

Newsletter

Summer Term

Date: 15.07.22

An Exceptional Place to Flourish

Though your beginning was small,
your future will flourish indeed.
Job 8:7



Our school attendance target is:

96%

Actual attendance this academic year:

92.02%

Attendance this week:

Reception	92.82
Year 1	90.71
Year 2	74.29
Year 3	89.38
Year 4	82.86
Year 5	83.68
Year 6	85.00
Whole school	86.98

Winning year groups:

Gold – 1 st	Red
Silver – 2 nd	Orange
Bronze – 3 rd	Green

Headteacher's note

... 4 days to go till the end of term...
and then summer holiday, hooray!

We had a fantastic year, with lots to celebrate!

We are sad to say goodbye to our Year 6 pupils and wish them all the best for their future.

Miss Tierney will also be taking up a new post as a Year 2 teacher and Ms Nicholas is taking her well-deserved retirement. We want to thank them for all the hard work they have done at Dr Walker's and will miss them.

We are very excited to welcome Miss Isabella Curtis to Dr Walker's Church of England Primary School, who will be teaching Red-Orange Class.

Next year's Reception pupils had their Teddy Bear's Picnic on Thursday and Mrs Snow and Miss Curtis met our new pupils. We are very excited to have new pupils joining us.



Attendance continues to be mandatory for all pupils of compulsory school age and schools should communicate clear and consistent expectations about attendance. We are **really concerned** about the attendance figures at school, especially compared with the previous three years for the same period: **1 September – 15 July.**


Academic year	Period average attendance	Number of persistent absence pupils (below 90% attendance)
2018/2019	95.57	4
2019/2020	92.14	9
2020/2021	95.01	11
2021/2022	92.02	19







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Big questions of the week:			Value this half-term
Reception	Year 1	What message is worth sharing with the world?	
Year 2		What would be the positives and negatives of all looking the same?	
Year 3		Are there different types of sadness?	
Year 4		Would you rather be a brave fool or a clever coward?	
Year 5		Is there such a thing as a 'just' crime?	
Year 6		Are wars inevitable?	

Achievers of the week						
		Reader of the week	Writer of the week	Mathematician of the week	Scientist of the week	Star of the week
Reception		Dolly	Mikey	Lucas	Evie-May	Dylan
Year 1	Year 2	Amber	Eva	Jude G	Amelia	Jude M
Year 3	Year 4	Lillie	Tilly	John James	Paul	Sienna
Year 5	Year 6	Thomas	Charlotte	Ava	George	Harrison M

House Points:							
							
		Ants	Badgers	Locusts	Lizards		
Reception		156 + 14	163 + 16	156 + 14	150 + 11		
Year 1	Year 2	622 + 51	601 + 60	692 + 41	715 + 48		
Year 3	Year 4	1012 + 59	867 + 48	827 + 49	913 + 51		
Year 5	Year 6	679 + 52	754 + 54	702 + 48	656 + 51		
TOTAL		2645	2563	2529	2595		

Parents will have received their child's end-of-year report via email, inclusive of statutory results.

A letter is also sent to inform of next year's allocated classes and registration class teachers.

A meet the teachers meeting will be scheduled in September.



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Upcoming events:

What are we planning for Year 6 leavers and the end of term?	
Autograph Books	We have purchased autograph books for the Year 6 pupils.
Leavers Hoodies	Unfortunately due to lack of interest we will not be able to proceed with hoodies
Tuesday 19 July	Year 6 Graduation and "Year 6 Has Talented Leavers" performance, Y6 parents are invited to attend at 14:30.
Wednesday, 20 July	Year 6 Leavers Church Service and Attendance Awards at 13:45. All parents are welcome to attend. Pupils will be dismissed back at school, not the church.
Thursday 21 July	Year 6 shirt signing.
Thursday 21 July	End of year picnic for pupils and parents. The deadline for ordering a school picnic lunch has now passed, anyone who has not ordered will need a packed lunch from home. Parents are invited to join us with their own lunchboxes at 12pm before an EARLY finish time of 1:15pm.

What is happening in the new year?	
1 & 2 September	Staff INSET – no pupils to attend school
Monday, 5 th September	All pupils to start the new academic year.
Monday, 5 th – Friday, 9 th September	The new reception pupils will have a staggered start and only attend until 12.00 (lunch time).
Wednesday, 7 th September	15.30-16.00 -Year 6 parents to attend Information meeting for the Residential (21-23 September at Bawdsey Manor, Suffolk).

A reminder of changes to school times in September

Pupils are to attend school from Monday, 5th September.

Due to the Government's *White Paper*, the school day times are being amended. This was shared with parents and carers in a letter dated 1st April, giving a whole term's notice to make the necessary arrangements where needed. Pupils will enter the school via the front gate and school entrance by the office.

- The school day starts at **8.30 am** when children can begin to come into school.
- Registers are taken at **8.40-8.45 am**.
- At **08.45 am** the registers will be closed.
- Children arriving between **8.45-9.00 am** are required to come into school via the school office. If accompanied by a parent/carer they must sign them into our 'Late Book' and provide a reason for their lateness which is recorded. Children will be given a Late 'L' mark by the school office and registers updated.
- After **9.00am** – children sign in at the school office and are marked as a 'U' code – loss of the session. This gives a 30 minute window from the gates opening for children to get into school before getting the 'U' code is applied.
- In accordance with the Regulations, if your child arrives after 9am they will receive a mark that shows them to be on site - 'U', but this will **not** count as a present mark and it will mean they have an unauthorised absence
- The school may contact parents/carers regarding lateness
- From time to time a member of school staff will undertake a 'Late Gate' check, greeting late arrivals at the main entrance to the school
- School day ends at **15:20 on Mondays to Thursdays** and on a **Friday at 15:00**.



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Warning for hot weather



As you are aware the Met Office has issued a warning regarding high temperatures. We will take advice from the Local Authority and Government and update you accordingly.

Schools follow the same rules as workplaces, which means there is no maximum temperature to warrant closure. There is currently not law around maximum working temperatures. According to the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) guidelines: "During working hours, the temperature in all workplaces inside buildings shall be reasonable."

The school has done a Risk Assessment and would advise parents of the following:

- Pupils and staff to drink plenty of water, taking care to avoid fizzy drinks in order to stay hydrated.
- Pupils to have access to water throughout the day.
- Pupils are required to bring to school a bottle of water. If you wish, you may add ice cubes.
- Pupils are encouraged to wear a sun hat/cap when outside
- Pupils are encouraged to have suncream on. We cannot apply suncream in school so please do ensure you do this prior to coming to school, ideally using a cream designed for all day cover where possible.
- Pupils not to wear jumpers.
- Pupils are not to wear ties.
- Pupils to be in summer school clothes or if preferred PE kits (not football kits) until end of term.
- Pupils can wear sandals with a back strap but no flip-flops as this can cause a tripping hazard.
- Children should not take part in vigorous physical activity on very hot days.

Update from the government:

Predicted Extreme Heat Weather Warnings

The Met Office has extended an [amber extreme heat warning](#) for Sunday 17 July, Monday 18 July and Tuesday 19 July, as temperatures will build this weekend and early next week for much of England and Wales.

The amber warning highlights likely adverse health effects for the public, not just limited to those most vulnerable to extreme heat.

Temperatures could be in excess of 35°C in the southeast, and more widely around 32°C within the [warning area](#), with Monday and Tuesday most likely to see temperatures around this level.

There is clear government guidance on [looking after children and those in early years settings during heatwaves](#), including the use of ventilation, keeping children hydrated, and avoiding vigorous physical activity, encouraging children to wear loose, light coloured clothing and sunhats with wide brims, to use sunscreen, and providing them with plenty of water.

Individual school leaders are responsible for managing their own local circumstances. **We are not advising schools to close.**



BEAT THE HEAT: Extreme Heat

Heat-related deaths are preventable

WHAT:

Extreme heat or heat waves occur when the temperature reaches extremely high levels or when the combination of heat and humidity causes the air to become oppressive.



Children

WHO:

More males than females are affected



Older adults



Outside workers



People with disabilities

WHERE:



Houses with little to no AC



Construction worksites



Cars

HOW to AVOID:



Stay hydrated with water, avoid sugary beverages



Stay cool in an air conditioned area



Wear lightweight, light-colored, loose-fitting clothes



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<p>Best Friends of the week</p> <p>These pupils are the class buddies, helping other pupils in class.</p>	<p>We are so very proud of all of the children in Red Class as they finish their first year at school, they are all kind and considerate to one another, so they are all Best Friends this week!</p> 	
	<p>Reception</p>	<p>Years 1 and 2</p>
		
	<p>Years 3 and 4</p>	<p>Years 5 and 6</p>
<p>Voluntary contribution All Students</p>	<p>We have approximately a third of the 'Summer 2022' voluntary contributions outstanding.</p> <p>If we are not able to receive sufficient funds, we will not be able to offer these initiatives in future, as we cannot continue to subsidise it.</p> <p>Thank you to all the parents who have already made a £20 voluntary contribution towards all the fun activities this term – the Ducklings, Wonderdome, Kimmy's Zoo and the Shakespeare Workshops.</p> <p>Pupils have really enjoyed these initiatives and I am sure they have been buzzing at home with what they have experienced. We do understand that many people are under financial strain at the moment, if you are able to make any contribution at all it really would help. Please contact us in confidence.</p>	
<p>School Trends Uniform</p>	<p>Please note that the deadline for uniform from School Trends in time for September is 18th July.</p>	
<p>End of term celebrations</p>	<p>In addition to our own end of term picnic there will be a parent organised party taking place after school has finished on Thursday 21st July. Further information and contact details for Kelsey Gumble are available on our website, under the Community News and Flyers section.</p> <p>A number of other flyers for summer activities have also been added so please do take a look.</p>	



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Assembly

We were fortunate to have an assembly delivered by a Library Representative on Monday. Sharon provided us with lots of information about the Summer Reading Challenge and libraries. Each child has been provided with a library card and they can take out up to **14 books on each card!** **AND** the card is valid in **ALL** libraries! **More information is available here:** <https://libraries.essex.gov.uk/>

There is also an e-library that can be accessed too! <https://libraries.essex.gov.uk/e-books-e-audio-e-magazines-and-book-groups/e-books-and-e-audio/>

Saturday 16 July – Saturday 3 September 2022

The Summer Reading Challenge - Gadgeteers - runs from Saturday 16 July to Saturday 3 September in all Essex libraries and mobile libraries.

Children are asked to read six books to help the Gadgeteers - and at the same time, they can discover the amazing science and innovation that lies behind the world around them. After reading six books they earn their Gadgeteers certificate and wooden medal.



Children can read any library book of their choice; fiction, non-fiction, picture books or books they share with parents and carers – they all count. There is a special version of Gadgeteers for children under three.

The Summer Reading Challenge is delivered by libraries and produced by The Reading Agency. It is open to all children, free of charge.

Children can take part in the online Summer Reading Challenge on the [Gadgeteers website](https://www.gadgeteers.org.uk/) to earn digital rewards.

Keep up to date with this year's Summer Reading Challenge by following us on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/essexyearofreading/) and [Twitter](https://twitter.com/essexyearofreading/).



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We wish you a peaceful and blessed summer holiday from all of us at Dr Walker's C of E Primary School.



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