

Newsletter

Autumn Term

Date: 26.11.2021

An Exceptional Place to Flourish

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

Headteacher's message / notes

Congratulations!

Congratulations to our democratically elected Head Boy and Head Girl. Prefects received their badges in assembly, handed to them by their parents.



Woody

Laila



Our school attendance target is:

96%

Attendance this week:

Reception	93.69%
Year 1	93.57%
Year 2	97.14%
Year 3	88.0%
Year 4	94.2%
Year 5	89.5%
Year 6	90.0%
Whole school	91.73%

Winning year groups:

Gold – 1 st	Year 2
Silver – 2 nd	Year 4
Bronze – 3 rd	Reception

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		Dylan	Ava	Lucas	Ethan	Rafe
Year 1	Year 2	Phoebe	Teddy C-G	Cassidy	Sienna	Harrison M
Year 3	Year 4	Noah	George	Freddie	Paul	Gabby
Year 5	Year 6	Laila	Mason	Naomi	Harrison M	Ava G



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Value this half-term



Big questions of the week:

Reception	Year 1	When does night end and the day begin?
Year 2		What if you only ate chips?
Year 3		What different actions could you do to show people you care about them?
Year 4		Do you think other people think in the same way we do?
Year 5		What makes a place special?
Year 6		Do you always tell the truth? Do you think there is ever a good reason to lie?

Our class ambassadors also got their badges!



Our school rules are on display in the playground!



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Attendance

We are **really concerned** about the attendance figures at school, especially compared with the previous three years for the same period: 01/09 -26/11.

Academic year	Period average attendance	Number of persistent absence pupils (below 90% attendance)
2018/2019	97.32%	2
2019/2020	95.53%	5
2020/2021	97.78%	3
2021/2022	92.92%	23

Attendance is monitored.

Pupils **must** attend school every day, unless there are exceptional circumstances. Holidays during term time cannot be authorised and parents can incur a penalty charge issued. Parents cannot authorise absences.

For our pupils to gain the greatest benefit from their education, it is vital that they attend regularly and be at school, on time, every day the school is open unless the reason for the absence is unavoidable.

- The school day starts at **8.45 am** when the gate opens.
- Registers are taken at **8.50 till 09:05 am**.
- Children arriving after **09:05 am** will be recorded as LATE.
- At **09:15 am** the registers will be closed. In accordance with the Regulations, if your child arrives after that time 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.

There has also been an increase of requests of early collection of pupils at the end of the day. Please be aware the school day ends at **15:15** with collection then to follow.

We will much appreciate it if we can all work together to improve attendance, especially as we are working really hard with recovery due to the pandemic.

"Attend today, achieve tomorrow!"



COVID



COVID numbers are on the increase in Essex. Please be courteous to our community by adhering to government guidelines.

If we are not vigilant, restrictions will have to be imposed again, e.g. bubbles and less initiatives resulting in cancellation of events, due to not having face-to-face contact.

As a school we are working really hard to follow guidelines and Risk Assess this constantly to ensure we can still go ahead with Christmas celebrations. **We do need your help!**

It is advised that pupils take Lateral Flow Tests twice a week. Please see letter from ECC below.



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Dear Parent / Carer,

The approach to COVID-19 in school-aged children is to maximise children's access to education. As you are aware, children are very unlikely to become seriously ill with a COVID-19 infection, but they do need to self-isolate if they are infected. Whilst self-isolating, they miss out on the benefit of in-school education. It is therefore extremely important that we try to limit the spread of COVID-19 within a school setting to maximise school attendance at all times.

We have seen COVID-19 infections in primary school-aged children in Essex increasing over the past few weeks. At this rate, it is expected that some primary schools could see significant numbers of pupils infected with COVID-19. Throughout the pandemic, regular household testing has been encouraged, but we would now like to strengthen that advice for primary age children.

From this half term, to help limit the spread of the infection within primary schools we are asking you to:

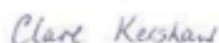
- Support your primary school child, if you are not already doing so, to undertake twice-weekly lateral flow device tests.
- Be alert to COVID-19 symptoms in your child (high temperature, new continuous cough, or loss of sense of smell or taste).
- Encourage good hand hygiene within your household.

Whilst we understand this is different guidance for some of you, we would strongly encourage you to begin this practice as a family, excluding any child/ren under the age of 2. This will ensure that as much asymptomatic infection as possible is picked up and will help schools to continue to operate at full capacity and minimise the spread of infection through the school and wider community. You can collect test kits from your nearest pharmacy using one of the new collect codes which can be downloaded from <https://test-for-coronavirus.service.gov.uk/collect-lateral-flow-kits>. You can then hand this into your local pharmacy, who will provide you with test kits. You can also collect test kits from your local library or order them online via this link: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing/regular-rapid-coronavirus-tests-if-you-do-not-have-symptoms/>.

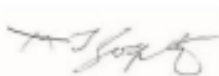
If a positive result is returned, your child/young person will need to seek a confirmatory PCR test and isolate for 10 days according to national guidance. If the PCR test is negative, your child can return to school if they are well enough to do so. More information about lateral flow testing can be found here: [Regular Rapid Lateral Flow Coronavirus \(Covid-19\) Tests](#).

We appreciate that the changes in guidance can cause anxiety for some, but it is important that the education of our children and young people is prioritised this academic year. The likelihood of serious illness in children is extremely low and after 18 months of serious disruption, the DfE and the Local Authority are committed to ensuring that all children and young people in Essex have every opportunity to catch up and exceed their potential.

Best wishes,



Clare Kershaw
Director of Education
Essex County Council



Mike Gogarty
Director of Public Health and Wellbeing
Essex County Council



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Social Media abuse

Essex headteachers have been informed of an increase of online abuse targeted at schools and teaching staff.

Abusive comments have been shared on social media platforms inclusive of Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat and Twitter.

There has been coverage in the media of teachers and other school and college staff receiving abuse on social media platforms including TikTok and Instagram.



Authorities are aware of stories in the press about teachers and staff being the victims of abuse on TikTok and have worked with the platform to make it easier for videos to be removed.

It is never acceptable for anyone to harass or intimidate education staff. Some incidents may constitute a criminal offence and schools/colleges should report those they think may come into that category to the police.

What is online abuse?

There are different kinds of online abuse and people can be at risk of it from people they know or strangers. The government's [draft Online Safety Bill](#) defines online harms as user generated content or behaviour that is illegal or could cause significant physical or psychological harm to a person.

Examples of online harms include:

- child sexual exploitation and abuse
- terrorist use of the internet
- hate crime and hate speech
- harassment, cyberbullying and online abuse.

And online abuse isn't limited to social media – it can happen over text messages or messaging apps, over email, in online chats, online games and on streaming sites.

We're aware of stories in the press about teachers and staff being the victims of abuse on TikTok and have worked with the platform to make it easier for videos to be removed.

Education Secretary Nadhim Zahawi said:

The online abuse of teachers that has taken place recently is simply abhorrent. It can be incredibly damaging for a teacher's wellbeing and professional life and I am deeply concerned by the ongoing issue, which is why we have moved to make sure that TikTok do more on this trend.

It is never acceptable for teachers or anyone to be the subject of any kind of abuse.

All schools, colleges and other educational settings should report any online abuse, including videos, [to the police](#).

Some incidents can result in a criminal offence being committed and it is important people are aware of the consequences of abuse and the impact it can have on an individual's mental health.

For full report - Source: https://educationhub.blog.gov.uk/2021/11/24/how-schools-and-parents-can-spot-and-tackle-online-abuse-of-teachers/?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery



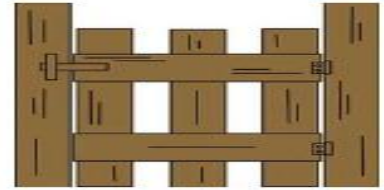
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Mornings drop-off and afternoons collection

- A kind request, that parents/carers of KS1 and KS2 pupils do not enter the playground area past the cow gate in the mornings. Pupils to walk to their classrooms without parents/carers.
- In the afternoons, parents/carers can collect pupils from the playground.
- Also please complete the consent form regarding permission for collections at the end of the day, as we are experiencing an increase of telephone calls at the end of the day for different adults to collect pupils.



Christmas update...

Christmas performances are tentatively scheduled for **Tuesday, 14th December** at

- **9:30-10:30** (first performance) and
- **14:00-15:00** (second performance) respectively.

Due to COVID Risk Assessment, we cannot accommodate more than 100 adults in the hall during the performances (some will have to be standing spaces). There will unfortunately also not be capacity to have buggies or strollers in the hall.

In order to help in this regard, each pupil can have a **maximum of 2 adults** to attend either the first or second performance. Places will be allocated on a ticket system.



To arrange for tickets, please contact the school office.

All adults in attendance will be requested to wear a face covering, unless medically exempt and evidence is presented on the day of the performance, e.g. a medical letter or NHS exemption card.

In keeping with Safeguarding Policy, photos and recording will not be allowed during the performances. Class teachers will take photos to be shared with parents/carers.

As part of homework, can pupils plan for a dress up as part of the performances?

Reception	Nativity Characters - the school to provide these!
Years 1 & 2	Angels and stars (white costumes and lots of tinsel)
Years 3 & 4	Animals in the stable (black clothes and templates will be provided for headpieces).
Years 5 & 6	Shepherds and wise men

Christmas Dinner



School Christmas dinner will be on

Friday, 10th December.

Christmas JUMPER DAY



Christmas Jumper day – Friday, 10th December



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Christingle competition

- There will also be a Christingle competition with a prize for each class.
- This will be the last week of term.



Christingle

CANDLE

Jesus - he shows us what God is like

ORANGE

the world

4 COCKTAIL STICKS

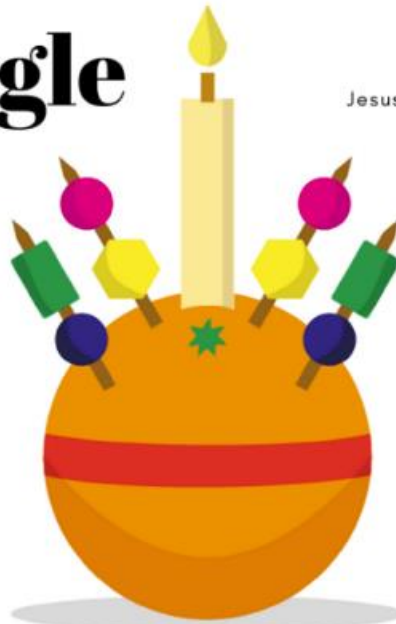
4 corners of the world

RED TAPE

God's love for the world

SWEETS

the good gifts God gives us



<https://lucyathome.co.uk>



Christmas biscuits

All pupils will be baking Christmas biscuits in the next few weeks, as part of Food Technology.

Please see letter sent home regarding consent.

Church celebration service

Pupils will be attending St Nicholas church on Monday, 6th December as part of our Christmas celebration.

Reverend Sam Brazier-Gibbs will be telling us a Christmas story and we will participate in singing a few songs.



Word has it, there will also be some **bell ringers!**

Parents are welcome to attend.



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School Christmas Disco

Please have a look at the school's website for information under **COMMUNITY NEWS AND FLYERS**.

Christmas Shoe Box Appeal - [www.https://teams4u.com/](https://teams4u.com/)

We have managed to collect 22 boxes.

Many thanks to Mrs Knight (parent), who arranged this for us.



Christmas Cards

Eco Essex Christmas Pledge for 2021.

Due to COVID increases and restrictions, we are asking that Christmas Cards are not exchanged at school this year, but instead we support the Christmas Pledge for 2021.

In a drive to reduce school environmental impact this Christmas and beyond. Essex Eco Community are supporting schools to find positive ways to move forward with becoming more eco-aware and using COP26 as an opportunity to raise awareness and to make positive environmental changes. Local Plans with the UN's 17 sustainability development goals, which we are sure you will be aware, aims to reduce our collective environmental impact across a range of criteria.

Using COP26 as an opportunity to raise awareness and to make positive environmental changes, Dr Walker's has already begun to reduce our carbon footprint and work towards making more long-term, positive changes for the sake of our environment. With this in mind, we are asking children, parents, and families to support us with the **Christmas Pledge for 2021.**



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Some interesting (and devastating) facts about Christmas cards and the impact schools have with the giving process

- Over 1 billion cards are given each year in the UK!
- It takes one tree to make approximately 3000 cards so each school would be responsible for potentially several trees being felled for the Christmas tradition.
- If a class of approximately 30 children give a card to all 30 others, then the total amount for EACH CLASS is approximately 900 cards!

Let's do the maths

- If a primary school has 1 class x 30 pupils per (7) years that will = over 6000 cards exchanged per Christmas and 2 trees are felled.
- If a primary school has 2 classes x 30 pupils per year that will = over 12,000 cards exchanged per Christmas and 4 trees felled.
- If a primary school has 3 classes x 30 pupils per year = over 18,000 cards exchanged per Christmas and 6 trees felled.

As an alternative way for children to share Christmas Wishes, an A1 template will be available within the children's classes for them to write Christmas messages to each other.

We hope that you will support us, and Essex Eco Council, in reducing our collective environmental impact.

Virtual Author reading events in school

Year 3 and Year 4 (7+) - Maddie Moate - Friday 26th November 2021 @ 10:30am (45 minutes)

Further information here: <https://www.puffinschools.co.uk/events/virtual-visit-webinar-maddie-moate-author-of-stuff/>

Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 (5+) - Nick Sharratt - Friday 3rd December 2021 @ 10:30am (45 minutes)

Further information here: <https://www.puffinschools.co.uk/events/virtual-visit-webinar-nick-sharratt-author-and-illustrator-of-oh-no-shark-in-the-snow/>



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Year 5 & 6 Swimming

Swimming is a national curriculum requirement and it is an important part of KS2 education. Year 5 & 6 pupils will be having swimming lessons at Ongar Leisure Centre on Monday afternoons on the following dates:

- 29th November
- 6th December
- 13th December

ALL CHILDREN MUST WEAR A SWIMMING HAT and will not be allowed to swim without one.



Essex Libraries Services

Essex Libraries Services will be launching their Winter Reading Challenge on Saturday 27 November 2021, which all children and families are invited to take part in.

All families need to do is visit their local library, sign up and collect one of their exclusive giant bookmarks, which will be stamped with one of their special woodland creature stamps for each book they read.

The aim is to read six books over the winter period and receive a large golden star on completion of the challenge.



REMEMBER TO ALSO RECORD THE BOOKS ON GOREAD!

Everyone who signs up will be entered into a prize draw with a chance to win some fantastic prizes. These include Love Essex goodie bags, signed books from authors Catherine Emmett, Vassiliki Tzomaka and Emma Beswetherick and days out with Explore Essex, Essex Outdoors and the Wilderness Foundation. Full details of the prize draw can be found on their website <https://libraries.essex.gov.uk/news/welcome-to-the-winter-reading-challenge/>

Families can take part at any point from 27 November 2021 – 19 February 2022.

Children will join the Animals of Snowy Wood where Connie the fox and her friends will help Fraser the squirrel to get a good night sleep.

Please sign up at any Essex Library and fall in love with reading this winter.

Open evenings for prospective Reception pupils:

- **Thursday, 2 December at 16:15**

Reception admissions for academic year starting in September 2022

As you may be aware, the primary school (Reception) admission round opened on **Monday 8 November 2021**, for parents of children to apply for a Reception school place for the academic year that starts in September 2022.

The statutory national closing date for applications is **15 January 2022**.

From **8 November 2021**, applications can be made online via www.essex.gov.uk/admissions.



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School uniform

Our second hand clothes rail will be open this Friday after school outside the ICT Suite/Library in the main playground.

We have jumpers, shirts, t-shirts and summer dresses, plus a few other bits. A donation for each item is welcome, this money will go to the PTFA and towards the school. A suggested donation is £2 for a jumper or skirt, £1 for trousers and summer dresses and 50p for shirts or t-shirts. There will be a moneybox so please bring change.



All items have been washed.

We would also be grateful for any donations of clothes, please leave them near the clothes rail and we will wash them for the following week. The rail will be open every Friday after school.

At the end of each term, we will also go through the lost property, any named items will be returned and any unnamed items will be washed and put onto the second hand rail.

- School uniform – Ciel Uniform has a link to purchase school uniform. They offer tartan skirts and kilts for the girls. <https://www.cielschooluniform.co.uk/dr-walker-primary-school/>
- A kind reminder that pupils need to be wearing the appropriate PE kit to showcase our school's pride in uniform. We appreciate that the supplier is struggling to provide all of the appropriate school uniform. This will be monitored. Pupils wearing studs in their ears, need to have these removed prior to the lesson as they are a health and safety hazard.

Menu

WEEK TWO commencing 8.11.21, 29.11.21, 10.01.22, 31.01.22, 28.2.22 & 21.3.22

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Fish Finger Wrap	Chicken Pie	Roast Chicken with Sage & Onion Stuffing	Beef Pasticcio	Chipolata Pork Sausages
Meet-Free Meatball Wrap	Vegetarian Sausage Twist	Sage & Onion topped Quorn fillet	Cheese & Tomato Pasta Bake	Quorn Dippers
Jacket Potato with Cheese or Tuna	Jacket Potato with Cheese or Tuna		Jacket Potato with Cheese or Tuna	Jacket Potato with Cheese or Beans
White & Wholegrain Rice Cucumber Slices Grated Carrot & Shredded Lettuce	Mashed Potato Sweetcorn Shredded Cabbage	Roast Potatoes Carrots Broccoli Florets	Peas Mixed Garden Salad	Mini Potato Waffles Baked Beans Sweetcorn
Lemon Drizzle Cake	Healthy Fruit Day	Flapjack	Healthy Fruit Day	Chocolate Crispy Cake

Bread, Milk and Water is available daily.



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