



## Welcome Back



Dear Parents/ Carers,

Happy New Year! Thank you for your generosity and thoughtful gifts and cards. I am always truly humbled by your kindness.

As we start the new year, it is the perfect time to think about creating resolutions. I shared with the children during assembly that some people choose to take something up, others decide to give something up (my example of chocolate was not very popular) and indeed many people do make resolutions at all. All are perfectly reasonable. My encouragement to them was that through Agents of Change, every child is able to achieve and develop every day, and that this term, we can make a bigger and better impact in the world. It must also be said that last term, we recognised 85% of children at Messing who received their first Agents of Change certificate. Such an excellent achievement.

This term we have a very excited, albeit, little nervous, group of children preparing for Young Voices on Friday 19th January. This is an incredible opportunity for children in the school choir to perform at the O2 Arena with thousands of other children. My thanks go out in advance to all staff supporting with the trip, but particularly to Mrs Lewis who makes it all possible, spending a lot of time sorting the logistics!

A reminder from the school office that any inhalers or other medication to be kept in school must be returned and clearly labelled with your child's name. There is no need to complete an additional consent form unless there have been changes with dosage etc.

Very best wishes for 2024,  
Ms Charlotte Brown (Headteacher)



## Spring Term Sports Clubs

Some clubs will be changing over for the term ahead, however football (Monday after school) and netball (Tuesday after school) will remain the same. Please make sure your child is signed up for the clubs this term, even if they are continuing. If you are unsure, you can check the list with Mrs Gooday in the school office. If your child has never tried a sports club before, this is the perfect time. They are free to attend as we fund them as a school.

## Disabled Parking

A reminder that there should be **no** parking in the 2 disabled parking spaces at any point without a Blue Badge. We have families who require these spaces and are not able to use them, particularly during pick-up, as they have been taken.

## E- Scooters

The Safer Essex Road Partnership have asked schools to share [information](#) with families around e-scooters. They are becoming an increasing danger for young people; with instances of children in primary school owning e-scooters.

- Privately owned e-scooters are illegal to ride on the highway. Ones you can buy from shops like Halfords can only be used on privately owned land, with the landowner's permission.
- Trial hire scooters can only be ridden by people 18 years plus, with a driver's licence. These scooters can only be used by the person who creates the Tier account.
- Students storing e-scooters on school grounds can cause a fire risk with lithium battery fires.
- Riding an e-scooter puts the rider at much higher risk on the roads, any collision may be more serious.

## We are a reading school

We are very fortunate that we have 2 incredibly committed librarians who volunteer each week. Ms Abrams and Mrs Todman are our parent superstars who support children across the school. Their love of reading has really rubbed off on the children and they have so many wonderful ideas on ways to develop the library provision we have in school.

This year, we also have 2 children supporting as Library Ambassadors. Thank you to **Leea** and **Terry** who are helping on library days. The children were selected by staff for modelling good reading habits and showing a love and care for the library space.

As English Subject Leader, Miss Snodgrass has been busy putting plans in place to continue enhancing our reading provision. The use of reading journals still continues, but staff in school are changing the way they record in them. As we have reading folders in school where adults record detailed notes about the progress of each child, you will notice that staff will stamp and sign to note that your child has read in school. Please ensure that you, or your child in Key Stage 2, are recording when they have read with an adult at home. As we do not give homework, we ask that children are reading at home regularly, at least 5 times per week.

If you found time to read over the Christmas holiday and have any recommended reads, please let us know as we would love to share them on the newsletter.





## PTFA



A huge thank you to our brilliant team of parents who worked tirelessly throughout the Christmas period organising the Christmas Fair. Thanks to their support and all of you, a total of £660 was raised.

This is fantastic for such a small school and the money goes towards a range of experiences, including £200 for the coach to the O2 for the school choir. Additional money is used to buy library books, a travelling pantomime company and crackers for Christmas lunch.

## Spring Term Diary Dates

**Thurs 1th Jan**- Reception and Yr 5 Road Safety Session TBC

**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)

**Thurs 25th Jan**- Yr 5/6 group indoor athletic events

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

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

**Thurs 1st Feb**- Yr 4 Multiplication Check Talk for Parents (3:20pm)

**Fri 2nd Feb**- NSPCC Number Day

**W/B Mon 5th Feb**- Children's Mental Health Awareness week

**Mon 12th/ Tues 13th Feb**- KS2 Bikeability

**Fri 16th Feb**- Final day of term



## Spotlight on Sport

We are very proud of Esme, in Owls class, as she has been selected to represent Essex for Sportshall Athletics for the third time. This will mean competing against under 11 children from other counties. Esme currently trains in Colchester every Monday evening. If the Essex team win, then they will be selected to represent East of England at national competitions.

This includes a wide range of events such as:

- Under and over
- Obstacle
- 2 lap and 1 lap race
- Standing long jump
- Speed bounce

The regional finals will take place in February at UEA Sportspark in Norwich. This has been something of a family tradition as Esme told me that her mum has also competed in the competition before.

We wish Esme and the team all the success in their training and for the regionals!



## Online Safety

We have been busy updating the school website as we are committed to this being a central source of information. For parents, we have added a section specifically focussed on online safety. You can access it [here](#) or by clicking on the parent section from the home page. The online safety page includes parents guides to a range of apps and games frequently used by children, including; Snapchat, Whatsapp, TikTok, Roblox and Fortnite. These are great resources for identifying ways you can help safeguard your child.

If you have any requests for information we may not have included, please do let us know.

## Recommended Reads

- Lessons in Chemistry* by Bonnie Garmus
- Isaac and the Egg* by Bobby Palmer

