



MANOR COURT Community Primary School

incorporating **Manor Court Early Years Centre**

A Member of Preston Primary Academy Trust

Head Teacher Mr L Talmage

Deputy Head Teacher Mr A Clode **Assistant Head Teacher** Mrs G Terry

Duck Lane, Chard, Somerset TA20 2ES

Telephone 01460 62350 • email office@manorcourt.ppat365.org

manorcourtcommunityprimary.co.uk • x @ManorCourtChard

Friday 30th January 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Herne View School & Ilminster Rotary Club Youth Speak Competition

Building on the success of participating in previous Youth Speaking competitions, we have been invited to take part in another event organised by Herne View School in Ilminster, in conjunction with Ilminster Rotary Club.

This year to coincide with the 2026 'National Year of Reading' and to link with upcoming World Book Day on 5th March, the theme is about book characters. This year the children will need to talk for 2 minutes (with notes if they wish) on the subject of **'If I could be any book character for a day, I would be...'** – explaining why they would be this character and how they would spend their day.

The competition is open to all pupils and will be held in two age categories this year – Early Years Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1 (Years 1 and 2) and Key Stage 2 entry (Years 3, 4, 5 and 6).

The competition is for individuals to enter, not teams. First rounds will be held in classes with the children performing their speech if they wish to their peers after half term but before Friday 6th March. The winner from each class will then compete against the other winners from the key stage on Monday 9th March, in front of some of our senior staff and a Governor. The two chosen winners from this, one from Foundation/Key Stage 1 and the other from Key Stage 2, will then be invited to the Silver Street site of Herne View in Ilminster on Tuesday 17th March, where they will compete against pupils from other local schools.

Your child's class teacher will talk to them about this competition and give examples of what to talk about. It is however up to the child to decide on the book character and come up with their own ideas of what they would do during a day. They will not be allowed to dress up or use props, but they should consider how their enthusiasm, pace, volume, and actions could support their speech.

If your child is keen, then over half term please encourage them to start thinking about what they might say. Keeping going on the same topic for two minutes is harder than it seems. There are penalties for going over the allocated time and also for not saying enough! This is a wonderful opportunity to develop confidence and performance skills, and we hope your child will want to take part.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs Terry
(English Lead and Assistant Head Teacher)

ASPIRE

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