



# NEWSLETTER

## 05.02.2021

**This has been a busy week at school....**

### **Fire drills**

The fire alarm is working well! We have tested it a few times and pupils evacuated the school in good timing! We do need to remember to social distance when lining up at the Assembly Points.

### **Learning areas being sanitised**

All the classrooms and the hall have been sanitised using a misting fogging machine.



### **New displays, celebrating pupils' work**



### **Overhanging of trees cut back**

Look closely.... Can you spot something in the tree? What can it be?



## **A fresh patch of artificial grass**

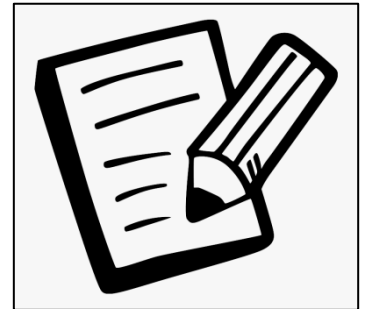
What is a tractor doing in the playground? All to prepare a patch to warm up for PE lessons! No more mud! Hooray!



## **Parent survey**

Many thanks for the responses received. It was heart-warming to read all the positive comments about the ethos and community feel of the school and staff commitment. Positives identified are:

- Attendance
- Communication and engagement
- Curriculum
- Extra-curricular activities
- Clubs (prior to COVID) and
- Well-being.



The main concern pointed out is the concern about the stability of Headteachers over the last couple of years. I fully understand your reasons for raising this. However, be rest assured that I am committed to the role and am looking forward to working with all the pupils, staff, parents and community to make our school thrive. I have made a concerted effort over the last few weeks in post to communicate either through newsletters, updates on the school website, twitter, some personal telephone conversations, etc. However, I do understand that this is not ideal. I am looking forward to meeting all our lovely parents face-to-face (and on the gates).



Other areas identified for improvement include:

- Curriculum and challenges to learning, including homework
- Challenges with Remote Home Learning
- Lack of Extra-curricular activities (especially due to COVID)
- Communication
- Parent engagement and
- PTA.

Once I have done a full analysis, I will make the summary available.

## **PTA**

I am really excited to have received some responses, indicating an interest to join the Parent Teacher Association.

PTA activities can vary from school to school. The main aim is to be involved in fundraising and social events for pupils, parents and teacher – **OUR COMMUNITY!** The goal is to provide extra resources and, in some cases, making it possible for activities such as school trips to happen.



Please contact the school office if you are interested to join or for more information.

## **Volunteers – painting of the school interior**

I am seeking to gauge if there might be anyone willing to volunteer over a weekend to help with painting the walls of our school's interior. (Paint will be provided!).

Tea and biscuits will be made available to those who are interested in sparing a couple of hours to help us. Please inform the school office if you are interested to help.

Thanks to those who have volunteered so far! We will be in contact.



## **Parent governor vacancy**

There is a vacancy on the governing body for a parent representative. Please contact the school office if you are interested to stand. We will then email you a form to be completed and request two recommendations. An election will take place if there are a number of candidates. A copy of the terms of office will also be emailed to interested individuals. Term of office is 4 years.

**So what do school governors do? They have a varied and important role...helping the school run effectively.**



The governor role is strategic rather than operational. Governors don't get involved with the day to day running of a school, instead supporting and challenging the school's leadership team to drive school improvement.

Governors usually attend around 6 meetings a year. Being a school governor is a commitment and a responsibility, but offers you the chance to see first-hand the impact you can make in improving education for children in your community.

**So what is a parent governor?** Governing bodies usually have between 2-4 parent on the governing body, who represent the parent community.



## **Safer Internet Day**

Safer Internet Day will be on the 9th February 2021.

This year in the UK, Safer Internet Day explores reliability online. Safer Internet Day 2021 will be celebrated in the UK with the theme:

***An internet we trust: exploring reliability in the online world***

The internet has an amazing range of information and opportunities online, but how do we separate fact from fiction?

**Key Links: Educational Resources | Films | Get involved on Social media | Register your support | Take the quiz**

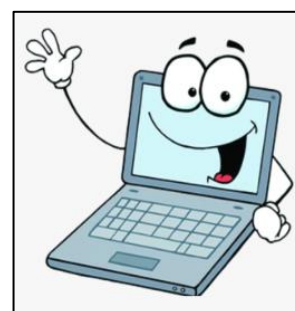
**Top tips for staying safe online**

<p><b>Do your research</b> <i>Question, evaluate and reflect on the online content you see....</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Remember that not everything online is always what it seems. Information, photos and even videos can be edited, faked or may have more than one motive – like trying to get you to spend money or share your personal information.</li> <li>If something seems odd, or you haven't heard about it before, it's best to do a bit more research.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Check and double-check</b> <i>Use other websites and sources to fact-check online information...</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Luckily there's lots of ways to check whether things are trustworthy online.</li> <li>Most importantly look at more than one source – this could include other webpages, videos or offline sources like books and newspapers.</li> <li>Remember there are lots of adults who can support you too – like parents, other family members and teachers.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Stay safe online</b> <i>Don't share your personal details or trust strangers online...</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There are some simple actions we can take to help keep everyone safe online – like not sharing personal information.</li> <li>Remember that other people online may not always be who they appear to be, so be sure to check with an adult if you are ever unsure about what to share or who you are chatting to online.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Take positive action</b> <i>Help make the internet a more trustworthy and respectful place...</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Remember that the online world is for everyone so always treat others with respect.</li> <li>If you see anything online that worries or upsets you, use the block and report buttons to take positive action to stop it and tell an adult what's happened.</li> <li>By working together, we can make the internet a better, more respectful and more trustworthy place.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Make a difference!</b> <i>List the apps and websites you know that feature reliable information...</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The internet is amazing – there's so much to see, do and learn! If you are ever unsure about something then ask an adult that you trust for some help and advice.</li> <li>Why not make a list together of your favourite apps and websites, including the ones you think are most trustworthy?</li> </ul>

**Devices and digital platform**

A few laptops are available to support home remote learning. Please contact the school office for more information.

Dr Walker's Church of England School has indicated an interest to be using **Microsoft Teams** as the preferred digital platform.



**COVID-19 update**

Schools will be re-opening again from **8th March** onwards, following government and DfE advice.



**WE HAVE NEVER FACED A SITUATION LIKE THE CURRENT PANDEMIC.**

**WE ALL NEED TO DO OUR PART TO MINIMISE THE RISK OF COVID.**

School attendance needs to be kept to the minimum, to safeguard both staff and pupils alike. Limiting attendance is about reducing the number of contacts that all of us have with others.

## How to Prevent



Wash



Cover



Avoid



Clean



Stop



Distance

# Coronavirus COVID-19



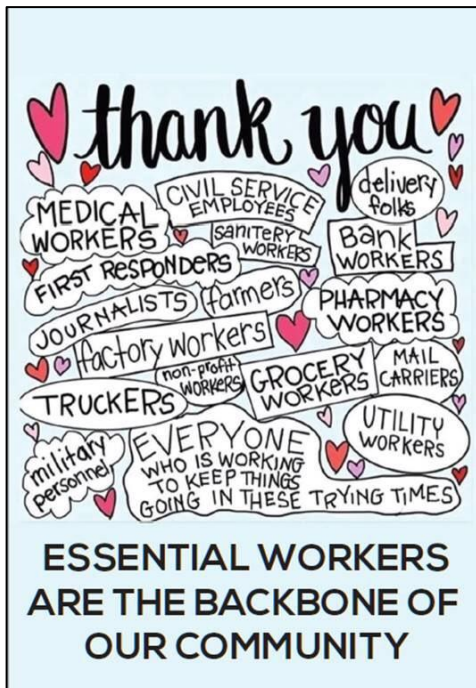
Coronavirus  
**COVID-19**  
Public Health  
Advice

Essex County Council has advised schools of the following:

***“We need to ensure that the number of children and young people accessing the offer of provision in a school or college is kept to the lowest number possible. Therefore, even if you are a critical worker, if your child(ren) can remain at home rather than attend school, on some or all days, then they should. Please only use the offer of provision when it is crucial for you to undertake your critical role.”***

***“If your child’s school or college feels that your role does not fit the critical worker criteria, you may be asked to verify this with a letter from your employer as to why you personally are critical to the COVID19 response or EU Transition or to keep your children at home.***

***If there is an alternative adult such as partner or second parent who is not a critical worker, you may be asked why your child(ren) are not able to stay at home as per the Government’s guidance. If the other adult is working at home or able to take leave from their non-critical job, this will be deemed as a safe alternative.”***



### **Critical worker childcare brokerage for half-term**

As schools will close over the half term break, if there are any critical worker families who are unable to manage their childcare over the half term week due to work commitments, please contact the childcare brokerage service on [ey.comms@essex.gov.uk](mailto:ey.comms@essex.gov.uk).

### **Remote home learning**

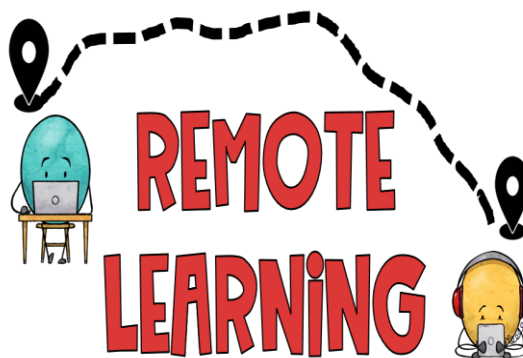
Thank you for showing **CREATIVITY** and **PERSEVERANCE** with home learning (two of our school values!). This is indeed very challenging.

The expectation of daily work for EYFS and KS1 is 3 hours and for KS2 4 hours. Please do be encouraged to let pupils read daily and practice mental arithmetic.

We are monitoring work completed, and will be contacting families where no or very little work has been returned for assessment.

Staff will continue to upload work weekly onto the school website, make weekly welfare calls. Pupils can respond via email to showcase the work completed or the ask questions for clarity.

Remember there are still House Points given!



### **Coronavirus, mental health and wellbeing**

Being a parent can be challenging in everyday situations. Now, more than ever, taking care of your mental health is important. Staying at home more or having to work during a difficult situation can put different pressures on everyone. And if you're struggling, it's okay to reach out for support from friends, families and organisations that are here to help.



It's important to give children reassurance and support. Looking after your own mental health is vital to their well-being, so don't feel worried about doing something for yourself to take care of your own well-being. And reach out if you need help. Our helpline counsellors are here, whatever your worry. **You can call them on 0808 800 5000 or email help@nspcc.org.uk.**

### **Department of Education Coronavirus (COVID-19) helpline**

The Department for Education coronavirus (COVID-19) helpline and the PHE Advice Service (option 1) is available to answer any questions you have about coronavirus (COVID-19) relating to education settings and children's social care.

<b>Phone:</b>	<b>0800 046 8687</b>
<b>Opening hours:</b>	<b>Monday to Friday from 8am to 6pm</b> <b>Saturday and Sunday from 10am to 6pm</b>

### **REMINDER: Competition**

We would like all pupils to make a drawing on one of the follow:

- I like my school
- Nature (e.g. flowers, animals, rainbow, etc.)
- Things I like to learn about (e.g. the 50 experiences in school)
- Living in the UK (e.g. buses, trains, Churches, Big Ben, London landmarks, etc.)
- School values
- British Values



Class teachers will make templates available as part of remote home learning. The drawings will be used for a mural to improve our school environment.

**Closing date: Tuesday 23 February.**

### Free school meals

The government will also continue to provide support for pupils eligible for benefits-related free school meals through the national voucher scheme or lunch parcels to those learning at home during term time next half-term. Support will also be available during the half-term holiday for vulnerable families through the Covid Winter Grant Scheme.

Funded by  
Department  
for Education

## Free school meal VOUCHERS

If you child is eligible for FSM, please contact the school office to arrange for the vouchers.

### School Menu

Our kitchen staff has updated the weekly menu for those on site. The 3-weekly menu is published on the school's website. We are continuing to offer balanced hot meals daily for those on site.

**Menu One served on weeks commencing: 14/12/20, 18/1/21, 8/2/21**

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<i>Reception Class (Caterpillars) have the daily option to choose a hot meal or the packed lunch for the day (see below)</i>					
<b>Choose your main</b>	Pepperoni Pizza	Sausage & Gravy	Roast Chicken	Homemade Beef Lasagne	Omega 3 Fish Fingers
<b>Vegetarian Option</b>	Cheese & Tomato Pizza	Vegetarian Sausage	Roast Quorn Fillet & Gravy	Homemade Vegetarian Lasagne	Omelette
<b>On the Side</b>	Baked Beans Salad	Mashed Potato Carrots Peas	Roast Potatoes Yorkshire Pudding Carrots Cabbage	Broccoli Crusty Bread	Chips Peas Sweetcorn
<b>Lighter Bite</b>	Jacket Potato Baked Beans or Cheese	Cheese or Sausage Panini	Chicken or Cheese Panini Salad	Jacket Potato Choice of fillings or Wrap with choice of fillings	Fish Finger or Cheese Panini
<b>Pack Lunch in classrooms</b>	Pepperoni or Cheese & Tomato Pizza Or Wrap with choice of fillings.	Cheese or Sausage Panini	Chicken or Cheese Panini	Wrap with choice of fillings.	Fish Finger or Cheese Panini
<b>For Dessert</b>	Ginger Sponge & Custard (no custard for P/L) Fresh Fruit	Shortbread Biscuit Fresh Fruit	Chocolate Mousse Fresh Fruit	Flapjack Fresh Fruit	Yoghurt Fresh Fruit

### Bible Reading

The LORD bless you  
and keep you;  
the LORD make his face shine on you  
and be gracious to you;  
the LORD turn his face toward you  
and give you peace.

**Numbers 6:24-26**



Best wishes,

Dr L Lawson  
Headteacher