

Newsletter Winter Term – 19.01.24

What happened this week in school?



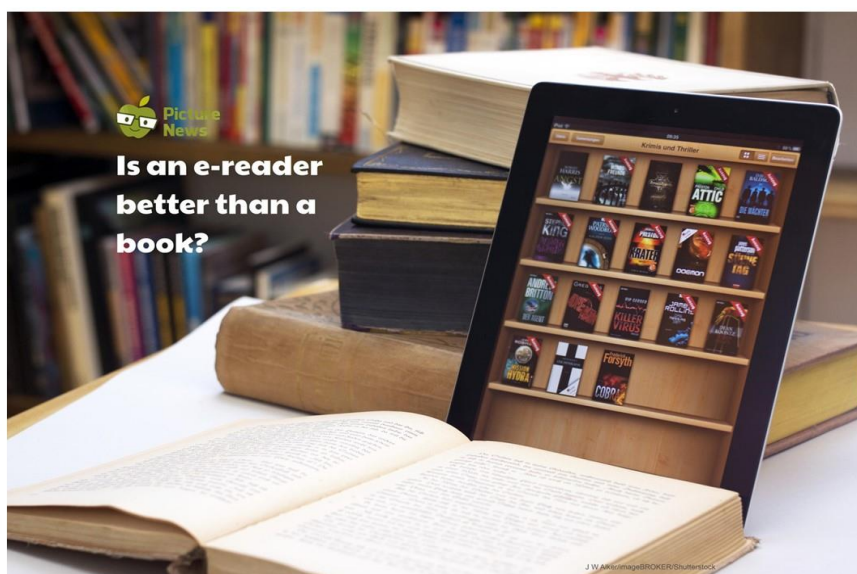
Ruth Stickley visited the school to talk to our pupils about the Essex Libraries Winter Reading Challenge.

Parents, Governors and staff had a wonderful pamper session delivered by Sue Grace on Thursday as part of well-being. 10 parents and 8 Staff/Governors attended this.



Congratulations to Mrs Doran who won the goody bag!

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



Roots and Fruits

This term's focus will be on the people who Jesus met.

British Value of the term

Individual Liberty

Attendance target:








96%

	Reception class 97%
	Yeas 1 and 2 93%
	Years 3 and 4 95%
	Years 5 and 6 95%
Whole school	94%

House Points

Ants		894
Badgers		810
Locusts		927
Lizards		790

Value Awards

	Reception	Poppy	Respect: For always being polite to adults and her peers.
	Courage		
	Years 1 and 2	Jett	For the effort he puts into his learning.
	Years 3 and 4	Daisy	Trying really hard to succeed
	Years 5 and 6	Talia	For asking questions to ensure she understands the work.
	Creativity		
	Years 1 and 2	Madison	For the effort she puts into the writing of her losing story.
	Years 3 and 4	Cassidy	Great ideas for World Book Day poster
	Years 5 and 6	Archie	For using his imagination when planning his quest story.
	Respect		
	Years 1 and 2	Evie-May	For listening when others are speaking.
	Years 3 and 4	Maci	Very attentive in class sessions.
	Years 5 and 6	Sienna	For following the school rules.
	Compassion		
	Years 1 and 2	Nellie	For being a great friend and a buddy.
	Years 3 and 4	Maisey	Helping others in need.
	Years 5 and 6	Freya	For helping others, when needed.
	Perseverance		
	Years 1 and 2	Ava	For persevering with her maths challenges.
	Years 3 and 4	Eva	Always trying her best
	Years 5 and 6	Lillie	For persevering with her presentation.
	Responsibility		
	Years 1 and 2	Loki	For trying to improve his presentation.
	Years 3 and 4	Eva	Always tries her best.
	Years 5 and 6	Harley	For helping out around the school.
	Hope		
	Years 1 and 2	Jesse	For his positive attitude and the effort in handwriting.
	Years 3 and 4	Alice Curtis	Always looking to improve and take part.
	Years 5 and 6	Teddy Da	For perseverance when completing extension tasks.

Classroom News

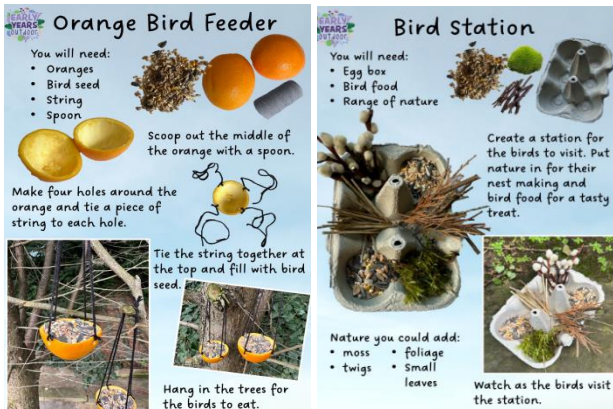


Reception Red Class



Years 1 and 2 Orange-Yellow Class

We have been busy helping the wildlife this week. We signed up for the Big Schools' Birdwatch and have made wild bird feeders and bird stations. We are regularly keeping an eye on these and refilling them! We have been seeing quite a few pigeons and crows – and a very cheeky squirrel.



This week Orange-Yellow class were very creative.

They wrote a losing story about a boy named Benny and his magic key.

The vocabulary they were using in their writing makes me extremely proud. There were phrases like: fond of, a whale of a time, creatures and precious. The children took pride in their writing as well as watching out for their spellings (most of the time:-).

It was the first time I could experience an art lesson with my class. The creative juices were flowing, heads were bubbling with ideas and the colourful structures were emerging. By the end of the lesson I could admire a class set of amazing paper sculptures like the one in the picture.



You can also sign up [here](#)

You will need to spend an hour watching the birds in your patch, between 26 and 28 January, and record the birds that land.



Years 3 and 4 Green-Blue Class



Years 5 and 6 Indigo-Violet Class

Another week in Year 3 and 4!

We are working towards developing our new topic learning. The children are very interested in our new Science topic on Rocks and Soils. They brought in rocks and stones from the environment or home. We are having a good look and finding out about the three main groups of rocks.

The children also wrote poems following ideas from the Important Book of Poems.

Likewise, we are looking into Romans in Britain. We have a very interesting research area set up in class. Roman artefacts are on display and there for the children to investigate.

In maths the children have been working on the associated division facts connected with multiplication. We work on our multiplication challenges each morning.

Our new class book is Stig of the Dump by Clive King. It is a classic story of friendship and adventure.

Stig of the Dump

Well done to George and Sienna for completing the Atom homework! Could I please ask that you remind your child(ren) to complete the set tasks.

In music, we started looking at songs from south and west Africa. We hope to sing a traditional African song unaccompanied.



The song we are singing is called *Shosholoza*. It is sung in a language called Xhosa. There are eleven languages spoken in South Africa and the second most common of these languages is Xhosa. The language includes a series of clicking sounds, which are difficult sounds to make for many people who do not speak Xhosa.

The song is called *Qongqothwane* and is a traditional song of the Xhosa people in South Africa. The song is sung at weddings to bring good fortune. In the western world, the song is generally called the Click Song, which is a nickname that was given to the song by people who were unable to pronounce the correct name in Xhosa.

If you would like to listen to the song please follow the link:

<https://video.link/w/7DOXb>

Information

Career guidance

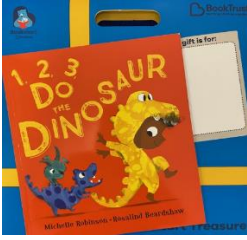
Max interviewed Ruth Stickley, who delivered an assembly on the Essex Library Winter Reading Programme and our Librarians assisted her.



Job/Career title	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Connector
Qualifications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Qualified teacher
Which subjects did you enjoy in school and why?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • English – Ruth likes to write books.
How did the subjects in school inspire you for the job you are doing?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I liked reading
What do you do as part of your job?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ruth goes to different groups and big events for talks about libraries



A gift for Reception and KS1



Ruth was kind enough to also bring a box of books to hand out to children in Reception and KS1.

The Winter Reading Challenge!

Dear Parent/Carer,

Your child is invited to sign up for this year's [Winter Reading Challenge](#) at your local library!

What is the Winter Reading Challenge?

The Winter Reading Challenge is a fun activity put together by Essex Library Service for children aged 0-11. It encourages children and families to keep reading over the winter and to visit their local library.

They will join Lyra the penguin as she travels around the world with her magic book to find out more about endangered animals.

Children will complete 6 challenges (from a list of 12), and it's **FREE** to take part.

How can my child take part?

Visit your [local library](#) to sign up. Your child will:

- Receive their Challenge folder
- Choose 6 challenges to complete (from a list of 12)
- Earn a sticker for each challenge they complete
- When they've complete 6 challenges they will receive a certificate and, whilst stocks last, they will also receive a packet of seeds and a free book from Penguin Books.
- Over the winter we will also be releasing videos about Lyra's journey so keep an eye on our YouTube Channel ([Youtube.com/essexlibraries](https://www.youtube.com/essexlibraries)) and social media channels (@EssexLibraries).

When?

Throughout the winter from **25 November to 3 February**. Unsure where your closest library is - use the Essex Library Service [website](#) to check.

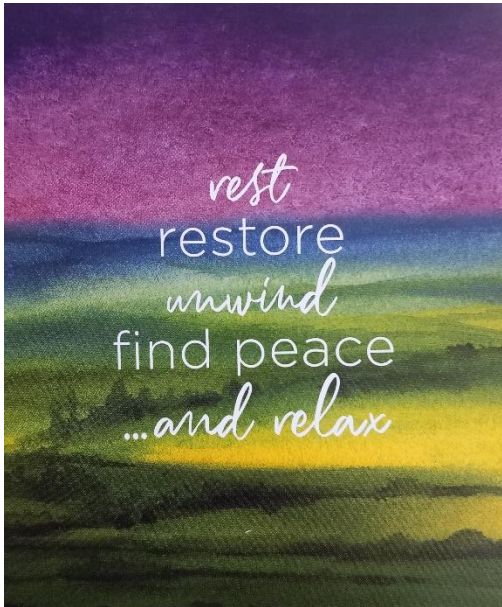
Head to your local library this winter and sign up! You can find out more about the challenge on the [library website](#) and if you have any questions, please ask staff in the library.

We look forward to seeing you!

Best wishes

Essex Library Service





Congratulations to Mrs Doran (parent), for winning the goody bag!

Parents, staff and governors enjoyed their pamper session by Sue Crace.



Too much concealer Dr Lawson!



...breathe and relax!

Pupil Voice: Play Leaders

Play Leaders

The Play leaders met with Mrs Spanton this week to talk about ways they could support the children in their free time on the playground during lunch break. Their role is to make sure that everyone has a happy playtime and can join in games if they want to, as well as looking after any equipment and resources to make sure they are used properly and put away carefully.

They had many ideas about games they could organise requiring minimum equipment – Group skipping, netball, stuck in the mud, cross the golden river, hopscotch, piggy in the middle, rondos. We also have giant Jenga and giant Chess, cups and balls skipping ropes. The Play leaders felt that it would be nice to have some hula hoops, Frisbees, quoits, bean bags and will be thinking about ways to acquire these.

Are you entitled to Free School Meals?

Did you know that the government gives additional funding to schools for those children entitled to FREE SCHOOL MEALS (FSM). KS1 children can also apply even though they receive universal free school meals. Schools use this money to obtain additional staff and resources that help improve the quality of education.

To find out whether your child qualifies for Free School Meals (FSM), and hence whether their school would receive additional funding, please complete the eligibility checker on the LONDON GRID FOR LEARNING website <https://pps.lgfl.org.uk/>



This will give you an instant answer and a certificate should you be eligible. The certificate must be emailed or handed to the school office as soon as possible.

As a LGFL school, we can check eligibility on behalf of a parent, however parents will need to contact the school, if you request the school to run a check on your behalf.

Whole School Rugby



The whole school will be having a Rugby session on Friday 26th January 2024, please ensure that your child wears their PE kit to school.

Can You Help Out?



We would like to run some school events this term, maybe a Valentine's Day disco and some other events for the children, would you be able to help organise this? If you can Please contact the school office. Many Thanks for your continued support, the children have benefitted greatly from your efforts!

Welcome To our School....



We would like to Welcome Luna Lowe to Dr Walkers, Luna has joined us in Orange/ Yellow Class and is settling in well, if you see Luna around the school, please give her a wave!

Clubs



Please note that the Arts and Crafts Club on a Monday is now fully booked, sadly there was no uptake for the Board Games Club on a Wednesday so this club will not be going ahead. We could offer an additional Arts and Crafts Club for Wednesday, if you are interested, please email the school office.

School Funds



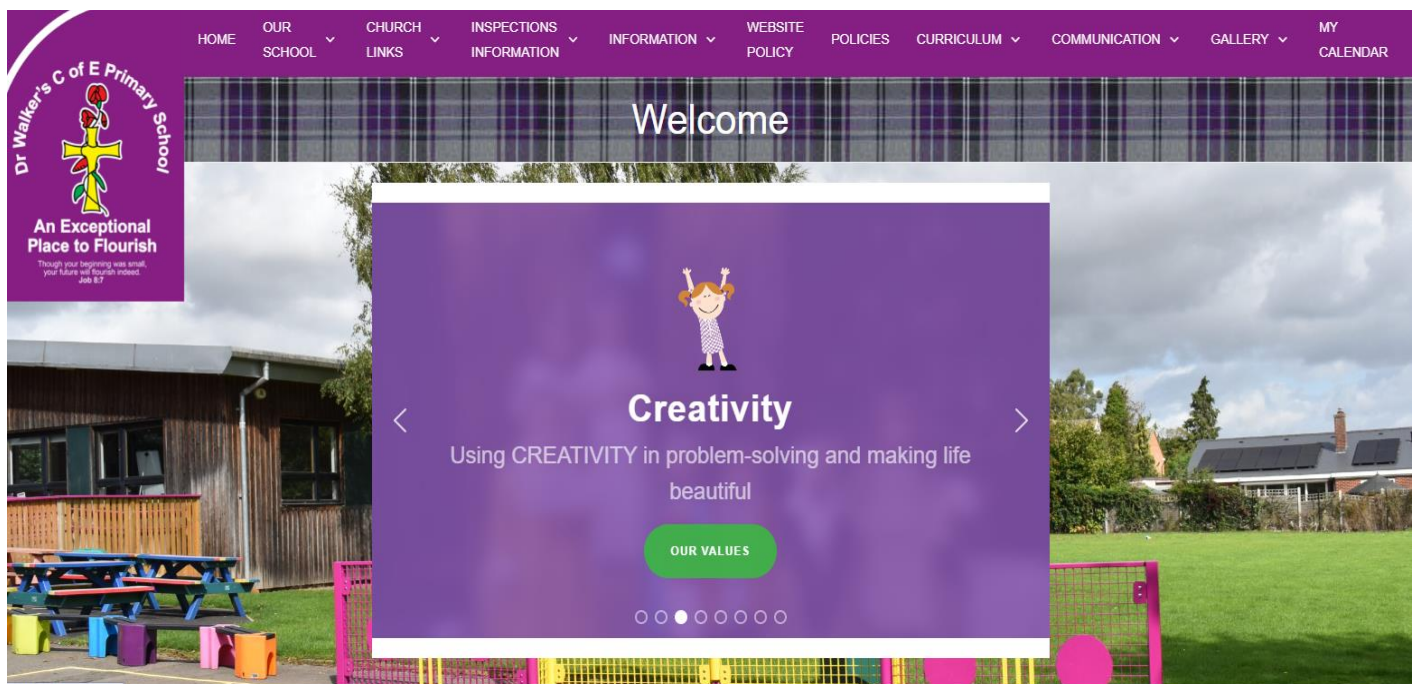
Dr Walker's CofE Primary School received 19 orders, earning a total commission of £64.74! Thank you for your generosity and support!

There may be future opportunities to purchase your children's artwork, which we will notify you about, so keep an eye out!

School website

Did you know that we have a new school website?

On there, you will see that we have uploaded recordings from the Christmas Concert! Please take a look!
<https://drwalkers.co.uk/>



Information



23.01.24	ARC Theatre workshop Years 5&6
26.01.24	Whole School Rugby Workshop
26.01.24	Orange – Yellow Assembly
02.02.24	Reception Assembly
02.02.24	Pupil Voice Afternoon
05.02.24	Children’s Mental Health Week Begins
06.02.24	Safer internet day
06.02.24	Morning Sports Hall Athletics Years 5&6 : Ongar Academy
06.02.24	Afternoon Sports Hall Athletics Years 3&4 : Ongar Academy
09.02.24	Mini Reports Home
09.02.24	Indigo – Violet Assembly
14.02.24	Ash Wednesday – Lent Begins
14.02.24	Parent Consultations
16.02.24	Bake Off Competition (TBC)
16.02.24	Half Term Begins
26.02.24	Back to School
05.03.24	Epping & Ongar District Cross Country : Ongar Primary
08.03.24	Reception & Year 5 Road Safety 12.45 to 3pm