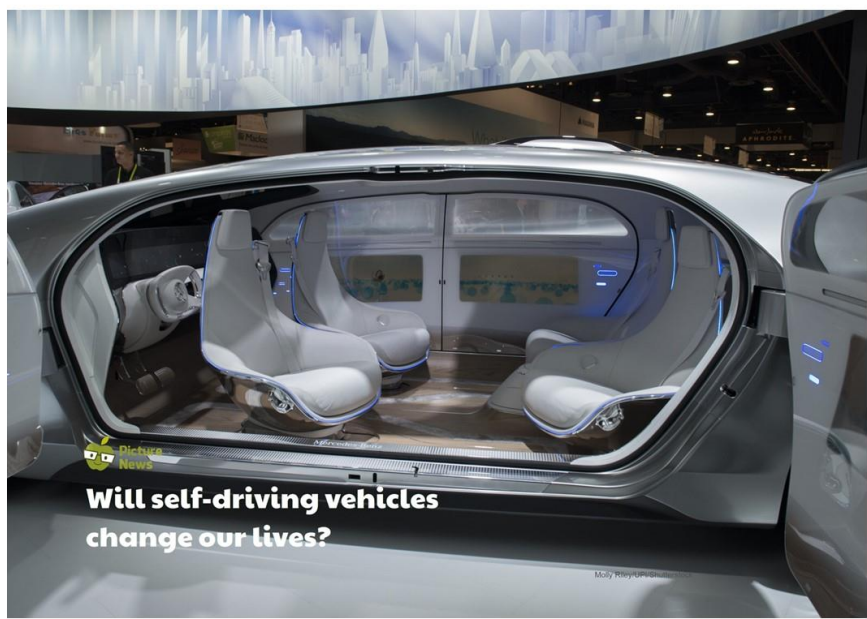


# Newsletter Winter Term – 26.01.2024

## What happened this week in school?

- It is with great excitement that we have a brand new school FACEBOOK page to celebrate our successes and positive comments. Please have a look and leave some inspiring messages to promote our school. 
- A BIG THANK YOU** to Mrs Shaffer for her kind donation of Arts & Crafts materials for our After School Club. It was very kind of you to think of our pupils!
- ARC theatre for change - Broadcast Junior Interactive Forum Theatre workshops visited our year 5 and 6 pupils and delivered an interactive workshop. The workshop was very well received by pupils – especially as they were dealing with extremely sensitive issues (such as healthy relationships and internet misuse), which affect young people. Pupils could ask questions in a safe environment.
- All the pupils participated in a Rugby workshop today, as part of our additional extra-curricular offer. They had fun. 
- Next Thursday, pupils can dress up as their favourite book character as part of the National Story Telling Week.

## 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 <b>96%</b>
	Yeas 1 and 2 <b>92%</b>
	Years 3 and 4 <b>92%</b>
	Years 5 and 6 <b>96%</b>
Whole school	<b>94%</b>

## House Points

Ants		975
Badgers		861
Locusts		981
Lizards		865

## Value Awards

	Reception	Ellen	Perseverance: For recognising more graphemes and their corresponding phoneme
	<b>Courage</b>		
	Years 1 and 2	Luna	For settling well in our class.
	Years 3 and 4	Cassidy	For having the courage to try.
	Years 5 and 6	Ralph	For pushing himself in his maths tasks
	<b>Creativity</b>		
	Years 1 and 2	Mikey	For creating an amazing paper sculpture
	Years 3 and 4	Phoebe	For some great ideas.
	Years 5 and 6	Freya	For a lovely, entertaining quest story
	<b>Respect</b>		
	Years 1 and 2	Jett	For consciously trying to listen more to the adults and his peers.
	Years 3 and 4	Kai	For trying so hard to listen in class.
	Years 5 and 6	Sidney	For treating adults and peers with respect
	<b>Compassion</b>		
	Years 1 and 2	Lincoln	For always being kind and helpful to his friends.
	Years 3 and 4	Amelia	For always helping others.
	Years 5 and 6	George	For being a great friend to all
	<b>Perseverance</b>		
	Years 1 and 2	Nellie	For never giving up with her learning.
	Years 3 and 4	Daisy	For finishing her work on time.
	Years 5 and 6	Teddy Dou	For continuing to improve his work
	<b>Responsibility</b>		
	Years 1 and 2	Ava	For being proactive and helpful in daily tasks.
	Years 3 and 4	Alice Cuss	For accepting jobs in class.
	Years 5 and 6	Paul	For completing tasks around the school with care
	<b>Hope</b>		
	Years 1 and 2	Knightley	For promoting values of friendship, kindness and perseverance.
	Years 3 and 4	Alice Cur	For always seeking to improve.
	Years 5 and 6	Teddie	For great effort when writing a quest story

# Classroom News



## Reception Red Class

This week we have been exploring mass and capacity in maths.

The pupils have been using resources to fill containers and to make predictions about which containers would hold more or less. They were also able to identify that some objects left 'space' between, but if the containers were filled with sand or rice then it was completely full.

The children were also able to discuss and show me containers that were empty, almost empty, almost full and full. They could then find alternative containers and talk about how many of the original containers it would take to fill it.



## Years 1 and 2 Orange-Yellow Class

This week's practical science was our focus.

We tested our senses of touch and taste. We had a mysterious bag. Our task was to guess the items in the bag just by touching them. In the bag were items like potato, sea shell, tea light and lemon. It was fun to give it a go. The weirdest was the shell. Later, we worked on our sense of taste. We were trying lemon, spinach, dark chocolate, marshmallows and crisps. The lesson was very engaging and everyone had a lot of fun!



## Years 3 and 4 Green-Blue Class

### Ready Steady Experiment!

We are having an exciting week!

As scientists, we have been experimenting on rocks and discovering their properties. We found out that some absorb water while others don't. Some are soft and others are very hard. But the most exciting experiment was placing some Limestone chips in acid. The rock began to fizz and bubble. It was reacting to acetic acid in vinegar. We discovered that some rocks react to acid rain and in the environment around us.



We have handed out new spelling lists and the pupils will be using these words in games and challenges.

Our book **Stig of the Dump** is now getting interesting. We need to remember that reading diaries and home books must come in every day to be checked. This week we even had a guest (Mr Lewis) come into the class and read with some of us!



## Years 5 and 6 Indigo-Violet Class

In PE, we are improving our fitness.

During our sessions with Mr O'Sullivan, we are completing activities such as push-ups, sit ups, burpees and plank.

We are completing this to increase speed stamina, endurance and power. Throughout every session, we record our scores. This is then used to monitor our progress.



## Information

### Can You Help Out?



We would like to run some school events this term. Would you be able to help organise this? If you can, please contact the school office. Some volunteers are meeting with Dr Lawson Monday afternoon to discuss.

Many thanks for your continued support, the pupils have benefitted greatly from your efforts!

### After School 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.

If there are any pupils on Pupil Premium who would like to attend, please contact the school office for more information.



### School Councils - National Story Telling Week



Next week is National Story Telling Week (27th January to the 4th of February). This fantastic annual event is a joyful celebration of the power of sharing stories.

Stories teach us about the world, they allow us to step into someone else's shoes and feel empathy, they help us to relax and escape and they can help develop essential literacy skills.

Our Librarians will play an active role in promoting Storytelling Week and will visit the classes to read well-loved stories at the end of each day.



If your child has a favourite book that they would like to have read – remind them to speak to one of our Librarians! Please, also share your favourite books with your child at home too!

**To celebrate this, pupils are invited to dress up as their favourite book character next Thursday, 1<sup>st</sup> February. A donation of a £1 would be much appreciate.**



## Indigo Violet Safeguarding Assembly

On Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> January, we had a theatre company called **ARC – theatre for change** come into Indigo/Violet class. They run a program called Broadcast Junior. We had a very entertaining and informative workshop based on online safety and healthy relationships. Firstly we spoke about online safety and how we could report inappropriate behaviour, images and language that we might come across online. We also talked about the PEGI (Pan-European Game Information) rating system that are used in video games. Some of the games' PEGI rating: GTA PEGI 18, Call of Duty PEGI 18. This means that no one under the age of 18 are allowed to play these games.



*Being online is an integral part of children and young people's lives. Social media, online games, websites and apps can be accessed through mobile phones, computers, laptops and tablets – all of which form a part of children and young people's online world. The internet and online technology provides new opportunities for young people's learning and growth, but it can also expose them to new types of risks. E-safety should form a fundamental part of schools' and colleges' safeguarding and child protection measures'. NSPCC – March 2022*

The actors were then introduced. The play was about 2 cousins: Lyla and Tom. These actors portrayed 2 Year 10 pupils who were being cat fished. The Indigo/Violet children got to call TIME OUT on the play and the play then proceeded in the way that the children chose.



Finally, we heard the very sad story of Breck Bednar, a 17 year old boy, who lived in Essex who was sadly murdered by someone that he met online.



The children were sent away with the very important message:  
**NEVER MEET UP WITH ANYONE YOU'VE NEVER MET BEFORE!**

I received an email from Natalie Smith, the Education Director for Arc Theatre. She had the following to say about the children in Indigo/Violet class:

Your students were a great audience for us. They responded extremely well to the drama and we loved their involvement and energy. They were respectful, well behaved and engaged and it felt like the programme had a positive impact on them.

I want to say thank you to each and every child in Indigo/Violet. I am so proud to be your teacher and thank you for behaving in such an outstanding way!

## Reception Knight Jake!



Well Done to Knight Jake, who took his knight mask home with him and finished off his school project. Jake was so pleased with the finished article and wanted to share this with you all!

**Well done!**

# Rugby Workshop



Lots of Fun was had.....

What did our pupils think of the workshop?:

- *'I like the 3 vs 3 mini match that we did' Paul*
- *'I liked the warm up games that we played,' Max*
- *'I liked the way he showed us to pass the ball,' Sid*



Orange and Yellow Class had great fun!



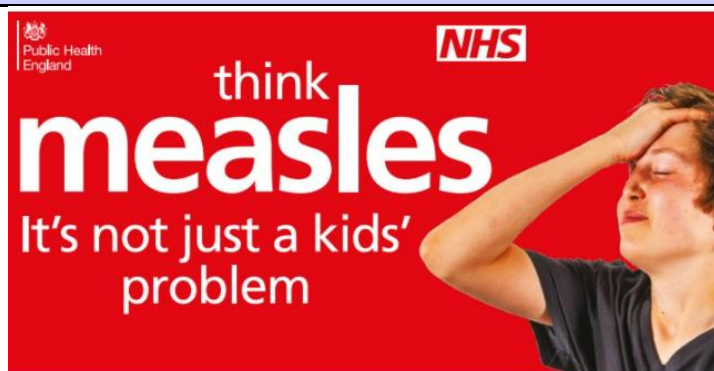
Reception Red Class



## NHS Advice on Measles

The NHS has the following advice for parents on measles:

DfE has published an [Education Hub blog](#) with guidance on measles and the MMR vaccine for parents, nurseries and schools.



## Welcome to Dr Walkers!



We would like to Welcome Harleigh to Dr Walkers!  
If you see her around school, please give her a wave!

## Our New Facebook Page



### Dr Walker's C of E Primary School

13 likes • 17 followers

[Contact Us](#) [Message](#)  
[Like](#)

[Posts](#) [About](#) [Mentions](#) [Reviews](#) [Followers](#) [Photos](#) [More](#)

### Promoting our school community

We are very proud of our school and want to share all the exciting things we get up to with our local community. With this in mind, we are embracing social media and now have a Facebook page. If you are a Facebook user, please like and follow our page, as well as share with friends, family and the local community.

You can access it here: <https://www.facebook.com/DrWalkerCofE/>

## Reception Applications Information

I wanted to give you a quick update regarding applications for Reception and Junior 2024 and the planned timeline for ranking lists.

As you are aware, applications closed on 15/01/2024, however, we do have a small window where we can accept late applications, change requests for address changes and to receive evidence of new addresses. This window will close on 02/02/2024.

So, if you have any parents who you are aware did not previously make an application for Reception or Junior 2024, please ask them to make the application as a matter of urgency and before 02/02/2024. Applications received between 15/01/2024 and 02/02/2024 are classified as late, however, they will be ranked with the on time applications and parents will find out the outcome soon after National Offer Day.

Applications received after 02/02/2024, will be held until after National Offer Day, as no changes can be made or applications added after the final closing date.



30.01.24	Rabbi Posen visiting the school to talk to us about Judaism
31.02.24	Cathryn Barry (author) visiting the school
01.02.24	<b>Pupils to dress up as their favourite book character</b>
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





## 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	6	
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
--	-------------------------	--	-----------------------------	--	---------------------------------------	--	-------------	--	---------

In addition, schools allocate five non-pupil days out of the school days indicated, or the equivalent in disaggregated twilight sessions.

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

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