

Message from the Head

Dear Parents/ Carers,

We are grateful to have had some milder, albeit rather windy weather, conditions. Please do remind your child to bring their coat to school everyday and if they would like to use the school field, they are able to if they bring in wellington boots.

All before and after school clubs have started and attendance at these is positive. We have a number of children who are trying something new, or who have not joined a club before and so this has been great to see. Lunchtime clubs led by the teachers will begin next week. These include construction, choir, board games and instruments. Another brilliant opportunity for children to develop new skills.

Our wonderful PTFA have been planning ahead and will soon be sharing dates for upcoming events. If you are able to support in any capacity, please do speak to a member of the team who are around in the playground during pick-up. Thanks to the PTFA fundraising we were able to reduce the cost of the Young Voices trip by a total of £200 for transport.

A big thank you to all staff for supporting with the trip for Young Voices. It is only possible to run with our fantastic team who are committed in supporting all children. A special thanks to Mrs Lewis for organising everybody and everything!

Best wishes,
Mrs Charlotte Brown (Headteacher)

Curriculum Overview

Hopefully you have had time to view the curriculum overviews that teachers shared earlier in the week. This gives you a taster of the learning that will be covered in the Spring term. The curriculum overviews are shared on the class pages on the school website. From the home page, simply hover over the heading 'Classes' and then select your child's class. Alternatively, click [here](#). There are photo updates recommended reads, as well as other useful information on the classes pages too.

Signing In



All children arriving to school after 8:45am **MUST** be signed into the red folder by the school office. This is for safeguarding reasons. The register is a legal document which all schools have to maintain as accurate records of school attendance. Thank you for your support with this.

Young Voices

I believe this is now the 8th year that Mrs Lewis has been taking children from Messing to the O2 to take part in the Young Voices concert. For parents who attended for the first time, I hope you had the most wonderful evening. For those who have been before, I hope it continued to live up to your expectations.

It is such a fantastic opportunity, and this year the children (and staff) were able to meet their hero, conductor, David Lawrence, as well as one of the singers, Otty. Please do take a look at the school Twitter (X) account to see plenty of photos from the day.



Attendance

As you may already be aware, we are continually working hard on school attendance, ensuring children are receiving their full entitlement to the broad education they receive at Messing. From the first day of term to the last, the small moments in a school day make a real difference to your child. We are aware that behind every absence is a story, so please do reach out if you need support.

For the Autumn term, school attendance was 96.4% which is very positive.

Children with attendance above 96% received certificates, and the following children were awarded certificates for 100% attendance last term.



Wrens

Isaac, Theo, Ava



Robins

Tommy, Harriet, Amelia, Toby, Aiden, Mbassy, Rory, Bonita, Agatha

Kingfishers

Dexter, Lily, Isla, Lenny, Samia, Tiegana, Agatha, Pippa, Maddison, Ella, Jess

Owls

Arthur, Xavier, Thomas, Jamie, Ethan, Shane

**MOMENTS
MATTER,
ATTENDANCE
COUNTS.**

Did you know...

95% attendance = 9.5 whole days absent in the school year and 47.5 hours of lost learning

90% attendance = 19 whole days absent in the school year and 95 hours of lost learning

Spotlight on Performance

We are very proud of Alba, in Year 3 who is a keen singer, dancer and performer. Alba is part of a group and has recently taken part in a show at Queens Theatre. The performances included Lord of the Dance, Cat in the Hat, Matilda and a ballet performance of Elsa.

Alba works exceptionally hard and trains at her dance school every Sunday.

Keep up the hard work Alba!



Spring Term Diary Dates

- 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 athletics events
- Fri 26th Jan**- PTFA Hot Chocolate Friday (free for all children after school)
- Sat 27th Jan**- [Parent Mental Health Day](#)
- 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
- Tues 6th Feb**- UK Safer Internet Day
- Mon 12th/ Tues 13th Feb**- KS2 Bikeability
- Weds 14th Feb**- Robin class assembly for parents (2.45pm)
- Fri 16th Feb**- Final day of term

Finding out about your child's day

I have had some conversations with parents recently about the blank or basic answers they receive from their child when asking how their day at school was. There are many reasons why this may be, but here are some ways you can reframe your questioning that may help.

Child's feelings...	Child's learning...	Child's relationships...	Child's interests...
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is something that made you laugh today? • If you could invent a new feeling, what would it be called? How would you describe it? • If your mood were a type of weather, what would it be? Would it be sunny, cloudy, stormy or something else? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can you teach me how to...? • What is one thing you learned today that surprised you? • What were you proud of at school today? • Can you tell me about a story you read or heard about today? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If you could choose your seat partner, who would it be? Why? • Who is someone at school that makes you feel safe? • Who is someone you played with today? • What games did you play at break today? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If you could be the teacher for the day, what would you teach about? • If you became the prime minister, what is the first thing you would do? • Who is someone that you'd love to meet in real life? • If you could teleport anywhere, where would you go right now?

Try a January Digital Detox

Here are some ideas to support your child with less screen time. Did you know, there are many links between screen time and children's behaviour.

Go for a family bike ride | Try out a chair triathlon (ideas for this can be found online) | Create an obstacle course or scavenger hunt | Draw and make maps of your garden or street | Plan out some vegetables to grow from seeds and make plant pots from old toilet rolls | Take it in turns to read aloud to teacher other | Follow a recipe and try out a new food | Use the Agents of Change poster to inspire a new project



Word of the week

gloaming noun | gloh-ming

Gloaming is a literary term synonymous with twilight and dusk, the darker part of twilight. It's used most commonly in the noun phrase the gloaming.