



Message from the Head

Dear Parents/ Carers,

It is hard to believe that next week we will be entering December. In school, preparations have already begun with Wrens and Robins learning their lines and the songs for the nativity performances. As ever, our school calendar is very busy and children have been working very hard across all areas of the curriculum. It has been fantastic to see so much outdoor learning taking place, (despite the rain), especially in Early Years and Key Stage 1 and I have been impressed to see how much progress there has already been in writing and spelling since returning to school in September. Children in Owls class were very motivated to write letters, asking for permission to watch England's first game in the Fifa World Cup. They also shared a range of learning during their assembly this week for parents, which included history, writing, science, maths and some Spanish conversational skills. Well done Owls for your organisation and public speaking (and rapping about subordinating conjunctions).

Next week Kingfisher class visit Colchester Museum to bring context to their much loved history topic this term about the Romans. On Thursday 1st December we are also excited to welcome a travelling pantomime performance into school for the children to watch Beauty and the Beast. We are very grateful to the PTFA for funding this opportunity for all of the children.

For parents of children currently in Year 4 and 5, you are invited to a short talk after school on Wednesday 30th November to discuss the residential.

Best wishes, Ms Charlotte Brown

Governors

The governors met on 15 November. At this meeting we looked at the school's financial position. The budget will be tight this year as all staff have been awarded a nationally agreed pay rise for which the school gets no extra funding. We also looked at the priorities on our School Development Plan, reviewed the attainment and progress of each year group, talked about catering and the quality and variety of food we provide for our children and received a report on health and safety. We hope to be able to put in a bid in the future for funding to improve the fencing and security of the school site. You can contact the governors through the school office if you would like to speak to us about any queries or concerns you may have.

Anne-Marie Renshaw

Christmas Lunch

IMPORTANT DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

Mrs Owens will be serving Christmas lunch on Wednesday 14th December. You can find a copy of the [menu here](#). The cost of the lunch is £2.80.

If you would like your child/ children to have a Christmas lunch, please let Ms Gooday know.

Online safety

Call of Duty

It is important to remember that Call of Duty has a PEGI rating of age 18. This also needs to be considered when older siblings are playing the game as we have had children being exposed to inappropriate content this way. Depictions of "gross violence, apparently motiveless killing, or violence towards defenceless characters" is the warning from PEGI. Most COD players are also likely to spend the majority of their time on an online multiplayer mode. This means they will be playing with or competing against strangers. Communication through the game's voice chat and direct messaging often turns heated and aggressive, which may upset younger players. It is also based around levelling up and is designed to see an improvement quickly, this means it can also be highly addictive.

Here is a [parent guide](#) with further information and advice to support your child.

Road Safety Awareness Week

Written by Harriet and Caroline in Robins

We were practising road safety with Wrens class. In road safety, we learnt that you should never wear black in the dark unless you're wearing a high vis jacket. When we were all in groups, we were showing the Wrens and Year Ones how to cross the road.

Children In Need

With your support we have raised an incredible £116 for BBC Children In Need. The children were very excited being in school wearing their pyjamas! Robins were first into assembly on Friday and couldn't hide their excitement and cosiness.



Key dates

- Kingfishers trip to Colchester Castle- 30th November
- Panto performance in school- 1st December
- Nativity dress rehearsal- 6th December
- Nativity afternoon performance- 7th December
- Nativity evening performance- 8th December
- Christmas Jumper Day- 8th December
- Christmas Fayre- 9th December

