

Update from Headteacher



Attendance is still below the school's 96% target and Persistent Absences are still high.

The school is working closely with the Educational Welfare Officer and penalty fines might be issued.

Value this half-term



Big Question of the week

What is Epiphany?

What happened in school this week?

It's beginning to feel a lot like Christmas!

Dr Lawson was an elf! He greeted all the pupils at the gate Monday morning and each pupil received a Christmas decoration to take home to decorate for their Christmas tree.



Mrs Gumble and Mrs Shaffer decorated the Christmas tree, kindly donated by Mrs Knight.
The tree looks AMAZING!





Pupils have been practising their Christmas songs for the Christmas performance on Monday 19th December.





Important dates this term

Wednesday, 14.12.22	Livestream Panto for all children Christingle competition. Pupils to make their own Christingle at home and bring it to school for a prize.
Thursday, 15.12.22	Christmas service at St Nicholas Church at 2.30pm Bazaar in the school from 3.20pm to 5pm
Friday, 16.12.22	Class assembly - Reception and Year 1 class – parents invited
Monday 19.12.22	Christmas Concerts 9.00am & 2.30pm


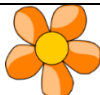









Whole School House Points

	Ants 	Badgers 	Locusts 	Lizards 
Red-Orange Class	5	12	22	24
Orange-Yellow Class	5	13	64	7
Green-Blue Class	49	17	24	15
Indigo-Violet Class	14	17	5	17
TOTAL	984	936	1022	1100

Attendance

	
Our school target	96%
Attendance this week	93%
Attendance this year	93%

Academic year	Period average attendance	Number of Persistent Absence pupils (below 90%)
2022/2023	93%	16
2021/2022	92%	20
2020/2021	96%	5
2019/2020	95%	4
2018/2019	96%	4

Red-Orange Class			91%	
Orange-Yellow Class			99%	
Green-Blue Class			90%	
Indigo-Violet Class			93%	

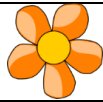
100% attendance this week: 69 pupils out of 88 pupils which is 78 %

Freya Grant	Ethan	Kai	Teddy Da	Harrison M
Jesse	Knightley	Jude	George D	Sebastian
Edward	River	Maci	Freya J	Naomi
Nellie	William	Phoebe	Talia	Libby
Jett	Teddy CG	Amelia	Sienna M	
Amelia-Rae	Alice Curtis	John James	Emily	
Alice B	Sienna F	Ralph	Kezia	
Loki	Joey	Barney	Dylan	
Lucas	Cassidy	Teddy Dou	Charlotte	
Madison	Ralph	Diggy	Chloe	
Scarlett	Eva	Paul	Freya Ga	
Rafe	Harrison	Noah	Lara	
Dolly	Dotty	Sidney	Freddy	
Evie-May	Jude	Teddie	Ava G	
Ava	Amber	Tilly	Finlay	
Mikey	Daisy	Archie	Harrison p	

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Reception

Year 1

Red-Orange Class

Class Register Teacher:
Miss Isabella Curtis



This week in Art we have been using all the knowledge we have learned about colour to create art work. The children have been mixing to create secondary colours.



The children also enjoyed Christmas dinner!



Little Wandle books should have now been sent home to all children. Please ensure you read with them and write in their reading records. Please remember to put reading books in book bags! Otherwise we cannot give out a new reading book. If books are lost or damaged parents may be charged a fee to replace.

Merits and Awards

Reader of the week	Dylan
Writer of the week	Mikey
Mathematician of the week	Nellie
Scientist of the week	Freya
Star of the week	Edward
Pen licence	N/A

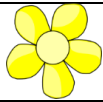
Buddies of the Week



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**Orange-
Yellow Class**

**Class Register Teacher:
Miss Lauren Seeley**

Year 1

Year 2

This week was our class assembly. All the children in the class did a fantastic job of contributing towards it and were very excited to let you all know what they have been up to. Well done to all the children for standing up in front of the rest of the school and the parents to confidently speak and sing.

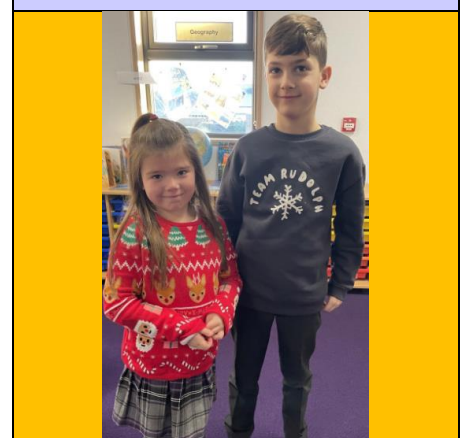
Orange-Yellow class have been getting extremely excited about Christmas this week and have been enjoying coming in to school to discover what adventures Elfie the elf has been up to everyday. Everyone made such a fantastic effort for Christmas jumper day and thoroughly enjoyed Christmas dinner.



Merits and Awards

Reader of the week	Madison
Writer of the week	Eva
Mathematician of the week	Harrison
Scientist of the week	Dolly
Star of the week	Lucas
Pen licence	N/A

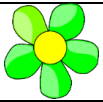
Buddies of the Week



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Year 3



Year 4

Green-Blue Class

Class Register Teacher:
Mrs Jenny Dean

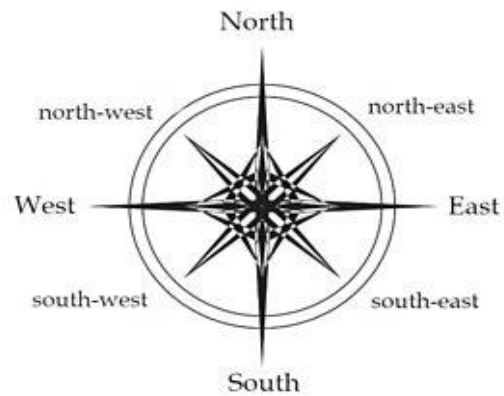


We applied our learning to create replica pots in the style of Bell-Beaker Pottery. We were very careful to use the natural resources to complete the designs and imprints.



We read maps and navigated our way around a fairground using the 8 points on a compass.

Challenge:
Can you draw a map of your home and navigate your way to different locations using the 8 points on the compass?



Merits and Awards

Reader of the week	Alice
Writer of the week	Brooke
Mathematician of the week	Ralph
Scientist of the week	Jude
Star of the week	Cash
Pen licence	Barney

Buddies of the Week



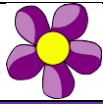
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Year 5



Year 6

Indigo-Violet Class

Class Register Teacher:
Mrs Karin Vorster

This week, we continued to make taotie reliefs. We have now made a sample taotie cast.

Some of the questions we talked about when we evaluated our pieces:

- What did you find difficult?
- What tips do you have to make this method more effective?
- How was this method similar to, or different from, the other methods that you explored?
- What does this method enable you to achieve that other methods do not?
- How successful have you been in using this method?
- Are you pleased with your design so far?



Merits and Awards

Reader of the week	Talia
Writer of the week	Lily-May
Mathematician of the week	George A
Scientist of the week	Dylan
Star of the week	Mason
Pen licence	

Buddies of the Week



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Pupils wore Christmas jumpers to school in aid of a fundraiser for **Save the Children** charity.

Thank you for donating to the charity. We will inform you of the total amount we have raised next week!

Christmas JUMPER DAY



Red-Orange class

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Orange-Yellow class



Green-Blue class

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Indigo-Violet class

Christmas Dinner



Thank you Miss Charles for cooking us an amazing Christmas roast dinne!



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Staff also enjoyed their Christmas roast dinner!

Other news

Strep A

You will have heard that there is an increase in scarlet fever in school age children in England.

We wanted to provide some further clarification on Strep A. (If there is more than one case of scarlet fever in school, it would be deemed an outbreak).

To be a case the individual need only have been diagnosed as having scarlet fever by a clinician (normally a GP). There need not have been a swab taken. (This would technically be a probable rather than confirmed case.)

Here are some information resources that may be useful:

A fact sheet that covers what scarlet fever is and other frequently asked questions: [Factsheet \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk)

This gives the initial symptoms of scarlet fever as a sore throat, headache, fever, nausea and vomiting, which is followed after 12 to 48 hours by a characteristic fine red rash. Typically, the rash first appears on the chest and stomach, rapidly spreading to other parts of the body. On more darkly-pigmented skin, the rash may be harder to spot, although a 'sandpaper' feel to the rash should be present.

It also makes it clear that anyone with symptoms should seek a consultation with a GP. If the GP thinks it is scarlet fever the GP will prescribe appropriate antibiotics. The individual will need to be away from school for 24 hours after starting the antibiotic (or until fully recovered if not accepting antibiotics).

Please promote the enhancement of handwashing for hygiene.

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UK Health
Security
Agency

Dear Parent(s) / Carer(s),

Re: Increase in scarlet fever

We are writing to inform you of a recent [national/local] increase in notifications of scarlet fever to the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA), above seasonal expected levels.

We would like to take this opportunity to remind you of the signs, symptoms and the actions to be taken if you think that you or your child might have scarlet fever.

Signs and symptoms of scarlet fever

Scarlet fever is a common childhood infection caused by *Streptococcus pyogenes*, or group A Streptococcus (GAS). It is not usually serious, but should be treated with antibiotics to reduce the risk of complications (such as pneumonia) and spread to others. The early symptoms of scarlet fever include sore throat, headache, fever, nausea and vomiting. After 12 to 48 hours, the characteristic red, pinhead rash develops, typically first appearing on the chest and stomach, then rapidly spreading to other parts of the body, and giving the skin a sandpaper-like texture. The scarlet rash may be harder to spot on darker skin, although the 'sandpaper' feel should be present. Patients typically have flushed cheeks and be pale around the mouth. This may be accompanied by a bright red 'strawberry' tongue.

If you think you, or your child, might have scarlet fever:

- contact your GP or NHS 111 as soon as possible
- make sure that you or your child take(s) the full course of any antibiotics prescribed. Although you or your child will feel better soon after starting the course of antibiotics, you must complete the course to ensure that you do not carry the bacteria in your throat after you have recovered
- stay at home, away from nursery, school or work for at least 24 hours after starting the antibiotic treatment, to avoid spreading the infection

You can help stop the spread of infection through frequent hand washing and by not sharing eating utensils, clothes, bedding and towels. All contaminated tissues should be disposed of immediately.

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Invasive Group A Strep (iGAS)

The same bacteria which cause scarlet fever can also cause a range of other types of infection such as skin infections (impetigo) and sore throat. In very rare cases, the bacteria can get into the bloodstream and cause an illness called invasive group A strep (iGAS). Whilst still very uncommon, there has been an increase in iGAS cases this year, particularly in children under 10 years old. It is very rare for children with scarlet fever to develop iGAS infection.

As a parent, you should trust your own judgement.

Contact NHS 111 or your GP if:

- your child is getting worse
- your child is feeding or eating much less than normal
- your child has had a dry nappy for 12 hours or more or shows other signs of dehydration
- your baby is under 3 months and has a temperature of 38C, or is older than 3 months and has a temperature of 39C or higher
- your baby feels hotter than usual when you touch their back or chest, or feels sweaty
- your child is very tired or irritable

Call 999 or go to A&E if:

- your child is having difficulty breathing – you may notice grunting noises or their tummy sucking under their ribs
- there are pauses when your child breathes
- your child's skin, tongue or lips are blue
- your child is floppy and will not wake up or stay awake

Stop the spread

During periods of high incidence of scarlet fever, there may also be an increase in outbreaks in schools, nurseries and other childcare settings. Children and adults with suspected scarlet fever should stay off nursery / school / work until **24 hours** after the start of appropriate antibiotic treatment. Good hygiene practice such as hand washing remains the most important step in preventing and controlling spread of infection. |

Online Safety

Dear Parents & Carers,

The online world is posing an ever-increasing risk to children, and it is important that schools, parents and carers work together to take an active role in teaching children about online dangers. Learning how to act safely when using the internet is an incredibly important part of safeguarding our children.

We are therefore delighted to announce that **Dr Walker's C of E Voluntary**

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Controlled Primary School has shown our commitment to protecting our pupils online by working with National Online Safety, providing resources for all parents and carers.

The resources include Parents & Carers courses (presented by Myleene Klass), online video resources and weekly guides covering a huge range of topics, including:

- Online Relationships
- Fake Profiles & Social Bots
- Online Bullying
- Online Grooming
- Child Sexual Exploitation
- Sexual Harassment & Violence
- Sexting
- Live Streaming
- Online Identity
- Screen Addiction
- Online Challenges
- Overspending
- Social Media Platforms
- Online Gambling
- Radicalisation, Terrorism & Extremism
- Age Inappropriate Content
- Copyright & Ownership
- Hacking
- Fake News
- Online Fraud
- Online Reputation
- Personal Data
- Pornography
- Targeted Adverts & Pop-Ups
- The Dark Web
- Games & Trends

To create your account, please follow <https://nationalonlinesafety.com/enroll/dr-walker-s-c-of-e-voluntary-controlled-primary-school> and complete your details. When you're set up, you'll be able to set 'Parent/Carer' as your user type.

You can access National Online Safety online via any device, including via their brand-new smartphone app. To download the app, please go to:

<https://apps.apple.com/gb/app/national-online-safety/id1530342372>

<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=uk.co.nationaleducationgroup.nos>

Alternatively, search for 'National Online Safety' in the App Store/Google Play Store.

Answers to frequently asked questions and customer service can be accessed at <https://helpdesk.thenationalcollege.co.uk/helpcentre>.

Kind Regards,

**Dr Walker's C of E Voluntary
Controlled Primary School**



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Christmas
Bazaar

WE INVITE YOU TO

DR WALKER'S SCHOOL CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

THURSDAY 15TH DECEMBER
3:20PM - 5:00PM

ENTRY IS £1 PER ADULT

FESTIVE STALLS
GAMES & PRIZES
TOMBOLA
CAROL SINGING
FACE PAINTING
SLOW DOUGH PIZZA COMPANY

Christingle
competition

Wednesday,
14th December

Christingle competition

- There will also be a Christingle competition with a prize for each class.
- This will be the last week of term.



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Christmas Church celebration service

Thursday, 15th December

Pupils will be attending St Nicholas church on Thursday, 15th December (at 14.30) as part of our Christmas celebration.

Reverend Sam Brazier-Gibbs will be telling us a Christmas story and we will participate in singing a few songs.



Mrs Spanton is also organising some **bell ringers!** Parents are welcome to attend.



Christmas concert

Monday 19th December

We will be hosting Christmas performances on Monday, 19th December. Your ticket allocation has been sent home this week.

Pupils will be asked to come to school on the day dressed up in costumes. Please be creative in helping your child to have a memorable experience.

The school will provide costumes for the reception pupils.

Pupils to dress up as follow:

Reception	Nativity characters (school will provide these)
Years 1 and 2	Stars / Angels / Snowflakes
Year 3	Joseph / Mary
Year 4	Augustus the Roman Emperor / King Herod / Wise Men (Magi)
Years 5 and 6	Shepherds

Reception 2023 intake

As you may be aware, the primary school (Reception) admission round opened on Monday 7 November 2022, for parents of children to apply for a Reception school place for the academic year that starts in September 2023. The statutory national closing date for applications is 15 January 2023. From 7 November 2022, applications can be made via www.essex.gov.uk/admissions 99% of parents in Essex applied online last year. All of the application information is available on the website above.

School admission arrangements 2024-25

Essex County Council, as the admission authority for Dr Walker's Primary School, is consulting on a reduction to the school's published admission number (PAN) for 2024-25. The proposal is to reduce the published admission number (PAN) from the current 23 to 15.

This is to enable the school to organise classes more effectively. There are sufficient school places available in the overall area to ensure a school place for every child. Dr Walker's Primary School is currently undersubscribed. No child for whom this school is the nearest school is expected to be denied a place in the normal admission round if this proposal proceeds.

Parents and other interested persons are entitled to ask questions and comment on the above proposals.

The consultation period is open between Monday 28 November 2022 and Friday 13 January 2023.

Any comments should be submitted in writing to Shamsun Noor, Head of Statutory and Regulated Customer Services by email shamsun.noor@essex.gov.uk or by post to: School Admissions, Essex County Council, County Hall, Chelmsford, CM1 1GS.

Following the end of the consultation period, the Council, having considered any responses, will set the admission arrangements for the school before 28 February 2023."

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Charges for damaged books

As you are aware the school has been working with the English Hub and implementing the Little Wandle Phonics' Scheme.

We have listened to parents' feedback regarding the e-books and therefore we are sending hard copies of books home to support reading at home.

The school had to purchase new sets of books to support the implementation of this reading scheme.

Unfortunately we have already received damaged books back.

Please be informed that **the school will be charging £5** per damaged book received back. This is to cover the cost of buying a new book and admin.

Year Group Parent Representative s / Volunteers

Reception - TBC

Year 1 – Ms Kelsey Gumble (Acer's mum)

Year 2 – Mrs Emma Laurence (Eva's mum)

Year 3 - Mrs Cherie Turpin (Teddie's mum)

Year 4 - Mrs Cherie Turpin (Teddie's mum)

Year 5 - TBC

Year 6 – Mrs Nicola Curtis (Dylan & Alice's mum)



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 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



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • visit the school informally at least 2 times a year • commit to attend training courses, perform additional research as required. <p>In return, our governing body commits to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • provide you with a structured induction • provide access to quality training • provide you with an experienced governor as mentor • provide informal feedback on your contribution to the governing body on a bi-annual basis <p>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.</p>
<p>Shooters Football Events and Christmas Camp</p>	<p>Please see our website for information on upcoming football events.</p>
<p>Our Website</p>	<p>Please remember to check the Community Events and Opportunities section of the website for information on a variety of local events taking place during the Christmas Season.</p>
<p>Free Winter Holiday Camp</p>	<p>Please visit our website as Essex County Council are providing this opportunity.</p>