

Newsletter

Autumn Term

Date: 08.10.2021

An Exceptional Place to Flourish

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

Headteacher's message / notes

Water drinking and toileting

Pupils are encouraged to drink water throughout the day to stay hydrated. Please send your child to school with a water bottle with water in it (no fizzy drinks please).

We are trialling water bottles to be placed next to the pupils' tables on the floor, so that they can have access to it. Staff will also encourage pupils to have a sip of water when coming back from break and lunch.

We are also encouraging pupils to go to the toilet during break and lunch, in order to minimise the disruption during lesson time, as it has created a "domino-effect" if one pupil wants to go to the toilet within 10-15 minutes after break and/or lunch and that triggers a number of pupils who then want to go. Pupils are however allowed to go to the toilet if they really need to.

EYFS and KS1 pupils in particular need reminders and encouragement in this regard.

Please inform the office and class teachers if your child might be struggling with a medical condition that will require more frequent toilet visits.

We will be working on a policy for school. I have contacted ERIC (The Children's and Bowel and Bladder Charity) for possible support and training and have had the following response: *"We are pleased to advise that we are now able to offer online training in the form of live Zoom webinars. We are hoping to have online workshops available for parents and carers in the near future."*



Our school attendance target is:

96%

Attendance this week:

Reception	91.28%
Year 1	87.14%
Year 2	100%
Year 3	85.62%
Year 4	98.11%
Year 5	98.9%
Year 6	86.36%
Whole school	91.72%

Winning year groups:

Gold – 1 st	Year 2
Silver – 2 nd	Year 5
Bronze – 3 rd	Year 4

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		-	-	-	-	-
Year 1	Year 2	Ralph K	Amelia-Rose K	Eva L	Harrison M	Joey F
Year 3	Year 4	Noah	Freya	Paul	Sid	Sienna
Year 5	Year 6	Ayla	Kaiden	Ellie-Rose	Mason	Freddy H



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



Newsletter
Autumn Term
Date: 08.10.2021

Value this half-term



Big questions of the week:

Reception	Year 1	Who owns the world?
Year 2		What do you think could happen if there were no rules?
Year 3		Should footballers earn more than a lifesaving surgeon?
Year 4		Would you rather be a teacher or a pupil?
Year 5		What might happen if all money vanished overnight?
Year 6		Can you think of new rules that would make life better for everyone?

Class representative

As part of us celebrating British Values, each class voted for their Class Representative.

The following pupils have been **DEMOCRATICALLY** elected by their peers:

- Reception – Ethan and Molly
- Year 1 - Cassidy
- Year 2 – Charlie C
- Year 3 - Max
- Year 4 - Sienna
- Year 5 - George
- Year 6 - Corey



Congratulations! We will have an assembly to invite all the parents of the Student Council, Prefects and Class Representatives. The date will be confirmed.



OCTOBER – BLACK HISTORY MONTH

All classes participated in activities this week to celebrate Black History Month. Some classes recited poems, made drawings. Reception did a collective class artwork on “I have a Dream,” inspired by Martin Luther King.

In Friday’s assembly we learnt more about Rosa Parks, Mary Seacole and Martin Luther King.

Clarification on Responding to a Positive Case in Primary

- For primary aged pupils, we will send out a ‘Letter to contacts’ if we are informed of a positive case. This is to encourage a whole class to seek a PCR test should a member of the class test positive. This does not replace the test and trace process but enables more pupils to have a PCR test more quickly.
- The class will be asked to seek a PCR test once a week. If a second child in the class tests positive in the same week we are not required to send the “Letter to contacts” for another PCR test.
- Parents are encouraged to book their tests online and to select the option ‘I’ve been told to get a test by my local council, health protection team or healthcare professional.’
- Public health has sufficient stocks of PCR tests if the online booking option is used.



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



**Newsletter
Autumn Term
Date: 08.10.2021**

A **BIG CONGRATULATIONS** to Miss Adams who participated and completed the London Marathon on 03.10.2021 in a time of 7 hours and 23 minutes.



An improvement from last year! Well done!

Mini marathon

We are now signed up to this event, which will happen the week beginning 18th October (More details will follow soon). The fundraising platform has been set.



All funds raised will be put toward a tablet for each class so that each class can benefit from it.



MACMILLAN CANCER AWARENESS FRIDAY 15th OCTOBER



COMPETITION. To raise money for MacMillan Cancer Support, children will be invited to participate in a cupcake designing competition! This will be done in school. We ask that children **donate at least 50p** towards the charity. During the day, children will draw their own cupcake designs, which will later be judged by the staff.

Winners will be announced in the afternoon assembly. There will be 4 winners: one from Red, Yellow-Orange, Blue-Green and Indigo-Violet.

Staff will also be donating money to the charity and parents/carers are welcome to contribute too. All proceeds will be going directly to MacMillan Cancer Support.

Tennis club camp

Theydon Bois Tennis Club is running an October Half-term Tennis Camp led by David Wright who helps run the WESSP Tennis competitions in the summer term. Please see school website for more information.

Lego club

We have a parent who is offering to provide Lego club possibly on Monday afternoons at a cost of £7.50 per session.



Building with LEGO bricks encourages the development of children in lots of areas:

- Creativity
- Problem Solving
- 3D thinking
- Teamwork
- Critical and Lateral Thinking
- Understanding of concepts such as size, shape, order and pattern
- Improved concentration

Groups will a variety of tasks, e.g. to ' build the tallest LEGO construction without falling over.' Weekly themes will also be followed e.g. Harvest, Christmas etc.

Please contact the school office if you are interested in your child attending.

PTFA

The school would like to start a PTFA (Parent, Teacher and Friends Association). Please let the office know if you are interested.

A letter was sent this week. Many thanks for all the positive feedback received. This looks amazing and very encouraging.



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



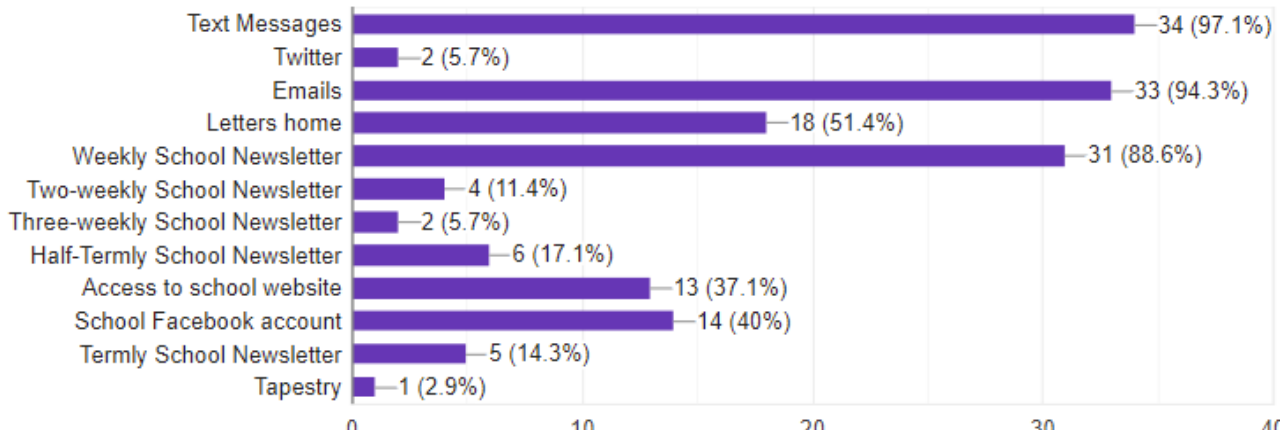
Newsletter
Autumn Term
Date: 08.10.2021

Free School Meals (FSM)

- Did you know the government gives additional funding to schools for those children entitled to **Free School Meals (FSM)**? Schools use this money to obtain additional staff and resources that help improve the quality of education.
- To find out whether your child qualifies for **Free School Meals (FSM)**, and hence whether their school would receive additional funding, please complete the eligibility checker on the LONDON GRID FOR LEARNING website: <https://pps.lgfl.org.uk/>
- This will give you an instant answer and a certificate should you be eligible. The certificate must be emailed or handed into the school office as soon as possible.

Communication survey results

We received 35 responses to the survey. The results are as follow:



Information and Reminders

- Dr Lawson will **NOT** be able to have a scheduled meet the Headteacher and parents meeting next week. We will continue again the week thereafter with **year 1** on Wednesday, 20 October. This will be at 15:00-15:15 in the school hall.
- **Pupil individual photos** - These will be taken on 10th November.
- 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/>
- The school will in future save flyers and advertisements on the school website under **COMMUNITY NEWS AND FLYERS**.
- As part of this half-term's Assembly theme, **GENEROSITY**, we will be having a **Harvest Assembly on Friday, 15th October** and kindly request any donations of tinned/canned or non-perishable foods we can donate to a charity or shelter. Please send these in with your child to school over the next two weeks. Many thanks for the donations already received.

Headteacher's message / notes continues...

- 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.
- We have signed up to The Daily Mile, please see Get To Know Essex Maps on our school website.
- We had a very successful and positive fire drill today. All went well and pupils evacuated the school building very sensibly. We are really impressed with how well reception class did with this first ever fire drill at Dr Walker's.



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



Newsletter
Autumn Term
Date: 08.10.2021

Attendance Brief Guide



Our school target is:

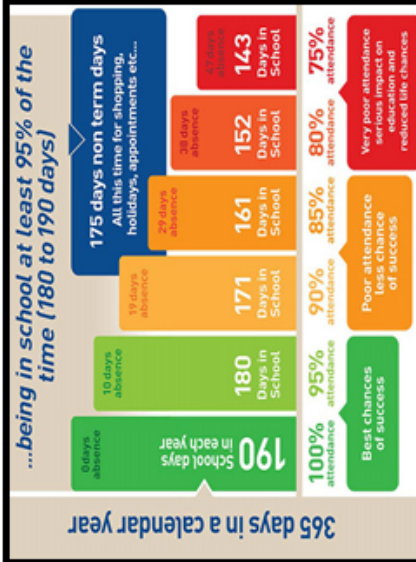
96%

The School's Pupil Attendance Policy is available on request.

LATENESS AND ABSENCE

Every minute counts!

If you arrive late to school every day, your learning begins to suffer. Below is a graph showing how being late to school every day over a school year adds up to lost learning time.



ATTENDANCE %	DESCRIPTOR	Learning hours lost
96%+	Outstanding	0-20
95%	Good	47.5
90%	Concern	95
Below 90%	Persistent Absentee	105+
85%	Very concerned	142

UNDERSTANDING DIFFERENT ABSENCES

Every half-day absence from school has to be classified by the school (not by the parents), as either **AUTHORISED** or **UNAUTHORISED**. Information about the cause of any absence is always required and it is a legal requirement. Each half-day is known as a 'session.'

Authorised absence

Are morning or afternoons sessions from school for a genuine reason such as illness, medical or dental appointments which unavoidably fall in school time, emergencies, or other unavoidable cause. Where attendance concerns have been highlighted, you may be required to provide medical evidence for these absences to be recorded as authorised.

Unauthorised absence

Are those which the school and the governors, following Government guidelines, do not consider reasonable and for which no 'leave' has been given. This type of can lead to the Local Authority using sanctions and/or legal proceedings including penalty notices and/or direct referral to the Magistrates Court.

Unauthorised absence includes:

- Parents/carers keeping children off school unnecessarily e.g. because they had a late night or for non-infectious illness or injury that would not affect their ability to learn.
- Truancy before or during the school day.
- Absences which have never been properly explained.
- Children who arrive at school too late to get registered.
- Looking after other children or children accompanying siblings or parents to medical appointments.
- Their own or family birthdays.
- Shopping trips
- Day trips.
- Holidays in term time.



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



Newsletter
Autumn Term
Date: 08.10.2021

WHY IS GOOD ATTENDANCE IMPORTANT?

- School attendance matters, so please make every day count, in your child's education by attending school every day.
- By working together, we can ensure your child does not miss out on their education.
- Children should arrive at school in time for registration at **8.55am**.

Children who come to school regularly:

- Achieve good standards of work.
- Get on well with other children and have good friendships.
- Continue to do well when they transfer to Secondary School.
- Develop positive attitudes to work which will help them later in life, whatever their choice of career may be in adult life.

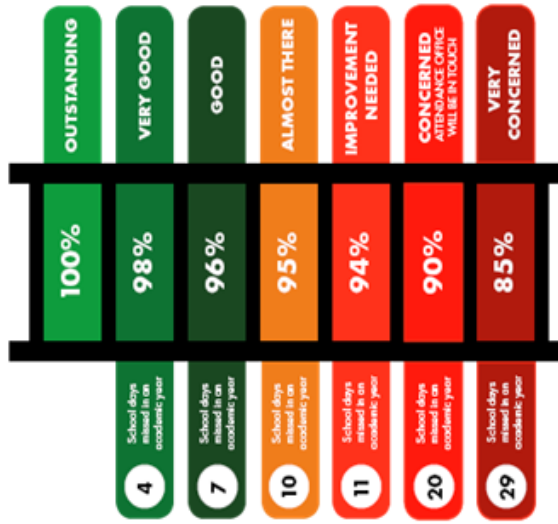
Children who are frequently absent:

- Fall behind in their work.
- Find it difficult to form lasting friendships.
- Be unhappy in school and have a poor attitude to work.
- Get involved in anti-social behaviour.

OUR AIMS TO RAISE ATTENDANCE LEVELS

- Promoting a positive and welcoming atmosphere in which pupils feel safe, secure and valued.
- Raising awareness of the importance of good attendance and punctuality.
- Ensuring that attendance is monitored effectively, in line with Government and LA requirements, and reasons for absences are recorded promptly and consistently.
- Working in partnership with parents/carers so that they are aware of their own child's attendance record and the impact that this is having on their education.

ATTENDANCE LADDER



WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP?

- Ensure children attend school every day and arrive on time.
- Take family holidays during school holidays.
- Try to make medical or dental appointments before or after school.
- Inform the school of any absences by telephoning on the first day your child is absent and send a letter on your child's return.

Every Day Counts



WHAT SHOULD YOU DO IF YOUR CHILD IS ABSENT FROM SCHOOL?

- By law, schools must record absences and the reasons given.
- You are therefore required to contact the school immediately if your child is absent.
- On their return to school, you then send a note explaining the reason for the absence.
- If there are existing concerns regarding your child's attendance, you may be required to provide medical evidence.
- The school office should be informed in writing of absences known in advance such as dental appointments. However, please make these appointments outside most of school hours where possible.
- If you wish to request a longer absence – **which may or may not be authorised** – please use a Leave of Absence form available from the school office.

LEAVE DURING TERM TIME

We will not consider applications for leave during term time:

- At any time in September, as your child needs to settle into their new class,
- During assessment periods in February, May and October.
- Year One pupils - throughout the period set aside each year by the Government for statutory phonics tests.
- When a pupil's attendance record already includes any level of unauthorised absence or they have already been granted authorised leave within that academic year.
- There is no longer any entitlement by law for pupils to take time off to go on holiday.

Menus

WEEK A commencing 20.9.21 / 04.10.21 / 18.10.21

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Meatballs in Tomato Sauce Pasta	Sausages Herby Diced Potatoes Vegetables	Chicken curry Rice Naan Bread	Macaroni Cheese Sweetcorn	Fish Fingers Baked Beans Chips
<i>Vegetarian option:</i> Quorn Vegetarian Balls in Tomato Sauce Pasta	<i>Vegetarian option:</i> Vegetarian Sausages Herby Diced Potatoes Vegetables	<i>Vegetarian option:</i> Quorn curry Rice Naan Bread	<i>Vegetarian option:</i> Macaroni Cheese Sweetcorn	<i>Vegetarian option:</i> Fish Fingers Baked Beans Chips
Cheese baguette	Ham wrap	Cheese Wrap	Tuna Wrap	Ham baguette
Salad bar	Salad bar	Salad bar	Salad bar	Salad bar
Winter Berry Meringue	Artic Roll	Iced Sponge	Angel Delight	Oat Cookie & fruit wedge
Yoghurt or selection of Fresh Fruit	Yoghurt or selection of Fresh Fruit	Yoghurt or selection of Fresh Fruit	Yoghurt or selection of Fresh Fruit	Yoghurt or selection of Fresh Fruit

Bread, Milk, Water and Fruit Juice is available daily.

WEEK B commencing 27.09.21 / 11.10.21 / 01.11.21

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Cheese & Tomato Pizza	Lasagne Garlic bread	Roast chicken dinner	Cheese & Tomato Pasta Garlic Bread	Sausages Baked Beans Chips
<i>Vegetarian option:</i> Cheese & Tomato Pizza	<i>Vegetarian option:</i> Vegetarian Lasagne Garlic bread	<i>Vegetarian option:</i> Quorn Fillet Roast Dinner	<i>Vegetarian option:</i> Cheese & Tomato Pasta Garlic Bread	<i>Vegetarian option:</i> Quorn Sausages Baked Beans Chips
Ham baguette	Cheese wrap	Ham Wrap	Tuna baguette	Cheese baguette
Salad bar	Salad bar	Salad bar	Salad bar	Salad bar
Fruit Flavoured Iced Lolly	Chocolate fairy cake	Jelly	Fruit Crumble	Fruit Platter
Yoghurt or selection of Fresh Fruit	Yoghurt or selection of Fresh Fruit	Yoghurt or selection of Fresh Fruit	Yoghurt or selection of Fresh Fruit	Yoghurt or selection of Fresh Fruit

Bread, Milk, Water and Fruit Juice is available daily.



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



**Newsletter
Autumn Term
Date: 08.10.2021**

Daily Mile – see school website

Get to know ESSEX LET'S GO!

Class Name: _____

Walk between the landmarks is Essex using your stickers throughout your journey

The Daily Mile Logo and 'The Daily Mile' name are trademarks belonging to The Daily Mile Foundation, Harlow, Essex, UK and are reproduced with permission. All rights reserved.

How it Works/What to Do:

- Visit each of the landmarks as you do TDM to get to know the county of Essex. **Find out what you didn't know!**
- Start where you like on the map and then follow the pink circles. Jog, run or walk the miles between each landmark, crossing off your miles as you complete them.
- There are 14 landmarks in total, so allocate 28 Daily Mile sessions to complete your journey to 'Get to Know Essex'. Every time you reach a location choose a class member to adhere a sticker to your class poster.
- Find out at least 2 facts about each landmark whilst you are completing each leg of your journey, write them in the boxes provided below.

LANDMARK	DESCRIPTION	FIND OUT - FACT 1	FIND OUT - FACT 2
St. Martins Bell Tower	St Martins Bell Tower in Basildon was the first glass bell tower in the world. It stands 95ft tall.		
Cressing Temple Barns	Braintree's Cressing Temple Barns is a site rich in ancient history, granted to the Knights Templar in 1136.		
Brentwood Chapel Ruins	Monument ruins once a stopping-off point in Brentford for pilgrims on their way to Canterbury.		
Hadleigh Castle	A castle fit for a King. These striking ruins overlook the River Thames and date from 1250.		
Chelmsford Cathedral	Originally a parish church, Chelmsford Cathedral stands at the heart of the city.		

LANDMARK	DESCRIPTION	FIND OUT - FACT 1	FIND OUT - FACT 2
Colchester Castle	Colchester Castle is a Norman castle in Colchester, dating from the second half of the eleventh century.		
Lee Valley Regional Park	Lee Valley Park is a 26 mile long, 10,000 acre park with a huge variety of green spaces, sports venues and vital wildlife havens.		
Parndon Mill	Parndon Mill was mentioned in the Domesday Book. Originally a site for milling flour now it's a centre for creative activity.		
Maldon Heritage Centre	"Maldon" is the Saxon spelling of Maldon and means "a cross on the hill".		
Rayleigh Windmill	Rayleigh Windmill is a 200 year old tower mill at Rayleigh which has been restored as a landmark and is now used as a museum.		
Southend Pier	Southend Pier is a major landmark in Southend-on-Sea. Extending 1.33 miles into the Thames Estuary, it is the longest pleasure pier in the world.		
Tilbury Fort	Tilbury Fort on the Thames estuary has protected London's seaward approach from the 16th century through to the Second World War.		
Harwich Redoubt	An extremely impressive 180ft (60m) diameter circular fort built in 1608 to defend the port of Harwich against a Napoleonic invasion.		
Mountfitchet Castle	A castle that is believed to have been an early Iron Age fort and Roman, Saxon and Viking settlement located in Uttlesford.		

Contact Us

- For further info about the #TheDailyMile visit www.thedailymile.co.uk and follow @The_DailyMile on Twitter.
- For further information and to register your school to The Daily Mile, contact The Daily Mile Coordinator stuart.tryhorn@activessex.org or Tel: 07921 396982 - www.activessex.org/the-daily-mile/

See page 2 for more famous places on our journey around our County

Newsletter Autumn Term Date: 08.10.2021