

Dear Parents and carers



### Autumn Term Newsletter 4 – Friday 24<sup>th</sup> October 2025

October 2025	
Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> October	Children break up for half term
November 2025	
Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> November	Children return to school after the half term holiday
Friday 7 <sup>th</sup> November @ 15:20	Y4 Multiplication Check meeting with parents
Monday 10 <sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 11 <sup>th</sup> November	Parents Evenings. Please see the letter sent home for more info.
Tuesday 25 <sup>th</sup> November	Scholastic half price book fair arrives

#### Year 4 Carnival Entry

We were delighted to announce that our Year 4 carnival entry once again won a trophy – ‘Best Local Entry’ with this year’s spectacular theme, ‘Under the Sea’. The children looked fantastic as they transformed into starfish, lobsters, crabs, fish, shells, octopus, jellyfish, turtles and even mighty sharks!



A huge thank you to everyone who came along to cheer us on and support the children as they danced proudly through the procession. Your encouragement and enthusiasm helped create a truly memorable day.

If you missed it, Chard’s Children’s Carnival on Saturday 11th October was a wonderful celebration of our pupils’ creativity and hard work. We were so proud of all the children who took part.

#### Careers Day – A message from Miss Bagnall

On Friday 7<sup>th</sup> November, all children are invited to come to school wearing an outfit that shows us what they aspire to be when they grow up. It could be a vet, a policeman, a scientist, or a footballer. The possibilities are endless! We will have a special visit from a local business, Numatic, who will hold a whole school assembly and carry out activities in classrooms throughout the day. Children will also have opportunities to do career related activities in class and learn more about the future ahead of them. Thank you for your support.

#### High Visibility jackets from Numatics

A huge thank you to Numatic International Chard, who have kindly donated high-visibility jackets for a whole year group to use for trips and events where we need to be seen!



#### 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.



#### Save the dates for our Christmas performances

We are swiftly moving into the Christmas period and the children will soon start to prepare our Christmas events to perform to you. We would like to give you plenty of advanced warning so that you can request the time off from work if necessary to attend the performances for your children. Please save the dates in your diary so that you are not disappointed. We will provide further

information to you after the half term holidays.

Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> December at 14:30	Foundation Stage Nativity. Performance 1
Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> December at 09:30	Foundation Stage Nativity. Performance 2
Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> December at 09:30	Y3 & Y4 Carol Concert at St Mary’s Church
Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> December at 11:00	Y5 & Y6 Carol Concert at St Mary’s Church
Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> December at 09:30	Y1 & Y2 Christmas play to parents. Performance 1
Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> December at 14:00	Y1 & Y2 Christmas play to parents. Performance 2

#### Writing competition winners – A message from Mrs Terry

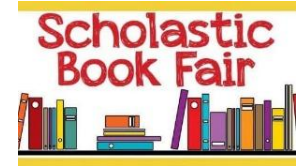
Back in July, children from every year group entered a poetry and story writing competition run by the charity, Sunflowers of Somerset. We are pleased to announce that we had twenty poetry winners and that Amelia K and Emelia G were both winners in the 9 to 12 year-old story category, and will have their work published in a book to be launched on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> November in a special ceremony held at Monks Yard! Congratulations girls!



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, Miss Warren, 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)

## Scholastic Book Fair

We are pleased to announce that we will be holding a **HALF PRICE** Scholastic book fair! The fair will open on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> November and will run until Monday 1<sup>st</sup> December. The book fair will be in the school library. Cash or card payments can be taken. Every book will be at least half price, making for some great Christmas gifts!



## Outdoor equipment – A message from Mr Clode

We are further developing our provision by setting up some more Outdoor Learning Groups after Half Term. The children in these groups will be working in our Nature Area and learning gardening skills through a Nurture Approach to develop teamwork, communication skills and confidence.

If you have any spare or unwanted gardening equipment such as trowels, gloves, spades, forks or rakes please bring them to the school office to help with the setting up of the groups. Thank you.



## Rock up & read – A message from Mrs Terry

Our special 'rock up & read' sessions have had a wonderful commitment from parents and carers over the two-week block; thank you to everyone who came to support their children. It proved popular to run the sessions at the end of the school day, instead of first thing in the morning. We averaged 30 parents a session! These sessions are part of our encouragement to read for pleasure. The Government are launching their 'National Year of Reading' in 2026 as more and more studies show that children are not reading in their spare time, and neither are many adults. We will be fully backing this campaign. As the next half term will be very busy with the run up to Christmas in the school hall, our next set of 'rock up and read' sessions will be in January - so we hope to see you with us again.



## 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.

## Starting school for the first time in September 2026

The application process for starting the Foundation Stage in September 2026 opened 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



## PE Days for Autumn Term 2

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 & Friday
Eagles & Puffins	Thursday (swimming) & Friday
Foxes & Badgers	Monday & Thursday
Herons & Otters	Wednesday & Thursday

## Year 6 optometrist visit

Last week Year 6 had a visit from Robert Frith opticians in Chard to talk to the year group about his job and eye health linked to the Year 6 science topic on how we see things. The children were fascinated with the optical illusions that they were shown.



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## EYC news from Miss Warren

The EYC staff have been so impressed with how the children have settled into preschool life over this half term! We have finished this term by learning about and celebrating Diwali. We listened to the story of Rama & Sita, made our own rangoli patterns and baked rocky road. As the weather is changing, please make sure all coats, hats and gloves etc are named and a pair of wellie boots have been provided. We will also be giving out information regarding our parents evening after half term.



## Pre-school provision

We are delighted that the renovation works for our enhanced and expanded pre-school provision is making great progress. Please do look at our Facebook page for some photo updates. Our places are filling up extremely quickly so please do share the news of this provision and contact us if you would like a space for your child.



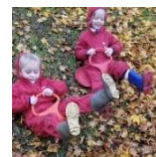
## Blythswood Christmas shoe box appeal

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.

## Foundation Stage MC 48

Foundation Stage completed their MC48 experience last week of a mud slide. The children enjoyed sitting on their sledges and sliding down the hill into the leaves and mud. The faster they went the better!



## 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.

## Whole school assembly about empathy

Reverend Nick from St Mary's led us in our whole school assembly on Monday morning. We spoke about having empathy and consideration for others.



## 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.



## 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.

## 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)

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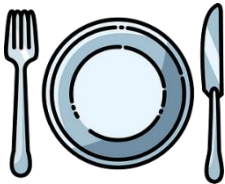


## Online Safety news from Miss Hamilton

In our increasingly connected world, online safety matters more than ever — and it's something we can all work on together at home and at school. Many of the latest guidelines emphasise the importance of active supervision, open conversations with children about their online lives, and simple technical safeguards like parental controls. Children should feel safe to talk about anything they see or do online — if something makes them uncomfortable, encourage them to tell you. At the same time, setting clear boundaries (for example: how much screen time, what apps are allowed, what you know about their online friends) helps children build healthy habits and make good decisions. Many schools are working to embed these messages into everyday learning, and you as a parent/carer are an essential partner in keeping children safe.

## Celebration Assemblies

Family members are very welcome to join us at our KS1 and Foundation Stage and KS2 celebration assembly each Friday. After the half term holiday, the order of the assemblies will change. KS2 Assembly will start at 08:50 in the school hall and KS1 Assembly will start at 10:50 in the school hall.



## 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.

## Careers Club – A message from Miss Bagnall

On Monday Scott came to careers club to share about his career as an electrician. The children looked at tools, stripped wire and checked for live electric points. He was great with the children, and they really enjoyed his visit. He now has many budding apprentices!



## Foundation Stage – All about me exhibition

Foundation Stage held their 'Art Exhibition' to their parent or carer on Tuesday sharing their work they have completed over this half term. It was lovely to see the excitement and pride on the children's faces as they showed off their artwork.

## 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).

## 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

## Whole School Zoom assembly led by the school council

The new school council, Mrs Burns and Mrs Terry led our whole school zoom assembly today from the library. The school council informed us about their upcoming projects: selling poppies for the British legion poppy appeal from the first week back after half term, their new school council suggestion box that can be found in the library and their first fundraising day for the school charity of the year - young lives vs cancer. The new eco-warriors were announced as well.



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### 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.

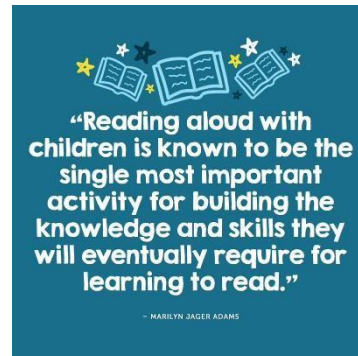
### Reading expectations – A message from Mrs Terry

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.



### Drama Club cast list reveal

Drama club have revealed their cast list for their Easter Panto 'Happily Never After.' Mrs Birks and Mrs Guyett had the very difficult task of casting and all thirty-four of the children should be extremely proud of themselves! We followed up with a spot of karaoke and then were treated to a very special preview from Holyrood's very own Veruca and Mr Salt.

### 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.



### 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.

### The Jungle Book performance

The whole school enjoyed the Jungle Book performance yesterday. The children had the opportunity to take part in a music workshop where they learnt three songs, experimenting with pitch and tempo. The children thoroughly enjoyed joining in with the songs throughout the performance. This was another wonderful Arts experience for our children paid for with the money from the sale of tickets to last year’s Summer Show.



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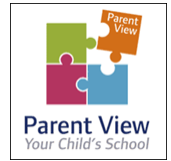
### Attendance our school expectations – A message from Miss Gregory

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.



### 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)



Thank you for your continued support.

Mr Luke Talmage  
Headteacher

Mr Alan Clode  
Deputy Headteacher and Inclusion Leader



Join us for  
**FREE PUMPKIN CARVING  
AND LUNCH**

Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> October

10:30am - 1pm

Chard Baptist Church, Holyrood Street

Email [info@project-food.org.uk](mailto:info@project-food.org.uk) or call 01297 631782 to book

Priority will be given to Abri Homes tenants and low income families living in Chard.

Please note you must stay with your child.

# St. Mary's Church, Chard



**Saturday 29th November  
10am to 1pm**

**Father Christmas, Mother Christmas' Lucky  
dip, Reindeer Food, Children's Activities,  
Toys, Gifts, Christmas Cards, Puzzles,  
Books, Tombola, Hyacinth Bulbs,  
Cakes & Preserves, Raffle  
Refreshments. Plus much more**

In Aid of St. Mary's Church Funds



**BLYTHSWOOD CHRISTMAS SHOE BOX  
APPEAL 2025**

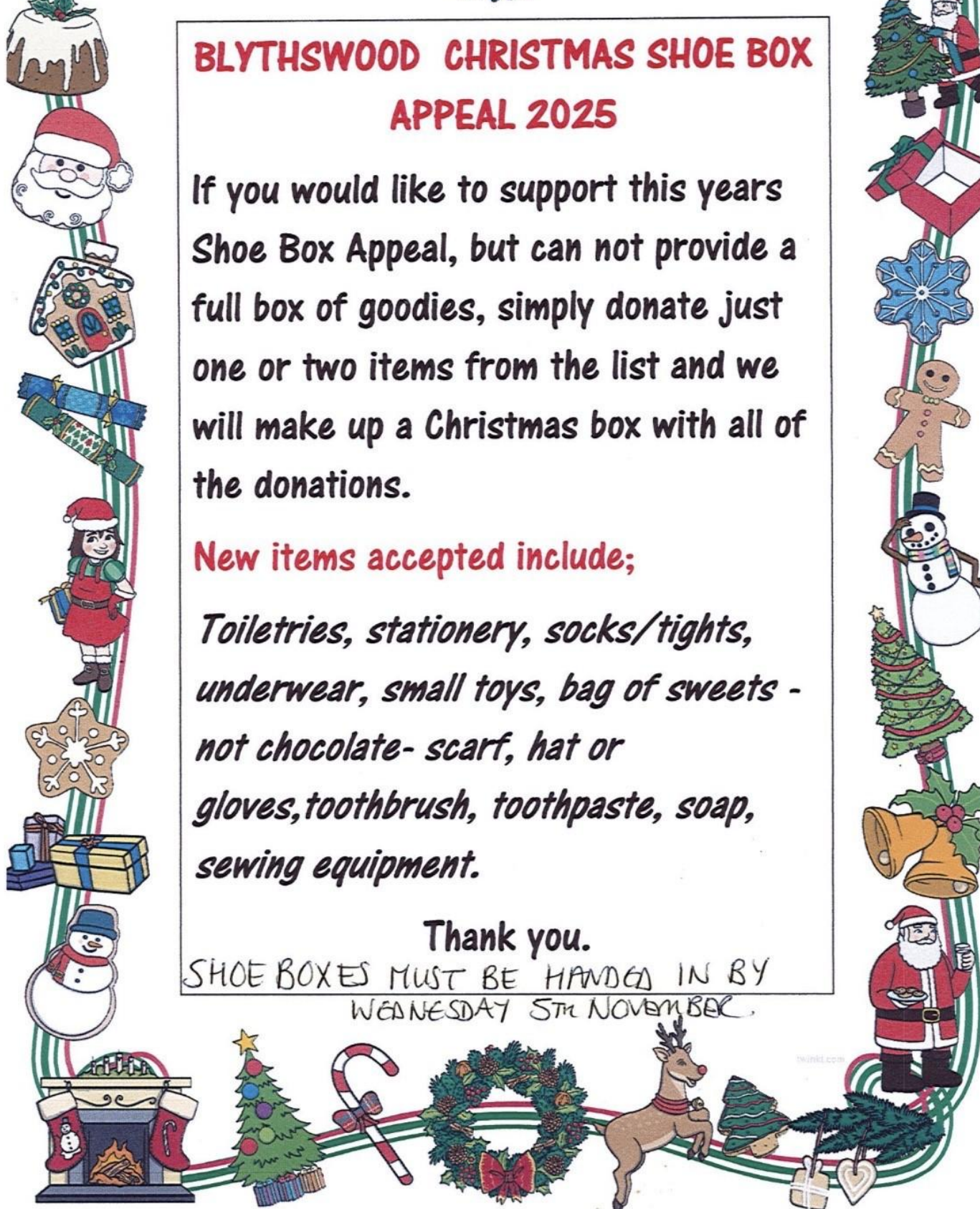
If you would like to support this years Shoe Box Appeal, but can not provide a full box of goodies, simply donate just one or two items from the list and we will make up a Christmas box with all of the donations.

**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.



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

