



Messing Maintains 5 Stars



Last week we received a visit from the local authority Food Safety Officer. We are proud to hold onto our 5 Star Food Hygiene Rating, thanks to Mrs Owens and all of her incredibly hard work in the kitchen. Mrs Owens received a surprise certificate in assembly to thank her for her hard work, diligence and organisation in the kitchen.



Message from the Head

Dear Parents/ Carers,

It feels as though Spring may be gracing us with its presence and the children (and staff) have been enjoying the sunshine this week. We also had a spring in our step as we performed to members of the parent and grandparent community as well as residents from Totham Lodge. Key Stage 2 shared a selection of songs from their Young Voices concert, while Key Stage 1 and Reception sang a song they have been learning in their music lessons.

Hopefully you will have already received, and had an opportunity to look at the PTFA newsletter. There are a number of events coming up, including during World Book Day. A big thank you as always for the continued effort of the team. Also on World Book Day, Mrs Owens is looking forward to creating some character themed treats with a [themed menu](#). Please let Ms Gooday know if your child would like a school lunch on that day.

Over the half term, we will be working on giving our library, The Lodge, a 'glow up' with some comfy seating and reorganisation. We have opened the library up to children in KS2 during lunch break time as a space to read, chat and write/draw and this is well used by many children. There will also be some changes to our very cosy staffroom, as we make space for a work station for the staff on PPA.

We hope you all have a wonderful break over the half term. Thank you for your support this half term.

Very best wishes,
Ms Charlotte Brown (Headteacher)

Bikeability

We have been thrilled to team up with Essex Road Safety team, supporting some children from Owls to safely cycle on the roads. They put all of their theory into practice and cycled into Tiptree.



Write up by Ettie and Thomas

We started off practising how to ride at a steady speed in the carpark and it was fun. Then we practised giving cars the right of way and always looking to see if it was safe to go. We used cones to mark the minor and major roads.

After that, we went into Messing village and practised making U turns on a major road with cars driving past. We created a 'wave army' where we counted the number of waves over the two days. In total we got 116 (this included dogs wagging their tails).

Cycling into Tiptree on Tuesday was fun, but it was also a little nerve wracking. This was to practise trickier skills including our primary and secondary positions.

School Council Updates

Today I met with the School Council. We discussed a range of topics including prize categories for World Book Day Costumes, ideas to engage all of the children in Messing Maths Week, school lunch feedback and menu ideas. There were some excellent notes taken by Jenson and all members of the group were keen to share their ideas.

Safer Internet Day

'Want to talk about it? Making space for conversations about life online'.

Safer Internet Day 2023 will take place on the 7th of February 2023, with celebrations and learning based around the above theme. Regular, open conversations are essential and are the best way to keep your child safe online.



Scan the QR code for an internet safety quiz, which is a great tool for starting conversations with your child.

Key dates

- Non-pupil Day- 20th February
- PTFA costume collection- 24th February
- Messing Maths Week- 27th February
- World Book Day- 2nd March
- Height and Weight check for Reception- 6th March





Lunchtime Superstars

Owls

Frankie (showing kindness to others, including the younger children in games)

Kingfishers

Neve (always following the playground rules)

Robins

Alfie (showing great manners in the lunch hall)

Wrens

Toby (always having fantastic manners in the lunch hall and following playground rules)

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### Golden Book Awards

**Owls**

Jacob and Olivia

**Kingfishers**

Margot and Pippa

**Robins**

Felix and Lenny

**Wrens**

Harriet and Florence

### Words of the week

Remember to ask your child if they know them.

**Meldrop** ... a drop of mucus in, or coming out of the nose

**Bumbershoot** ... umbrella

### Smiley Club & After School First Aid

We have been working hard behind the scenes sharing ideas for Smiley Club. As a school, we are very passionate about offering this provision, however in order to make it sustainable it's important for us to think creatively and increase the numbers attending.

Smiley Club is ideal for families requiring additional childcare, but it is also a great opportunity for children to make friendships and connections with different children across year groups. They also get the opportunity to try their hand at a range of activities including cooking, crafts and gardening.

Next half term Mrs Hart will be offering first aid sessions which have created a real buzz with the children.

### Not So Juicy News

An excellent idea that came from some children in Year 6, Not So Juicy News has been written every two weeks by the children. They have organised themselves and have researchers and reporters, seeking the very latest news from the playground. We thought it would be an excellent idea to add this into the school newsletter.

### Jack Frost has come to Essex

**Fields, ponds and grass frozen after cold spell comes to Essex  
KS2 go to O2**

Joke of the week

What do you call a Frenchman wearing flip flops?

Young Voices took place yesterday to sing and dance with other students from other schools. When an anonymous student was asked to rate the day, they gave it 10/10. Thank you Young Voices!

**Sports Page**

*Handball* When Not Juicy News interviewed Ethan what he thought about handball, he said that he liked it a lot and said the score was 3-2 to his team.

Joke answer-Flippe Flope

### Children's Mental Health Awareness Week and Random Acts of Kindness

'Making Connections' has been the theme of Children's Mental Health Awareness and we have been exploring this in school through assembly and in class. The idea that together, we can feel and achieve so much more as well as act as a support network to others. We have been thinking about how we make connections, who with, and how this has a positive impact on all of our mental health.

Taking this forwards, the children have been challenged to carry out random acts of kindness, celebrating and creating connections to those around them. This could be as small as waving and saying good morning to somebody, holding open a door, litter picking, drawing a picture or writing a positive note.

As adults, this is something that we can actively engage in too. My thanks go to Ms Gooday who bought me a beautiful bunch of daffodils for my office this week.

On Wednesday 8th February we were fortunate enough to have a visit from the author, Amelia Allen and illustrator, Aubany Swinney who together, created the story Busy Bee. With thanks to New Hall School, we were able to gift each family a copy of the story which follows Busy on her journey of self-discovery. Following an assembly, children in Kingfishers and Robins also had a workshop session with Amelia and Aubany.

