

Update from Headteacher

Value this half-term



A BIG thank you for all the positive support this year. The school has made huge improvements on facilities, resources and pupil attainment.



Big Question of the week

What are my hopes for the future?



Dr Walker's C of E Primary had a wonderful year, with lots to celebrate. We had a number of improvements and developments:

- Two brand new classrooms built
- Key Stage 2 classrooms redecorated and a new access ramp installed
- The EYFS classroom has been revamped and redecorated with new resources purchased
- An outdoors traffic track for Reception
- New multi-sports goalposts
- Multi-sports playground markings
- A new Adventure trail
- New PE and sport equipment
- New multi-colour seating in the playground
- A new fence installed in front of school to make it more secure.

Over the holidays we will see:

- the installation of an outdoor gym for our pupils;
- an outdoor recreation area for table tennis;
- An interactive "Lighthouse Keeper's lunch" themed reading area (with a real boat!);
- A reflection garden; and
- EYFS to have a brand new outdoors reading shed.

Our new reception pupils who will be joining us in September, were invited in to school for a Teddy Bears picnic with their assigned school buddies and also came in for a stay and play session as part of meeting their class teacher for next year.

School continued to stay open on the Industrial Teacher Strike days – albeit partially. We had an exciting Summer Sports Day. Pupils participated in water sponge and space hopper races. There was also a tug of war. Parents also had the opportunity to participate. We had lots of fun!

West Essex Schools Sport Partnership (WESSP) delivered additional sporting sessions in school and Key Stage 2 pupils attended their Athletic festival.

As a school, we take safety seriously, and do termly fire drills. The Fire Brigade service came in to share with our pupils about the work they do in the community and did a demonstration. All pupils had the opportunity to “be a fire fighter.”

We sadly had to say farewell to our Year 6 pupils. We all attended a Year 6 leavers services at St Nicholas Church. Many thanks to Mrs Lesley Wallis (church Warden) and Rev Sam Brazier-Gibbs for organising this.

We also say good bye to the following staff:

- Mrs N Sladden (Bursar)
- Miss M Hazelton (SENCO – one day a week)
- Mrs J Hammond (Reception / Year 1 teacher)

We want to say a big thank you to Ms V Nicholas (Office Administrator) for helping out in the office during the absence of Mrs L Morris, who will return in September.

We are very excited to welcome the following staff to our team as of September:

- Miss U Radomska (Key Stage 1 teacher)
- Mr J McLendon (Key Stage 2 teacher)
- Mrs L How (SENCO – one day a week)
- Mrs S Toohey (PPA Cover Teacher for Art and Design and Food Technology)
- Mr A O’Sullivan (PE coach).

Our pupils will continue to benefit from special PE lessons, twice per week delivered by Sports Coaching Specialists (SCS), who has been awarded the UK Enterprise Award for Best Sports Coaching Provider in Essex 2023

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 Age Related Expectation, which is above National Averages. Our SPAG and Science is also above National Averages, with Maths being in line with National Averages. 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.”*
- *“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.”*

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- *“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 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.

As of September, pupils across the school will be receiving a music lesson from Essex Music Services every two weeks – an opportunity to either learn or play the ukulele or percussion instruments such as glockenspiels.

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, and
- possible hatching ducklings.

We would like to invite professionals in to school to come and share their jobs with our pupils as part of career capacity 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 would like to extend a massive big thanks to our wonderful staff, Ms Val Nicholas who has come back from retirement to help us out as Office Administrator, our committed Governing Body (Mrs Karen Bush, Mrs Jill Smylie, Mrs Lesley Wallis, Rev Sam Brazier-Gibbs, Mrs Frances Wilson, Mrs Paulette Houghton, Mrs Julie Cooper and Mr Joe Bianchi) and all of our supporters in the local community.

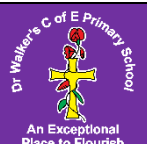
We are looking forward to September.

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.



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Attendance Awards

Our 100% Summer Term awards goes to:

- Madison in year 1
- Ethan in year 1
- River in year 1
- Barney in year 4
- Archie in year 5
- Freya in year 5
- Charlotte in year 6
- Harrison P in year 6
- Seb in year 6



Our 100% attendance golden badges for this academic year goes to:

- Ethan in year 1 and
- Freya in year 5.



... other news to celebrate

West Essex School Sport Partnership (WESSP) awarded three pupils certificates to celebrate this year's sports progress.

- "Most Improved" Award to Sid in year 4
- "Sporting Excellence" Award to Mikey in year 1
- "Sporting Excellence" Award to Ava in year 6

Congratulations and well done! We are so proud of you!



Well-being



Thanks you to Mrs Wallis (Governor and Church Warden) for blessing the staff with a wonderful cake.



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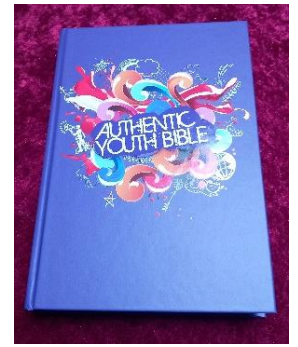
Year 6 Leavers

We wish our year 6 pupils all the best as they venture off to secondary school. It was a privilege to have had your as Dr Walker's pupils. You will always be part of the family!



All year 6 pupils received autograph books to capture their last primary school memories.

The Dr Walker's Trust also blessed each pupil with a Bible.



Our Victrix Lodurm this year is Kezia, who scored the highest scaled scores in SATs. Mason received the Headteacher's Award for best progress and being so well-mannered.



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Pupils shared memories of being at school. Some were from Receptino and some only of Year 6. The PGL residential was one of the favourite memories.

All the pupils received a farewell goddy-bag!



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Autumn



Ava



Charlotte



Chloe



Dylan



Emily



Finlay



Freddy



Freya



George



Harrison



Harrison



Jessica



Kezia



Lilly-May



Mason



Naomi



Sebastian



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Reverend Brazier-Gibbs officiated the Year 6 Lavers service at St Nicholas Church.

A big thank you to Mrs Wallis for baking delicious cup cakes and flapjacks for pupils and parents.



And finally we still managed to squeeze in an Afternoon Tea!



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... and we ended the year with a school picnic!



Last day of school and we are having a picnic!
And a visit from Mr Andy Whippy...

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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.

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

Helpers

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

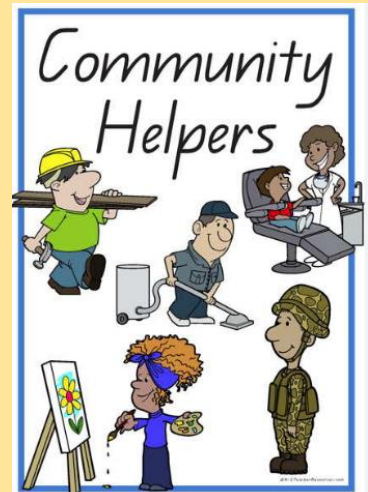
We have a lot of new reception class resources that require assembling, e.g. a new reading shed.

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!



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>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>	

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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	
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							30	31													
December 2023							January 2024							February 2024							
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March 2024							April 2024							May 2024							
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June 2024							July 2024							August 2024							
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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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