



## Message from the Head

Dear Parents/ Carers,

As always, there has been a lot of wonderful learning happening in school this half term. Last Thursday it was National Poetry Day, and Owl Class were lucky enough to have mystery poet, Ms Gooday, read her favourite poem, 'Oh I Wish I'd Looked After Me Teeth', by Pam Ayres. Some children have also been inspired to write their own poems, earning themselves a stamp in their Agents of Change passports. The Agents of Change page on the school website is now live and can be accessed [here](#). Teachers have been busy updating the class pages on the website to share snippets of school life with you. You can access them by clicking on the 'Classes' section. As well as this, there are some updated photos including fabulous action shots from Sports Day.

My apologies for the confusion on timings for share and learn this week. We decided it would be best to give parents more time to spend in classes, especially for families who have more than one child in the school. We are continually adding events to the school calendar, which is updated on the website and I will try to ensure these have timings for events.

The latest lunch menus have been shared via Classlist and can be found [here](#). These will start after half term, on week 1. For the next term we have decided to switch back to rolls as the alternative option, it will then be jacket potatoes and back around to pasta pots in the summer. We are trying to keep the menu as balanced and varied as possible.

A reminder for parents of children in Year 6, that Secondary School Applications for September 2024 close on 31st October 2023. Applications can be made via the website- [www.essex.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.essex.gov.uk/admissions).

Very best wishes,  
Ms Charlotte Brown (Headteacher)

## Jewellery

A reminder that children should not be wearing jewellery in school. For children who have their ears pierced, they may wear stud earrings only and not hoops. This is for health and safety reasons. Among the older children there is an increasing amount of jewellery creeping in, including rings and bracelets.

## Outdoor Shoes

We are incredibly lucky to have such a wonderful space outside for children to use and play in and we try to get outside as much as possible. However, as the weather changes, this becomes more challenging. We are introducing 'outdoor shoes' for children who wish to bring in an additional pair of old trainers/ boots that can stay at school. These should be separate from their PE trainers that can be changed into for lunch time.

## Autumn Term Diary Dates

- Mon 16th & Weds 18th Oct- Parent teacher consultations
- Thurs 19th Oct- Harvest Festival, All Saints Church 9:45am
- Fri 20th Oct- Last day of term
- Mon 30th Oct- Non-pupil day
- Thurs 2nd Nov- Outdoor classroom day
- Fri 10th Nov- Remembrance event TBC
- Mon 13th Nov- Anti-Bullying week
- Weds 15th Nov- Robins to Colchester Castle
- Fri 17th Nov- Children in Need (Info to come)
- Mon 20th Nov- Kingfisher class assembly 2:30pm

## World Mental Health Day

On Tuesday 10th October it was World Mental Health Day and we celebrated this, joining in with Young Minds #HelloYellow movement. Thank you for helping us to raise **£86.40**. This goes towards supporting mental health mentors in schools.

Mrs Lewis, along with her Wellbeing Bear, hosted a special assembly and launched a new section on the school website for the children. This is all about [Wellbeing](#) and ways that children can access support.

We have also created an area on the website for parents [Mental Health and Wellbeing](#). This is to explain how the school is able to support children and families, as well as signpost to external charities to access more specialised support. Please do take the time to look and share your feedback with us. If there is anything additional that you think would be useful, please let us know as it is our aim to develop this over time. .

## Words of the week

**Lodestar**- noun | loh-d-stahr

Lodestar is a formal word that refers to something or someone that serves as an inspiration, model or guide.

**Factotum**- noun | fak-toh-tum

A factotum is a person who has many diverse activities or responsibilities, and especially one whose work involves a wide variety of tasks.





My Kingswood Adventure

The day had finally arrived... 25<sup>th</sup> September Kingswood!!! I had been waiting for a long time for this day to come. We got picked by a coach which took all of us to Kingswood. We arrived there there about 1:30pm and got taken to the backfield for lunch. After lunch, we got sorted out into our dorms groups which I was happy with. Then we saw some instructors who were the people who would be our leaders for the week; James, Jack and Iona.

We then arrived at our first activity, which was aro ball for group ten and abseiling for group nine, which I was in. Abseiling was great fun, but a bit scary! There were tonnes of activities to get involved in like low ropes, zip wire, bushcraft, leap of faith and many more.

We got taken to our rooms, got unpacked and ready for dinner. Dinner for today was pizza or wedges and spicy chicken. It was delicious! After that, we were all full and went back to our dorms. We got unpacked a bit more and chilled getting ready for our night activity which was a camp fire which came with a hot chocolate! When we got back to our dorms, I showered, brushed my teeth and went to sleep... getting ready for the next load of activities.

My personal favourite part of this holiday experience was 'leap of faith' which was very exciting, and most people reached the bar and everyone tried their best which was so good. Kingswood was the best adventure I've been on at school, which was sadly my first and last. :)

Overall, I had the best week ever on a school adventure. All the very nice, helpful instructors, Bed-street Teachers and 'people' helped me figure stuff out and help me do my best at the activities. Bed sheets were a pain but all of this adventure was wonderful. I would recommend this for all children and other schools to get involved in.

KINGSWOOD  
Adventure  
ÜÜÜ

Taddy Bishop



**Owl Class Residential Trip to Kingswood**

The day I had been waiting for had finally arrived... Monday 25th September, Kingswood. I got out of bed, nervous and excited about the day ahead of me. When I got to school, I picked up my bag and said goodbye to my mum. The realisation had hit me that I was on my way that I had never been before, two hours away from home.

Once I got there, I ate my lunch, unpacked and got dressed for my first activity. I glared up into the sky at the eye catching tower that I was about to abseil from. It was nerve wracking, climbing up the massive tower, getting a safety ... and getting clipped in. As I propelled down, it felt like a bird in the sky. After I'd done that, we made our way back to the dorms.

When we got back to the dorms, I got into the shower. When I got out of the shower and I dried my hair, I moisturised, had a play with my loom bands and then went to sleep.

My favourite activity was going to the beach. I woke up, got ready, did some other activities and then walked there. Once we got to the beach we went to the shop and I bought myself a bucket. Immediately, when we were told to go, I ran to the nearest rockpool and caught two glorious baby crabs. Then we went to another rockpool where I caught a big crab. After that, we went to a massive rockpool, not much luck in that one as in that rockpool I caught only a tiny, baby crab.

Kingswood was great but the downside was the pizza and the zipline. When home time came it was really sad, but overall, the trip was amazing.

Written by Rosie Bezant