

### Update from Headteacher



**Wishing everyone a happy New Year!**

### Value this half-term



**Big Question of the week**

**What is perseverance?  
What is respect?**

### What happened in school this week?

- There will be a curriculum newsletter next week.
- We would like to welcome Mrs Hammond as the new Red-Orange class teacher. A meeting has been arranged for parents to meet Mrs Hammond on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> January after school.
- Class assemblies for this term will be as follow:

20 January	Years 5 and 6
3 February	Years 3 and 4
24 February	Years 1 and 2
10 March	Reception and Year 1
24 March	Years 5 and 6

- Please let the office know if you might be interested to be considered for the Parent Governor vacancy by **Friday, 13<sup>th</sup> January**.
- A kind reminder of pupils to wear full school uniform. There were a number of ties missing the last two days.
- Parent questionnaire – Please complete the online questionnaire by **Friday 13<sup>th</sup> January** (<https://forms.gle/Sk1qXpU2X9rsk6cQ8>)

#### **School Attendance and law:**

By law all children of compulsory school age must receive an appropriate full-time education (Education Act 1996). Parents have a legal duty to ensure their child attends school regularly at the school at which they are registered.

Unauthorised absence may result in the school referring to the Local Authority for sanctions and/or legal proceedings. This 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. If a parent is found guilty in court, they will receive a criminal conviction.

**Please be reminded that requests for holiday time during term time cannot be authorised. It is vital that they attend regularly and be at school, on time, every day the school is open unless the reason for the absence is unavoidable. It is a rule of this school that pupils must attend every day, unless there are exceptional circumstances and it is the *headteacher/principal*, not the parent, who can authorise the absence.**

## Other news

### Police

Essex Police have put together some simple things parents can do to make their child's online devices safer.

<https://www.essex.police.uk/SortYourSettings>

### 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 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>.



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<p><b>Reception 2023 intake</b></p>	<p>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 <a href="http://www.essex.gov.uk/admissions">www.essex.gov.uk/admissions</a> 99% of parents in Essex applied online last year. All of the application information is available on the website above.</p>
<p><b>School admission arrangements 2024-25</b></p>	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Parents and other interested persons are entitled to ask questions and comment on the above proposals.</p> <p>The consultation period is open between Monday 28 November 2022 and Friday 13 January 2023.</p> <p>Any comments should be submitted in writing to Shamsun Noor, Head of Statutory and Regulated Customer Services by email <a href="mailto:shamsun.noor@essex.gov.uk">shamsun.noor@essex.gov.uk</a> or by post to: School Admissions, Essex County Council, County Hall, Chelmsford, CM1 1GS.</p> <p>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.”</p>
<p><b>Charges for damaged books</b></p>	<p>As you are aware the school has been working with the English Hub and implementing the Little Wandle Phonics’ Scheme.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>The school had to purchase new sets of books to support the implementation of this reading scheme.</p> <p>Unfortunately we have already received damaged books back.</p> <p>Please be informed that <b>the school will be charging £5</b> per damaged book received back. This is to cover the cost of buying a new book and admin.</p>
<p><b>Year Group Parent Representative s / Volunteers</b></p>	<p>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 &amp; Alice’s mum)</p> 

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## 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
- 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
- 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.

**PARENT  
GOVERNOR  
VACANCY**

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