

Newsletter Autumn Term – 12.01.2024

What happened this week in school?

We trust that you had a wonderful festive break.

- The weather is definitely changing and getting colder. Parents/Carers are kindly encouraged to make sure that pupils are appropriately dressed for the weather. Please refer to the school website for more information regarding adverse weather.
- A big congratulations to our pupils (Lucas and Dotty) who participated in the Essex Libraries Winter Reading Challenge. Also to Ethan for achieving two football medals.
- We had our last Reception Open Morning for prospective parents/pupils for September 2024 on Thursday. Please help to promote the school in the community, as we would like to increase our pupil numbers.
- Parents are reminded of the pamper session taking place next Thursday, 18th January at 14:20 in school. Please contact the school office to book your FREE space!
- A parent volunteer meeting will be arranged to discuss possible events/fundraising events this term. Please liaise with your class representative.
- A kind reminder that we are a NUT FREE school due to allergies. There is still one parent Governor vacancy. Please contact the school office for more information.

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



Roots and Fruits



This term's focus will be on the words of Jesus.

British Value of the term

Democracy



Attendance target: 96%

	Reception class 100%
	Years 1 and 2 92%
	Years 3 and 4 94%
	Years 5 and 6 96%
Whole school	94%

House Points

Ants		830
Badgers		755
Locusts		864
Lizards		719

Value Awards

	Reception	Noah	Perseverance: For now being able to zip up his coat by himself!
	Courage		
	Years 1 and 2	Nellie	For sharing her ideas in class
	Years 3 and 4	Kai	For challenging himself in maths.
	Years 5 and 6	Gabriella	For challenging herself in RE.
	Creativity		
	Years 1 and 2	Lucas	For retelling the story of 'Dogger' with expression and fun.
	Years 3 and 4	Phoebe	For great ideas in her poster work.
	Years 5 and 6	Sidney	For great answers in RE.
	Respect		
	Years 1 and 2	Evie-May	For always being kind and polite to everyone.
	Years 3 and 4	Amelia	For a great attitude to learning.
	Years 5 and 6	George	For treating everyone with a lot of respect.
	Compassion		
	Years 1 and 2	Florence	For kindness to others.
	Years 3 and 4	Jude	For willingness to help others in need.
	Years 5 and 6	Barney	For being a great friend to all.
	Perseverance		
	Years 1 and 2	Amelia	For moving on her learning.
	Years 3 and 4	Cassidy	For always trying her best.
	Years 5 and 6	Ralph	For a positive attitude and not giving up.
	Responsibility		
	Years 1 and 2	Ethan	For taking responsibility for his work and slowing down.
	Years 3 and 4	Alice Curtis	For wanting to help with jobs in class.
	Years 5 and 6	Maxwell	For always offering to complete jobs around the school.
	Hope		
	Years 1 and 2	Scarlett	For being a good friend.
	Years 3 and 4	Hugo	For always looking to improve his work.
	Years 5 and 6	John James	For always trying to do better in every part of the curriculum!

Classroom News



Reception Red Class

Welcome back and Happy New Year! Upon our return, Reception class has hit the road running and have settled straight back into our daily routine.

We have been learning about castles and features of them, in readiness to write about them next week. We have made crowns, designed our own castle and brainstormed facts that we have learnt about castles.

Our maths skills are really improving and we have been securing our knowledge of subitising (recognising quantities without counting) – whilst not forgetting zero!

We have developed our Home Role Play Area – which now includes playdough, so the children are making all sorts of creations; baking them and wrapping them in foil or storing them in tins!

There has also been an introduction of a Baby Clinic Hospital and Vet Hospital, which the children are really enjoying! This includes weighing, measuring, recording, note taking and tending to 'medical' needs.



Years 1 and 2 Orange-Yellow Class

Welcome back! I hope you had a restful time and enjoyed the winter break. The children came back in high spirits with loads of enthusiasm and curiosity for the new things lying ahead.

We have embarked on a new journey with a new book. We are reading *Dogger* by Shirley Hughes. The children have been acting out the story, discussing the progression of the feelings and tried their best with incorporating some of the new words they learned into written sentences. I wonder if any of my year 1 and 2 has shared their new vocabulary with you?

In maths we are currently finishing our shape unit and very soon we will be revisiting place value with lots of counting and calculations.

The children are looking forward to finding out more about the toys of the past. This half term, we are looking at how the toys have changed, what games our grandparents used to play and exploring the way toys came to be.



Years 3 and 4 Green-Blue Class

We are off to a great term!

In science we have just started a very interesting unit on Rocks and Soils. The whole class enjoyed the introduction. We have challenged the children to bring in a rock that they have found. We will add it to our collection and get the magnifiers out to have a really good look. We have found out that there are three major kinds of rocks.



In maths we are really excited to be learning how to multiply and divide by using associated math facts. $3 \times 5 = 15$ $5 \times 3 = 15$ $15 \div 5 = 3$ $15 \div 3 = 5$
We have also been exploring ways to multiply and divide by 10. It has been really interesting and challenging!

Multiplying is Fun!



Years 5 and 6 Indigo-Violet Class

Welcome back to a cold and wet Spring term. I hope you had a great Christmas and New Year.

In Maths this term, we are finishing our fraction topic and then we will be starting our Spring topics: multiplication and division, fractions, decimals and percentages, perimeter and area as well as statistics.

In English, we started looking at writing a quest story. Later this term, we will be debating and look at some 'classic fiction'.

In History we are looking at: What did the Greeks ever do for us.

For RE, we are looking at a Philosophy lens: Why should we be good?

During our Science topic, we will be look at Earth and Space.

I would like to say thank you to every child in Indigo/Violet for their positive attitudes and big smiles that they enter the class with every day. You are appreciated!

Curriculum and Homework

Reception

Daily reading	Your child will have two books – their Little Wandle reading book – which is specifically tailored to their reading capability and a library book – this may be an easier or more challenging text. Please read the Little Wandle book with your child as often as possible and record comments in their Reading Record and share their library book to develop their love of Reading for Pleasure
Maths calculations	
Spellings	Encourage your child to segment the words that they say. This means to identify each of the individual phonemes in a word, working all the way through from left to right. This is an important first stage of writing (spelling) a word but needs to be practised orally first. Counting the phonemes is often helpful in reinforcing this process. For example: If you child says the word duck, see if they can identify the individual phonemes needed to spell this word: d-u-ck.
Topic project for the term	<p><u>Spring 1 - Castles, Knights and Dragons – Traditional Tales</u></p> <p>We will be exploring castles and looking at past kings and queens. Compare pictures of King Charles III with those of historical Kings. What is similar/ different between the present king and kings in the past? We will find out more about an historical figure who lived in a castle, the people who worked in castles through books and online learning.</p> <p><u>Spring 2 - Spring in Our Step</u></p> <p>We will look for signs of Spring and compare this to Autumn and Winter. We will explore mixing colours to paint our own butterflies and will talk about the colours that they mix and what they expect to happen. We will explore the Artist <u>Angela Lewin</u> and water colour painting.</p>
Useful information	<p>Little Wandle – Phonics: https://www.littlewandlelettersandsounds.org.uk/resources/for-parents/</p> <p>Letterjoin – Handwriting: https://www.letterjoin.co.uk/log-in.html</p> <p>White Rose Maths Parent Guide: https://whiteroseeducation.com/parent-pupil-resources/maths</p>

Years 1 and 2

Daily reading	Each child will have a Little Wandle book. Please devote 10-15 min a day for reading with your child and record each session in their reading diary.	
Maths calculations	Calculations related to number bonds within 10 and 20: $2 + _ = 10$; $_ + 3 = 10$; $10 + _ = 10$ $11 + _ = 120$; $_ + 6 = 20$; $7 + _ = 20$	
Spellings	Year 1	fly – grow – huge - phone
	Year 2	break – great - steak

Topic project for the term	<p>This term we are exploring the wonderful world of toys. We have already spoken about our favourite toys and interviewed our dear Mrs Spaton who told us about her favourite childhood toys and games.</p> <p>If you feel creative and would like to support our learning please create a cut out doll and a set of clothes for it. Please check the picture for inspiration:</p> 
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Useful Information	<p>Bbc bitesize - a great resource for writing and grammar.</p>
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Years 3 and 4

Daily reading	<p>We are asking that children in Year 3 and 4 read each night for at least 15 minutes. The Reading Diary should be signed or initialled each time.</p>
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Maths calculations	<p>We are working on times tables and associated division facts. $3 \times 5 = 15$ so $15 \div 5 = 3$ and $15 \div 3 = 5$</p>
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Spellings	Year 3	address, appear, arrive, breath and breathe. Some children will have special lists.
	Year 4	experience, mention, position and experiment.

Topic project for the term	<p>We have started a science topic about Materials: Rocks and Soils. The children are collecting rocks which they can examine and record the characteristics. They are learning that there are three main kinds of rocks. We are also starting a look at Romans in Britain. We will be finding out what it means to be an 'invader'.</p>
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Useful information	<p>The website for BBC Bitesize is a good resource for these topics.</p>
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Years 5 and 6

Daily reading	<p>Children are expected to read at least 20 minutes, 6 days a week. The children should then do a write up of what they have read into their reading diaries. These are checked during the week.</p> <p>Some children will have two books – their Little Wandle reading book – which is specifically tailored to their reading capability and a library book – this may be an easier or more challenging text.</p>
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Maths calculations	Spring term	Number Multiplication and division B VIEW	Number Fractions B VIEW	Number Decimals and percentages VIEW	Measurement Perimeter and area VIEW	Statistics VIEW
	Spring term	Number Ratio VIEW	Number Algebra VIEW	Number Decimals VIEW	Number Fractions, decimals and percentages VIEW	Measurement Area, perimeter and volume VIEW

Spellings	Year 5	Spellings are explicitly taught and introduced through handwriting and interwoven in subjects. These will be shared with your child to further consolidate at home
	Year 6	Spellings are explicitly taught and introduced through handwriting and interwoven in subjects. These will be shared with your child to further consolidate at home

Topic project for the term	<p>History: What did the Greeks ever do for us? Choose 1 of the following to complete on our History topic. This should be returned to school w/c 12 January 2024. These are only ideas. If you can think of something else you would like to do, please do so.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make a collage using holiday brochures or the internet showing ancient buildings and interesting places to visit in Greece. • Find out about the Greek alphabet and present your findings in an interesting way. • Make a holiday brochure to persuade people to visit Greece. • Create your own Greek God or Goddess. • With the help of an adult, cook some Greek food. Take some pictures, write a review and come and share your review with the class. • Make a Spartan helmet or design a shield.
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Useful information	<p>Use websites: https://uk.ixl.com/promo?partner=google&campaign=1187&adGroup=Key+Stage+2&gclid=CPPa8teS_8kCFQbnwgodgOIB6A http://www.bbc.co.uk/education http://www.educationquizzes.com/ks2/maths/ http://resources.woodlands-junior.kent.sch.uk/revision/ http://sats.highamstjohns.com/ http://www.mad4maths.com/</p>
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Information

Essex Libraries Winter Reading Challenge



Well done to Dotty and Lucas for completing the Winter Reading Challenge! They got to choose a free book each.



Congratulations!



Ethan has brought in two medals to show in assembly and Dr Lawson asked me to drop him an email about what they were for.

One for October half term football camp - most skilful player

And the other for Christmas football camp - player of the match

Your Speak out. Stay safe. certificate

Awarded to:

Dr Walker's Church of England School

A massive thank you and a big well done to all pupils for being such great listeners and taking part in Speak out. Stay safe. with Buddy.



Peter Wanless
Chief Executive

Date: 16th December 2023



Thank you for helping to keep more children safe!

NSPCC

EVERY CHILDHOOD IS WORTH FIGHTING FOR

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Attendance – Autumn Term

Where does your child sit on the attendance mountain?



Congratulations to our 100% attendance achievers for the Autumn term.

Pupils received their badges in assembly today.

- Jake (Reception)
- Noah (Reception)
- Lucas (Reception)
- Harry (Reception)
- Madison (Year 2)
- Hugo (Year 3)
- Daisy (Year 3)
- Barney (Year 5)
- Max (Year 5)
- Freya (Year 6)

The following pupils met our school's 96% attendance target:

- Ellen (Reception)
- Talula (Reception)
- Alice B (Year 2)
- Florence (Year 2)
- Scarlett (Year 2)
- Alice C (Year 3)
- Dotty (Year 3)
- Jude (Year 3)
- Amber (Year 3)
- Gabbi (Year 5)
- John James (Year 5)
- Teddie T (Year 5)
- George (Year 5)
- Sienna (Year 5)

Dinner Money

Please ensure that dinner money is paid in full for the current week and there is sufficient credit on your account.



PUPIL VOICE: Library Prefects

The librarians have been extremely busy this week!

They have been speaking to pupils and staff on their return to school to find out which books they read over the Christmas period – and to see if they are involved in the Winter Reading Challenge (ends Saturday 3rd February 2024).



- Phoebe (Year 4) read: Dork Diaries. She said, 'It was fun to read,' and she really liked the part 'where there were mean girls'.
- Eva (Year 3) read: The Puppy Plan. She said, 'It is all about someone's new puppy.'
- Ralph (Year 5) read: I survived the Shark Attacks of 1916. He said, 'The pictures and the story was great!'
- Ethan (Year 2) read: Messi. He said, 'I like his skills.'
- Kai (Year 3) read: Captain Underpants. He said, 'It's funny!'
- Mrs Vorster read: Skellig. She said, 'It was entertaining with a few plot twists.'

The Librarians have also been busy helping Mrs Dean to organise the library so that they can begin the lunchtime Librarian duties!

After School Clubs



Our after school clubs will start on Monday 22 January 2024

- Monday will be Arts and Crafts with Miss Rider 3.20pm to 4.15pm
- Tuesday will be SCS After school Club with Mr O Sullivan 3.20 to 4.15pm
- Wednesday will be SCS After school clubs with Mr O Sullivan 3.20 to 4.15pm
- Wednesday will be Dance Class with Christina Marks School of Dance 3.20 to 4.15pm
- Wednesday will be Board Games after school club with Mrs Spanton 3.20 to 4.15pm

To book your place on the Arts and Crafts club or the Board Games Club please email the school office, the club places are allocated on first come first served. Payment must be received prior to attendance at the club.

Reception Class

Dear Parents.

Reception children (and the environment) need your help!

We are looking for recycled items to increase our selection of 'loose parts' for our learning areas.

Could I kindly ask you to save up and send in the following items:

- bottle tops (no sharp metal ones)
- wine corks
- kitchen roll tubes
- small boxes (oxo cubes, tissues)
- lids (Pringles, jam jars etc)
- plastic tubs (yoghurt)
- egg boxes
- tinfoil
- curtain rings
- big nuts and bolts
- picture frames (without glass)

Thank you in advance for your continued support!

Mrs Dean

Thank You



Dr Lawson would like to thank our Parent Helpers who helped with the school Disco, decorations, our wonderful post box and arranging all the wonderful Raffle prizes.

It was truly wonderful and the children enjoyed all the festivities!

Information



16.01.24	Dance Club & SCS After School Club starts
17.01.24	SCS After School Club
19.01.24	Spring School Census Day
19.01.24	Green-Blue Assembly
23.01.24	ARC Theatre Years 5&6
26.01.24	Whole School Rugby Workshop
26.01.24	Orange – Yellow Assembly
02.02.24	Reception Assembly
02.02.24	Pupil Voice Afternoon
05.02.24	Children's Mental Health Week Begins
06.02.24	Safer internet day
06.02.24	Morning Sports Hall Athletics Years 5&6 : Ongar Academy
06.02.24	Afternoon Sports Hall Athletics Years 3&4 : Ongar Academy
09.02.24	Mini Reports Home
09.02.24	Indigo – Violet Assembly
14.02.24	Ash Wednesday – Lent Begins
14.02.24	Parent Consultations
16.02.24	Bake Off Competition (TBC)
16.02.24	Half Term Begins
26.02.24	Back to School
05.03.24	Epping & Ongar District Cross Country : Ongar Primary
08.03.24	Reception & Year 5 Road Safety 12.45 to 3pm