

Message from the Head

Dear Parents/ Carers,

This letter brings the final full week of the term to an end. I must say a huge thank you to the PTFA for their amazing efforts turning Messing Village Hall into a beautiful festive space for the children to visit last week. Sadly, the actors from the pantomime company were unwell and could not perform, so instead the children enjoyed a Christmas film together with popcorn. Thank you to the parent team who have also worked incredibly hard on the Christmas Fair. So much time and effort goes into creating events for the children and our community, and also raises additional money for the school. I am very grateful to all involved!

I hope that, for those of you who were able to join us for the Christingle Service, you felt uplifted by the children's singing. It is fantastic to see how the children's confidence has developed between the Harvest and Christingle services. As a school, the bringing together of our community is vital and such a powerful experience to be a part of. On Tuesday, grandparents, residents from Totham Lodge Care Home and also Messing village are invited to join us for Community Carols in the school hall. A joyous opportunity to come and sing along with the children and enjoy a mince pie or two!

As we continue our Agents of Change project, I would like to 'Express Gratitude' to all of the staff. Being part of a small school is unique, all staff have multiple roles, and do so with much care and diligence, working together to ensure the very best in education and personal development for all children. I am sure you will all join me in thanking them. My thanks also to you, the parents and wider community who are so supportive of us in all that we do. I hope that you all have a wonderful break over the Christmas holidays and are able to spend time together as a family.

Very best wishes,
Mrs Charlotte Brown



Christmas Lunch



Wow- Mrs Owens has cooked for a record number this year, 80 children plus 12 members of staff! A total of 92 delicious Christmas dinners served up on Wednesday. We are so very grateful for the love and care that Mrs Owens puts into all of the school meals, and with great festive cheer thrown in for the special lunch. A nutritious school lunch is vital for supporting our children achieving their very best learning. We thank you for all that you do for us Mrs Owens.

The PTFA kindly donated the Christmas crackers which brought great fun for the children (and staff). Thank you.



Words of the week

doughty- adjective | *dow-tee*

Doughty means "brave, strong, and determined."

carouse- verb | *kuh-rowz*

Carouse means "to drink alcohol, make noise, and have fun with other people."



Online Safety

Are you planning on giving your child a new games console, mobile phone, tablet, or computer game this Christmas? Or do you have friends or family who are? Visit www.essex.police.uk/sortyoursettings for practical things you can do to help make your child's new device safer when they are online.
#StaySafe

Disney+

In 2019, media titan Disney launched its own streaming platform, intending to challenge the likes of Netflix and Amazon Prime. Giving (often exclusive) access to shows and movies – such as the legendary studio's animated classics and the revered Star Wars back catalogue – Disney+ has been a colossal success, proving popular with viewers of all ages.

Despite Disney's reputation for wholesome, child-friendly content, however, there's far more material available on their platform – some of which is aimed exclusively at adults. This could easily fly under the radar, given the company's general image. The parents guide [linked here](#) has useful tips to help your family sit back, relax and enjoy what Disney+ has to offer.

Covid Advice

Can my child go to school if they have Covid-19 symptoms?

Although COVID-19 is becoming more common, it is still viewed as presenting a low risk to children and young people. This, combined with high vaccination rates in the population, mean there are no longer specific rules relating to it in schools.

Children and young people with mild symptoms such as a runny nose, sore throat, or slight cough, who are otherwise well, can continue to go to school, college or childcare. However, those who are unwell and have a high temperature should stay at home and avoid contact with other people where they can. They can go back to school, college or childcare, and resume normal activities when they no longer have a high temperature, and they are well enough to attend.

All children and young people with respiratory symptoms should be encouraged to cover their mouth and nose with a disposable tissue when coughing and/or sneezing and to wash their hands after using or disposing of tissues.

Agents of Change

It was a fantastic to award so many certificates for children working on a range of projects for Agents of Change. These included:

- Writing poetry
- Helping neighbours with gardening
- Celebrating themselves in sporting pursuits
- Raising money for charity
- Creating musical playlists
- Learning to cook and bake
- Decorating and leaving out pebbles

We are proud of the way both children and families have been embracing the project which supports children in thinking about others in their community and wider society.

With some time over Christmas, it is the perfect time to encourage your child to work on their next project.



Little Angel Gets Her Wings

You are able to get your copy of the photo from the nativity in the Daily Gazette on Tuesday 19th December.

A fabulous performance from all of the children and an extra special well done to staff on their incredible hard work.

Spring Term Diary Dates

Weds 20th Dec- Last day of term

Thurs 4th Jan- Term starts

Fri 12th Jan- Reception and Yr 5 Road Safety Session

Fri 19th Jan- School Choir at Young Voices O2

Tues 23rd Jan- Whole School Young Carers Assembly

Tues 23rd Jan- Y2 SATs Talk for Parents (3:20pm)

Thurs 25th Jan- Yr 6 SATs Talk for Parents (3:20pm)

Fri 26th Jan- PTFA Hot Chocolate Friday (free for all children after school)

Mon 29th Jan- Reception and Yr 6 Height and Weight Check

