

Newsletter

Autumn Term

Date: 10.12.2021

An Exceptional Place to Flourish

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

Headteacher's message / notes

Celebrating Christmas in school

Class ambassadors decorating the Christmas tree



Our school attendance target is:

96%

Attendance this week:

Reception	94.03%
Year 1	79.29%
Year 2	98.57%
Year 3	91.16%
Year 4	85.71%
Year 5	68.75%
Year 6	90.00%
Whole school	85.43%

Winning year groups:

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

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		Ava	Scarlett	Archie	Lucas	Dylan
Year 1	Year 2	Brooke	Sienna	Carlie	Alice	Eva
Year 3	Year 4	Ralph B	Aviella	Barney	Max	Sid
Year 5	Year 6	Charlotte	Seb	Emily	Finlay	Alby

Value this half-term



Big questions of the week:

Reception	Year 1	What do you need to make you safe?
Year 2		What makes a person special?
Year 3		Would you rather be a headteacher or a teacher for the day?
Year 4		What makes a community?
Year 5		Why do we need memories?
Year 6		Why can't fish live on land?

Many faces of Christmas!



Year 1 and 2 baking Gingerbread biscuits



Christmas school dinner



Gate duty is fun!



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Year 5 and 6 baked bread sticks as part of Food Technology



The bakers: Curtis, Seb, Harrison and Thomas

Reception class were baking Shortbread biscuits and decorated them.



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The Headteacher(Elf) was busy visiting all the classes!

We had a Christmas jumper day.

Reception Class



Orange-Yellow class (years 1 and 2)



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Green-Blue class (years 3 and 4)



Indigo-Violet class (years 5 and 6)



Congratulations to the following pupils for earning their pen licences:

- Ayla
- Dylan
- Laila
- Lara
- Woody



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Carbon dioxide monitors

CO2 monitors have been fitted in the KS1 and KS2 classes to monitor CO2 and to raise awareness of well ventilated classrooms.

Good ventilation can help reduce the risk of spreading Covid-19, so a focus on improving general air flow, preferably through fresh air or effective mechanical systems, can help to create a safer environment for staff and students.



Boris Johnson – Prime Minister

On Wednesday 8 December, the Prime Minister announced the implementation of **Plan B of the COVID-19 Response Plan**. Plan B sets out a number of additional measures across society to control transmission of COVID-19.

- **Attendance** - School attendance remains mandatory and all the usual rules continue to apply. Enabling children and young people to attend their education setting regularly continues to be a national priority.
- **Face coverings** - Face coverings should be worn by staff and visitors in communal areas, unless exempt. This is a temporary measure.
- **Testing** - We strongly encourage all those involved in education and childcare settings to continue regular testing (LFD not PCR) and reporting their results. Settings are strongly encouraged to ask parents, guardians and other visitors to take a lateral flow device (LFD) test before entering the setting.
- **Isolation** - 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 continue to be required to self-isolate and asked to book a PCR test.

Last week of term update

Tuesday's Christmas Performance – CANCELLED

We are unfortunately going to have to cancel the performance on Tuesday due to Risk Assessment. We have had a few COVID cases, and bubbles have been re-introduced in school on advice from Essex Track and Trace. We are therefore sadly not able to allow visitors into the building. Pupils are still to come in to school dressed up in their costumes, as they will have their own mini class performance with singing songs. As mentioned a few weeks ago, we will have a plan B, which will be a booklet of photographs and the Christmas story, which we will share with parents as a keepsake.

Christingles

The cocktail sticks represent the four seasons.

The candle reminds Christians of Jesus, light of the world.

The orange represents the world.

The sweets or dried fruit represent all of God's creations.

The red ribbon is a reminder that Jesus died.



On **Thursday**, pupils will be watching a virtual Christmas Panto in class.

Kind reminder that pupils are encouraged to make a **Christingle** at home. We will have class competitions and a prize will be awarded for the best Christingle per class on Thursday.

Friday – we would like to invite parents to join us from 15:00 outside in the playground (weather permitting) to listen to the children singing a few carols. This is to try and make up for the loss of the actual performance on Tuesday.



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Important COVID update

The school has been in regular contact with Essex Track and Trace for support and advice regarding COVID and positive cases in school, due to a bit of an incident with cases logged last week.

As you are aware, we have split the school in two bubbles as a management measurement. Pupils are regularly reminded by staff in class and assemblies of hand and respiratory hygiene practice in school – this has not been stopped throughout the pandemic.

Staff is also wearing face coverings in communal areas.

We are happy to share, that we have been informed by Essex Track and Trace's Health Officer that we have not had a further spike of positive cases and therefore diverted an outbreak. We have been commended for maintaining cases and following good protocol in minimising the spread of COVID, compared to other Essex schools. As a result, we have no new infections.

There are no confirmed positive cases in Reception or Years 1 and 2 following PCR tests.

Home resource packs have been uploaded onto the school's website in the event of a pupil having to self-isolate, but still well-enough to do school work.

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

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

Behaviour Policy consultation

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

<https://forms.gle/BahSgzyvzxj7Y6zH6>

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



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 -10/12**.

Academic year	Period average attendance	Number of persistent absence pupils (below 90% attendance)
2018/2019	96.75%	5
2019/2020	95.76%	8
2020/2021	96.24%	11
2021/2022	92.09%	29



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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 arrange a meeting with the class teacher, please ask the office staff to pass on the message.
- Parents/Carers are not to enter classrooms in the mornings.



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.

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.

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.

Some parents have already placed orders:

- **Indigo-Violet** - 4 orders
- **Blue-Green** - 2 orders
- **Orange-Yellow** - 4 orders
- **Red** - 10 orders

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.

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.

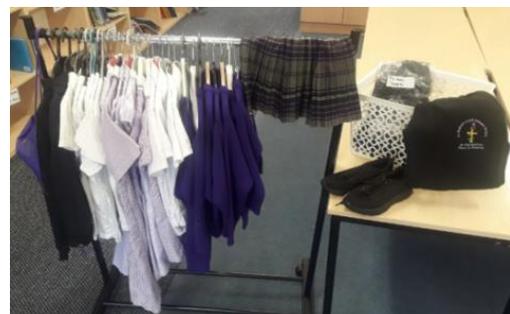
Children will join the Animals of Snowy Wood where Connie the fox and her friends will help Fraser the squirrel to get a good night sleep.

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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December 2021 - Primary

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to confirm changes to the arrangements for schools and colleges as a result of the new Omicron variant that were announced over the weekend. In addition, I would like to remind you of the current arrangements that are in place to prioritise and protect the education of children and young people up until the end of term, given that there are also rising numbers of the Delta variant in Essex.

Face coverings

All staff and visitors to schools should be wearing face coverings in communal areas. There is no expectation that primary age pupils wear face coverings.

Symptoms, testing and self-isolation

We are receiving reports of a wide variety of symptoms being associated with positive cases of Covid-19. While some children appear to be presenting with symptoms such as diarrhoea and vomiting, the Government advice is still focused on the main three symptoms which can be found here: [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) symptoms in children - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms-in-children/). If your child is unwell with a symptom not on the NHS list, it would be advisable to test them with an LFD test.

If your child tests positive on the LFD Test, your child should isolate, and you should book a PCR test online: [PCR Test Booking](#)

The school will arrange remote education so that they can continue their learning, if they are well enough to do so.

It is important that anyone displaying the main three symptoms self-isolates immediately and organises a PCR test. It is not appropriate to use rapid lateral flow device (LFD) tests when individuals have symptoms likely to be COVID-19.

If your child is asked to get a PCR test because they were identified as a close contact of a positive case (excluding the new Omicron variant, see below) but is not showing any symptoms they should continue to attend school until you receive the results.

You will be aware that we are now dealing with the new Omicron variant of COVID-19. There are different rules in relation to self-isolation with this variant. If your child is identified as a close contact of a suspected or confirmed case of the Omicron variant, irrespective of vaccination status and age, you will be contacted directly by NHS Test and Trace and they will be required to self-isolate immediately and asked to take a PCR test. The 10-day



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isolation period will need to be observed regardless of the result of the PCR test and further testing will need to be carried out on days two and eight; NHS Test and Trace will arrange this for you.

Asymptomatic testing

We continue to strongly encourage all staff, students (primary, secondary and further education students) and all households to take part in regular testing if they are not showing symptoms. This will help to reduce the risk of the virus unknowingly entering the school community. We acknowledge that for some children this may cause some distress, so this is advice only and not something to continue if it is too difficult.

You can access free LFD tests in a number of ways, including at the local LFD site in your district, by collecting a home LFD kit from a test site, or by ordering online. More information about these options can be found here: [Regular Rapid Lateral Flow Coronavirus \(Covid-19\) Tests](#).

School attendance

Children and young people must continue to attend school unless they develop symptoms likely to be COVID-19 or have tested positive.

Contact tracing

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. Contacts from a school setting will only be traced by NHS Test and Trace where the positive case and/or their parent specifically identifies the individual as being a close contact.

End of term gatherings and events

School performances can continue to take place if the schools' risk assessment deems it appropriate. However, if a school has a high infection rate, they will review the risk assessment and if necessary, make appropriate changes. This could include cancelling the gathering/event at short notice or moving the event online. When gathering indoors and/or attending an event, face coverings should be worn, and we would encourage that an LFD test is taken before attendance. If your school does decide not to hold events with a parent audience, this decision has the full support of Essex County Council.

Preparation for the start of the new term in January

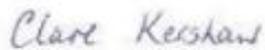
We would encourage you to continue to undertake twice weekly LFD tests during the school holiday period and prior to your child returning to their setting in January. With social mixing during the holiday period it is vital that we support a successful start to the new term



by knowing that all pupils have had a negative test beforehand, again if this does cause any distress.

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 the many 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

With best wishes,



Clare Kershaw
Director of Education
Essex County Council



Mike Gogarty
Director of Public Health and Wellbeing
Essex County Council



The week we return to school (Jan 5th) we will be using menu number 1

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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