



An Exceptional Place to Flourish

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

Newsletter

Autumn Term

Date: 19.11.2021

Headteacher's message / notes

Positive feedback

Many thanks for the positive verbal feedback shared with staff. It will be much appreciated if you could please send us a short email, as we would like to share these lovely comments with staff and governors.



A few safeguarding points:

- Parents and carers are kindly requested not to enter the playground area or go in to classrooms in the mornings when dropping pupils off. This is creating a cause for concern.
- Please make sure the office has two updated contact telephone numbers and address on file, in the event of us having to contact you due to an emergency.
- We will also not be able to release pupils at the end of the day to friends or other family members, if written consent has not been received. We cannot accept telephone calls at the end of the day in this regard.

Attendance

We currently have **23 pupils** identified and monitored as being persistently absent (**less than 90% attendance**). This is almost a third of our school population and to be addressed as a matter of urgency, as pupils are missing out on very important teaching and learning time. Meetings will be scheduled with the Educational Welfare Office and Headteacher to discuss how we can support in improving this.

Requests for holiday time during term time **cannot be authorised** and may result in a **penalty notice being issued**.

Our school attendance target is:

96%

Attendance this week:

Reception	100%
Year 1	97.14%
Year 2	94.29%
Year 3	99.33%
Year 4	94.29%
Year 5	93.50%
Year 6	98.33%
Whole school	97.07%

Winning year groups:

Gold – 1 st	Red
Silver – 2 nd	Year 3
Bronze – 3 rd	Year 6

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		William	Scarlett	Stanley	Acer	Molly
Year 1	Year 2	Amelia- Rose	Henry H	Dotty	Jude	Kai
Year 3	Year 4	Diggy	Aviella	John-James	Archie	Philomena
Year 5	Year 6	Freddy G	Riley	Libby	Corey	Sebastian



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Value this half-term



Big questions of the week:

Reception	Year 1	Is the Earth really round?
Year 2		Where is home?
Year 3		Should animal acts still exist in circuses?
Year 4		Is it fair to eat animals?
Year 5		Should fox hunting really be banned?
Year 6		Are violent video games to blame for gang culture?



Poppy appeal

Thank you for all the donations received. We have raised:

£217



Children in Need – Friday, 19th November

- On Friday 19th November we hosted our Children In Need Day.
- Children came to school all spotty!
- Thank you for all the donations received. We have raised:



Reception class	£41.09	£120
Years 1 & 2	£24.41	
Years 3 & 4	£30.50	
Years 5 & 6	£24.00	



Reception class



Years 1 and 2



Years 3 and 4



Years 5 and 6



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Christmas update...

The Christmas performances are tentatively scheduled for **Monday, 13th December** at

- **9:30-10:30** (first performance) and
- **14:00-15:00** (second performance) respectively.

Due to COVID Risk Assessment, we cannot accommodate more than 100 adults in the hall during the performances (some will have to be standing spaces). There will unfortunately also not be capacity to have buggies or strollers in the hall.



In order to help in this regard, each pupil can have a **maximum of 2 adults** to attend either the first or second performance. Places will be allocated on a ticket system.

To arrange for tickets, please contact the school office from Tuesday, 23rd November.

All adults in attendance will be requested to wear a face covering, unless medically exempt and evidence is presented on the day of the performance, e.g. a medical letter or NHS exemption card.

In keeping with our Safeguarding Policy, photos and recording will not be allowed during the performances. Class teachers will take photos to be shared with parents/carers.

As part of homework, can pupils plan for a dress up as part of the performances?

Reception	Nativity Characters - the school to provide these!
Years 1 & 2	Angels and stars (white costumes and lots of tinsel)
Years 3 & 4	Animals in the stable (black clothes and templates will be provided for headpieces).
Years 5 & 6	Shepherds and wise men

School Christmas Disco

Please have a look at the school’s website for information under **COMMUNITY NEWS AND FLYERS**.

School Designated Safeguarding Team

- The following staff are the trained Designated Safeguarding Leads.

		
Dr L Lawson	Mrs J Dean	Mrs B Eyo
Designated Safeguarding Lead	Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead	Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead



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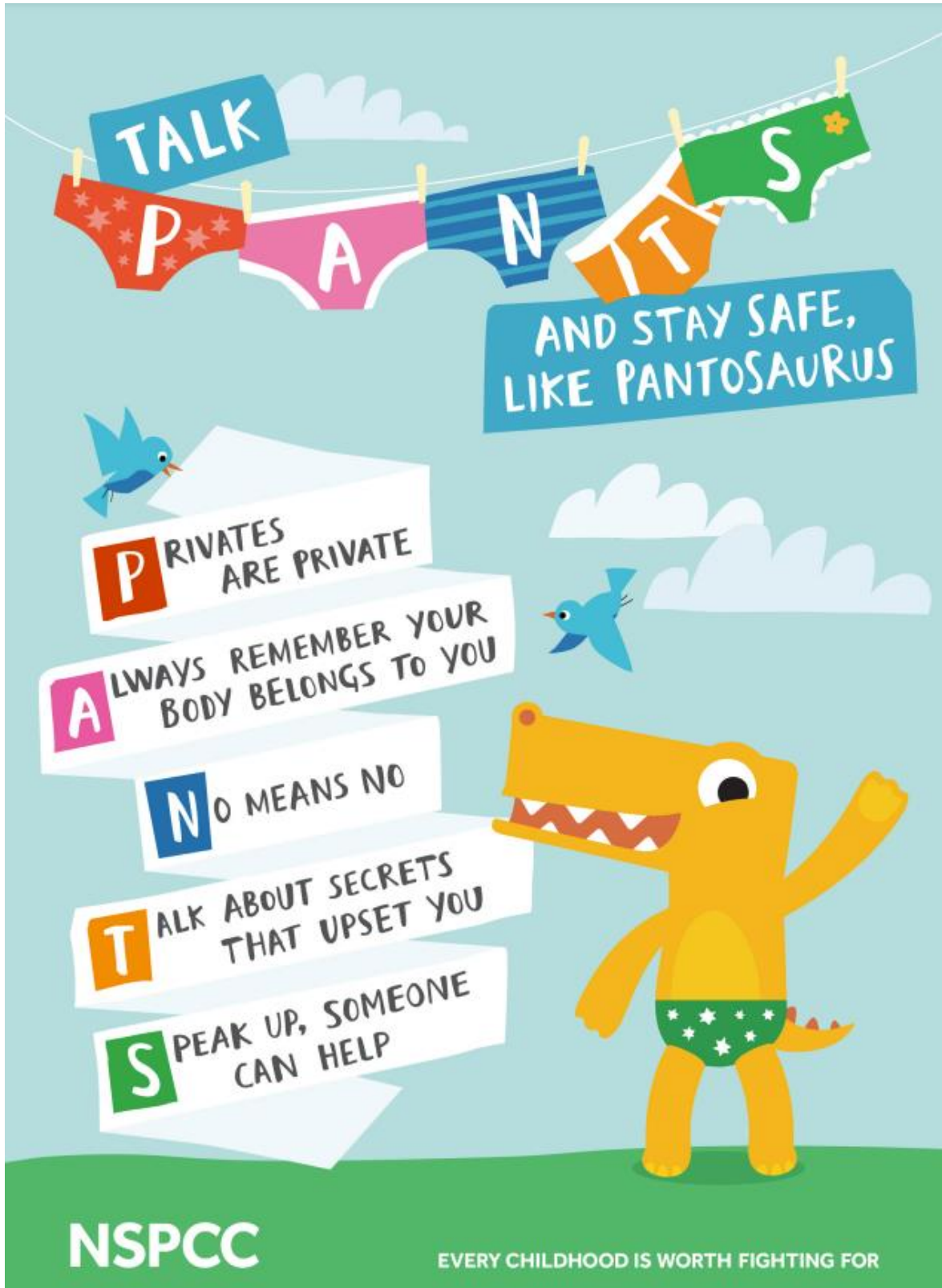


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NSPCC

Please discuss appropriate behaviour with your child at home. More resources are available from the NSPCC. The Sing along with Pantosaurus! Song can be found on:

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/support-for-parents/pants-underwear-rule/>



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Code of conduct for visitors and parents/carers

Respect and concern for others and their rights:

- At our school, we are very fortunate to have supportive and friendly parents.
- Our parents recognise that educating children is a process that involves partnership between the home and school and understand the importance of good working relationships to equip children with the necessary skills for adulthood.
- For these reasons, we welcome and encourage parents/carers to participate fully in school life.

We expect parents and carers to show respect and concern for others by:

- Supporting the respectful and caring ethos of our school, by setting a good example in their own speech and behaviour towards all members of the school community.
- Working with the school to build positive relationships with its staff for the benefit of all our pupils.
- Approaching school staff to help resolve issues, by seeking to clarify a child's version of events with the school's view in order to bring about a peaceful solution to any issue.
- Demonstrating in own behaviour, that all members of the school community should be treated with respect and understand that even if there is conflict due to a member of staff's oversight, parents must remain calm and respectful.
- Correcting your own child's behaviour, especially where it could lead to conflict.
- Avoid using staff as threats to admonish children.
- Respecting the school environment, including keeping the school tidy by not littering, returning equipment that has been borrowed.
- Respecting and being considerate of the school's neighbours when parking in Walker Avenue.

In order to support a peaceful and safe school environment, school cannot tolerate:-

- Disruptive behaviour, which interferes or threatens to interfere with the operation of a classroom, the office, the outside learning environment or any other part of school grounds.
- Using loud and/or offensive language or displaying temper either face-to-face or over the phone.
- Abusive or threatening emails, phone or social network messages.
- Threatening harm or the use of physical aggression towards another adult or child. This includes approaching someone else's child in order to discuss or chastise them and physical punishment against your own child on school premises.
- Defamatory, offensive or derogatory comments regarding school or any of the pupils/staff, at the school on Facebook or any other social sites.
- Smoking and consumption of alcohol or other drugs or accessing the school site whilst intoxicated.
- Dogs being brought onto school premises, apart from assistance dogs.

Concerns and Complaints

- We kindly request that you approach the school **respectfully** to resolve any issues of concern and to discuss and clarify specific events in order to bring about a positive solution.
- Any **concerns** you may have about the school must be made through the appropriate channels, by speaking to the class teacher in the first instance, so they can be dealt with fairly, appropriately and effectively for all concerned.
- If you are not satisfied with the outcome, then it needs to be discussed with a member of the Management Team and/or Headteacher.
- Any **complaints** need to be dealt with by following the school's Complaints Policy.

Collaboration

- We would expect that parents would make all persons responsible for collecting children aware of this policy.
- Parents to inform the school in writing if someone else is to collect their child, as part of safeguarding procedures. A telephone call will not suffice.

Should any of the above behaviour occur on school premises, the school may feel it necessary to contact the appropriate authorities and if necessary, even ban the offending adult(s) from entering the school grounds.



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Odd socks day as part of Anti-bully week

On Monday, 15th November we wore ODD SOCKS to school as part of Anti-bullying week.

A big thank you to Mrs Dean for arranging this.



Anti-Bullying Week 2021

15-19 Nov 2021

Recycling scheme



This week we have started our drive and commitment to reduce the amount of waste that goes to landfill sites.

Each class has been provided with a Recycling Box, which will be emptied into the main recycling bins by the Class Ambassadors (supervised by adults), and we are also recycling our food waste.

Instead of filling black bags - that take decades to decompose - we are recycling our wasted food for other uses. Prefects supported the initiative during our lunchtime today and will be on hand for the rest of the week to support the younger children.



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[Christmas Shoe Box Appeal - www.https://teams4u.com/](https://teams4u.com/)

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 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.

[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:

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



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



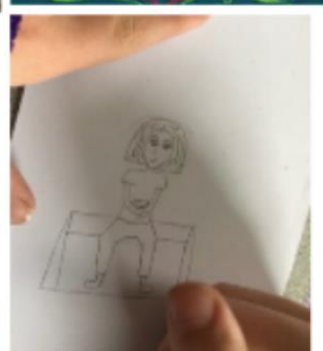
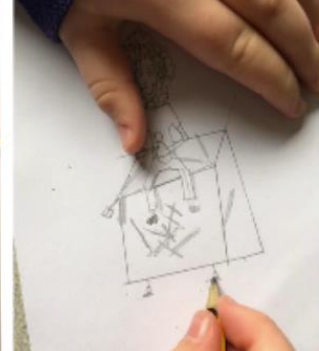
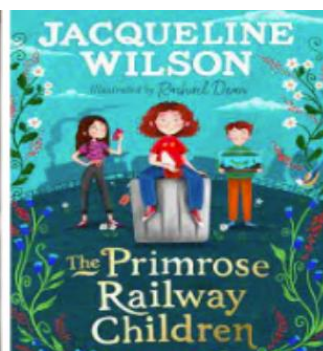
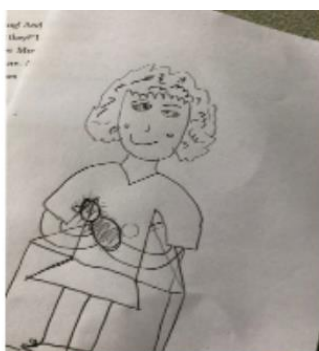
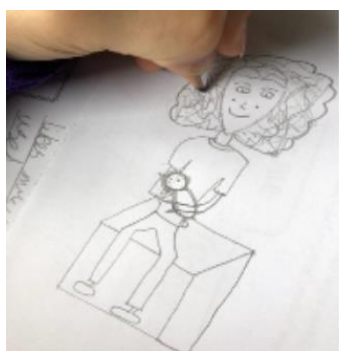
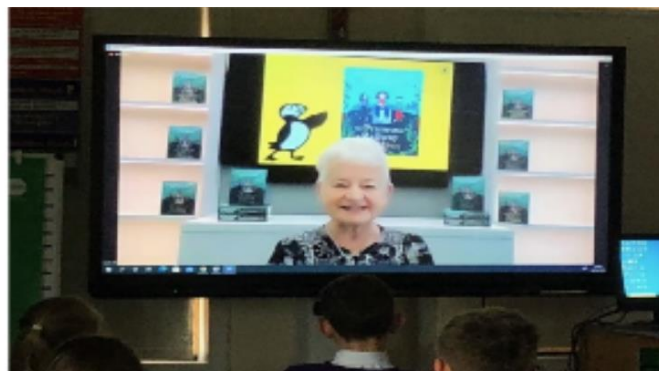
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Virtual Author reading events in school

Year 5 and Year 6 (8+) - Jacqueline Wilson - Friday 12th November 2021



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)

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



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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.

Open evenings for prospective Reception pupils:

- Thursday, 18 November at 17:00
- Thursday, 2 December at 16:15

Reception admissions for academic year starting in September 2022

As you may be aware, the primary school (Reception) admission round opened on **Monday 8 November 2021**, for parents of children to apply for a Reception school place for the academic year that starts in September 2022.

The statutory national closing date for applications is **15 January 2022**.

From **8 November 2021**, applications can be made online via www.essex.gov.uk/admissions.



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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
Meat-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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