

Newsletter

Spring Term

Date: 07.01.2022

An Exceptional Place to Flourish

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

Headteacher's message

I hope everyone had a wonderful festive Christmas with friends, family and loved ones. I acknowledge that it has been very challenging for a number of families, due to COVID.

We would like to wish everyone a happy and healthy new year. We hope that 2022 will treat us all kinder.



Our school attendance target is:

96%

Actual attendance this academic year:

91.04%

Attendance this week:

Reception	85.37%
Year 1	90.48%
Year 2	95.83%
Year 3	71.11%
Year 4	83.33%
Year 5	83.05%
Year 6	97.22%
Whole school	85.62%

Winning year groups:

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



We are **really concerned** about the attendance figures at school, especially compared with the previous three years for the same period: **01/09 -07/01**.

Academic year	Period average attendance	Number of persistent absence pupils (below 90% attendance)
2018/2019	96.64%	8
2019/2020	95.75%	7
2020/2021	92.85%	32
2021/2022	91.05%	35



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Big questions of the week:

Reception	Year 1	What is the odd one out – snake, rabbit or a duck?
Year 2		When should we say sorry?
Year 3		What has been the best invention?
Year 4		Are people the most precious creatures on Earth?
Year 5		What do you think this saying means: 'build bridges not walls'?
Year 6		Do adults have a responsibility to be good role models?

Value this half-term



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		Archie	Stanley	Knightley	Florence	Ethan
Year 1	Year 2	Alice	Harrison	Jude	Charlie	Amelia Rose
Year 3	Year 4	John James	Archie	Diggy	Sienna	Cash
Year 5	Year 6	Alby	Freddy H	Chloe	Jaycee	Emily

Pen licences



Congratulations to the following pupils who have received their pen licences:

- Seb P
- Harrison P
- Evie-Rose T
- Jessica A
- Ava G
- Chloe G
- Harrison H
- Libby T
- Corey G

Welcome to Mrs Vorster



We would like to welcome Mrs Vorster who has joined the school as a permanent member of staff.

Mrs Vorster is a senior teacher with a lot of teaching experience, inclusive of fulfilling a number of subject co-ordination posts and as member of management.

Mrs Vorster will be teaching the years 3 and 4 pupils this year and also be the school's Maths Lead.



COVID update



As part of the school's Risk Assessment, we would expect the following from visitors to school:

- To complete LFT night before or in the morning
- Wear masks / face covering on visiting the school
- Bring own stationary
- Hand gel available



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The following from ECC:

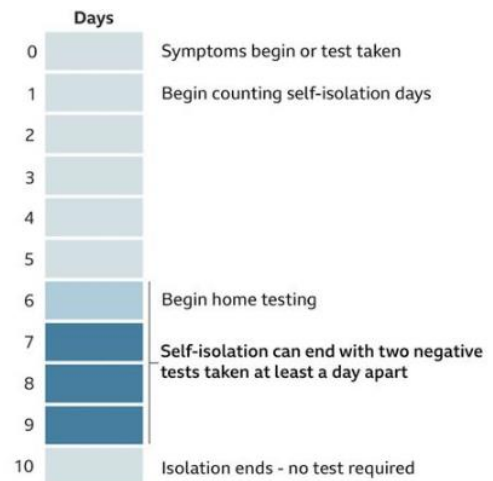
The requirement for confirmatory PCR tests is to be temporarily suspended for positive lateral flow test results. From Tuesday 11 January 2022, in England, people who receive positive lateral flow results for COVID-19 will be required to self-isolate immediately and won't be required to take a confirmatory PCR test. This is a temporary measure while COVID-19 rates remain high across the UK. Whilst levels of COVID-19 are high, the vast majority of people with positive LFD results can be confident that they have COVID-19.

Anyone who develops one of the three main COVID-19 symptoms should stay at home and self-isolate and take a PCR test. They must self-isolate if they get a positive test result, even if they have had a recent negative lateral flow test - these rules have not changed.

Under this new approach, anyone who receives a positive lateral flow device (LFD) test result should report their result on [Gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk) and must self-isolate immediately but will not need to take a follow-up PCR test. After reporting a positive LFD test result, they will be contacted by NHS Test and Trace so that their contacts can be traced and must continue to self-isolate.

In line with the reduced self-isolation approach announced on 22 December, anyone who tests positive will be able to leave self-isolation 7 days after the date of their initial positive test if they receive two negative LFD results, 24 hours apart, on days 6 and 7. The [DfE guidance](#) has also been updated in line with the UKHSA announcement, and clarifies that children can return to school after day 7 if they have had two negative LFD tests.

You should continue to report to us and Essex T&T as you are already doing so, treating positive LFDs as a confirmed case. Also as a reminder the test date or symptom start date is day 0, with isolation then being carried out for 10 full days, or LFD testing can start on day 6 but no sooner for release on day 7. See attached a flowchart for guidance.



Source: NHS
The guidance applies whatever your vaccination status. It applies whether you have tested positive for Omicron or another variant.

Morning drop-offs And Afternoon collections

As it is getting colder and with frost present this week, we want to trial next week for pupils to enter the school in the mornings through the school's main office.

This will help pupils to get into the school quicker and out of the cold. They will thus be in the school building. Reception pupils will go straight to their class, years 1 & 2 will move through the library and the Key Stage 2 pupils will go to class via the hall.

It will also help us to make sure the walkway to the school's main office is gritted.



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Dr Lawson and Miss Tierney (Reception teacher) will be at the door to welcome pupils in.

Please be reminded that **the school day starts at 8:45**. The office door will be opened at 8:45. Registration will close at 09:05 and morning collective worship assemblies to start promptly at 09:10.

Parents/carers to collect pupils in the afternoons from the playground. Staff will dismiss pupils outside the classrooms.

The **school day finished s at 15.15**. We ask that parents please wear a face mask when entering the school premises.

Contact with Class teachers



We encourage parents/carers to be in contact with their child's class teacher and inform/discuss with them any queries or concerns in the first instance, via the school office.

Due to the operation of the school day, parents/carers are advised to inform the office staff in the morning of anything urgent and a message will be relayed to the class teacher. This can include information such as if a child felt unwell overnight, etc.

Teaching staff cannot be met for face-to-face discussions in the mornings, as staff needs to be in class as pupils arrive and to minimise face-to-face contact due to COVID.

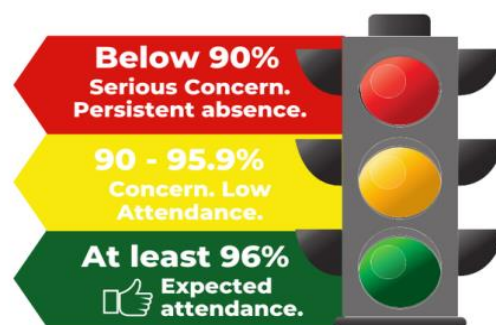
If you would like to schedule a face-to-face meeting, please inform the office and the class teacher will be in contact to schedule a meeting at a mutually convenient time.

Parents/carers can see staff at the end of the day for an informal chat when pupils are dismissed from outside in the playground.

Attendance



There has been a significant increase of persistent absences (when attendance is 90% and below). COVID has had a negative impact, however Government has made clear, young people regularly attending school is a national priority and is important for their education, wellbeing, and long-term development. This is particularly true for children who were persistently absent before the pandemic or who are at risk of becoming persistently absent.



Expected attendance means having no more than seven days off this school year!

The school's attendance target is

96%.

Attendance continues to be mandatory for all pupils of compulsory school age and schools should communicate clear and consistent expectations about attendance.

There has also been an increase last term for requests for holiday during



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term time. Please be advised that this cannot be authorised. The governing body has instructed that we will now be considering penalty fines for these as pupils are missing out on very valuable teaching time, following all the distractions we had throughout the pandemic.

This type of absence can lead to the Local Authority using sanctions and/or legal proceedings which may include issuing each parent with a Penalty Notice for £120, reduced to £60 if paid within 21 days or referring the matter to the Magistrates Court whereby each parent may receive a fine up to £2500 and/or up to 3 months in prison.

Attendance continues to be mandatory for all pupils of compulsory school age and schools should communicate clear and consistent expectations about attendance.

Online safety



Parents/Carers are encouraged to discuss and monitor your child's online access.

Several social media platforms have age restrictions, such as Facebook. Some pupils are also accessing inappropriate materials e.g., through TikTok.

Essex County Council has informed schools to share this concern with parents, as inappropriate use of social media platforms and the internet can be referred to the appropriate authorities, including police involvement.

This also includes adult use of social media platforms and posting of derogatory messages in the public domain, such as Facebook, etc.

London Grid for Learning (LGfL) DigiSafe is offering specialist support for the current situation regarding safe remote learning for pupils, parents, and staff at www.coronavirus.lgfl.net/safeguarding including risks and safe settings.

Competition time!



Calling all budding designers! Your chance to have your artwork shared with the GoRead world.

Design your own reward card.

Send your entries directly to: schools@goapps.app

Closing date:

15th February at 5pm

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.

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



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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.

School uniform

Please see school website for more information.

Football and Netball clubs

Clubs will start again the week beginning 17th January.



The football coaches will circulate flyers next week.

PE



Pupils to come in to school wearing their PE kit on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. The appropriate kit will be monitored.

PE will be delivered by Mr Porte on Tuesdays and Mr Barnes on Wednesdays respectively.



Reception applications

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.

Applications can be made online via www.essex.gov.uk/admissions.

Important term dates



Start	Finish	Half-term
4 January 2022	1 April 2022	14-18 February 2022



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DESIGN YOUR OWN REWARD CARD

2022
Edition

Calling all budding designers!
Your chance to have your artwork
shared with the GoRead world.



It's simple:

Design a reward card and send it across to us (with your parents or teachers help!).

We will choose the best ones and they will be transformed into GoRead Reward Cards that everyone can earn for logging reading!

Good Luck!

Rules:

1 entry per child
Must be original designs
Judges decisions are final

Send your entries to:
schools@goapps.app

Closing date:
15th February at 5pm



go-read.co.uk



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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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