

Update from Headteacher



Another exciting week... the Fire Brigade visited us!

4 more school days to go till the end of the school year!

Value this half-term



Big Question of the week

What is the best part of going to church? What are the benefits?



A big congratulations!

We received brilliant news from Veronica Riches (aka Naughty Owl) from Girl Guiding Fyfield.

Eva has gained the highest award in Rainbows.

Eva has worked hard to achieve the Girl Guiding Rainbow Gold award - the first Rainbow to achieve gold at Fyfield. She completed six themed awards with an Interest badge and a Skill builder per theme.

Eva is now preparing to move to Brownies, including spending a day on Brownie holiday in August.



She has been a pleasure to have in Rainbows, always helpful and enthusiastic.





In year 1, Alice B received her silver award and Madison and Florence their Bronze awards.

Well done! We are so proud of you!



Upcoming dates for the diary

17.07.23	Year 6 signing of autograph books which the school will provide.
19.07.23	Year 6 Leavers' Performance (sharing their memories and certificates) at 1pm. Parents and grandparents of year 6 pupils only are invited to attend. Year 6 Leavers Church Service at St Nicholas church at 2pm. Whole school to attend.
20.07.23	Picnic with parents from 12.00 and early break-up
21.07.23	Inset Day for Staff – School Closed.












House Points

	Ants	Badgers	Locusts	Lizards
				
Red-Orange Class	78	80	71	56
Orange-Yellow Class	15	21	4	17
Green-Blue Class	2	0	0	0
Indigo-Violet Class	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	2714	2761	2911	2750

Attendance

 	
Our school target	96%
Attendance this week	92.93%
Attendance this year	93.84%

Academic year	Period average attendance	Number of Persistent Absence pupils (below 90%)
2022/2023	93.84%	10
2021/2022	92.03%	23
2020/2021	94.42%	17
2019/2020	91.41%	24
2018/2019	95.45%	10

Red-Orange Class			87.86%	
Orange-Yellow Class			94.21%	
Green-Blue Class			93.89%	
Indigo-Violet Class			94.17%	

**100% Attendance this week:
57 pupils out of 75 pupils which is 76%**

Alice B	Charlotte	Florence	Joey	Madison	Sebastian
Alice Cu	Chloe	Freya G	John James	Mason	Sidney
Amber	Daisy	Freya J	Jude M	Maxwell	Sienna
Amelia-Rae	Dolly	Gabriella	Kai	Mikey	Teddie
Archie	Dotty	George D	Kezia	Naomi	Teddy C-G
Autumn	Dylan	Harrison McL	Knightley	Nellie	Teddy D
Ava M	Emily	Harrison P	Lillie	Paul	Tilly
Ava G	Ethan	Jesse	Lily	Ralph	
Barney	Eva	Jessica	Loki	River	
Brooke	Evie-May	Jett	Maci	Scarlett	

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Visit from the library

Ruth visited us from the library to promote the Summer Reading Challenge that commences on Saturday 15th July 2023. Pop along to any of the 74 libraries in Essex to take part!



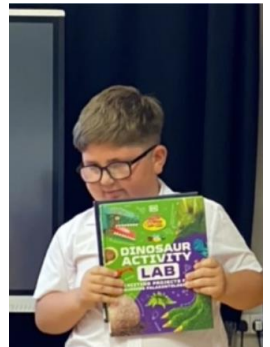
The challenge is running in all Essex libraries from May to July and includes a range of activities within seven challenge areas. These are:

- Speaking and Listening
- Being Active
- Personal, Social and Emotional Skills
- Early Reading and Writing
- Maths and Numbers
- Understanding the World
- Express Yourself



As your child completes activities, they'll collect stamps in a special booklet, and once they have all seven stamps, they'll get a certificate!

This challenge is a great way for your child to prepare physically and emotionally for starting school and will provide parents and carers with some top tips and useful information too!



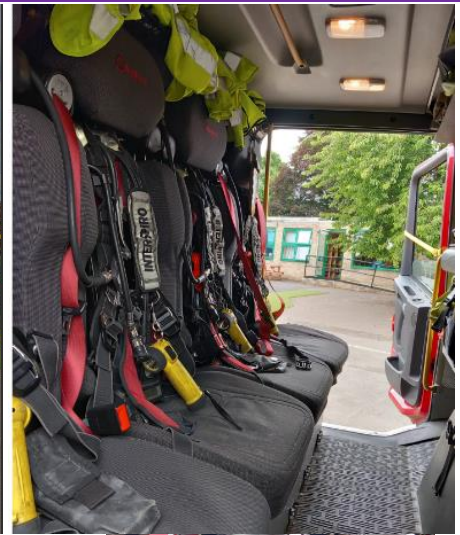
Sign up to the challenge now in any Essex library! Don't forget to tag us in photos of you completing your challenges on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter @essexlibraries!

We also had a visit from the Fire Brigade



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Pupils met their new class teacher for next year.

The new Reception pupils had a play and stay session with their parents. They had fun inside and outside of the classroom... some did not want to leave.



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We welcome Miss Radomska who will be teaching year 1 and 2 next year.



Mr McLendon will be teaching years 3 and 4 next Year.

Mrs Toohy will be teaching Art & Design and Design Technology to the whole school next year. Pupils will have the opportunity to prepare some food options as part of Food Technology, once per term.



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Year 6 Leavers

Today was the year 6 pupils' last Friday at Dr Walker's C of E Primary School.

Ava
Enloe
Jessa
Greya
Naomi
Harrison M
+ unisa P.
Kerzia
Autuma
Freddy
George A
Seb
Dylan
Mason
Lily
Emily
Finlay
Charlotte



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Exciting new development

Over the summer holiday, there will be very exciting new developments in school. An outdoor gym will be installed, inclusive of:

- X1 Air Walker Duo
- X1 Cross Rider Duo
- X2 Skiers
- X1 Tai Chi Wheel
- X1 Rider
- X1 Body Twist
- X1 Arm Bike



We will also have the “Lighthouse Keeper’s lunch”-themed reading area under the tree and a sensory reflection garden as part of the Church of England’s distinctive Christian ethos and character of school. All very exciting!

Feedback from the Parent Survey / Questionnaire

We know that the school is making good progress and that pupils are safe and happy at our small village school. Our pupils in Reception and Key Stage 1 have improved on attainment outcomes compared to last year’s results. Our Year 6 pupils scored 83% for writing at Are Related Expectation. We are proud of the progress pupils are making.

Our latest parent survey has conveyed the following comments:

- *“Dr Lawson has worked hard to turn the school around and I am the happiest I have been, as a parent, since I started attending the school in 2014. I appreciate all his many efforts for our children.”*

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- *“The headteacher has made a huge positive impact on the school and lots of fantastic enhancements. He is very approachable, always present and has a clear direction and leadership for the pupils with great communication with the parents.”*
- *“I am happy with the school and believe it continues to develop and improve year on year.”*
- *“Very happy with the schools improvement, it seems a lot happier, friendly environment. My child’s class teacher has been absolutely amazing and I have seen the difference in my child’s education and learning.”*
- *“Both my children are really happy at this school, happy children makes happy mum.”*
- *“My daughter loves it here and always skips out. The headmaster is brilliant and amazing with the kids. He is very much on their level but they all know he is the boss.”*
- *“My son is currently in the upper end of school and I would like to say how thankful we are for the level and strength of the teaching staff. They do an excellent job!”*
- *“We adore the school. The recent sports day event solidified that for us. I feel as though my child is thriving.”*
- *“If you want a traditional small village school where everyone knows everyone and everyone is kind and friendly then this is definitely the school for you.”*

One parent summarised our school as:

- *Friendly;*
- *caring;*
- *attentive staff and teachers;*
- *modern classrooms;*
- *a well-kept playground and plenty of grass areas for the children;*
- *children are always smiling and happy at drop off and collection;*
- *informative weekly newsletter to keep parents involved and updated on school life;*
- *delicious and varied lunch menu cooked on site;*
- *an inclusive village school where the children are firmly at the centre; and*
- *with a headmaster who is present and committed to their education.”*

We are conscious that our numbers are small and therefore want to make a concerted effort for positive Public Relations to get out to the community. There are spaces in all our year groups and we welcome prospective parents to contact the school for more information or to arrange to come and view the school. Our Governing Body is very supportive and would love to engage with prospective pupils and parents.

It is true that from time to time, there might be different viewpoints in doing things in school, however we always have the best interest of pupils at heart, including safety and Risk Assessment. And that might mean, that sometimes things cannot happen in school due to challenges and timeframes – we had a number of challenges the last month with staff absences, etc. We would like to thank all parents for your patience and trust in the school and encourage you to participate in arranging and attending events. A meeting will be scheduled in Autumn term to discuss fundraising events and other initiatives for the year.

Next year we will continue with the open meetings for parents to share their comments and ideas. Please be reminded to refrain from making negative comments on social media, as these are personal opinions and not the general opinion of the school, which is upsetting to the community.

We are looking forward to next year and have already made bookings for:

- our year 6 pupils to attend a residential,
- a visit from Paul Sturgess (*a **British former professional basketball player; officially measured by Guinness World Records in November 2011 as the tallest college basketball player in the United States***),
- A circus workshop,
- the Dogs’ Trust and
- possible hatching ducklings.

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We would like to invite parents and professionals into school to come and share their jobs with our pupils during an assembly. Please contact the school office if you would be willing to come in to do a short interactive talk with our pupils.

We believe that our school's Bible verse (Job 7:8) *"Though your beginning was small, your future will flourish indeed,"* is true – that we are in the process of developing and improving.

The following data analysis:

	Agree	Neutral	Disagree
My child feels safe at this school.	79.2%	20.8%	0%
The school makes sure its pupils are well behaved (e.g. having a behaviour policy in place, school rules, through promoting British Values, providing pastoral support plans when appropriate, arranging meetings with parents to discuss behaviours, etc.).	79.2%	12.5%	8.3%
My child has been bullied and the school dealt with the bullying quickly and effectively.	12.5%	4.2%	4.2%
"My child has not been bullied" - 79.2%			
The school makes me aware of what my child will learn during the year (e.g. weekly newsletters, termly Curriculum newsletter, Curriculum map on school website, class assemblies, discussions with staff, subject meetings like phonics and PSHE/RSHE).	79.2%	20.8%	0%
When I have raised concerns with the school they have been dealt with properly.	41.7%	8.3%	16.7%
"I have not raised any concerns" – 33.3%			
Does your child have special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND)?	Yes: 8.3% No: 91.7%		
If answered 'yes' to his question in previous question, how strongly do you agree with this statement: 'My child is on the SEND register, and the school gives them the support they need to succeed.'	100%	0%	0%
The school has high expectations for my child (e.g. attendance, behaviour, academically, development, etc.).	75%	25%	0%
My child does well at this school.	75%	12.55%	12.55%
The school lets me know how my child is doing (e.g. mini-reports, end of year report, consultation evenings, One Plan meetings, discussions with staff, etc.).	75%	25%	0%
There is a good range of subjects available to my child at this school (referring to whether the school is delivering all the National Curriculum expected subjects).	66.7%	25%	8.3%
My child CAN take part in clubs and activities at this school (e.g. multi-sports club, arts & craft club, games club, additional sporting events as arranged by WESSP, initiatives in school such as Circus workshop, Shakespeare workshop, Bird Man, Visiting zoo, hatching ducklings, year 6 residential, Summer Sports day, etc.).	75%	12.5%	12.5%
The school supports my child's wider personal development (e.g. Internet Safety day, celebration of events such as Harvest assembly, Red Nose Day, Comic Relief, Mental well-being week, Silly Socks, visiting the church at Easter and Christmas, etc.).	79.2%	16.7%	4.2%
The school promotes the Church of England values and distinctive Christian ethos (e.g. school values, collective worship and assemblies, visits to St Nicholas' church, visits by the local vicar, etc.).	91.7%	8.3%	0%
I would recommend this school to another parent.	Yes: 75% No: 25%		

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Career information for pupils



As part of our assemblies next year, we would like to gauge if there are any parents who would be willing to come in to school on a Wednesday, as part of our assembly, to talk to our pupils about their jobs, e.g. NHS workers, train drivers, dentists, florists, electricians, bakers, plumbers, artists, musicians, etc.

Please let the office know if you would be willing to come in, so that we can plan dates for the calendar next year.

Helpers

We are asking for parents to help the site supervisor with bits and bobs.... drilling, assembling, small jobs.

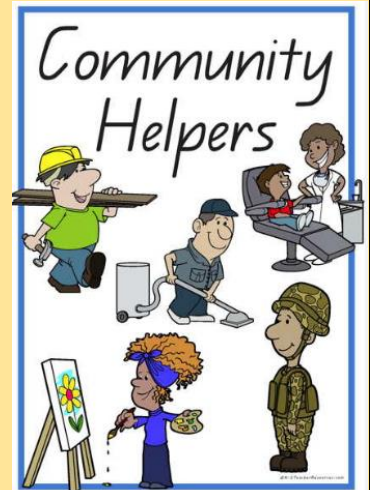
We have a lot of new reception class resources that require assembling, e.g. a new reading shed.

Mr Bianchi only works 9 hours per week and cannot do everything and we would like to make our school a lovely environment.

Please let the office know if you can help on Wednesdays, Thursdays or Fridays. Or after school or over a weekend (or even over the holiday).

We are also looking for parents to come and paint tyres, to use as planters, before the end of term (even during school hours). Please contact the school office for more information.

Many thanks!



More help!!!



Would there be someone in the community who is willing to help with taking responsibility for maintaining the flower beds at the front of the school. We will be clearing the area by covering the surface with slate chippings and then planters.

Please contact the office if you can help. Thanks

iRock School of Music



Exciting news....

We have signed up for a taster assembly with iRock School of Music.



iRock is one of the UK's leading rock & pop music services for primary schools. They offer In-school lessons where children are taught how to play in their very own rock & pop band! Lessons boost confidence, social skills, teamwork and support children's overall wellbeing, all of which have a significant positive impact on their school life.

We will be looking at this in September to see if this is something we would like to pursue and offer our pupils, depending on parent interest.

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<p>School gate</p>	<p>Kindly be informed that the big school gate at the parking area will be locked as of Septemebr in the mornings, due to safety reasons. The parking area will not be accessible for vehicles in the mornings.</p> <p>Please plan your morning drop off ahead of time.</p>	
<p>School Uniform</p>	<p>School Trends are urging parents to place orders for new uniform by the end of July, please do also bear in mind that we have a large stock of preloved items, particularly smaller jumpers sized 24 and 26 inches and smaller kilts. We have these for sale.</p> <p>Please can we also ask everyone to double check they have the correct PE items as a number of named hoodies have been lost recently. Please do check the lost property in reception regularly for any missing uniform.</p>	
<p>Warm weather</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pupils are encouraged to drink lots of water to stay hydrated during the warm weather. Please fill water bottles with water – fizzy and fruit drinks are not allowed. • Pupils are allowed to come to school with sandals with a back strap – no flip flops or sliders allowed. • Pupils do not need to wear ties. • Pupils are encouraged to wear a hat when outside during break and lunch. • Sun screen is advised, but needs to be put on before coming to school. • During very warm days, we will minimize pupils’ running (or temporarily stop football) during this heat, as pupils don’t pace themselves and come in looking puce and wet with sweat. We would not want pupils to be uncomfortable once returned to the classroom after being outside. 	
<p>Brentwood School Taster Day</p>	<p>Brentwood School is having a taster day on 14th October 2023, please click here for more details.</p>	
<p>Community Notice Board</p>	<p>We will be adding new items to the community notice board on the website in the coming weeks regarding holiday opportunities, please do keep an eye on it for anything of interest.</p>	



Dr Walker's Church of England Primary School

Term and Holiday Dates - Academic Year 2023-2024

September 2023							October 2023							November 2023						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
				1	2	3							1			1	2	3	4	5
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
25	26	27	28	29	30		23	24	25	26	27	28	29	27	28	29	30			
							30	31												
December 2023							January 2024							February 2024						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
				1	2	3	1	2	3	4	5	6	7				1	2	3	4
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
25	26	27	28	29	30	31	29	30	31					26	27	28	29			
March 2024							April 2024							May 2024						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
				1	2	3	1	2	3	4	5	6	7			1	2	3	4	5
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
25	26	27	28	29	30	31	29	30					27	28	29	30	31			
June 2024							July 2024							August 2024						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
					1	2	1	2	3	4	5	6	7				1	2	3	4
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	29	30	31					26	27	28	29	30	31	

	School closed: Holidays		School closed: Bank Holiday		School closed: Staff training (INSET)		School days		Weekend
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In addition, schools allocate five non-pupil days out of the school days indicated, or the equivalent in disaggregated twilight sessions.

Autumn Term	Monday, 4 September 2023 – Wednesday, 20 December 2023 <i>Half Term 23 October – 27 October</i>	73 days
Spring Term	Thursday, 4 January 2024 – Thursday, 28 March 2024 <i>Half Term 19 February - 23 February</i>	56 days
Summer Term	Monday, 15 April 2024 – Tuesday, 23 July 2024 <i>Half Term 27 May – 31 May, and May Bank Holiday - 6 May</i>	66 days
		195 days

You are strongly advised to check with the school before making any holiday or other commitments.

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