



NEWSLETTER

12.03.2021

Return to school!

We are so pleased to have the children back. There is a real buzz in school! The bunting came out!



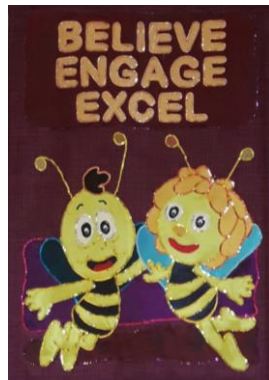
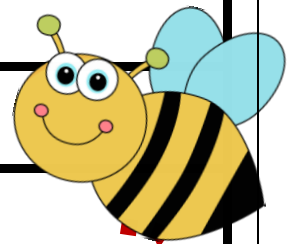
Vision of School

For all pupils to succeed in reaching their God given potential at Dr Walker's.

- An Exceptional Place to Flourish -

... to return to the school's normal curriculum by summer term 2021.

Believe	In God, self and others (confidence, respect and trust)
Engage	Love for learning (curiosity and independence)
Excel	Reaching personal potential (resilience and positive behaviour)



Message to education leaders from the Secretary of State for Education, Gavin Williamson

As schools and colleges welcome all children and young people back this week, I wanted to write to all of you to express my sincere thanks for all of your hard work.

During my visits to 3 schools in the last week, I have been extremely impressed by the continuing commitment, resolve and dedication of staff and pupils.

I have seen for myself the amazing job that schools and colleges are doing in the face of the unprecedented demands we are all dealing with as a result of the pandemic.

Leaders, teachers, support staff and all those who are essential to the running of schools and colleges have worked tirelessly to provide both face-to-face provision for vulnerable children and the children of critical workers, alongside remote education for those who have had to stay at home. Some, including early years, special schools and alternative provision settings, have remained open to all of their pupils throughout.

I know that, in addition, a huge amount of work has gone into preparations for the full return, with schools and colleges up and down the country getting ready to welcome pupils back to the classroom. This includes the incredibly impressive testing operations that have been set up across secondary schools and colleges.

From speaking with parents, pupils, teachers, leaders, unions and other sector representatives, I know the lengths you have gone, to implement and maintain vital measures to minimise risks and help to make sure that children and young people get the education they deserve.

I am extremely thankful to you and your staff. It is thanks to you that the country is able to begin step 1 of the government's roadmap out of lockdown.

The children and young people at your schools and colleges are our shared future. I am very grateful for all you have done for them over these past long weeks and months. My very best wishes for the weeks ahead.

Reminders:

Face masks

Wear a face mask when dropping children off at school and when collecting them.

The reason for using face coverings

Coronavirus (COVID-19) usually spreads by droplets from coughs, sneezes and speaking. These droplets can also be picked up from surfaces, if you touch a surface and then your face without washing your hands first. This is why social distancing, regular hand hygiene, and covering coughs and sneezes is so important in controlling the spread of the virus.

The best available scientific evidence is that, when used correctly, wearing a face covering may reduce the spread of coronavirus droplets in certain circumstances, helping to protect others.

Because face coverings are mainly intended to protect others from coronavirus (COVID-19) rather than the wearer, they are not a replacement for social distancing and regular hand washing. It is important to follow all the other government advice on coronavirus (COVID-19), including [staying safe outside your home](#).

The current DfE advice is: In primary schools, it is recommended that face coverings should be worn by staff and adult visitors in situations where social distancing between adults is not possible (for example, when moving around in corridors and communal areas). Children in primary school do not need to wear a face covering.



Social distancing

Keep social distancing

Hand sanitisers

We do not encourage pupils bringing in their own hand sanitisers as we cannot regulate the chemical content thereof. The school will provide non-alcoholic hand sanitiser to be used regularly in school.

Warm clothes

Please make sure pupils are dressed appropriately with a warm jacket, as we will have doors and windows open in class for ventilation. Pupils will be allowed to wear this in class. Please refrain from hoodies.



Bottle of water for PE

Pupils should only bring in water no fizzy drinks or juice.



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.

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

School uniform

We would like to get an "Almost new" school uniform shop up and running.

A suggestion is to have a rail and a container once a week available to either:

- Purchase clothing from the rail (by placing money in a box) and/or
- Donating unwanted school uniform in good condition.

Clothing donated, will be washed before placed on the rail. We will however need to make sure social distancing is adhered to.

Any suggestions, please contact the school office.



The school hall had a make-over.



School Values

Our school's **VALUES** are reflected in:

- *Standing with **COURAGE** for what is right.*
- *Using **CREATIVITY** in problem solving and making life beautiful.*
- *Treating every person and everything with **RESPECT**.*
- *Having **COMPASSION** for others.*
- *Completing every task with **PERSEVERANCE**.*
- *Taking **RESPONSIBILITY** for ourselves.*
- *Living with **HOPE** for a better future.*

			
COURAGE	CREATIVITY	RESPECT	COMPASSION
			<p>We need to give them names!</p>
PERSEVERANCE	RESPONSIBILITY	HOPE	

What else happened at school this week?



**SCS is back!
Archery for PE.**

PE reminders

- PE will continue for the next two weeks on Tuesdays and Wednesdays.
- Pupils to come to school dressed up in their PE kits.
- No earrings.
- Long hair to be tied up
- Pupils to bring a bottle of water in to school – make sure it is labelled with the child's name.



Assessment

Pupils will be assessed in Phonics (EYS and KS1) and Maths, Reading, Writing and Science before the end of term, to help teachers identify gaps and set targets.

Homework

- Teachers will be sending homework quests home.
- These are not to be brought back to school, due to COVID arrangements.
- Pupils are encouraged to upload their completed work or email/tweet it to their class teacher.



Reading Books

- EYFS/KS1 Reading books will be sent home on Mondays and to be returned on Friday, to be quarantined due to COVID.
- Pupils to have a reading book in class and an alternative one at home.
- Reception and years 1 and 2 staff will be using a communication log that will be sent home on a Friday. This will not be the normal reading record booklet, but a photocopied sheet. The communication log will be filled in when pupils are supported in reading, what phonics they do and any messages. These will replace the daily diaries, as we cannot send items to-and-fro home due to COVID and quarantining. A new log will be started again each Monday. If there are any queries, these can be raised with the class teachers using the class emails. Teachers will check emails regularly (not daily).

Wellies for breaktimes

Reception, years 1 and 2 are reminded to have wellies in school for outdoor break playtime.



Mother's day

Mother's Day is all about celebrating our mums.
We honour our mums and want to say a BIG THANK YOU!

*"You are there when I need you...
putting on the bandages and giving me hugs and kisses after I fall,
making me feel safe and special,
baking my special cake...
But more so, for just being who you are!"*

A MOTHER'S LOVE

*A Mother's love is something
that no one can explain,
It is made of deep devotion
and of sacrifice and pain,*

*It is endless and unselfish
and enduring come what may
For nothing can destroy it
or take that love away . . .*

*It is patient and forgiving
when all others are forsaking,
And it never fails or falters
even though the heart is breaking . . .*

*It believes beyond believing
when the world around condemns,
And it glows with all the beauty
of the rarest, brightest gems . . .*

*It is far beyond defining,
it defies all explanation,
And it still remains a secret
like the mysteries of creation . . .*

*A many splendored miracle
man cannot understand
And another wondrous evidence
of God's tender guiding hand.*

- HELEN STEINER RICE



Red Nose day – Friday, 19th March

This year it's never felt more important to have some fun and raise money to support people living incredibly tough lives. We need the power of funny to turn laughs into lasting change.

Red Nose Day donations help tackle important issues including homelessness, hunger, domestic abuse and mental health stigma, all of which have been impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic.

It supports amazing organisations across the UK and around the world. Those who are closest to the issues have the best solutions, each one working to tackle the key issues of our time.

SCS will be hosting a mini-Olympics event on Wednesday, 17th March.

Dressing down on Friday, 19th March.

No school uniform day.

Wear jeans and a red OR white shirt/jumper. Or a RED NOSE!

Please bring a donation towards Red Nose Day.





To help make us make our school a better place, we need the expertise and advice of the local community. Please contact the school office if you can offer or know of any tradesmen that can help the school:

- Handyman
- Carpenter
- Electrician
- Plumber



Volunteers – painting of the school interior

If there are any volunteers willing to help decorating/painting classroom interiors over a weekend (towards Easter), please let the school office know.

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.

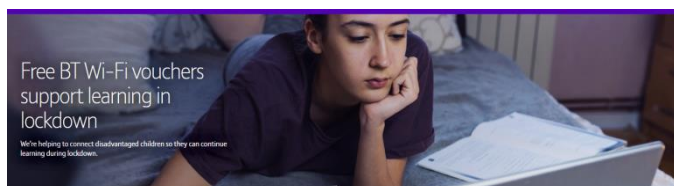
PTA

Please contact the school office if you are interested to join the Parent Teacher Association for more information. A number of staff has already shown an interest.

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

BT free WiFi codes

BT has made available a substantial number of free Wi-Fi voucher codes for schools to distribute to pupils aged 16 or under, who don't currently have adequate access to internet connectivity at home.



How will the Wi-Fi voucher codes work?

Each Wi-Fi voucher code will allow access to the internet on up to three devices at a time, for free, until the end of July 2021. Access will be provided through BT's network of over 5 million Wi-Fi hotspots around the country and includes comprehensive content filtering.

Please let the office know if you are interested and eligible, as we need to apply for these.

Clubs

- We will not be offering after school clubs at this moment in time, other than that offered by the SCS coaches.
- This will be reviewed next term.

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.

	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>					
Choose your main	Macaroni Cheese	Savory Mince	Beef Burger in a Bap	Sweet Winter Chicken	Fish Finger
Vegetarian Option	Roasted Vegetable Pasta	Vegetarian Casserole	Vegetarian Burger	Sweet Winter Quorn	Veggie Parcel
On the Side	Sweetcorn Salad Crusty Bread	Mashed Potatoes Green Beans	Diced Potatoes Baked Beans Salad	White Rice Broccoli	Chips Peas Sweetcorn
Lighter Bite	Panini choice of fillings Salad	Panini Ham or Cheese Salad	Jacket Potato Choice of fillings Salad	Jacket Potato with Choice of fillings Salad Wrap choice of Fillings	Crusty Bread Mixed Salad Panini Fish Finger or Cheese
Pack Lunch in classrooms	Panini choice of Fillings	Panini choice of Fillings	Beef Burger in a Bap Or Vegetarian Burger in a Bap	Wrap with choice of Fillings	Fish Finger Or Cheese Panini
For Dessert	Ginger Biscuit Fresh Fruit	Yoghurt Fresh Fruit	Crumble Slice & Custard (no custard for P/L) Fresh Fruit	Smoothie Fresh Fruit	Homemade Lemon Drizzle Sponge Fresh Fruit

Also available daily: Bread, Salad, Fresh fruit, Yoghurt. Fresh milk or water.

Active Families



Active Families Together

Active Families Together is an exciting new well-being project that is part of The Children's Society East – Working in partnership with Sport England and Active Essex in the Mid and West quadrants.

Active Families Together (AFT) is a follow up intervention for family groups, where an individual is ideally ending or has completed an intervention with one of The Children's Society East (TCS-East), Kids Inspire, CHOICES, Family solutions and Social Services.

- Our mission is to try and encourage family members to spend more time together in a positive way, so that it enables them to develop a healthier culture of shared interests and activities.
- We aim to get families engaged in doing fun, active healthy things together to promote stronger relationships, increase positive family time, strengthen ties and build resilience. Anything from walking, playing sports based games, eating and cooking together (Nutrition and Meal-planning), Yoga, mindfulness, and so on...

If you would like more information or would like to refer your family to our service please call or e-mail our practitioners:

Richard Moss
07730 911 569
richard.moss@childrenssociety.org.uk

Kurt Hasanally
07850 501 151
kurt.hasanally@childrenssociety.org.uk

**The
Children's
Society**

Holiday Activity Fund

Essex County Council is working with Active Essex in order to deliver the Department for Education funded 'Essex ActivAte' holiday activity and food programme. This programme has been developed to provide support to young people who are eligible for benefits based free school meals, and their families.

Through the Easter, Summer and Christmas holidays ActivAte will deliver a blended offer of support which will include face to face holiday activity clubs that provide nutritious meals, an outreach offer for secondary school aged children, nutrition education for all of the family, a schedule of fun sessions and activities taking place virtually through the Keep Essex Active Youtube channel as well as holiday activity packs.

Due to the current restrictions and government guidance the Essex Active-Ate Easter holiday programme will provide a limited face to face offer for the most vulnerable young people. We want to make sure this offer reaches the young people that are most in need of this offer. It could be young people who are eligible for benefits based free school meals; young people who have a child in need plan or a child protection plan; a looked-after child; or any young person that you have identified as otherwise vulnerable and would therefore benefit from continued attendance during the Easter holidays . This might be for a range of reasons such as being at risk of becoming NEET, living in temporary accommodation, a young carer, or young people who need support to manage risks to their mental health.

Booking links for the Easter programme will be shared with you all next week and we would appreciate it if you could share with families who could benefit from the programme.

In the meantime if you have any questions about the Essex ActivAte programme then please contact louise.voyce@activeessex.org



**Support for
all from the
Essex
Wellbeing
Service**

The Essex Wellbeing Service are here to support families across Essex with a variety of information, advice, guidance, and support across a range of health, wellbeing and day to day needs.

Contact 0300 303 9988 or visit www.essexwellbeingsservice.co.uk for more information.


Essex County Council

Bible verse of the week



Best wishes,

**Dr L Lawson
Headteacher**