



### Young Voices at the O2

Written by Erin in Owls

Last week the KS2 choir travelled on a coach to the amazing O2. Despite the long 4 hour wait on the coach, everyone got there bursting with energy and ready to perform. We sang 11 songs and everyone loved it, including the teachers!

My highlight was when Urban Strides and The Beatbox Collective performed, but I just loved the whole experience so it is hard to choose.



There will be an opportunity for parents or grandparents who were unable to attend the performance at the O2, to join us in school. We are holding a community choir event on **Friday 10th February at 10am**. We have invited residents from Totham Lodge Care Home to enjoy the performance and some tea. We have limited space available, so ask that only those unable to attend join us for this.

### Message from the Head

Dear Parents/ Carers,

As we rapidly whizz through this half term, we have welcomed the slightly milder weather this week and opportunities for the children to be outside. Wrens have had their first (frosty) Forest School session at the Community Orchard and Mrs Southgate has been planting seeds with the children in gardening club. All children have enjoyed painting a rock as part of the [Colchester Zoo Rocks 60](#) project, which will be placed in a commemorative garden. We also ran a competition for students to design a larger rock, representing both our school and the zoo. We had so many excellent entries, and Zach in Owls and Jess in Kingfishers were chosen to combine their designs.

It was a very proud evening for me and all of the staff as the school took part in Young Voices. Despite the awful traffic, the children were in high spirits and sang their hearts out. Staff from many other schools commented to me on the excellent behaviour, attitude and friendliness of our pupils towards others.

You will have seen that there have been some issues on car parking around the school brought to us by residents in the village. Please can I remind you not to park close to the junction on New Road and there should be no parking outside of the school car park at any time. We want to ensure that everybody using the roads remains safe.

You should have already received information regarding the NEU teacher strike on 1st February via Classlist or email. As a school we support those teachers on strike, however we will not be closing classes and aim to remain open to all pupils.

Very best wishes,  
Ms Charlotte Brown (Headteacher)

### Word of the Week

Mrs Eagland and Miss Snodgrass are launching 'Word of the Week' across the school. This is part of our work on developing and broadening children's vocabulary. We have a wonderful word of the week mascot who has joined the school, yet to be named. →

The staff word of the week is... **quiddle** meaning to spend time on trivial tasks as a way of avoiding the meaningful ones.



### NSPCC

The NSPCC have launched a campaign to promote awareness of safeguarding children, which includes a 10 minute training that you can sign up to should anyone want to learn more about spotting and reporting abuse:

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/about-us/newsopinion/2023/listen-up-peak-up-campaignprovides-training-to-spot-and-report-abuse/>

### Children's Mental Health Awareness Week

Monday 6th - Friday 12th February marks Children's Mental Health Awareness Week with Place2Be. The theme for this year is 'Let's Connect'. There are a wealth of [resources available](#) for families online.

In school, we will be welcoming the self-published author, [Amelia Allen](#), who has written a children's book, 'Busy Bee'. She will be leading an assembly in the week and spending time in class with Robins and Kingfishers.

### Messing Maths Week & World Book Day

Monday 27th February marks the beginning of Messing Maths Week. On Thursday 2nd March (during that week) we will also be celebrating World Book Day- a busy and exciting week!

As part of Messing Maths Week there will be dates and times for parent events which will we share with you as soon as we have this finalised. You can expect a parent maths workshop led by Mrs Eagland, opportunities to join your child's maths lesson and some family problem solving and reasoning homework.

Miss Snodgrass will be releasing World Book Day plans and these will include dressing up, fun activities in classes and 'mystery readers'. The PTFA will be hosting a book swap after school on Thursday as well as an opportunity to donate and select second hand costumes in the run up- more information to follow.

### Key dates

- Owls Class Bikeability- 6/7th February
- Community Choir- 10th February
- Children's Mental Health Awareness week- 12th February
- Half Term- 13th-17th February
- Non-pupil Day- 20th February

