

Newsletter (13) Autumn Term – 08.12.2023

What happened this week in school?

KS1 and KS2 pupils had an NSPCC assembly reminding them of safety. Reception class watched Let's talk PANTS. We also had a fire drill!



The Christmas tree is up! It's beginning to feel a lot like Christmas! The elves are all over the school! What have they been up to at home? (See inside!)



Many thanks to Natalie and Sam (Alice's parents) for making our post box. Lots of Christmas cards to be posted in the next two weeks! Also to Katie and Kirsty for decorating the school.

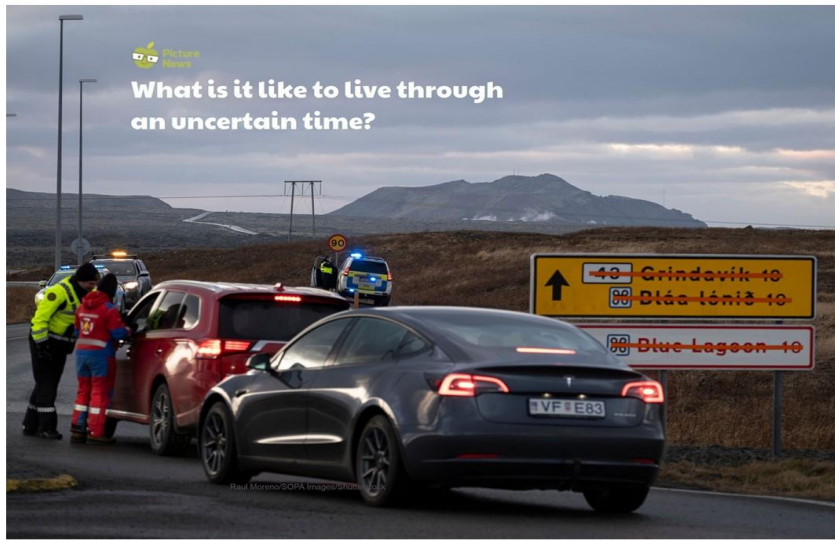
The student council arranged a Christmas movie as part of pupil well-being. The hall was cosy.



Miss Charles cooked a lovely Christmas dinner for us and pupils had the opportunity to dress up in their Christmas jumpers.

We are sadly saying good-bye to Mrs Iqbal and wish her well for the future. We are delighted to welcome Mr McLendon, who will be teaching each year 3 and 4.

Picture News – This week's Big Question...



Roots and Fruits

This week's value is **DIGNITY**



British Value of the term

Rule of Law










Attendance target: 96%

	Reception class 100%
	Yeas 1 and 2 91%
	Years 3 and 4 98%
	Years 5 and 6 90%
Whole school	93%

House Points

Ants		717
Badgers		631
Locusts		753
Lizards		617

Value Awards

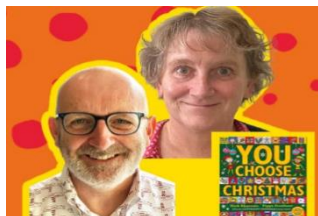
	Reception	All of red class	Respect: for sitting so beautifully during the Christmas movie
	Courage		
	Years 1 and 2	Lincoln	For challenging his presentation in English
	Years 3 and 4	Alice Curtis	For writing an excellent newspaper report in English
	Years 5 and 6	Teddy Davis	For always trying to complete challenges
	Creativity		
	Years 1 and 2	Amelia	For a beautiful snowman story.
	Years 3 and 4	Hugo	For trying really hard in English
	Years 5 and 6	Harley	For his positive mind-set in school
	Respect		
	Years 1 and 2	Nellie	For using please and thank you in all situations
	Years 3 and 4	Eva	For talking politely to all adults and children
	Years 5 and 6	Freya	For being respectful towards adults and peers
	Compassion		
	Years 1 and 2	Jett	For looking out for his friends
	Years 3 and 4	Maisey	For always being kind, caring and helpful
	Years 5 and 6	Archie	For always ensuring everyone is ok
	Perseverance		
	Years 1 and 2	Ethan	For trying hard to keep his handwriting the right size
	Years 3 and 4	Dotty	For making a great improvement in all her work
	Years 5 and 6	Ralph	For setting a great example of not giving up!
	Responsibility		
	Years 1 and 2	Madison	For looking after our classroom
	Years 3 and 4	Joey	For being efficient with being the attendance monitor
	Years 5 and 6	Lillie	For outstanding effort when in lessons
	Hope		
	Years 1 and 2	Loki	For showing a good amount of effort and trying to improve his work
	Years 3 and 4	Harrison	For making an improvement and putting in more effort
	Years 5 and 6	Sidney	For recognising areas in his learning that he could improve

Classroom News



Reception Red Class

The freezing mornings have been a delight for us! We have been exploring the ice that has been left behind and there has been a lot of communication about why the ice has formed and what factors make the ice melt.



Please click on the link [here](#) to watch the recording of the Virtual Author event from Nick Sharratt and Pippa Goodhart.



Years 1 and 2 Orange-Yellow Class

This week year 1 and 2 have been testing the toughness of materials. They have been bending, twisting, stretching and crushing to find out that tough materials are not necessarily hard and thick which came as a surprise to them.

They have also completed a snowman story and put a lot of effort into their presentation and choice of vocabulary.

There is an elf in our classroom who has been very active. The children named him Jingle. The children wrote questions to the elf and received their answers yesterday.



Years 3 and 4 Green-Blue Class



This week in English, we have been writing from the point of view of the snowman (Lily and the snowman) from our story. We tried putting ourselves into the character's shoes by doing the drama technique: freeze frame.

This week has been very exciting! Thursday afternoon was movie day, we all snuggled up to watch an exciting Christmas movie. On Friday, we all enjoyed a delicious Christmas lunch and all dressed up in our festive jumpers/clothes.



Years 5 and 6 Indigo-Violet Class



The Elf came to our class this week. He even helped Mrs Vorster with her marking!



Information

Career guidance

The subject Leads are organising visitors coming into school to talk about their careers to inspire our pupils and help them to make valuable links with the subjects taught in school.

We want to invite professionals from outside the school to talk to our pupils about different professions and the requirements for getting into them. It won't be an extensive talk – only 5-10 minutes during the morning assembly (please be ready to answer some insightful questions from the students). It can be any profession e.g. working in a museum, being a helicopter pilot or a wellness coach.

If you can assist us, please contact the school office.



Miss Charles is our school cook and shared with pupils what she does as a cook.

DAILY TASKS
Preparing Food, plan menus, instructing others, supervising kitchen activities

SKILLS
Food preparations, customer service, coordination

WORK PLACE
Restaurants and kitchens

EDUCATION
2- or 4-year college degree

TOOLS
Ovens, stove tops, pans, skillets, and other kitchen tools

WORK VALUES
Dependability, attention to detail, flexibility, integrity

CHEF

I prepare and serve Food to students, clean surfaces and equipment, and collect money.

I work in a school cafeteria.

I enjoy working with children, cooking, and forming relationships with others.

CAFETERIA WORKER

I create recipes for delicious baked goods, decorate baked goods, and measure ingredients.

I work in bakeries and kitchens.

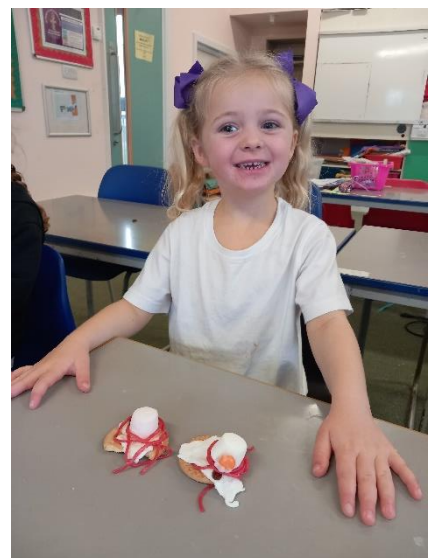
I like cooking, baking, trying new things, and being creative.

BAKER

Job/Career title	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cook at Primary School
Qualifications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> City Gilds Allergies Training Health and Safety Food Safety Level 3
Which subjects did you enjoy in school and why?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Design and Technology Metalwork – making something Food preparation
How did the subjects in school inspire you for the job you are doing?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I enjoyed cooking and decided to take it on at college.
What do you do as part of your job?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preparing food Cooking food Baking cakes and making deserts Stock taking Ordering produce to make food Cleaning Checking for allergies Serving food Baking scones for Afternoon Tea special events at school

Food Technology in school

As part of the Food Technology curriculum, Reception pupils designed and made edible snowmen.



Years 1 and 2 baked bread rolls.



Years 3 and 4 made edible windmills.



Sports' leaders



At Dr Walker's, we have our Year 5 and 6 Sports' Leaders as part of our PE provision. We will be meeting regularly to discuss any ideas regarding physical education. Sports' leaders have an opportunity to share their own thoughts and opinions with the staff and collectively agree on some decisions that are made.

Sports' Leaders help to organise and lead events such as Sports Day and give opinions on what they would like our PE and sport provision at Dr Walkers to offer in the future. They also have the opportunity to work with the West Essex School partnership team as well as the SCS Sports Coaching specialists to further develop sports at our school.

Librarian Prefects and Essex Libraries Winter Reading Challenge



Join Lyra as she travels around the world, finding out all about endangered animals. There will be 12 challenges for your child to choose from. Once they complete six of the challenges they will be rewarded with a certificate and a prize (while stocks last).

The challenges will support literacy skills, confidence with reading and creativity, with many of the fun challenges to complete in the library.

Lyra will be leaving on **Saturday 25 November 2023** and returning on **Saturday 3 February 2024**, but you can join her on her travels at any time!

You can sign up to the challenge by visiting any of our 74 libraries, or one of our two mobile libraries.

Keep your eyes peeled on the Essex Libraries social media over the next few weeks to be the first to find out more... <https://libraries.essex.gov.uk/news/winter-reading-challenge>

Supporting your child with Reading

Supporting your child with reading

Although your child will be taught to read at school, you can have a huge impact on their reading journey by continuing their practice at home.

There are two types of reading book that your child may bring home:

A reading practice book. This will be at the correct phonic stage for your child. They should be able to read this fluently and independently. This will be a book that they are familiar with because they have been reading this to an adult in school to develop their decoding, prosody and comprehension skills.

A sharing book. Your child may or may not be able to read this on their own. This book is for you both to read and enjoy together.

Reading practice book

This book has been carefully matched to your child's current reading level. If your child is reading it with little help, please don't worry that it's too easy – your child needs to develop fluency and confidence in reading.

Listen to them read the book. Remember to give them lots of praise – celebrate their success! If they can't read a word, read it to them. After they have finished, talk about the book together.

We're teaching every child to read with Little Wandle Letters and Sounds Revised
A complete SSP validated by the Department for Education



Sharing book

In order to encourage your child to become a lifelong reader, it is important that they learn to read for pleasure. The sharing book is a book they have chosen for you to enjoy together.

Please remember that you shouldn't expect your child to read this alone. Read it to or with them. Discuss the pictures, enjoy the story, predict what might happen next, use different voices for the characters, and explore the facts in a non-fiction book.

The main thing is that you have fun!



Let's Read A Book!

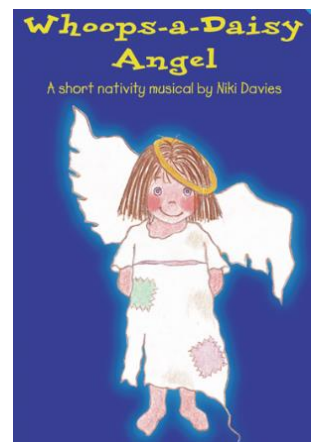
Improvements around school

The planters for the quiet reflection area have arrived. Now we need to wait for Spring to plant the sensory herbal plants.



Upcoming arrangements for Christmas events

- All pupils are kindly asked to bring in “a BOTTLE of something” for the tombola table. This can be anything that is in a bottle, e.g. bubble bath, shampoo, a drink, gherkins, etc. As this is a fundraiser, tombola raffle tickets will be sold at £1 a strip.
- There will be an entrance fee of **£2.50** to the disco on Friday, 15th December. This is a fundraiser, but also to cover the overhead costs for refreshments. This is payable to the class representatives by Friday, 1st December. Year 5 & 6 pupils to pay Mrs Morris in the school office.
- There will also be £5 raffle ticket strips on sale before school, for bigger sponsored prizes (like last year!). Prizes to be drawn at the school disco.
- We also ask if pupils can make paper chains at home which we can use as part of decorating the hall for the Christmas Disco.
- Pupils will be asked to dress up for the concert day on Tuesday, 19th December. This must be something linked to the Nativity, e.g. stars, angels, shepherds, Magi, Mary, Joseph or animals at the stable. This means costumes can be made at home or recycled from previous years – no need to buy something. We will provide costumes for the reception pupils. The Nativity concert will be *“Whoops-a Daisy Angel.”*
- For the church service on Wednesday, 20 December, we ask that pupils make a Christingle at home and bring it to church. This will be a competition, like last year.



Event(s)	Date	Action
Christmas Disco at 15:15-16:15	Friday 15 th December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tickets to be purchased through Class Reps. • This will be a non-uniform school day.
Christmas Concert at 10:00 and 14:00	Tuesday 19 th December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Musical performance (ukuleles and xylophones). • Christmas Carols • Concert • Contemporary Christmas songs • Christmas around the world (class presentations)
Christmas Service at St Nicholas Church at 09:45	Wednesday 20 th December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pupils to present Christingles (competition and prize per class). • Parents will be invited to join us.



DEAD SEA SALT GIFT SET
FROM SMOOTH SKINCARE

FLOWER
BOUQUET

£25 VOUCHER FOR
THE DOG & PICKLE



WOLF FISHING
ACCESSORIES

SHAPE & POLISH WITH
NATALIE'S NAILS & BEAUTY

WAX MELTS

X2 COMPLIMENTARY TICKET
ENTRY FOR THE CUTTY SARK
& ROYAL OBSERVATORY,
GREENWICH

BREAKFAST FOR TWO
@ HAZEL'S KITCHEN, HARLOW

CHRISTMAS PENGUIN
FROM PICCOLA



PROXELLI MINI
HAIR STRAIGHTENER

DR WALKER'S CHRISTMAS RAFFLE

EVE TAYLOR BUNDLE
FROM SMART BEAUTY

KRAZY KIDS
VOUCHER

£2 per strip of tickets
£5 for 3 strips

BUBBLE TEA @ THE POTTY
PAINTING STUDIO

WASH & BLOW DRY
@ HADLEY YATES SALON

£10 VOUCHER FOR THE
CHEESEMONGER ONGAR

CAKE STAND

CHERIE'S BOUTIQUE
VOUCHER

X2 CHRISTMAS TABLE
ARRANGEMENTS

CUT & BLOW DRY AT
YOUR HOME BY KELLY

£10 FOOD VOUCHER FOR
THE CROWN @ SANDON



Christingles

Christingle services are held in churches, usually between Advent and Candlemas. It is an excellent opportunity for people of all ages to join in, using oranges to create visible symbols of the Christian message.

Christingle



Our modern Christingle consists of:

An orange representing the world

- 1) a red ribbon, tied round the orange representing the blood of Jesus
- 2) fruits and sweets, skewered on 4 cocktail sticks which are pushed into the orange representing God's good gifts - the fruits of the earth and the four seasons
- 3) a lighted candle, pushed into the centre of the orange representing Christ, the light of the world

For many years churches all over the world have made Christingles to remind them that Christ is the light who came into the world at Christmas.

The Christingle orange represents the world, John reminds us that "Jesus was in the world, and though the world was made through Him, the world did not recognise Him. He came to that which was His own, but His own did not receive Him". (John 1 v 10 - 11). The red ribbon of the Christingle represents the blood of Jesus which was shed for us so that our sins may be forgiven. "But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, His Son, purifies us from every sin". (1 John 1 v 7). The fruits and sweets on the four skewers represent God's gifts to us, the fruits of the earth and the four seasons. "As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night will never cease". (Genesis 8 v 22).

The lighted candle, pushed into the centre of the orange, represents Christ, the light of the world. "He [Jesus] said, "I am the light of the world.

Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life". (John 8 v 12).

Sources: <http://www.thisischurch.com/>



Christmas has come to Dr Walker's C of E Primary School

Thank you to our wonderful helpers (parents) for changing our school into a Christmas wonderland. It looks very festive!



Pupil well-being – Christmas movie

The Student council arranged a well-being afternoon for pupils.

What fun we had with blankets, pillows and snacks. We went to the movies (in school)!



Christmas Jumper Day



Reception



Years 1 and 2



Years 3 and 4



Years 5 and 6

Christmas dinner

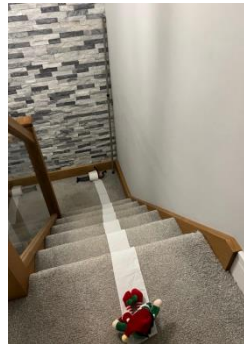
Miss Charles made an amazing Christmas dinner and our awesome staff helped with serving.







Elves working at home...



Elves at school...



LEARN PANTOSAURUS' FIVE EASY RULES FOR STAYING SAFE

Use what you've learned to help Pantosaurus complete his roarsome journey.



P RIVATES ARE PRIVATE

A LWAYS REMEMBER YOUR BODY BELONGS TO YOU

N O MEANS NO

T ALK ABOUT SECRETS THAT UPSET YOU

S PEAK UP, SOMEONE CAN HELP



NSPCC

Speak out. Stay safe.



Well-being – FREE Beauty Pamper session for parents/carers

Dr Lawson would like to invite all parents/carers to a FREE paper session on Thursday, 18 January 2024 (estimate time 14.30)

The session will be in school hours, so you will be able to have your treatment and purchase any products that you may like, then collect the children.

The options are:

- wellness
- wellness with facial
- full skin therapy facial / pamper.
- menopause session.

Please contact the school office via email to indicate your interest and preferred option, so that we can confirm the booking for the majority option.



My Child's Art – Christmas Designs

Don't forget that the online portal is now live and you are able to purchase your child's Christmas design.

There is a 10% early-bird discount code, which will expire at 23:59PM on **Monday 11/12/23.**

Do not forget to apply the code during checkout!

The final date for orders for guaranteed Christmas delivery is Thursday 14th December 2023. Orders made after this date cannot be guaranteed for arrival for Christmas.



Early bird discount for
Dr Walker's CofE Primary School

10% OFF
All products for 2 WEEKS ONLY!

Use code: **DrWalkers**

during checkout

One use only. Excludes VAT and P&P. Valid for 2 weeks from the portal opening date - not the date that you see this promotion. Not automatically applied and cannot be added once an order has been confirmed.

Christmas Crafts at Chipping Ongar Library

Saturday 16th December 2023

All children aged 3 – 10 years!

Chipping Ongar Library is hosting a Christmas Crafts event on Saturday 16th December 2023.

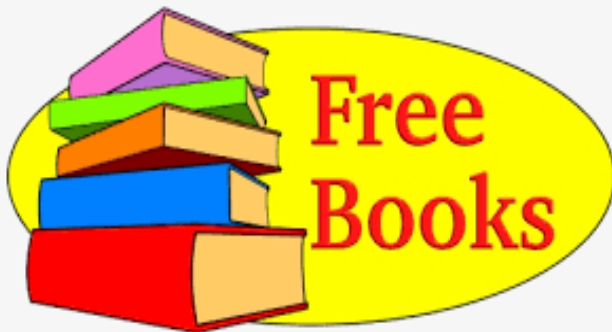
Make a snow globe ... decorate a bauble ...

AND

Participants receive a free book!

Please email us pictures of your creations to share in our Newsletter

BOOKING is required and tickets cost £3.



Essex County Council
Libraries

Christmas Crafts

Chipping Ongar Library

Saturday 16 December, 10am to 12noon

- Join us for some exciting Christmas crafts, for children aged 3 to 10
- Make a snow globe. Decorate a bauble. Participants will also receive a free book
- Booking is needed, tickets cost £3

Scan me to book

Information



14.12.23	Year 6 – Tudor workshop
15.12.23	Christmas Disco
18.12.23	WESSP Whole School Sports Day in school
19.12.23	Christmas Concert