



Newsletter

Autumn Term

Date: 05.11.2021

An Exceptional Place to Flourish

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

Headteacher's message / notes

COVID update

- Headteachers in Essex have been informed of a national increase of COVID cases and Essex presenting higher rates compared to those nationally - with Chelmsford the highest in Essex.
- This means that schools need to be vigilant and reduce face-to-face events where possible due to the risk. We will monitor this as it will affect events. Therefore, for the time being, it will mean we will not be able to invite parents to assemblies.

Please see the attached letter. This letter suggests that pupils of primary age carry out lateral flow tests twice weekly. Schools are not expected to provide test kits and parents should obtain a test kits.

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing/regular-rapid-coronavirus-tests-if-you-do-not-have-symptoms/>

Where parents chose to collect kits from a pharmacy, they should be reminded that you will now need a code. Details of how to get a code are given in the link.

Department for Education COVID-19 helpline

The [Department for Education COVID-19 helpline](#) and the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) Advice Service, (formally the Public Health England (PHE) Advice Service) are available to answer any questions you have about COVID-19 relating to education and childcare settings and children's social care.

DfE helpline

Telephone: 0370 000 2288

Monday to Friday, 9:30am to 5pm.



Our school attendance target is:

96%

Attendance this week:

Reception	94.15%
Year 1	97.86%
Year 2	97.14%
Year 3	98.67%
Year 4	97.14%
Year 5	89.50%
Year 6	96.67%
Whole school	95.18%

Winning year groups:

Gold – 1 st	Year 3
Silver – 2 nd	Year 1
Bronze – 3 rd	Ys 2 & 4

Achievers of the week: W/B 01.11.21

		Reader of the week	Writer of the week	Mathematician of the week	Scientist of the week	Star of the week
Reception		-	-	-	-	-
Year 1	Year 2	Kai	Alice	Maci	Teddy C-G	Amber
Year 3	Year 4	Cash W	Noah M	Philomena M	Sidney O	George D
Year 5	Year 6	Kaiden F	Dylan C	John C	Ayla-May N	Charlotte E



The Church of England
in Essex and East London
Diocese of Chelmsford



Newsletter
Autumn Term
Date: 05.11.2021

Achievers of the week: W/B 18.10.21

		Reader of the week	Writer of the week	Mathematician of the week	Scientist of the week	Star of the week
Reception		-	-	-	-	-
Year 1	Year 2	Sienna F	Brooke T	Harrison M	Jacob M	Phoebe R
Year 3	Year 4	Ralph B	Talia	Paul	John James	Lillie D
Year 5	Year 6	Libby	Jaycee	Autumn	Lara	Charlie

Value this half-term



Big questions of the week:

Reception	Year 1	What is the odd one out – pencil, sheep, tree?
Year 2		What if we didn't use transport to get to school?
Year 3		Should we all be treated equally?
Year 4		Do you think the world would be a better place if everyone always smiled?
Year 5		Is killing animals for food murder?
Year 6		Is becoming rich a goal worth having?

Mini Marathon Fundraiser

We had an amazing fundraiser with over **£900** returned to school already. Thanks to everyone who contributed.

Orange/Yellow class raised the most with an incredible £450, closely followed by Red with £400. Special mentions to Acer, Harrison M and Henry R, who all collected over £150 each! Well done everyone!

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 tree.

GoRead

From **Monday 1st November 2021**, we will be rolling out GoRead across the school. Year 5/6 piloted the scheme and following on from the children's engagement and Parent's Evening, it has been received positively by the parents/carers too. This will mean that we will no longer be using paper reading records. More information to follow from your child's class teacher.

Poppy appeal

The prefects will be selling poppies next week in aid of the Poppy Appeal as part of Remembrance day, 11th November.




The Church of England
in Essex and East London
Diocese of Chelmsford



Newsletter
Autumn Term
Date: 05.11.2021

Autumn 1 - Sports' Performance Award

			
Ava Red Class	Henry H Orange-Yellow class	Gabriella Green-Blue class	Evie-Rose Indigo-Violet class

Odd socks day as part of Anti-bully week

On Monday, 15th November pupils are invited and encouraged to wear ODD SOCKS to school.

All they need to do is wear odd socks! No fundraiser or donation asked.



Anti-Bullying Week 2021

15-19 Nov 2021

It's a great way to celebrate what makes us all unique as part of Anti-Bullying Week!

Anti-bullying week is 15-19 November 2021.



Christmas Shoe Box Appeal

[www.https://teams4u.com/](https://teams4u.com/)

A flyer has been sent home in pupils' book bag.

From across the UK, your shoebox gifts will travel to orphanages in Belarus; and to deprived communities in Bosnia, Georgia, Romania and Moldova.



Your shoebox gifts are given to people forced to leave their homes through decades long (and often out of sight of media interest) conflict; to those without homes; to children who have lost parents or



The Church of England
in Essex and East London
Diocese of Chelmsford



Newsletter
Autumn Term
Date: 05.11.2021

been abandoned; and to those who face intense discrimination in their own countries, forcing them to live on the outskirts of their societies.

If you would like to consider supporting this initiative, all boxes need to be delivered to the school office on the latest, **Wednesday, 24th November 2021**.

Switch Off Fortnight w/c 8th November 2021

For the next two weeks, as well as other things, there will be a focus on energy saving. **This is Switch Off Fortnight.**

Mrs Dean will be recording the electricity meter reading on Monday 8th November 2021 and again on Monday 22nd November 2021 - so that we can ascertain how much energy we can save if we are a little more mindful in our everyday tasks.

Prefects/School Council Representatives will be responsible for checking that the class reduces their electricity output as much as possible over the fortnight and will visit your classes to check.

As a finale to this fortnight - we will have a 'NO ELECTRICITY DAY' - as much as is possible on **Friday 19th November 2021**. The aim is to really make an impact before the final meter reading on Monday 22nd November 2021.

There will also be a competition that will be emailed home to parents/carers for children to complete a poem, photo, poster, video, song, or rap to get everyone switching off and saving energy, which needs to be submitted directly to: contact_us@jointhepod.org by midday on Wednesday 17 November.



Virtual Panto

Jack and the Beanstalk, will take place on Thursday 16th December 2021.

Virtual Author reading events in school

Mrs Jenny Dean (English Lead) has organised virtual author days for us this term.

Year 5 and Year 6 (8+)

Jacqueline Wilson - Friday 12th November 2021 @ 10:30am (45 minutes)

Further information here: <https://www.puffinschools.co.uk/events/virtual-visit-webinar-jacqueline-wilson-author-of-the-primrose-railway-children/>

Year 3 and Year 4 (7+)

Maddie Moate - Friday 26th November 2021 @ 10:30am (45 minutes)

Further information here: <https://www.puffinschools.co.uk/events/virtual-visit-webinar-maddie-moate-author-of-stuff/>

Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 (5+)

Nick Sharratt - Friday 3rd December 2021 @ 10:30am (45 minutes)

<https://www.puffinschools.co.uk/events/virtual-visit-webinar-nick-sharratt-author-and-illustrator-of-oh-no-shark-in-the-snow/>

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 on Monday afternoons on the following dates:

- 8th November
- 15th November
- 22nd November
- 29th November,
- 6 th December
- 13th December



The Church of England
in Essex and East London
Diocese of Chelmsford



Newsletter
Autumn Term
Date: 05.11.2021

ALL CHILDREN MUST WEAR A SWIMMING HAT and will not be allowed to swim without one.

Other bits and pieces - Information and Reminders

- Dr Lawson will be available for an informal Headteacher and parents meeting for **year 4** parents on Wednesday, 10 November. This will be at 15:00-15:15 in the school hall.
- **Pupil individual photos** - These will be taken on **Wednesday 10th November**.
- **Open evenings for prospective Reception pupils:**
 - **Thursday, 18 November at 17:00**
 - **Thursday, 2 December at 16:15**
- 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.
- A kind request to refer queries to the class teacher in the first instance before asking the Office staff to speak to the Headteacher.

Essex County Council – E-scooter safety

With 7 million adults having signalled their intention to buy either an eScooter or an eBike in 2021, we are set to see even more of these two-wheeled electric vehicles on our roads and pavements.

However, there are some serious considerations to make before you buy.

Unless you are using an eScooter as part of an approved local hire scheme, it is illegal to use one in a public place. This includes paths, cycle paths and parks. The Police may act against you if caught contravening the law in this way, especially if riding dangerously. If you get more than a warning it could mean up to 6 points on your driving licence and a fine of up to £300.

Legal eScooters are limited to 25 km/h (about 15 mph) so if yours goes above that speed you are more likely to be injured or stopped by the Police.

By law retailers should make it clear to you before you buy, about the usage restrictions, but they don't always do so.

Trading Standards border officers are doing what they can nationwide to ensure that imported eScooters are safe and don't present fire or electric shock risks, but there's no guarantee that poorly designed or made models won't get through to shops and online selling platforms. Consumers must therefore take care who they buy from, and not to make assumptions about quality and safety based on price, in these times of shortage, where demand is likely to outstrip supply.

Don't accept anything without an approved (e.g.BSI) UK 3-pin plug, and always carefully follow the charging instructions. Never buy an aftermarket battery or charging set unless it's certified as compatible for your make and model.

Batteries that fail to hold charge are a leading cause of customer dissatisfaction with eScooters.

If you have a problem with an eScooter that you've purchased, or want to report a safety concern to Trading Standards call 0808 223 1133 .



The Church of England
in Essex and East London
Diocese of Chelmsford



**Newsletter
Autumn Term
Date: 05.11.2021**

Meet our Prefects



AYLA-MAY

I am Ayla.
I think that I will be a great Prefect because:

- I am kind to staff and others around me;
- I always listen to instructions.



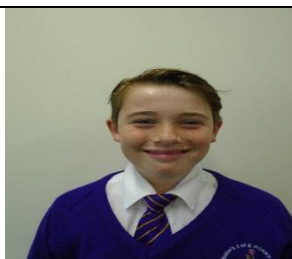
EVIE-ROSE

I am Evie and, as a Prefect, I am most looking forward to cleaning our environment. I cannot wait to make fundraising activities to buy to some new equipment of our playground! Hopefully, soon, we can clean up the environment with our litter picking tools – it shouldn't take long if we all work together! I'd love to see the whole school working together and to introduce a Reflection Area in the playground too.



LAILA

I am Laila and I am excited to be a Prefect. I will bring happiness and determination to Dr Walker's CofE Primary School. I am looking forward to being a Prefect to show other children what Year 6 can achieve. I love learning here and I hope you do too.



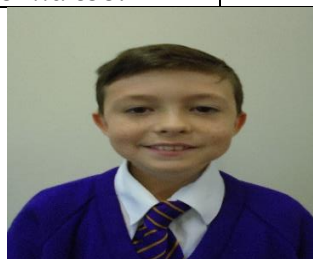
JOHN

I am John and I am really excited to be a Prefect, because I want to help the learning in school.



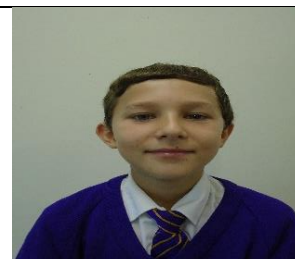
RILEY

I am Riley and I am looking forward to being a Prefect, because I like helping others and I like learning.



THOMAS

I am Thomas and I am a Prefect and I am really looking forward to helping and doing things for the school and welcoming others to the school.



WOODY

I am Woody and am looking forward to being a Prefect, so I can help out and be a good role model to everyone and help out the school. I would like to treat people how I would want to be treated and hope that everyone does the same. I would also like to help out the school environment.



The Church of England
in Essex and East London
Diocese of Chelmsford



Newsletter
Autumn Term
Date: 05.11.2021

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
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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in Essex and East London
Diocese of Chelmsford



**Newsletter
Autumn Term
Date: 05.11.2021**

Dear Parent / Carer,

The approach to COVID-19 in school-aged children is to maximise children's access to education. As you are aware, children are very unlikely to become seriously ill with a COVID-19 infection, but they do need to self-isolate if they are infected. Whilst self-isolating, they miss out on the benefit of in-school education. It is therefore extremely important that we try to limit the spread of COVID-19 within a school setting to maximise school attendance at all times.

We have seen COVID-19 infections in primary school-aged children in Essex increasing over the past few weeks. At this rate, it is expected that some primary schools could see significant numbers of pupils infected with COVID-19. Throughout the pandemic, regular household testing has been encouraged, but we would now like to strengthen that advice for primary age children.

From this half term, to help limit the spread of the infection within primary schools we are asking you to:

- Support your primary school child, if you are not already doing so, to undertake twice-weekly lateral flow device tests.
- Be alert to COVID-19 symptoms in your child (high temperature, new continuous cough, or loss of sense of smell or taste).
- Encourage good hand hygiene within your household.

Whilst we understand this is different guidance for some of you, we would strongly encourage you to begin this practice as a family, excluding any child/ren under the age of 2. This will ensure that as much asymptomatic infection as possible is picked up and will help schools to continue to operate at full capacity and minimise the spread of infection through the school and wider community. You can collect test kits from your nearest pharmacy using one of the new collect codes which can be downloaded from <https://test-for-coronavirus.service.gov.uk/collect-lateral-flow-kits>. You can then hand this into your local pharmacy, who will provide you with test kits. You can also collect test kits from your local library or order them online via this link: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing/regular-rapid-coronavirus-tests-if-you-do-not-have-symptoms/>.

If a positive result is returned, your child/young person will need to seek a confirmatory PCR test and isolate for 10 days according to national guidance. If the PCR test is negative, your child can return to school if they are well enough to do so. More information about lateral flow testing can be found here: [Regular Rapid Lateral Flow Coronavirus \(Covid-19\) Tests](#).

We appreciate that the changes in guidance can cause anxiety for some, but it is important that the education of our children and young people is prioritised this academic year. The likelihood of serious illness in children is extremely low and after 18 months of serious disruption, the DfE and the Local Authority are committed to ensuring that all children and young people in Essex have every opportunity to catch up and exceed their potential.

Best wishes,



Clare Kershaw
Director of Education
Essex County Council



Mike Gogarty
Director of Public Health and Wellbeing
Essex County Council

Covid-19 testing advised for primary school-aged children in Essex

Parents and carers are being advised to regularly test primary school-aged children to manage rapidly increasing Covid-19 rates and avoid time out of school.

Covid-19 infection rates in primary school-age children in Essex have increased considerably over the past few weeks. Some primary schools are already seeing significant numbers of pupils infected.

As a result, Essex County Council is advising parents of primary school age children to test them twice a week.

While regular household testing has always been encouraged, twice-weekly rapid lateral flow tests for children over two years old is now being recommended.

While the likelihood of serious illness in children is extremely low, after 18 months of serious disruption the DfE and ECC are committed to ensuring that all children and young people in Essex have every opportunity to catch up.

Letters have been sent to parents and carers across the county with the new advice.

Although not compulsory, Dr Mike Gogarty, Essex County Council's Director of Public Health, is encouraging regular testing for this age group providing it does not cause distress for children.

Dr Gogarty said:

"We cannot underestimate the rapidly increasing rate of Covid-19 infections we are seeing in Essex primary schools at present and what this will inevitably mean for schools and pupils over the coming weeks."

"The education of children and young people is a top priority this academic year, and so we are asking parents and carers to take action now and help us to manage this so that pupils do not miss out on the important benefits of being in the classroom."

"We appreciate that the changes in Covid-19 guidance can cause anxiety for some, but it is vital that we prevent the spread of the virus within the wider community, especially over the winter months."

Parents and carers can also help to limit an increase in infections by;

- testing primary school-aged children twice a week
- looking out for Covid-19 symptoms in their child (high temperature, new continuous cough, loss of sense of smell or taste), and;
- encouraging hand hygiene with their child.

Rapid lateral flow test kits ensure that as much asymptomatic infection as possible is picked up and will help schools to continue to operate at full capacity.

Test kits can be collected from pharmacies using one of the new collect codes which can be downloaded. They can also be collected from Essex Library or ordered online.

If a child tests positive, they will need have a PCR test and isolate for 10 days. If the PCR is negative, they can return to school if they are well enough.



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in Essex and East London
Diocese of Chelmsford



Newsletter
Autumn Term
Date: 05.11.2021