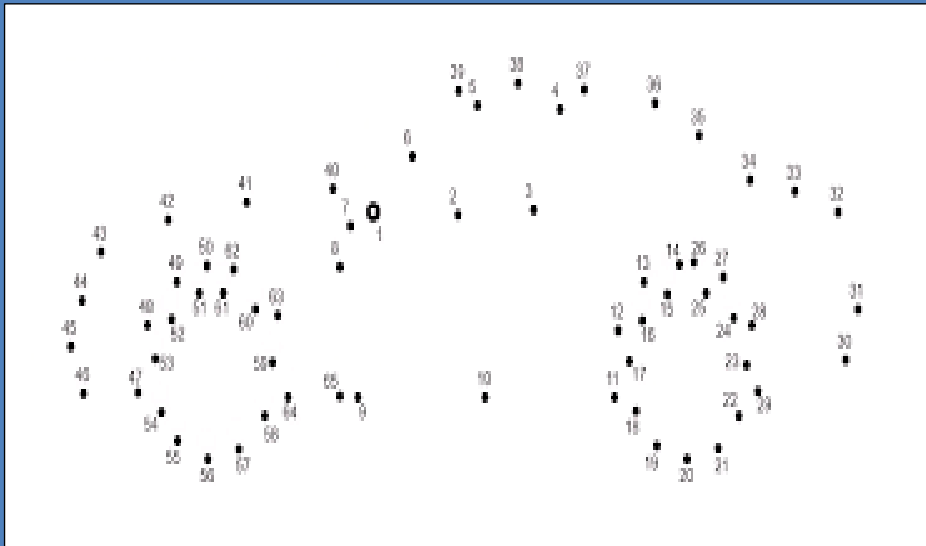
Bugatti Veron lasts 15 minutes at top speed.



Just For Fun...

Its probably not safe for me to drive my car right now but hey bad brakes have never stopped me before.

People laugh at my car its ugly and green but at least I avocado.



Created by ERNEST

Sports Round- Up



Year 5 & 6 had a football match against Chard School and came away with the boys and girls both winning.

Boys Game finished 6-0 to Manor Court With Goals from Daniel, Lincoln and Leon

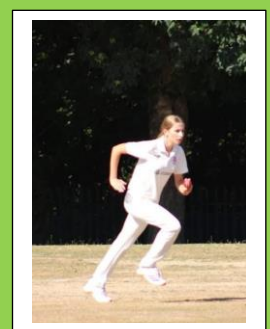
Girls Game finished 7-2 to Manor Court with goals from Darcie and Mara.

It was a good and fair game all round, thank you to chard school for playing.

Isobel, a former pupil of Manor Court School, has been selected to represent Somerset County Cricket Club on a tour to Sri Lanka as part of the U15s Squad.

This is an amazing opportunity and one that is thoroughly deserved due to her passion and commitment to Cricket. We are trying to help get her there by raising money by having a non-uniform day and children will bring in money which will then donate to Isobel's Crowd Funder Page. More details can be found on the Chard Cricket Club face book page.

Good Luck Isobel and thankyou for helping inspire girls to play Cricket and follow in your footsteps.





There are over 1000 different species of Pokémon who all have lots of different powers. There are different types of Pokémon – Fire, Earth, Water and Electric. They can also all do different moves.

Pokemon – Gotta Catch Them All

A Guide to Pokemon by Toby and Oliver

Pokemon is a Japanese anime trading card game. There is also a television series, film, toys and computer games all about it. The games were created by Satoshi Tajiri.

“The reason I collect Pokemon cards is because there are endless possibilities in each pack. From Surging Sparks to Destined Rivals. It's exciting when you get them and don't know what will be in your pack.”

Toby



Arceus – A legendary Pokemon

According to the legends of Sinnoh, Arceus emerged from an egg and shaped all that was in his world. It is told in Pokemon mythology that he was born before the universe existed!

His possible moves include: Seismic Toss, Cosmic Power, Natural Gift, Punishment, Gravity, Hyper-Voice, Extreme Speed, Hyper-Beams and Perish Song.

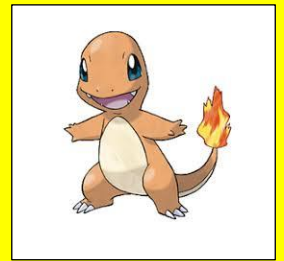
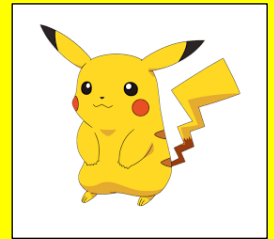


SOME OF THE RARE AND OLD POKEMON CARDS ARE WORTH LOTS OF MONEY. A PICHACU ILLUSTRATOR CARD WAS SOLD FOR MORE THAN 5 MILLION POUNDS!



There are Pokémon Card Game tournaments where 100s of people play against each other. You win by getting all 6 prize cards or knocking out all of your opponents Pokémon.

Design Your Own Pokemon Competition



We want you to design your own Pokemon.

You need to think about:

What type would it be? What powers would it have? How much health would you give it? What weaknesses does it have?

Draw it in the box above or on a separate piece of paper and hand into Mrs Guyett, Toby or Oliver in Year 6. The winning pokemon will put into the next edition of The Apple Tree Press.

The Press Team

THANKYOU FOR READING THIS EDITION OF THE APPLE TREE PRESS. ALL ROLES WITHIN THE PRESS TEAM HAVE BEEN FULFILLED BY PUPILS FROM YEARS 5 AND 6 AT MANOR COURT. THEY HAVE RESEARCHED AND FACT CHECKED ARTICLES, PREPARED AND CARRIED OUT INTERVIEWS, CREATED PUZZLES, TAKEN PHOTOS, PUT TOGETHER FINISHED ARTICLES AND BEEN INVOLVED IN ALL ASPECTS OF CREATING THIS FOR YOU. WE HOPE YOU HAVE ENJOYED IT AND LOOK FORWARD TO STARTING WORK ON OUR NEXT EDITION.

THE PRESS TEAM ARE:

MARA, EMMA, NETHULI, VERA, TOBY, OLIVER, ERNIEST & LACEY

IF YOU HAVE ANY STORIES OR EVENTS THAT YOU WOULD LIKE TO SEE IN THE PAPER PLEASE TALK TO ONE OF THE TEAM, OR CONTACT MANOR COURT PRIMARY SCHOOL.

Want a paper copy of the Apple Tree Press?

You can pick up your copy at..

The Guildhall, The Community Hub, Chard Library, The Communita Waffle House and St Mary's Church.

