

Curriculum Newsletter Autumn Term – 16.09.2023

What happened this week in school?

- Well done to Reception pupils for having 100% attendance!
- What a warm week it has been! Pupils all had an ice lolly to help with the heat. We are grateful for the bit of rain we had.
- We had a fun experience with the iRock taster assembly. Please see attached flyer for more information.
- Classes also started with their two-weekly extra ukulele or xylophone music tuition from Essex Music services.
- Our reflection garden is developing –seating has been delivered.
- Mrs Iqbal has been appointed to cover Miss Seeley’s maternity with Green-Blue class and is settling in.
- Miss Seeley will be going on maternity at the end of next week. We wish her well at becoming a mummy and can’t wait to see the baby.
- A new bursar has also been recruited and will be starting soon.
- Some parents have commented that the school needs to offer more educational experiences to the pupils. Teachers are therefore busy planning educational visits for the term. Going off site will incur a financial contribution from parents to make this possible. More information to follow.
- We kindly await volunteers and nominations for class representatives. Please contact the school office for more info.
- A kind reminder not to book holidays during term time. This cannot be authorised and can lead to a fine being issued. Attendance is key and monitored.
- Please see Calendar Information for upcoming events.

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



Roots and Fruits

Peace







British Value of the term





Democracy










Attendance target: 96%

	Reception class 100%
	Yeas 1 and 2 92%
	Years 3 and 4 95%
	Years 5 and 6 97%
Whole school	95%

House Points

Ants		38
Badgers		57
Locusts		89
Lizards		52

Value Awards

	Reception	Lucas	Compassion – being kind and thoughtful to everyone
 COURAGE	Courage		
	Years 1 and 2	Amelia-Rae	For being honest and always telling the truth
	Years 3 and 4	Kai	Pushing himself with harder challenges
	Years 5 and 6	Tilly	Not giving up and showing courage
 CREATIVITY	Creativity		
	Years 1 and 2	Florence	Sharing her ideas with the rest of the class
	Years 3 and 4	Daisy	Great Creativity when designing her hero and villain
	Years 5 and 6	Sienna	Great effort with her animal painting
 RESPECT	Respect		
	Years 1 and 2	Scarlett	Listening to the adults
	Years 3 and 4	Alice C	Treating everyone with respect
	Years 5 and 6	Teddy D	Treating everyone around him with respect
 COMPASSION	Compassion		
	Years 1 and 2	Knightley	Being kind in unkind situations
	Years 3 and 4	Eva	Always checking in with her friends
	Years 5 and 6	Barney	Helping his friends when they needed it
 PERSEVERANCE	Perseverance		
	Years 1 and 2	Mikey	Trying hard even when things are difficult
	Years 3 and 4	Maisey	Not giving up even when work is tricky
	Years 5 and 6	Teddy D	Not giving up during his English task
 RESPONSIBILITY	Responsibility		
	Years 1 and 2	Ava	Being a good friend and always lending a helpful hand
	Years 3 and 4	Alice C	Being very helpful with jobs in class
	Years 5 and 6	Maxwell	Taking responsibility for his own learning
 HOPE	Hope		
	Years 1 and 2	Lincoln	Positive attitude and a big smile
	Years 3 and 4	Amber	Always having a positive attitude
	Years 5 and 6	Gabriella	Trying her best at all times

Classroom News



Reception Red Class

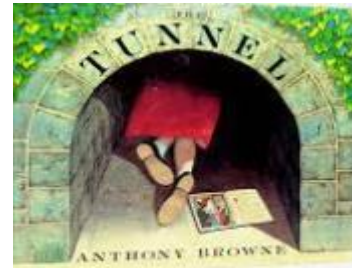
We have begun our Phonics sessions this week and have been learning our initial phonemes - s, a, t, p. We have also begun to blend some CVC words.

In maths we have been exploring matching and the children are confident at recognising objects that are the same and those that are different, they can also identify sets of objects.

On Roald Dahl Day, we listened to The Enormous Crocodile and painted our very own enormous crocodile to ride! This is now a feature in our reading area.



Years 1 and 2 Orange-Yellow Class



In English this week we have been reading a book called The Tunnel written by Anthony Browne. We are preparing to write our own voyage and return story, based on this book.



In maths we have started our number work. We are becoming more confident in counting in 2s, 5s and 10s. We are also learning how to write numbers in words.



Years 3 and 4 Green-Blue Class

We have had another great week in Green-Blue class and the children have all been working extremely hard.

We have been planning a 'Defeating the monster story.' There has been great creativity flowing!

In our reading comprehension, we were focusing on inference. I read out a descriptive passage and the children all had to draw the image they thought I was describing.



Years 5 and 6 Indigo-Violet Class



In History this term, we are talking about what life was like in Tudor England.









This week we looked at different types of evidence to interpret the character of Henry VIII.

There are two different opinions of Henry VIII.

Some historians see Henry VIII as a tyrant who was cruel and ordered the deaths of his wives.

Others think he was a good ruler who was fair and improved the lives of the people.

Class buddies of the week

			
Reception	Years 1 and 2	Years 3 and 4	Years 5 and 6
			
Talula and Jake	Amelia-Rae and Jesse	Joey and Maci	Paul and Cash

Pupil Voice

School Council & Ambassadors	Library Prefects
<p>This year our School Council will consist of both year 5 and 6 pupils. Our Lead prefects will be elected from year 6.</p> <p>Each class will still have Class Ambassadors.</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>School Council</p> </div> <p>Mrs Vorster will oversee the Student Council and Class Ambassadors.</p>	<div style="text-align: center;">  </div> <p>Mrs Dean will oversee the Library Prefects</p>
Collective Worship Council	Eco and Litter Picking Council
<p>The Collective Worship Council will take charge of out Prayer and Reflection Space.</p> <p>Collective Worship assemblies will consist of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mondays: Roots & Fruits assembly • Tuesdays: Picture News assembly • Wednesday: Singing / Rev Sam's assembly • Thursday: Class Big Question assembly • Fridays: Values, Attendance and Class assembly <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>Collective Worship</p> </div> <p>Miss Radomska will oversee the Collective Worship Council</p>	<p>The Eco and Litter Picking Council will take charge of recycling in school.</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div> <p>Mrs Iqbal will oversee the Eco and Litter Picking Council.</p>

Information

Improvements – Play time equipment and playground

New playtime equipment has been purchased:

- Skipping ropes
- Giant Chess set
- Giant Jenga



The reflection and reading areas are also still under development.



Reflection space in the library

The library has had a makeover with a reflection space for pupils to use. All pupils wrote a prayer on a leaf to create a Prayer Tree.



Reception pupils have had a good start

The Reception year 6 buddies are helping them to settle in. There is lots to explore and learn!



Celebrating Summer Read



Ice lollies for all!

The weather was so hot, so our headteacher gave us all an ice lolly as a treat to cool down! Yum!



iRock School Assembly

Pupils attended an iRock School Assembly. The iRock School provides music tuition for pupils (see attached flyer) who then form a school band. The band practises weekly for 30 minutes and pupils can decide on their preferred instrument. They will also do a performance at the end of the year. This is a paid initiative and parents will be required to pay for this. We do need to have a specific number of pupils to make this a viable option to be considered, so please let the office know if you would be interested in your child signing up.

We had a taster of forming a pupil and staff band – We learnt the chorus of “We will Rock You!”

- On Keyboard: Hugo / Mrs Spanton
- On Drums: Barney / Miss Orafu
- Vocal: Maci / Miss Radomska
- On bass guitar: Brooke / Mrs Vorster



New school website

Please be informed that the school will be moving to a brand new school website towards the end of the month.

The new website will be managed by our IT consultant and also include an up to date calendar for parents to refer to.



New music lessons have started

Pupils will have fortnightly lessons in either ukuleles or xylophones. Mr Eastwood from Essex Music Services will be teaching these lessons.



Jackets

We have a large number of different rain/wind jackets we are making available to our pupils, even though not formal school uniform. We would appreciate a donation of around £3-£5, as it is brand new and of good quality. The jacket also folds up into a small pouch. They will be available from the office from next Monday.



Communications

Staff will be logging conversation notes as part of transparency. This is to help us to improve our communications.

If appropriate, parents/carers will be asked if points of concerns discussed have been addressed. The school will also offer the Complaints Policy if needed.

Parents are also reminded of the school's Behaviour Policy, which the staff will be following and could result in your child having been given reflection, due to not following the school rules.

We expect that staff will be treated with respect when communicating with parents. Abusive comments and behaviours will not be tolerated.



Year 6 to Secondary admission round for September 2024

As you may be aware, the new secondary school admission round opened Tuesday, 12 September 2023, for parents of current Year 6 children to apply for a secondary school (Year 7) place for September 2024.

The Statutory national closing date for applications is 31st October 2023.

Applications can be made online via www.essex.gov.uk/admissions. 99% of parents in Essex applied online last year.

All of the application information is available on the website above.

Letter to school leaders on mild illness and school attendance - Published 5 September 2023

As you begin to welcome children and young people back for a new school year, we have been asked by the Department for Education (DfE) to provide you with a clinical and public health perspective on mild illnesses and school attendance.

We are aware that the COVID-19 pandemic may have caused some parents to feel less confident with assessing whether their child is well enough to be in school so we have laid out some information which we hope you will find helpful.

There is wide agreement among health professionals and educational professionals that school attendance is vital to the life chances of children and young people. Being in school improves health, wellbeing and socialisation throughout the life course. The greatest benefits come from children and young people attending school regularly.

It is usually appropriate for parents and carers to send their children to school with mild respiratory illnesses. This would include general cold symptoms: a minor cough, runny nose or sore throat. However, children should not be sent to school if they have a temperature of 38°C or above. We would encourage you to share the [NHS 'Is my child too ill for school?' guidance](#) with parents and carers in your schools and communities which has further information.

In addition to respiratory illnesses, we are aware that more children may be absent from school due to symptoms of anxiety than before the pandemic. Worry and mild or moderate anxiety, whilst sometimes difficult emotions, can be a normal part of growing up for many children and young people. Being in school can often help alleviate the underlying issues. A prolonged period of absence is likely to heighten a child's anxiety about attending in the future, rather than reduce it. DfE has published useful [guidance on mental health issues affecting a pupil's attendance](#) and those who are experiencing persistent symptoms can be encouraged to access additional support.

Thank you for your efforts so far to facilitate immunisation sessions within schools. As we head into winter, encouraging high uptake of seasonal flu vaccination and routine immunisations for eligible children and young people will help to reduce absences and the disruption they cause.

You, and the teachers you lead, are already supporting families to build up children's confidence to attend school regularly. The Royal College of General Practitioners (RCGP) recently approved [5 principles to promote school attendance](#). We hope this guidance will support GPs in having sensitive and reassuring conversations with parents, carers and pupils.

Thank you and your colleagues for your continued commitment to supporting the health and wellbeing of children and young people.

Yours sincerely,

Professor Chris Whitty, Chief Medical Officer, England

Pat Cullen, General Secretary, Royal College of Nursing

Professor Kamila Hawthorne, Chair, Royal College of General Practitioners

Dr Camilla Kingdon, President, Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health

William Roberts, Chief Executive, Royal Society for Public Health

Dr Lade Smith, President, Royal College of Psychiatrists

WOULD YOUR CHILD LIKE TO JOIN THEIR OWN ROCK BAND?



Register your interest today!

visit www.irockschool.com or call 0330 174 2655

Dear Parent / Guardian,

Today your child got to experience a taste of what it's like to be in a rock & pop band! This letter will tell you how your child could experience being in a band every week by a visiting iRock teacher. Depending on interest, our weekly in-school rock & pop band sessions could be starting at your school very soon!

Our band lessons are not only fun but they can massively help develop your child's life skills: boosting confidence, supporting wellbeing, developing social skills and even helping to improve their academic performance.

How it works:

- There is no experience necessary to join and all of the instruments are provided by iRock.
- Your child can choose from drums, keyboard, electric guitar or vocals (subject to availability). They'll play the same instrument every week and join their band mates in 30 minute weekly lessons.
- Lessons are held during the school day and are led by one of our experienced band coaches who will guide your child through every session.
- Lessons are available from Reception to Year 6 with children grouped by age. Children choose their band name and learn their favourite songs.
- The band sessions build towards a concert at the end of each term, a great way to show you just how far they have come.
- ***NEW*** Your child can achieve a brand new music qualification, regulated by RSL awards. More information about our new qualification coming soon!

The highlight of your child's week for **£38.95 a month** (no payment in August). Our iRock subscription is designed to give parents full flexibility rather than having to commit to an entire year or term. The subscription guarantees a minimum lesson quota of 33 lessons in each academic year.

You can register your child's interest today by visiting www.irockschool.com, email info@irockschool.com or call **0330 174 2655**. Places are offered on a first come first serve basis.

Kind regards,

Joshua Franklin
Founder



I haven't seen our child this inspired for a long time. His dad and I are very impressed and this is really helping his confidence!

PROUD PARENT



**REGISTER
NOW!**



Information



19.09.23	Parents invited to meet the class teacher after school
27.09.23 to 29.09.23	Year 6 Residential to Skreens
29.09.23	Years 3 & 4 Assembly – parents are invited to attend
29.09.23	MacMillan Coffee morning – more information to follow
02.10.23	Potential Afternoon Tea for Grandparents - TBC
04.10.23	Walk and Roll to School Day
06.10.23	Church Harvest service – parents are invited to attend (TBC)
05.10.23 to 10.10.23	School Book Fair
06.10.23	Autumn School Census Day – Please book a school dinner to help the school.
13.10.23	Years 5 & 6 Assembly – parents are invited to attend
13.10.23	Mini Reports for parents
16.10.23	Paul Sturgess (Guinness Book of Records tallest Football Player) visiting school
17.10.23	Parent consultation evening 15.30-18.00
18.10.23	Parent consultation evening 15.30-18.00
20.10.23	Years 1 & 2 Assembly – parents are invited to attend
23.10.23 to 27.10.23	Half Term



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

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

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