



Attendance Update

Congratulations to the following children who were celebrated in assembly last term for 100% attendance.

Wrens	Robins	Kingfishers	Owls
Charlie Noah	Dexter Felix Isla Lenny Olivia	Olivia Jamie Ella Jess	Ethan

Postcards home were shared for all children whose attendance was over 95%. With a lot of illness, this was a great achievement. This term, we are working towards our attendance target of **96.5%**.

KS2 Bikeability

In February, some children in Owls class will be taking part in Bikeability.

This is an excellent opportunity where they safely learn and practice riding their bicycles with the help of experts from Essex County Council.

If your child cannot yet ride a bike, it may be a good time to start learning so they are ready for the 2 day course in school.

Kingswood Residential

We can officially confirm that the residential trip for Owls class next year (current Year 4 and 5) will be taking place. Thank you for the deposits paid and support with this excellent experience. If you need support with a payment plan, please contact Ms Gooday.

Reception School Place

A reminder that if you have a child who will be starting Reception in September 2023, the deadline to apply for a place is 15th January. Apply through the [Essex website](#).

Message from the Head

Dear Parents/ Carers,

A very Happy New Year and welcome back to the Spring term. Thank you for all of your kind wishes and gifts to all staff over the Christmas period. We hope you enjoyed being able to spend time with your families and managed to avoid catching too many coughs and colds.

There are many things we are looking forward to this term, including the upcoming Young Voices trip for our school choir who will perform along with other schools at the O2 Arena. The children are very excited and have been practicing and rehearsing with the unwavering support of Mrs Lewis.

This term Kingfishers will be swimming at New Hall every Friday morning. Please ensure that your child has their swimming kit in school for this. We are pleased to welcome back Mr Johnson and Mrs Cooper who support with PE provision, and Miss Tittle for Spanish. Our strong links with New Hall continue and we are hoping to arrange a mixed netball tournament for Kingfishers class to take place after their swimming session later in the term.

As the weather has become more mild, we are looking forward to making the most of our beautiful school grounds through outdoor learning opportunities and Mrs Southgate will be running a Wild Learning/ Gardening club at lunch time for KS2 pupils to join this term. We are thrilled to be supporting Colchester Zoo through designing pebbles which will be displayed in their ... area. This is an idea the School Council have also had about going into our sensory garden which we are excited to start developing.

Finally, there are a range of new photos added onto the school's website. These include some wonderful snowy Messing School scenes, trips, sports and certificate winners. They can be found in 'About Us' / [Photo Gallery](#). The website also has the latest [event calendar](#) with dates set out for the term if you scroll down the page a little.

Best wishes, Ms Charlotte Brown

Messing Maths Week

As a school, we have been reviewing our maths scheme of teaching. Always looking for new approaches and strategies, we are looking to really engage and inspire children to become master mathematicians. As part of this, please note the date in your diary for Messing Maths Week, 27/02/2023.

There will be a range of parent workshops, an opportunity to join in with some maths lessons, plenty of time to ask questions and view some of the strategies and styles we teach, as well as fun lessons and practical maths problems for all of the family to enjoy.

Mrs Eagland, class teacher in Owls and Maths Coordinator, will be in touch closer to the time with more information. We hope you will be able to join some of the sessions with us.

PTFA

A big thank you to everyone for the support with various Christmas fundraisers organised by the PTFA including 'hot chocolate Friday', the gift and wrapping room and of course, the Christmas Fayre. With a small army of volunteers and your generosity, the school raised £766.34 last term. At a time where many are facing financial struggles, this is an excellent achievement. All of the money raised goes directly towards the school in different ways. The PTFA have kindly committed to paying for a visiting pantomime next year and will also be buying new reading books. The PTFA will also be paying £200 towards the cost of the coach to the O2 Arena for the school choir, meaning families pay £15 for the coach rather than £20- a great saving that benefits so many.

Our continued thanks goes out to all who help with PTFA events, but particularly to our Chair (Sarah Letchford), Vice Chair (Katherine Wren), Secretary (Zoe Boucher) and Treasurer (Ms Gooday) who have put in a lot of hard work behind the scenes with organising.



Key dates

- Winter Reading Challenge due- 13th January
- Young Voices at the O2- 19th January
- Chinese New Year- 22nd January
- SATs Info Talk for Year 2 Parents- 24th January
- SATs Info Talk for Year 6 Parents- 27th January