

Newsletter

Spring Term

Date: 21.01.2022

An Exceptional Place to Flourish

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

Headteacher's message



Our school attendance target is:

96%

Actual attendance this academic year:

91.59%

Attendance this week:

Reception	97.33%
Year 1	98.41%
Year 2	86.11%
Year 3	91.24%
Year 4	96.88%
Year 5	93.37%
Year 6	98.17%
Whole school	94.86%

Winning year groups:

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

We had a full week!

And it was cold - winter is here!

Please make sure pupils are appropriately dressed for the weather (especially as it is frosty). Pupils are allowed to wear coats in the classrooms if they are cold. They are not to wear hats or scarves in class.

Just to clarify, we are not constantly keeping all doors and windows open throughout the whole day, only when the CO2 monitors indicate that we need to enhance ventilation in the room.

Thank you for your patience with all the COVID updates, I acknowledge it feels a bit too much.

I want to commend how smart our pupils look in their school uniforms. They make us proud!

Three weeks to go to half-term.



We are **really concerned** about the attendance figures at school, especially compared with the previous three years for the same period: **1 September – 21 January.**

Academic year	Period average attendance	Number of persistent absence pupils (below 90% attendance)
2018/2019	96.69%	7
2019/2020	95.86%	6
2020/2021	92.88%	33
2021/2022	91.59%	27



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Big questions of the week:

Value this half-term



Reception	Year 1	What would the world be like if toys could come to life?
Year 2		Which is better – summer holidays or winter holidays?
Year 3		Which of these is the odd one out – car bus or lorry?
Year 4		Would it be better to travel to the future or back to the past?
Year 5		What is the best season of the year – spring, summer, autumn or winter?
Year 6		What does a team need in order to be successful?





Achievers of the week 07.01.22:

		Reader of the week	Writer of the week	Mathematician of the week	Scientist of the week	Star of the week
Reception		Evie-May	Amelia	Molly	Madison	Mikey
Year 1	Year 2	Henry H	Phoebe	Amelia	Cassidy	Brooke T
Year 3	Year 4	Sidney	Barney	Noah	Teddy T	Aviela
Year 5	Year 6	Corey	Laila	Ayla	Tommy	Harrison M

Achievers of the week 14.01.22:

		Reader of the week	Writer of the week	Mathematician of the week	Scientist of the week	Star of the week
Reception		Rafe	Brooke	Dolly	Scarlett	William
Year 1	Year 2	Jude	Dotty	Jacob	Eva	Amelia-Rose
Year 3	Year 4	Talia	Ralph	Freya	George	Paul
Year 5	Year 6	Evie-Rose	Jessica	Dylan	Ava	John

House Points:

					
		Ants	Badgers	Locusts	Lizards
Reception		5	4	5	4
Year 1	Year 2	1	1	0	2
Year 3	Year 4	43	36	31	22
Year 5	Year 6	31	47	41	34
TOTAL		80	88	77	62



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**Book corners
in classes**



Reception



Years 1 and 2



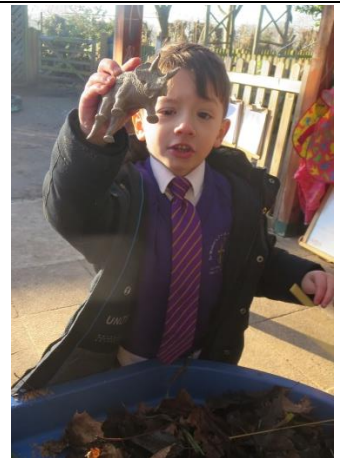
Years 3 & 4



Years 5 & 6

Over the last couple of weeks Red Class have enjoyed learning about dinosaurs! We even went digging for fossils!

Reception



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<p style="text-align: center;">Reception</p>	Red class working on the new class tablets		
			
<p style="text-align: center;">Years 1 and 2 Computing</p>	Orange-Yellow class used laptops for the programme 'Paint' to design a rocket.		
			
<p style="text-align: center;">Best Friends of the week</p>			
	 <p style="text-align: center;">Reception</p>	 <p style="text-align: center;">Years 1 and 2</p>	 <p style="text-align: center;">Years 3 and 4</p>



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COVID update



Clarification on the changes to the self-isolation period for individuals who test positive for COVID-19.

- **Self-isolation has been reduced to 5 days.**
- From Monday 17 January, people who are self-isolating with COVID-19 will have the option to reduce their isolation period after 5 full days if they test negative with a lateral flow device (LFD) test on both day 5 and day 6 and they do not have a temperature. For example, if they test negative on the morning of day 5 and the morning of day 6, they can return to their education or childcare setting immediately on day 6.
- The first test must be taken no earlier than day 5 of the self-isolation period, and the second must be taken the following day. All test results should be 5.
- If the result of either of their tests is positive, they should continue to self-isolate until they get negative results from two LFD tests on consecutive days or until they have completed 10 full days of self-isolation, whichever is earliest.
- Anyone who is unable to take LFD tests or anyone who continues to have a temperature will need to complete the full 10 day period of self-isolation.
- If anyone has any of the main symptoms of COVID-19, they are strongly advised to take a PCR test, not an LFD test.
- If someone with symptoms has already taken an LFD test for any reason and the result is positive, they do not need to take a follow-up PCR test.

19.01.22 - An update for all education and childcare settings following the Prime Minister's announcement of the end of Plan B

On 19.01.22, the Prime Minister announced that all Plan B measures will be removed in England, with a full return to Plan A by Thursday 27 January.

In education and childcare settings, this means:

- From Thursday 20 January, face coverings are no longer recommended in classrooms and teaching spaces for staff, and pupils and students in year 7 and above. They were introduced in classrooms at the start of the spring term as a temporary measure.
- From Thursday 27 January, face coverings are no longer recommended in communal areas for staff, and pupils and students in year 7 and above.

This decision comes in response to national infection data showing the prevalence of COVID-19 to be on a downward trajectory. Whilst there are some groups where cases are likely to continue rising, it is likely that the Omicron wave has now peaked nationally. There remains significant pressure on the NHS but hospital admissions have stabilised, and the number of patients in Intensive Care Units (ICU) remain low and are falling.


This means it is right we remove the most stringent restrictions around wearing face coverings from education, but the virus is still with us, and continuing with proportionate protective measures remains vital to protect education.



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	<p>Local directors of public health are able to recommend the use of face coverings in communal areas, across their area only, where DfE and public health experts judge the measure to be proportionate due to specific health concerns. This is a temporary measure. Directors of public health will continue to advise individual settings experiencing outbreaks. Any local introduction of face coverings will be subject to routine review and removed at the earliest opportunity.</p> <p>Ofsted’s deferral policy has provided reassurance to schools, colleges and early years settings that have been significantly impacted by staff absence in recent weeks. That policy remains in place and Ofsted will continue to remind providers about it for the remainder of this half-term.</p> <p>At the start of this term, Ofsted temporarily halted the use of part time inspectors who are also front-line leaders. They will now invite those who are able to inspect again to do so from Monday 31 January. As has always been the case, it will be for leaders to decide whether to offer their services to Ofsted.</p> <p>From Thursday 27 January, venues and events will no longer be required by law to use the NHS COVID Pass. The pass can be used on a voluntary basis as was previously the case in Plan A.</p> <p>The government is no longer asking people to work from home. Staff should speak to their employers about arrangements for returning to the office, and should follow the working safely during COVID-19 guidance.</p>
<p>Dropping off in the mornings</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We will continue with the dropping off arrangements as it is currently. • Pupils to be dropped off at the school’s main office in the mornings.
<p>Parking issues</p> 	<p>Parking has been an issue for a number of years, and to be honest not something that will be easily sorted.</p> <p>We have been in contact with Essex Highway services and reported the continued parking issues to Essex’s Parking Partnership.</p> <p>I am therefore making an appeal to all parents/carers to please be courteous and patient in the mornings and afternoons when dropping off of or collecting your children.</p> <p>The following are the main concerns:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is limited parking, as Walker Avenue is a cul-de-sac. • If double parking, emergency vehicles cannot come down the road. This is a serious safety issue. • A number of near miss incidents with pupils have also been reported. Please be vigilant of our pupils. • Please respect the property of neighbours. <p>Options / Alternatives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) A village hall meeting was held this week by the trustees and they are still very amenable to parents using the village hall’s car park at drop off and pick up times so they can walk down the field or the Avenue to school. There is a paved cut through from the car park onto Walker Avenue if parents prefer a pavement. 2) The Scout Leader has also given permission for parents to use the Scout Hut car park (this is just before the village hall) but should

park at the gate end of the car park and not next to the building. This is because pre-school use this too.

3) There are alternative options along the Willingale Road by the church too, this might help families who want to have a (modest) walk/cycle/scoot into school.

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.

The school's attendance target is

96%.

Attendance



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 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.

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My Maths

As you aware, we follow the White Rose maths scheme across the school. They have now launched an app that could be downloaded on various devices for your child to develop some of their mental maths skills. Please have a look.



1-Minute Maths 4+

White Rose Education Services Limited

Designed for iPad

#5 in Education

★★★★★ 4.9 • 22 Ratings

Free

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

Competition time!



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

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



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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
- 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 next week.

Roller Skating - A Roller Skating Club has started lessons at Ongar Leisure Centre.

London and Essex Artistic Roller Skating Club
[\(https://www.facebook.com/londonandessexRSC/\)](https://www.facebook.com/londonandessexRSC/)

Please see school website for more information (COMMUNITY NEWS AND FLYERS).

Important term dates



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



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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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Tuesday 18 January 2022 – Primary

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to advise you of the changes to Government guidance which come into place from Monday 17th January.

Students and staff can end self-isolation period after 5 full days

Under the new rules, students who are self-isolating with COVID-19 can now end their isolation period after 5 full days.

To do so they must test negative using Lateral Flow Device (LFD) tests on both day 5 and day 6. The first test must be taken no earlier than day 5 and the second must be taken the following day. In order to return to school, your child must also not have a temperature.

Those who are still positive on their LFD tests must stay in isolation until they have had 2 consecutive negative tests taken on separate days or until they have completed 10 full days of self-isolation, whichever is earliest.

All LFD test results should be reported online at: [Report a COVID-19 rapid lateral flow test result - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/report-a-covid-19-rapid-lateral-flow-test-result).

Confirmatory PCR tests temporarily suspended

The Government guidance for those who have a positive LFD test result has also changed. If your child receives a positive LFD test result, they are no longer required to take a confirmatory PCR test. They must still self-isolate at home.

This is a temporary measure while COVID-19 rates remain high across the UK. You should also report positive LFD test results for your online.



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Close contacts of confirmed cases of Coronavirus

Recently the Government changed the rules regarding anyone identified as a close contact of a confirmed, positive Coronavirus case. These rules apply to close contacts of both the Delta and Omicron variants.

Any child (aged between five and 18 years and six months) who is identified by NHS Test and Trace as a close contact of a COVID-19 case does not need to self-isolate.

Instead, they should continue to attend their school, but are strongly encouraged to take daily LFD tests for seven days. If your child tests positive on an LFD test, they should isolate immediately.

Children under 5 years are exempt from self-isolation and do not need to take part in daily testing of close contacts.

Children with Coronavirus symptoms

If your child has [COVID-19 symptoms](#) it remains the case that they should stay at home and self-isolate immediately. They should take a PCR test as soon as possible. If this PCR test result is positive, they must continue to self-isolate. You can book a PCR test for your child online: [PCR Test Booking](#).

Asymptomatic testing of children


There is no change to the approach to 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. Your school has been supporting your child to participate in twice weekly testing and we continue to encourage this approach and to support schools with their communication to you about this process.

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 can be found here: [Regular Rapid Lateral Flow Coronavirus \(Covid-19\) Tests](#).

We appreciate that the changes in guidance can cause anxiety for some but it is important that the education of our children is prioritised this academic year. The likelihood of serious illness in children is extremely low and after many months of serious disruption, the DfE and the Local Authority continue to be committed to ensuring that all children and young people in Essex have every opportunity to thrive.

Thank you for all for the support that you continue to provide for your child's school at this challenging time.

With best wishes



Clare Kershaw
Director of Education
Essex County Council



Mike Gogarty
Director of Public Health and Wellbeing
Essex County Council