

Update from Headteacher



We are looking to Sports' week next week with Summer Sports day on Wednesday, 5th July. EYFS and KS1 will have their session from 09.45-12.00 and KS2 after lunch 13.00-15.15.

Value this half-term



Big Question of the week

What is your favourite Bible story? Why??

Industrial Strike Action

Industrial strike action is planned for: Wednesday, 5th July and Friday, 7th July.

A separate communication will be sent regarding the arrangements.

Please be aware that the school does have staff absence too and this might also affect pupils' attendance.







Summer Sports Day will go ahead as planned on Wednesday 5th July. EYFS/KS1 will be 9.45-12.00 and KS2 from 13.00-15.20 further details on p7.



Upcoming dates for the diary

04.07.23	KS2 (Years 3 to 6) Athletics Festival
05.07.23	SUMMER SPORTS DAY Planned Industrial Action – Teachers strike day.
07.07.23	Parents are invited to Indigo—Violet Class Assembly – CANCELLED. Planned Industrial Action – Teachers strike day.
13.07.23	Fire Brigade visit with fire engine
14.07.23	Reports home to Parents
14.07.23	Non Uniform Day for Year 6 only
19.07.23	Year 6 Leavers' Performance at 1pm followed by Church Service at 2pm
20.07.23	Picnic with Parents followed by a mini-Summer fete and early break-up
21.07.23	Inset Day for Staff – School Closed.












House Points

	Ants	Badgers	Locusts	Lizards
				
Red-Orange Class	666	718	749	800
Orange-Yellow Class	641	678	1023	708
Green-Blue Class	593	591	520	584
Indigo-Violet Class	719	673	554	585
TOTAL	2619	2660	2846	2677

Attendance

		Our school target	96%
		Attendance this week	92%
		Attendance this year	94.00%

Academic year	Period average attendance	Number of Persistent Absence pupils (below 90%)
2022/2023	93.94%	10
2021/2022	92.27%	21
2020/2021	94.26%	16
2019/2020	93.15%	24
2018/2019	95.57%	8

Red-Orange Class			90.71%	
Orange-Yellow Class			97.89%	
Green-Blue Class			90.00%	
Indigo-Violet Class			95.83%	

**100% Attendance this week:
61 pupils out of 75 pupils which is 81.3%**

Gabriella	Teddy C-G	George D	Autumn	Dotty	Max
George A	Loki	Madison	Finlay	Maci	Ethan
Jessica	Kezia	Teddy Do	Acer	Jude M	Knightley
Amelia-Rae	Alice Cur	Scarlett	Cassidy	Sienna	River
John James	Dylan	Charlotte	Freya J	Jett	William
Ralph	Lincoln	Joey	Eva	Sidney	Daisy
Archie	Alice Cus	Chloe	Evie-May	Amber	Brooke
Alice B	Lucas	Freya Ga	Mikey	Harrison P	Mason
Florence	Teddy Da	Dolly	Paul	Sebastian	Teddie
Barney	Maisey	Freddy	Talia	Naomi	Cash
					Kai

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Merits and Awards Red/Orange Class

Reader of the week	Loki
Writer of the week	Jett
Mathematician of the week	Evie
Scientist of the week	Jesse
Star of the week	William

Merits and Awards Orange/Yellow Class

Reader of the week	Ava
Writer of the week	Alice C
Mathematician of the week	Alice B
Scientist of the week	Lucas
Star of the week	Jude

Merits and Awards Green/Blue Class

Reader of the week	Tilly
Writer of the week	Max
Mathematician of the week	Phoebe
Scientist of the week	Amelia
Star of the week	Ralph

Merits and Awards Indigo/Violet Class

Reader of the week	Emily
Writer of the week	George A
Mathematician of the week	Freddy
Scientist of the week	Freya G
Star of the week	Jess

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Open meeting: 27th June 2023 – Discussion notes

We had a very positive meeting on Tuesday. It was attended by 4 parents, 3 governors, the Headteacher and 3 teachers.

Positive feedback

Parents conveyed that they are very happy with the school. One parent commented: *“All I can do, is praise the school.”* One parent thanked staff for what they have done for her child, having started at Dr Walker’s only this year, and seeing how happy her child is; settled in really well and blossoming in developing self-esteem.

School dinners

Parents feel the school dinners are a very good quality (pupils love them) and wish to thank the cook for the amazing job being done daily!

WhatsApp groups

There has been a positive change in the way this is being used. It would be great if parents could use this appropriately to send reminders or share positive views and comments in celebrating successes. The school office cannot send reminders for everything, hence the dates in the Newsletter. Parents are encouraged to read the weekly newsletter and to diarise events.

Supply staff

Parents asked about staff absences and how it works with supply cover. It was explained that supply agencies are bought in to provide a qualified teacher to cover absences on a day-to-day basis – this might mean that there are different supply teachers. In some circumstances, the HLTA can also be asked to cover lessons in the event of no agency staff being available. For longer absences, due to valid reasons, we try our best to get the same supply teacher where possible – however, this is very difficult due to the location of the school and short notice. Stressors of staff absences were explained. The school has no control over staff absences as staff have an entitlement to be ill. It is unfortunate that some planned events had to be cancelled this year due to absences.

Homework

A question was raised about making homework sheets more inviting, attractive and colourful to

enthuse pupils in doing homework. Content of homework is fine. The costs of colour photocopying were explained and also that we are working with parents who prefer to have reduced screen time and thus not always making use of online homework platforms. The latter was subscribed to last year, and many pupils did not readily access these for several reasons. It was also noted that staff need to manage their time regarding setting homework tasks. A polite request is made that parents spend time reading with their children at home on a daily basis as well as practise times tables. Parents and school to work collaboratively in taking responsibility at school and at home to support learning. If parents would like to know more about how to support their child best at home, to contact the school to arrange a meeting with the class teacher. A discussion ensued about the delivery of the Little Wandle phonics scheme and for fidelity homework cannot look different to what is being taught through the scheme.

Reading

Some parents not sure how to support reading at home. If parents would like to know more about how to support their child best at home, to contact the school to arrange a meeting with the class teacher. We will look at coffee mornings or workshops in the new academic year to invite parents in for training. We will also look at volunteer readers to come in to school to help with reading in school if a DBS has been cleared.

Representation of parents

It was noted that the majority of parents attending were from KS1. It would be great to get a wider representation at these open meetings.

Class representatives vs. fundraising arrangers

Clarity is needed regarding the role of class representatives and those willing to help with fundraising events as they are not the same. It was explained that there are vacancies for class reps at the moment and that the main role is to be a mediator between the school and parents regarding the sharing of information. The class representative should be the go-between with the school to avoid individual parents contacting the school regarding the same things. Fundraising events will be placed on the school's strategic calendar, once agreed with the Headteacher. If anyone is interested in becoming a class representative next year, please contact the school office.

Career information for pupils



As part of our assemblies next year, we would like to gauge if there are any parents who would be willing to come in to school on a Wednesday, as part of our assembly, to talk to our pupils about their jobs, e.g. NHS workers, train drivers, dentists, florists, electricians, bakers, etc.

Please let the office know if you would be willing to come in, so that we can plan dates for the calendar next year.

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New reception intake – Teddy Bears' picnic

We had a lovely picnic with our new reception pupils for next year.

Mrs Snow and the Buddies entertained the children whilst parents had the opportunity to meet the Headteacher and Mrs Dean (class teacher) as part of an induction meeting. We are looking forward to September!



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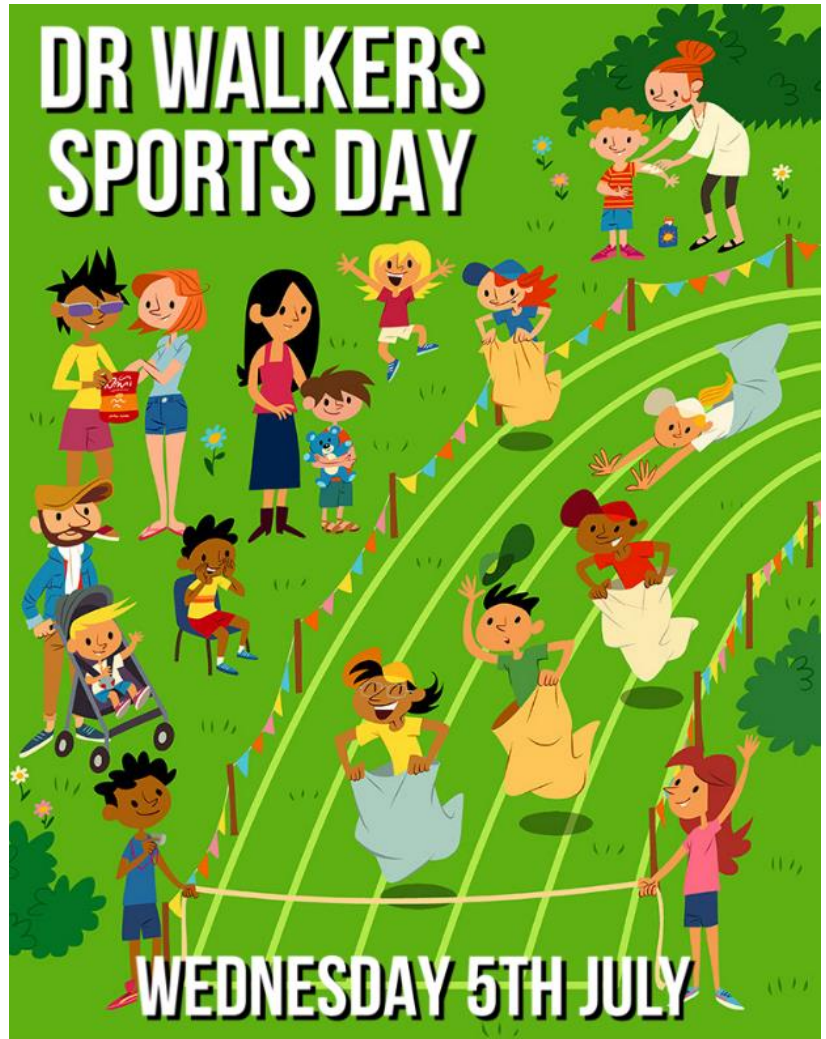
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Reminder: Upcoming Summer Sports' Day

Summer Sports' Day – Wednesday, 5th July

- We will be having a Summer Sports' day... **HOORAY!**
- SCS will be hosting this event and parents are invited to attend.
- We will also have some help from the West Essex Schools Sports Partnership (WESSP).
- We will definitely have more traditional events this year such as egg and spoon race, etc!
- EYFS and KS1 will be in the morning and KS2 in the afternoon.
- Class representatives to please liaise with school to help setting up the event.
- EYFS and KS1 parents should arrive from 9:45 for a 10am start.
- KS2 parents should arrive from 1pm, for a 1:15 start.
- Please do bring a chair, and sunshade if the weather dictates this.



Year 5 and 6 practising their races!



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iRock School of Music

Exciting news....

We have signed up for a taster assembly with iRock School of Music.

iRock is one of the UK's leading rock & pop music services for primary schools. They offer In-school lessons where children are taught how to play in their very own rock & pop band! Lessons boost confidence, social skills, teamwork and support children's overall wellbeing, all of which have a significant positive impact on their school life.



We will be looking at this in September to see if this is something we would like to pursue and offer our pupils, depending on parent interest.

Music

We have purchased a class set of glockenspiels to enhance the teaching of music in school.



School Uniform



School Trends are urging parents to place orders for new uniform by the end of July, please do also bear in mind that we have a large stock of preloved items, particularly smaller jumpers sized 24 and 26 inches and smaller kilts. We will have these for sale on Sports' Day.

Please can we also ask everyone to double check they have the correct PE items as a number of named hoodies have been lost recently. Please do check the lost property in reception regularly for any missing uniform.

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<p>Warm weather</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pupils are encouraged to drink lots of water to stay hydrated during the warm weather. Please fill water bottles with water – fizzy and fruit drinks are not allowed. • Pupils are allowed to come to school with sandals with a back strap – no flip flops or sliders allowed. • Pupils do not need to wear ties. • Pupils are encouraged to wear a hat when outside during break and lunch. • Sun screen is advised, but needs to be put on before coming to school. • During very warm days, we will minimize pupils’ running (or temporarily stop football) during this heat, as pupils don’t pace themselves and come in looking puce and wet with sweat. We would not want pupils to be uncomfortable once returned to the classroom after being outside. 
<p>Go To School Challenge</p>	 <p>Ready... Steady... Go To School is a fun challenge full of activities which will help your child to practice skills that they’ll need to help them feel confident and be ready to start school in September.</p> <p>The challenge is running in all Essex libraries from May to July and includes a range of activities within seven challenge areas. These are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Speaking and Listening - Being Active - Personal, Social and Emotional Skills - Early Reading and Writing - Maths and Numbers - Understanding the World - Express Yourself <p>As your child completes activities, they’ll collect stamps in a special booklet, and once they have all seven stamps, they’ll get a certificate!</p> <p>This challenge is a great way for your child to prepare physically and emotionally for starting school and will provide parents and carers with some top tips and useful information too!</p> <p>Sign up to the challenge now in any Essex library! Don't forget to tag us in photos of you completing your challenges on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter @essexlibraries!</p>
<p>Brentwood School Taster Day</p>	<p>Brentwood School is having a taster day on 14th October 2023, please click here for more details.</p>
<p>Community Notice Board</p>	<p>We will be adding new items to the community notice board on the website in the coming weeks regarding holiday opportunities, please do keep an eye on it for anything of interest.</p> <p>New this week:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •



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
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	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
25	26	27	28	29	30		30	31						27	28	29	30			
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.

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