

Newsletter

Autumn Term

Date: 03.12.2021

An Exceptional Place to Flourish

Though your beginning was small,
your future will flourish indeed.
Job 8:7

Headteacher's message / notes

Our school's Christmas tree has arrived!

Please have a look at the school's website for information under **COMMUNITY NEWS AND FLYERS**. Larkins Farm is offering a discount for customers to Pick & Net their Christmas tree.

Due to an increase of COVID cases in our school community, we are advised by Essex Track and Trace to re-introduce bubbles in school.



Our school attendance target is:

96%

Attendance this week:

Reception	92.0%
Year 1	93.57%
Year 2	100%
Year 3	97.1%
Year 4	80.0%
Year 5	77.42%
Year 6	89.09%
Whole school	89.39%

Sadly, Monday's church service is cancelled due to COVID cases in school.

Friday, 10.12.21	School Christmas dinner.
Friday, 10.12.21	Christmas jumper day.
Tuesday, 14.12.21	Pupils dress up in their costumes.
Thursday, 16.12.21	Virtual Panto for pupils in school.
W/B 13.12.21	Christingle competition.

All classes will still have the opportunity to decorate Christmas biscuits as part of Food technology in the next two weeks. Please complete the consent form if not already done.

Winning year groups:

Gold – 1 st	Year 2
Silver – 2 nd	Year 3
Bronze – 3 rd	Year 1

Achievers of the week:

		Reader of the week	Writer of the week	Mathematician of the week	Scientist of the week	Star of the week
Reception		Alice	Dolly	Amelia-Rae	Knightley	Madison
Year 1	Year 2	Amber	Maci	Daisy	Ralph K	Jacob
Year 3	Year 4	Tillie	Teddie T	Barney	Cash	Aviella
Year 5	Year 6	Autumn	Woody	Thomas	Harrison P	Kaiden



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Value this half-term



Big questions of the week:

Reception	Year 1	If a new person joined the class, how would you make them feel welcome?
Year 2		What do you need to feel safe?
Year 3		What different actions could you do that show respect for others?
Year 4		What if we couldn't exercise?
Year 5		How might our lives change if we had no electricity?
Year 6		How do you know a thing exists if you cannot see it?

Important COVID update

Please be informed that there have been a number of positive COVID cases in our school community. This will mean that we will have to implement bubbles again.

We urge you to please co-operate with guidance and expectations.

We would encourage all parents/carers to wear a **face covering** when entering the school premises, whether inside the building or outside, to protect yourself and others.

Also, please follow the **one-way system** of the gates in the mornings.

We understand it is frustrating; however we are still fighting the pandemic.

Due to the frustrations, there have also been a number of issues raised by staff of having been spoken to in a rude or inappropriate manner by parents/carers. Staff is working extremely hard in this unprecedented time of the pandemic. We will appreciate your co-operation to work with the school and to be considerate and courteous to our staff.

If there is any information to be shared with the class teacher, please inform the main office who will then take the message over to the class staff.

Thanks you for your continuous support in this regard. The parent community as a whole have been absolutely brilliant throughout COVID. We would hope that we can maintain the good efforts in order to secure families have a good Christmas holiday to look forward to.

Update on Christmas events.

It is with a sad heart that we have had to cancel Monday's church celebration due to having the school in bubbles.

I have arranged with Rev Brazier-Gibbs to have a New Year's celebration instead.

We will keep you posted on the Christmas Performance in the event of having to revert to plan B.

Behaviour Policy consultation

A consultation link will be shared for two weeks as of next week.

<https://forms.gle/BahSgzvzxi7Y6zH6>

Please follow the link to share feedback by Friday, 17th December.



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Attendance

Our school target is : **96%**

We are kindly requesting that pupils arrive at school in time before gates close (**08:45-09:00**). There are a number of pupils who are consistently arriving late.

Attendance reports will be issued by the end of term.

We are **really concerned** about the attendance figures at school, especially compared with the previous three years for the same period: **01/09 -03/12**.

Academic year	Period average attendance	Number of persistent absence pupils (below 90% attendance)
2018/2019	97.13%	5
2019/2020	95.7%	9
2020/2021	97.74%	6
2021/2022	92.68%	23

Mornings – sharing information with teaching staff

We ask that parents inform the office if there is anything to be shared with the class staff in the mornings (e.g. if your child is feeling unwell, etc.). The office staff will take the message to the class staff. If you would like to receive a telephone call from the class teacher at the end of the day, we can arrange this.

Parents/Carers are not to enter classrooms in the mornings.

Your co-operation will be much appreciated.



Mornings drop-off and afternoons collection

- Thanks for co-operating with the drop-offs in the mornings.
- A kind request, that parents/carers of KS1 and KS2 pupils do not enter the playground area past the cow gate in the mornings.
- Pupils to walk to their classrooms without parents/carers.
- In the afternoons, parents/carers can collect pupils from the playground.

Parent governor

We are looking for a Parent Governor!

The governing body is responsible for both the conduct of the school and for promoting high standards. The governing body carries out its role by setting the vision for the school and then ensuring that the school works efficiently and effectively towards achieving that vision. It does this by building a thorough knowledge of the school and its community, by both supporting and constructively challenging the school, and by ensuring accountability and compliance. The governing body of our school is made up of parent, staff, co-opted and Foundation governors.



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A vacancy has arisen for a parent governor on our governing body. The governing body is asking you to nominate someone (maybe yourself!) with parental responsibility for a child at the school. If we receive more than one nomination, then a ballot will be held.

Before you decide to nominate someone, or indeed stand yourself, you may want to know a bit more about what is involved. Governors do not need to be experts in the field of education. What they do need is an interest in the school and in the welfare of our children and the time and willingness to get involved. The skills you have can be very useful to the governing body. Governors need what is known as 'soft skills' – the ability to be able to build relationships with a range of people, to be able to work as part of a team, to be able to question, and to make connections between different types of information. All governors are expected to be able to read straightforward budget reports and data on school standards.



Our governing body expects governors to:

- attend 6 half-termly meetings of the full governing body
- visit the school formally for monitoring purposes at least 2-3 times a term/year
- visit the school informally at least 2 times a year
- commit to attend training courses, perform additional research as required.

In return, our governing body commits to:

- provide you with a structured induction
- provide access to quality training via Juniper
- provide you with an experienced governor as mentor
- provide informal feedback on your contribution to the governing body on a bi-annual basis

If you would like to find out more about how you can contribute to governance at our school, please email the school office with your contact details and it will be passed on to the Chair of Governors, who will then arrange a time for a conversation.

Christmas in reception class

This week Red class met our class elves: Elfie and Eddie! They have been up to lots of mischief in Red class. They also brought their igloo from the North Pole for the children to decorate.



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Devices in school

Pupils are not allowed to have a mobile phone on them in school or electronic devices, including apple watches etc.

This is due to safeguarding.

COVID... More information

On Saturday 27 November, the Prime Minister [announced](#) new temporary measures following the emergence of the Omicron variant of COVID-19 in the UK. As a result, the Prime Minister announced that face masks would need to be worn in shops and on public transport **from Tuesday**, 30 November.

The DfE has advised that face coverings should be worn by **staff and visitors (accept those exempt) in all communal areas.**

Attendance

School attendance is mandatory for all pupils of compulsory school age and it is a priority to ensure that as many children as possible regularly attend school.

As a school we will continue with the following control measures:

- Hand and respiratory hygiene
- Maintain appropriate cleaning regimes, using standard products such as detergents
- Keep occupied spaces well ventilated
- Follow public health advice on testing, self-isolation and managing confirmed cases of COVID-19.

Testing

- Testing remains voluntary but is strongly encouraged.
- All educational and childcare settings should continue to encourage staff and students to test twice weekly using lateral flow device (LFD) tests.

When an individual develops COVID-19 symptoms or has a positive test

- They **should not come into school if:**
 - they have symptoms,
 - have had a positive test result or
 - other reasons requiring them to stay at home due to the risk of them passing on COVID-19 (for example, they are required to quarantine or they are a close contact of a suspected or confirmed case of the Omicron variant of COVID-19).
- If anyone **IN** school develops COVID-19 symptoms, however mild, they will be sent home and they should follow public health advice.
- For everyone with symptoms, they should avoid using public transport and, wherever possible, be collected by a member of their family or household.
- The household (including any siblings) should follow the UKHSA stay at home guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus (COVID-19) infection.

Contact tracing and isolation

- The [current guidance on contact tracing and isolation](#) remains in place.
- In addition to these, any suspected or confirmed close contacts of the Omicron variant will be asked to isolate for 10 days regardless of vaccination status or age.
- You will be contacted directly and told to isolate.

Self-isolation

- Staff and pupils with a positive LFT result should self-isolate in line with the stay at home guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus (COVID-19) infection.
- They will also need to get a free PCR test to check if they have COVID-19.
- **Whilst awaiting the PCR result, the individual should continue to self-isolate.**
- If the PCR test is taken within 2 days of the positive lateral flow test, and is negative, it overrides the self-test LFD test and the pupil can return to school, as long as the individual doesn't have COVID-19 symptoms.



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Tracing close contacts and isolation

- Close contacts in schools are now identified by NHS Test and Trace and education settings are not expected to undertake contact tracing. As with positive cases in any other setting, NHS Test and Trace will work with the positive case and/or their parent to identify close contacts.
- All individuals who have been identified as a close contact of a suspected or confirmed case of the Omicron variant of COVID-19, irrespective of vaccination status and age, will be contacted directly and required to self-isolate immediately and asked to book a PCR test. They will be informed by the local health protection team or NHS Test and Trace if they fall into this category and provided details about self-isolation.
- For everyone else, isolation rules are unchanged. Individuals are not required to self-isolate if they live in the same household as someone with COVID-19 who is not a suspected or confirmed case of the Omicron variant, or are a close contact of someone with COVID-19 who is not a suspected or confirmed case of the Omicron variant, and any of the following apply:
 - they are fully vaccinated
 - they are below the age of 18 years and 6 months
 - they have taken part in or are currently part of an approved COVID-19 vaccine trial
 - they are not able to get vaccinated for medical reasons.

Virtual Author reading events in school

Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 (5+) - Nick Sharratt - Friday 3rd December 2021 @ 10:30am (45 minutes)

GoRead

Parents and carers - please remember to visit: go-write.co.uk/buy if you would like to purchase your child's published work, 'A Christmas Without ...'. To guarantee a Christmas delivery, orders must be placed by 9th December 2021. Books are delivered directly to you - NOT the school.

Netball club

Next Thursday will be the last Netball session.

Year 5 & 6 Swimming

Swimming is a national curriculum requirement and it is an important part of KS2 education. Year 5 & 6 pupils will be having swimming lessons at Ongar Leisure Centre.



SWIMMING POSTPONED TILL AFTER CHRISTMAS.

PTFA

Dr Walker's C of E Primary School needs to fill the following three main roles:

- Chairperson
- Treasurer
- Secretary

I hope you will consider putting yourself forward. If you would like to stand as a candidate for one of the roles, please email the school office (office@fyfielddrwalkers.essex.sch.uk) no later than **Friday, 10th December 2021**, with the reference **PTFA CANDIDATE**.

If there is more than one candidate an election will need to be held but this is a straightforward process.

All you need to do is write a short paragraph (approximately 100 words) saying why you want to become the Chairperson, Treasurer or Secretary; this will then be shared with all parents with a voting paper.

If there is only one candidate per role then this person will automatically be placed in that role. Votes will be counted, and names will be announced on or after Friday 7th January 2022.



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Essex Libraries Services

Essex Libraries Services will be launching their Winter Reading Challenge on Saturday 27 November 2021, which all children and families are invited to take part in.

All families need to do is visit their local library, sign up and collect one of their exclusive giant bookmarks, which will be stamped with one of their special woodland creature stamps for each book they read.

The aim is to read six books over the winter period and receive a large golden star on completion of the challenge.

REMEMBER TO ALSO RECORD THE BOOKS ON GOREAD!

Everyone who signs up will be entered into a prize draw with a chance to win some fantastic prizes. These include Love Essex goodie bags, signed books from authors Catherine Emmett, Vassiliki Tzomaka and Emma Beswetherick and days out with Explore Essex, Essex Outdoors and the Wilderness Foundation. Full details of the prize draw can be found on their website <https://libraries.essex.gov.uk/news/welcome-to-the-winter-reading-challenge/>

Families can take part at any point from 27 November 2021 – 19 February 2022.

Children will join the Animals of Snowy Wood where Connie the fox and her friends will help Fraser the squirrel to get a good night sleep.

Please sign up at any Essex Library and fall in love with reading this winter.



School uniform

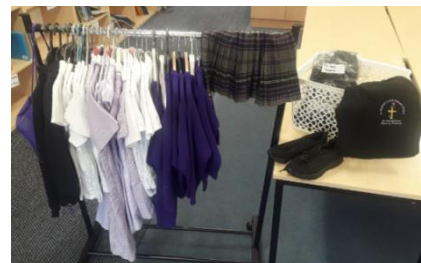
Our second hand clothes rail will be open this Friday after school outside the ICT Suite/Library in the main playground.

We have jumpers, shirts, t-shirts and summer dresses, plus a few other bits. A donation for each item is welcome, this money will go to the PTFA and towards the school. A suggested donation is £2 for a jumper or skirt, £1 for trousers and summer dresses and 50p for shirts or t-shirts. There will be a moneybox so please bring change.

All items have been washed.

We would also be grateful for any donations of clothes, please leave them near the clothes rail and we will wash them for the following week. The rail will be open every Friday after school.

At the end of each term, we will also go through the lost property, any named items will be returned and any unnamed items will be washed and put onto the second hand rail.



- School uniform – Ciel Uniform has a link to purchase school uniform. They offer tartan skirts and kilts for the girls. <https://www.cielschooluniform.co.uk/dr-walker-primary-school/>
- A kind reminder that pupils need to be wearing the appropriate PE kit to showcase our school's pride in uniform. We appreciate that the supplier is struggling to provide all of the appropriate school uniform. This will be monitored. Pupils wearing studs in their ears, need to have these removed prior to the lesson as they are a health and safety hazard.








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Appendix – Parent-friendly COVID Outbreak Plan




<p>When should my child self-isolate or miss school?</p> 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All children MUST attend school, unless they are ill. From 16th August 2021, children under 18 (or double-vaccinated adults) do not need to self-isolate or miss school if a member of their household or a contact, has Covid. Instead, they will need to book a PCR test but can continue coming to school so long as they have no symptoms, and the test result is negative.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If your child develops Covid symptoms at home, they should stay at home and should book a PCR test, NOT a Lateral Flow test. If your child develops Covid symptoms at school, they will be sent home and you should book them a PCR test. If your child tests positive for Covid, they will need to self-isolate. The rest of the household does not need to self-isolate if they are under 18 or fully vaccinated – but instead should book a PCR test. Please do NOT return to school until your child is in receipt of a negative PCR test, if there is a positive case in the household. (please provide the email or text confirmation to school).
Community COVID risk	Description	Actions
 <p>Low Community Transmission. No School Cases.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There have been no cases of Covid within school for 10 school days. Cases of Covid locally are low and/ or stable. Hospitalisation/ Deaths due to Covid nationally are low. 	<p>No Covid measures are necessary beyond:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reminding children of good hand-hygiene. Ensuring good ventilation encouraged where practical. Ensuring Children / Staff to stay at home if they have Covid Symptoms (and to book a PCR test). <p>Staff will continue to test themselves using Lateral flow tests until the end of September.</p>
 <p>Rapidly Rising Community Transmission</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No current Covid cases have been recorded at school, but... Cases of Covid are rising rapidly in the community causing disruption to other local schools. Essex Track & Trace and Public Health England issue warnings of expected local/ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ventilation of classrooms increased & hand-washing supervised. Large indoor public performance audience numbers reduced. Staff-room capacity is reduced. Whole-school assemblies are replaced with Key Stage assemblies. Clinically Vulnerable staff meet with Line-Managers to review their individual risk assessment & discuss additional protection (e.g. use of face coverings, reduction in movement between classes/ groups).



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 <p>A single child tests Positive</p>	<p>national infection wave.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A single child tests positive for Covid in a class. • There are fewer than 5 cases in the year group. • No other year groups are affected. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The child self-isolates for 10 days. Remote learning will be provided if they are well enough to complete it as outlined on the class pages on the website. • The parents of the child are contacted directly by NHS Track and Trace to establish likely contacts. • Likely contacts will be contacted by NHS Track & Trace and advised to book at PCR Test. The school will contact parents to advise this if close contacts are known.
 <p>5 children or staff within a class test positive within 10 days of each other.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There have been 5 cases of Covid across a year group within 10 days which could mean that Covid is spreading within that group of children. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As above for each positive case. • The school will discuss the outbreak with Essex Track & Trace and Public Health England and agree strengthening protective measures for <u>10 school days</u>, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Re-introducing staff face masks for corridors & communal areas. ○ Adapting, Limiting or postponing indoor sporting events, trips, open days and performances. ○ Reverting to video-link Assemblies in classrooms. ○ Reducing the amount of classes staff work across. ○ Resuming twice-weekly Staff Lateral flow testing.
 <p>Covid cases continue to increase rapidly within a 10 day period.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Despite the measures indicated above, Covid cases within the school continue to rise within a 10 day period with multiple classes and staff affected, suggesting that Covid is spreading widely throughout the school. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incident Management Team meeting held between the school and Essex Track & Trace Public Health to agree further measures, for a further <u>10 school days</u>, which could include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Re-introducing class bubbles. ○ Limiting all non-essential visitors to school. ○ Postponing all non-essential events. • Re-introducing remote learning for individual classes for 10 school days considered, on class pages on website.



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Menus

WEEK ONE commencing 1.11.21, 22.11.21, 13.12.21, 24.1.22, 21.2.22 & 14.3.22

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Cheese & Tomato Pizza	Chicken Curry with Naan Bread	Shredded Pork in a Yorkshire Pudding (Optional gravy)	Spaghetti Bolognese	Bubble Coated Fish Fillet
Rainbow Pizza (V)	Sweet Potato & Lentil Curry With Naan Bread (V)	Meat-Free Meatballs in a Yorkshire Pudding (V) (Optional gravy)	Quorn Bolognese (V)	Egg & Vegetable Wedge (V)
Jacket Potato with Cheese or Tuna	Jacket Potato with Cheese or Tuna		Jacket Potato with Cheese or Tuna	Jacket Potato with Cheese or Beans
Sweetcorn Carrot & Sultana Salad Cucumber Slices	White & Wholegrain Rice Peas Sweetcorn	Roast Potatoes Cauliflower & Broccoli Florets	Homemade Cheese & Onion Bread Green Salad	Chips Baked Beans Sweetcorn
Healthy Fruit Day	Vanilla Sponge & Strawberry Custard	Coconut & Cranberry Cookie	Healthy Fruit Day	Chocolate Brownie

Bread, Milk and Water is available daily.

WEEK TWO commencing 8.11.21, 29.11.21, 10.01.22, 31.01.22, 28.2.22 & 21.3.22

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Fish Finger Wrap	Chicken Pie	Roast Chicken with Sage & Onion Stuffing	Beef Pasticcio	Chipolata Pork Sausages
Meet-Free Meatball Wrap	Vegetarian Sausage Twist	Sage & Onion topped Quorn fillet	Cheese & Tomato Pasta Bake	Quorn Dippers
Jacket Potato with Cheese or Tuna	Jacket Potato with Cheese or Tuna		Jacket Potato with Cheese or Tuna	Jacket Potato with Cheese or Beans
White & Wholegrain Rice Cucumber Slices Grated Carrot & Shredded Lettuce	Mashed Potato Sweetcorn Shredded Cabbage	Roast Potatoes Carrots Broccoli Florets	Peas Mixed Garden Salad	Mini Potato Waffles Baked Beans Sweetcorn
Lemon Drizzle Cake	Healthy Fruit Day	Flapjack	Healthy Fruit Day	Chocolate Crispy Cake

Bread, Milk and Water is available daily.

WEEK THREE commencing 15.11.21, 6.12.21, 17.01.22, 7.2.22, 7.3.22 & 28.3.22

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY Christmas Dinner on 10.12.21
Macaroni Cheese (V)	Beef Burger in a Bun	Roast Gammon with Yorkshire Pudding	Nacho Chicken	Jumbo Fish Fingers
Macaroni Cheese (V)	Spicy Bean Burger in a Bun	Sage & Onion topped Quorn Fillet (V)	Nacho Quorn (V)	Cheese Quesadillas (V)
Jacket Potato with Cheese or Tuna	Jacket Potato with Cheese or Tuna		Jacket Potato with Cheese or Tuna	Jacket Potato with Cheese or Beans
Garden Salad Peas	Green Salad Sweetcorn	Roast Potatoes Carrots Shredded Cabbage	White & Wholegrain Rice Broccoli Florets Mixed Salad	Chips Peas Baked Beans
Fruit Crumble & Custard	Healthy Fruit Day	Angel Delight Mousse	Healthy Fruit Day	Chocolate & Cinnamon Shortbread

Bread, Milk and Water is available daily.



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