

Update from Headteacher



We participated in Comic Relief's Red Nose day and celebrated St Patrick's day.

Value this half-term



Big Question of the week

What is Easter?

Science week



We started our Science week, which will be running over two weeks.

The Bird Man visited us on Monday with three birds of prey:

- Barn Owl
- Hawk
- Bald Eagle

Pupils attended an assembly and had the opportunity to have their photos taken with one of the three birds.

Dr Lawson was dressed up as bird too!





Parents are invited to attend a lesson in your child's classroom (2.50-3.20) next Thursday afternoon, to see a Science experiment conducted.





Upcoming dates for the diary

w/b 20.03.23	Science week focus in school
20.03.23	Circus and Skills Workshop – thank you for your payments.
21.03.23	Year 6 TOA Transition Event at Ongar Academy. Time 09.15-12.15
21.03.23	Science week: Poster competition: Connections
23.03.23	Parents are invited into their children's classes from 2:50 - 3:20 to look at Science books and visit while the children conduct experiment(s).
24.03.23	Dress up THEME: CONNECTIONS
24.03.23	Years 5 and 6 assembly for parents and carers (Indigo/Violet)
28.03.23	Parent Consultation evening 15.30-18.00
29.03.23	Parent Consultation evening 15.30-18.00
30.03.23	Easter Bonnet Parade / Easter Egg Hunt / Raffle / Easter service at St Nicholas Church

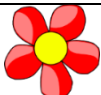
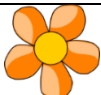









Whole School House Points

	Ants	Badgers	Locusts	Lizards
				
Red-Orange Class	5	12	22	24
Orange-Yellow Class	4	9	25	6
Green-Blue Class	16	16	13	15
Indigo-Violet Class	30	16	14	18
TOTAL	1755	1632	1728	1807

Attendance

 	
Our school target	96%
Attendance this week	92%
Attendance this year	93%

Academic year	Period average attendance	Number of Persistent Absence pupils (below 90%)
2022/2023	93%	16
2021/2022	93%	13
2020/2021	94%	11
2019/2020	95%	3
2018/2019	95%	4

Red-Orange Class			86%	
Orange-Yellow Class			90%	
Green-Blue Class			91%	
Indigo-Violet Class			97%	

100% attendance this week: 56 pupils out of 79 pupils which is 70%

Gabriella	Maisey	Jesse	Knightley
George A	George D	Cassidy	River
Jessica	Madison	Freya J	William
Amelia-Rae	Teddy Doughty	Eva	Daisy
John James	Scarlett	Ava M	Brooke
Emily	Lillie	Harrison M	Mason
Archie	Charlotte	Nellie	Teddie T
Alice Burke	Dylan F	Harrison Mc	Amelia
Barney	Chloe	Noah	
Teddy CG	Sidney	Maci	
Loki	Freddy	Jude M	
Kezia	Autumn	Sienna M	
Alice Curtis	Ava G	Harrison P	
Dylan C	Finlay	Sebastian P	
Lucas	Acer	Cash	
Teddy Davis	Lily H	Ethan	

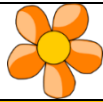
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Reception



Year 1

Red-Orange Class

Class Register Teacher:
Mrs Joanne Hammond

This week in English Reception have been developing how to write a sentence about their book of the week 'Aliens love underpants', using the skills they have learnt in phonics.

Year One have been learning how to use and spell words using the suffix 'ing' and adding 'and' to join two sentences together.

In Maths Reception have been exploring length and height. Year One have been working on measurement – length and height, using language shorter, longer, taller, tallest, longest and shortest to compare.



In PSHE we are learning about money and where it comes from and what you can do to earn it. We have also looked at wants and needs and the difference between them. We had the visit from the Birdman on Monday which the children thoroughly enjoyed.

Can you please make sure your child's reading book and reading record is in school every day so we can write in them during our reading sessions.

Have a great weekend!

Thank you once again for your kind support.

Little Wandle books should have now been sent home to all children. Please ensure you read with them and write in their reading records.

Please remember to put reading books in book bags! Otherwise we cannot give out a new reading book. If books are lost or damaged parents will be charged a fee to replace.

Merits and Awards

Reader of the week	Dylan
Writer of the week	Jett
Mathematician of the week	Jesse
Scientist of the week	Nellie
Star of the week	Evie

Buddies of the Week



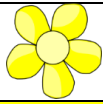
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Year 1



Year 2

Orange-
Yellow Class

Class Register Teacher:
Miss Lauren Seeley

Orange and yellow class really enjoyed our visit from the bird man! We got to meet three amazing birds; a Harris Hawk, a Bald Eagle and a Barn Owl!



The bird man, Alan, told us some fascinating facts about the birds and we also had lots of questions to ask him too!

We then got to see each of the birds fly around the room! The hawk and the eagle were very good at responding to Alan, but the owl did not use his listening ears so well!



Merits and Awards

Reader of the week	Maisey
Writer of the week	Alice. B
Mathematician of the week	Ethan
Scientist of the week	Eva
Star of the week	Teddy
Pen licence	N/A

Buddies of the Week

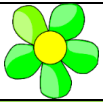


All the children in Orange/
Yellow are the buddies of the
week.

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Year 3



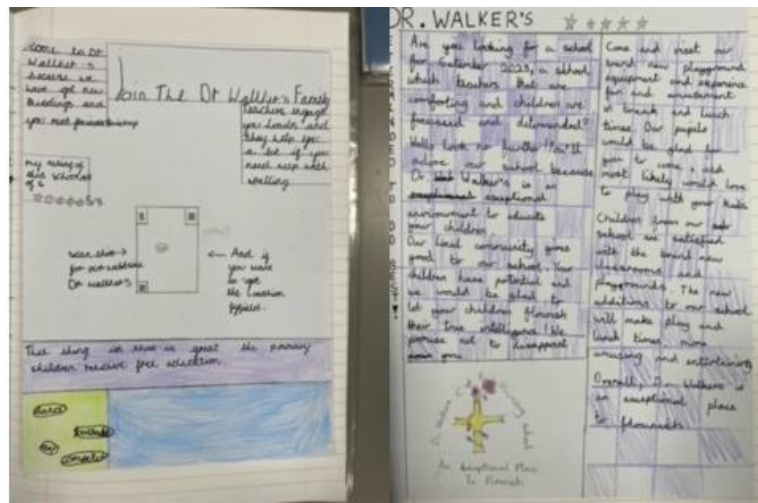
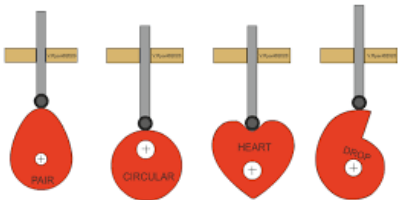
Year 4

Green-Blue Class

Class Register Teacher: Mrs Jenny Dean

We have planned our persuasive flyers and we are going to publish them using PowerPoint.

In Design and Technology, we have been exploring a range of cam mechanisms and how they affect the movement of the follower.



This week's Physical Education Top Players are: **Teddie T and Lillie**



Follow the link for the weekly homework. <https://app.atomlearning.com/>



Click [here](#) and [here](#) for the links to daily Times Tables practise

Merits and Awards

Reader of the week	Teddie T
Writer of the week	Gabby
Mathematician of the week	Alice
Scientist of the week	John James
Star of the week	Noah
Pen licence	N/A

Buddies of the Week



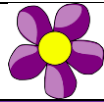
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Year 5



Year 6

Indigo-Violet Class

Class Register Teacher:
Mrs Karin Vorster



Welcome to yet another end of a busy week in Indigo-Violet class. On Monday we started our first after school booster session for year 6. It was lovely to see so many children attend. Thank you to all the children and parents for signing up to this commitment.

To kick-start our Science celebration period, the Birdman visited our school on Monday 13th March. First we had an assembly where he told us all about birds of prey, sustainability and the importance of looking after our world. After that children had the opportunity to hold one of the birds and have a picture taken. We all agreed that it was a lot of fun and very interesting.

Facts and statistics:

- More than **560 species of birds of prey (also known as raptors)** live around the world and raptors can be found on every continent (except Antarctica).
- As **apex predators**, birds of prey play an important ecological role in maintaining the environmental health of their natural habitat. They remove old, sick and weak animals from prey populations and help keep these populations under control.
- Raptors fly in ways that help them hunt, such as **gliding and soaring** to spot prey and **powerful dives and agile pursuit** to capture prey.
- Most **birds of prey are quite solitary** as they avoid competition for food. Many of those that gather in flocks do so only as part of peak migration periods or at winter feeding grounds.
- The farthest-traveling bird of prey is the Amur falcon, which migrates from Siberia to South Africa, a distance of around 22,000 kilometres (13,600 miles).

Merits and Awards

Reader of the week	Harrison M
Writer of the week	Finlay
Mathematician of the week	Talia
Scientist of the week	Lily
Star of the week	George A
Pen licence	N/A



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Bird Man



Acer was fortunate enough to be invited by Arsenal to attend Sporting Lisbon v Arsenal in the Europa Cup last week.

When he landed, he was able to attend the stadium and be given a tour of the grounds. Staff and players were there to meet him!

Acer saw Frimpon, who interviewed Acer for Junior Gunner TV. Acer had been given Ramsdale's shirt at the Man U game and this time Granit Xhaka sent Acer a personalised video message thanking him for coming all the way to Portugal to watch the team!

Acer has been very lucky this season, being able to go to most home games as well as some away games, but travelling to Lisbon was an experience he certainly won't be forgetting any time soon!



Other Exciting News!

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Cross Country

Well done to the following pupils who represented the school on Friday at the schools final Cross Country competition.

- Barney
- Cash
- Lillie
- Max
- Teddie T

A special mention to Teddie T who came 5th in the Year 4 boys' race and will now represent the district, along with children from other schools in the area.



Mother's Day



Thinking of you all...

[@mumborneveryminute](#)

		
New Mums	Those desperate to be Mums	Those Mums with broken hearts
		
Those that don't have a relationship with their Mum	Those that don't have their Mum	Mums of fur babies
		
Single Mums	Mums that adopted the role	Those that have chosen not to be Mums

[@mumborneveryminute](#)

Industrial action

Pupils were busy with different activities across the two days.

Thanks to all the governors who came in to help out with covering classes: Rev Sam Brazier-Gibbs, Mrs Curtis, Mrs Smylie, Mrs Wilson and Mrs Wallis. We have a great Governing Body!

Due to the support of the governors and support staff, we managed to keep the school open throughout all 4 days of industrial strike action. Well done!



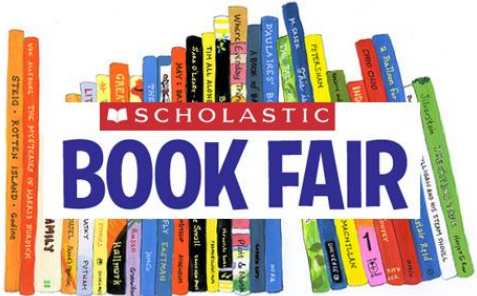
I am sure parents are very appreciative of this.

We had lots of fun making Easter Baskets, here is a picture of Green Blue Class and their wonderful Easter Baskets!

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<p>Book Fair</p>	<p>Thank you SO much for your support during our school's Book Fair.</p> <p>Your generosity has provided the school with £308.13 to spend on new books for the children!</p> 
<p>Notice board</p>	<p>We have moved the notice board to the front entrance for better visibility and communication, so please do have a look as you walk through at the beginning of the school day.</p>
<p>New gates</p>	<p>The gate should remain unlocked between 8:20 and 8:45am to allow entry and exit without needing to press the call button.</p> <p>After this time you will need to use the call button on the front to request entry. The exit release button is at the top of the final fence post on the right hand side as you are leaving.</p>
<p>Attendance: Penalty notices and/or prosecution</p>	<p>Please be informed of guidance from the Local Authority regarding holidays taken during term time.</p> <p>Important information - Term time holidays</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improving school attendance is a key priority for all schools across Essex. Where families choose to take a family holiday during term time, this can detrimentally impact a pupil's progress and can prevent them from fulfilling their true academic potential. Our school attendance policy, available via our school website, clearly sets out the process that parents should follow if they wish to apply for leave during term time. Please note that applications should only be made, if you feel that there are exceptional circumstances which mean that the leave cannot be taken during the school holidays. We would ask all parents to note that, where families choose to go on holiday during term time and the absences are coded as unauthorised, Essex County Council may not issue penalty notices and may instead proceed to prosecution and place the case directly before the Magistrates for their consideration in court. If found guilty by the Magistrates, parents could face a fine of up to £2,500 and/or 3 months imprisonment.
<p>Reminder</p>	<p>Please do not enter the building when dropping off or collecting your children from school. If you wish to speak with the Class Teacher please arrange this via the school office.</p>
<p>Packed Lunches</p>	<p>We are working alongside all other local schools, towards the Healthier Schools Award, Please can you ensure that a healthy packed lunch is provided, without chocolate, crisps and other sugar snacks.</p>
<p>Parent Governor</p>	<p>We have a vacancy for a parent governor and would be grateful for any parents who want to make a positive contribution to school to show an interest to perhaps join the Governing Body.</p> <p>Kindly contact the office for more information.</p>

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Thank you for showing an interest to help out at school this coming Saturday, 11th March. Unfortunately the weather forecast is not looking great, so we have decided to postpone it till **Saturday, 25th March.**



The following information:

- Parents are kindly requested to bring gardening tools/equipment/tools/cleaning supplies to help.
- Refreshments (coffee, tea, biscuits) will be provided.
- Start: 10.00
- Finish 13:00

Things to do – Helpers/Volunteers - Please let the office know which you can assist with:

- Take bunting off
- Relocate two plastic tables to KS2 playground
- Decking in EYFS to be replaced
- Jet wash moss on pathway
- Jet wash algae on fences / wooden surfaces
- Jet wash wall with logo
- Small chalk boards to be put up on fence
- Whiteboard to be moved in Reception class
- Display board to be put on wall in Reception class
- Mud kitchen - leaves to be raked up / area to be tidied up
- Mud kitchen – clean wooden structures
- Mud kitchen – Teepee structure to be sanded down and painted
- Sanding down of objects (e.g. pot plants, etc.)
- Stump seating to be relocated
- Cow gate to be put up
- Obstacle course objects to be stacked neatly
- Play house roof felt to be fixed
- PE equipment to be sorted
- Containers to be sorted and relocated to shed (possible visit to the skip)
- Under-cover area to be cleared
- Allotment area to be cleared
- Help with sorting books in Library (Accelerated Reading scanning)
- Old PE metal shed to be dismantled
- Old wooden shed to be dismantled
- Removal of rubbish

Help needed

<p>Essex Fire Museum</p>	<p>It's Essex Fire Museum's 75th Anniversary, please click here for more information!</p>
<p>Easter Holiday Activity Programme</p>	<p>There is a two week Easter Holiday Activity Programme for you to book if you would like to keep the children entertained this Easter. Please click here for all the information on what's on offer and how to book.</p>
<p>Pupil's Dinner Money Accounts</p>	<p>Please may we remind you that pupil dinner money accounts need to be maintained and the balance cleared if they are in arrears. Please ensure that all outstanding monies are paid by 31st March 2023.</p> <p>Please contact the school office in confidence if you have any concerns regarding your child's account.</p>

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Lots of red and green for Red Nose Day and St Patrick's Day, we will update with the total raised next week.

Red Nose Day



Free Music Event.



Essex Youth Jazz Orchestra perform in Harlow

The young musicians are excited to share new music in concert and show that live music is alive in Essex.

Formed in 1991, the Essex Youth Jazz Orchestra (EYJO) will perform under the direction of Martin Hathaway, one of the country's leading jazz musicians.

- Saturday 18 March 2023 at 7.30pm
- Harlow ARC, St Johns Walk, Old Harlow. CM17 0AJ
- No booking required for this free concert

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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	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	
25	26	27	28	29	30		30	31						27	28	29	30				
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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