

Newsletter

Autumn Term – 24.11.2022

Update from Headteacher



It's FIFA World Cup!
Come on England, bring the trophy home!

Value this half-term



Big Question of the week

What is Advent?

Something special happened in school this week...

Thanks you to all our volunteers, Kelsey Gumble, Michaela Mulhare, Amy Brown, Andy Doran, Ozzy Ozsoy, Cheryl Fry, Emma Laurence & Samantha Shaffer for arranging the first official fundraiser. Pupils had a fabulous time with their "Breakfast with Southgate"

We raised £408







Important dates this term

Wednesday, 30.11.22	St Andrew's day
Thursday, 08.12.22	Christmas Jumper Day – FUNDRAISER Christmas dinner
Friday, 09.12.22	Class assembly - Years 1 and 2 class – parents invited
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 at 3.20 to 5pm in the school hall.
Friday, 16.12.22	Class assembly - Reception and Year 1 class – parents invited
Monday 19.12.22	Christmas Concerts 9.00am & 2.30pm


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Whole School House Points

	Ants 	Badgers 	Locusts 	Lizards 
Red-Orange Class	12	9	27	47
Orange-Yellow Class	5	12	22	24
Green-Blue Class	12	10	3	14
Indigo-Violet Class	17	9	8	12
TOTAL	841	827	832	832

Attendance

		Academic year	Period average attendance	Number of Persistent Absence pupils (below 90%)
Our school target	96%	2022/2023	93%	17
Attendance this week	94%	2021/2022	93%	16
Attendance this year	93%	2020/2021	98%	3
		2019/2020	95%	5
		2018/2019	97%	1

Red-Orange Class			95%	
Orange-Yellow Class			98%	
Green-Blue Class			89%	
Indigo-Violet Class			96%	

100% attendance this week: 73 pupils out of 83 which is 88%

Freya G	Ava	Amber	Archie	Autumn
Jesse	Mikey	Daisy	Teddy D	Ava
Edward	Ethan	Kai	George D	Finlay
Nellie	Knightley	Jude G	Freya J	Lily- May
Jackson	River	Maci	Talia	Harrison P
Darcie	William	Brooke	Sienna M	Sebastian P
Amelia-Rae	Teddy C	Amelia	George A	Naomi
Alice B	Alice Curtis	Gabriella	Jessica	Mason
Florence	Sienna F	John James	Emily	Libby
Lucas	Cassidy	Barney	Kezia	
Madison	Ralph	Lillie	Dylan C	
Scarlett	Eva	Diggy	Charlotte	
Dylan F	Harrison Mc	Freddie R	Chloe	
Dolly	Dotty	Max	Freya G	
Acer	Jacob	Teddie T	Lara	
Evie-May	Jude	Cash	Freddy G	

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FIFA WOLD CUP – Breakfast with Southgate



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Keepy uppy challenge

- Diggy (year 4) came in with a strong 10.
- Freddie (year 6) then beat him with 20.
- Diggy (year 4) came back with an amazing 37.

Well done Freddie smashing it first time round and Diggy for wanting to reclaim his title.

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England Chant - winner
Archie

Bring on the World
To put us to the test,
We'll show that England
Really are the best
Watch on the TV
As our talent is shown
Get ready England
Football's coming home



Christmas Shoe Box Appeal

Many thanks for the Shoe boxes received.

Who gets the shoeboxes?

Your shoebox will be given to a vulnerable child, or family, through schools, nurseries, hospitals and orphanages. Our aim is that each box is given in relationship with the local community as part of a long-term commitment to these children.

Where do the shoeboxes go?

This year the shoeboxes will be heading to the Ukraine, Moldova, Georgia, Bosnia and Romania.



School Admissions Arrangements

"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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Any other updates and news

Poppy Appeal



Thank you for all the donations received. We will update you of how much we have raised, once we hear from the charity



Thursday, 08.12.22

Christmas Jumper Day Fundraising event for



Pupils to bring in a voluntary contribution of **£1** towards the Save the Children charity.

Pupils to wear a Christmas jumper to school (not football kits!).

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.



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. Please be sure to return your request slip as soon as possible. 2 tickets per family.

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

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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

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.

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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 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.

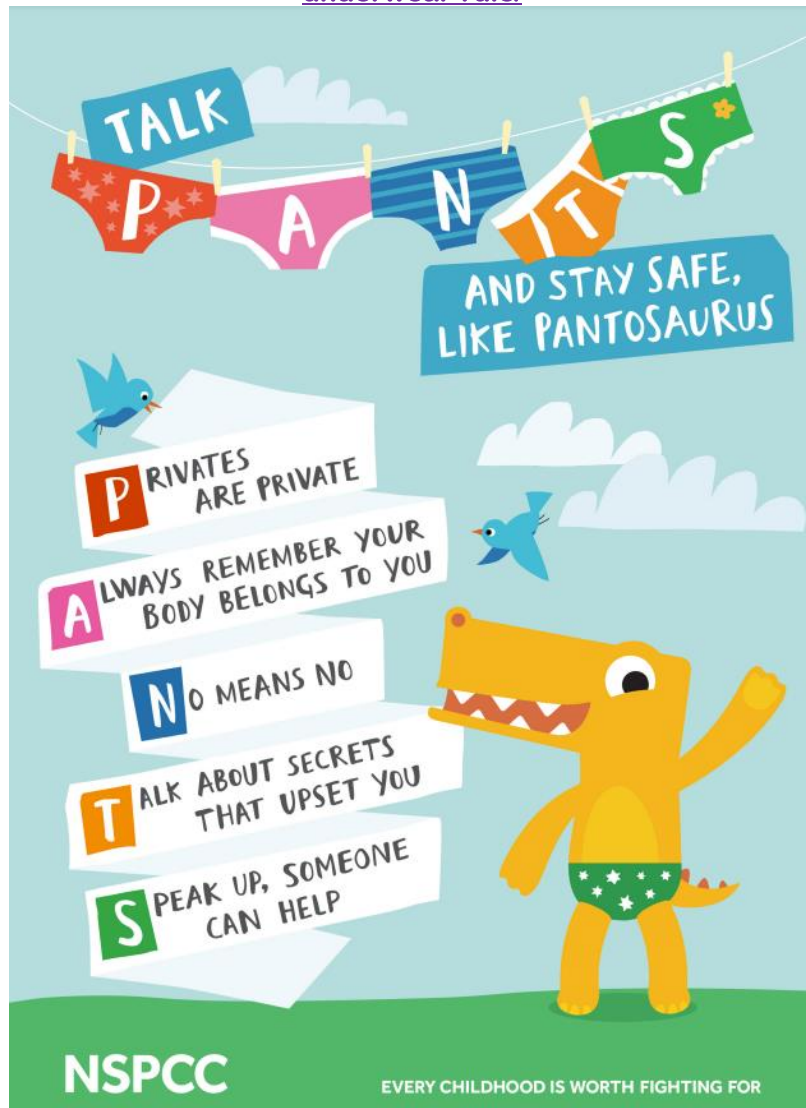
Unfortunately we have already received damaged books back.

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.

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/>

NSPCC



Online safety at home:

Parents and carers

In anticipation of lots of technology and devices being at the top of Christmas wish lists, here is another reminder to use the Common sense media website to guide and inform you on the suitability of all things media related. <https://www.commonsensemedia.org/>
It's really helpful for films, books, games and apps – so do check it out!

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How to stay safe when younger children are exploring the internet?

YouTube Kids is a child-friendly version of YouTube, offering a colourful and easy-to-navigate environment which is suitable for young children. The app is easily accessible and can be downloaded for phones and tablets without needing the YouTube app to be on the device already. Although YouTube Kids is obviously intended to be (and mainly succeeds in being) an extremely child-friendly platform, it can still raise concerns over its advertising policy as well as inappropriate content seeping through the curation process. However, adults can disable the search option, restrict the viewing time and monitor the watch history.

Controls explained:

How do I put controls or limits in place?

Phones, tablets, and computers can all be controlled to a degree by either purchasing full versions which limit, but do not totally exclude, in-app adverts and the like. You can also download various apps for no cost. One such app is: 'Our Pact' and it allows parents to link their phone to set time limits and app restrictions on their children's devices. These can be altered as required and allow the parent or carer to be fully in control and aware of what and when their child accesses technology. Find out more by following the link: <https://ourpact.com/>

Infant Parents and Carers:

It is also worth being aware that according to Ofcom's most recent research, a large proportion of children are already on-line by the time they start school, with 17% of 5-year olds owning their own mobile phone and 50% using messaging platforms. So talking about how to be safe on line has never been such a high priority.

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

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. <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</p>	<p>Please see our website for information on upcoming football events.</p>
<p>Christmas Items Order Deadline</p>	<p>The deadline for all your Christmas items available to order is fast approaching! The deadline is 25th November 2022. If you would like to view your child's design before ordering please email us asap.</p>
<p>Christmas Dinner – Menu Change</p>	<p>The Christmas Lunch menu is now available on the website, please click here to view the menu. There will also be a change to the menu on Wednesday 7th December. Instead of Yorkshire Puddings we will be offering the Caribbean Jerk Chicken meal that would have been on the menu for Thursday 8th December (Christmas Dinner Day).</p>
<p>Year Group Parent Representatives / Volunteers</p>	<p>Reception – Harriet Knight (Ralph & Edward's Mum) 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 – Kim Mulhare (Sienna & Jude's Mum) Year 6 – TBC</p> 

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