

## Welcome Back

Dear Parents/ Carers,

Welcome back to the summer term! I hope you were able to enjoy a lovely break over Easter. As you are aware, we had a one day inspection from Ofsted on the penultimate day of term. The children were an absolute credit to our school and made the inspectors feel very welcome. Thank you for taking the time to complete the Ofsted parent view survey if you were able to. This was viewed by the inspectors on the day. Your support was invaluable and much appreciated by us all.

Teachers have shared the curriculum overviews for this term. They can also be accessed on the school website in the 'Classes' section. There are some wonderful topics coming up for the children and our clubs for the summer term have also been updated. Children have been signing up for the lunchtime clubs run by the teachers which began this week.

A few parents have asked about the lunch menu. This remains the same as the one shared last term and can be found on the school website under the 'Parents' section. If you have any questions about the menu, please contact the school office.

Last term the school council wrote to local garages asking for additional car tyres to use at lunch times. These are mostly rolled and sat in by the children, but are well loved. We have had 2 tyres for quite some time. Thank you to the parent who was able to donate car, as well as lorry tyres. These have brought great joy to the children!

Best wishes, Mrs Charlotte Brown

## Drawing Club

For those of you that have not heard, drawing club is part of our Early Years curriculum. The concept is to immerse children in the world of stories in a joyful way. It incorporates story sharing, speaking and listening, drawing, writing, vocabulary imagination and collaboration.

Here's what some children in Reception think:

*"I drew a giant and my secret code was happy giant."*  
Miles

*"It's fun and we make Mrs Lewis happy with our writing."*  
Ava

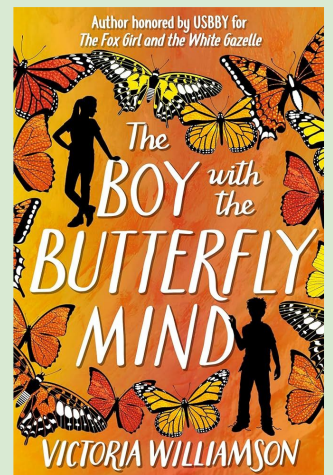
*"The stories are so exciting."*  
Isaac

*"I like writing secret codes in my book."*  
Ruby-Mai

## Recommended Read

*The Boy with the Butterfly Mind* by Victoria Williamson

Zach in Year 6 recommends this book because "it's suitable for anybody to read and is the story of a boy who struggles with ADHD, and a girl who wishes she was perfect so that her dad would come home. Two families come together and over time, their differences draw them to one another and they realise that going through personal struggles alone can be tiring. So they learn to support and care for each other."



## Online Safety

### Clickbait

While scrolling online, you'll almost inevitably have come across posts or links with headlines like "You Won't Believe These 10 Crazy Facts about ...". Such lurid language – and the often-dubious nature of the content it promotes – has become something of a running joke on the internet.

Yet while these articles are often laughed at by communities online, they can have an insidious side.

Clickbait, as it's known, can frequently function as part of a trap: intended to draw users in for the sake of advertising revenue or, in worse cases, masking an attempting to collect their personal information. This [guide](#) explores the various risks of clickbait and offers some top tips for evading the pitfalls of this controversial marketing technique.



## Agents of Change

Our whole school project this term is to create and make a playlist. As a staff team, we have had great fun putting together a playlist that we shared with children during lunchtime play on Wednesday. We are going to build on this by the children sharing their song suggestions to create a mega Messing playlist. We will share the link with you once this is up and running.

The wonderful thing about a playlist is that you could also create your own family playlists. They can be created to suit a range of different activities that happen, such as a car playlist, and for different situations. We have been focussing on songs to make you feel good, but you could also create chill out or mindful playlists too.

This is an excellent family project and one we hope you have fun with!



## Smiley Club Provision

It has been wonderful this year to have had so many different children using our before and after school provision, Smiley Club. As you know, Mrs Hart is passionate about including all children and making sure they have fun in each session.

In order for the school to provide a snack for all children staying, it is essential that you give the school office advanced notice. Where there are exceptional circumstances we always aim to support families by allowing children to stay, however we are having difficulty in managing our catering as we are having so many last minute bookings, or occasions where children are presumed to be staying but we have not had confirmation. A particular challenge is returning to school after the half term breaks. Please confirm you intend to use the provision on the first day back.

Thank you for your support with this.

## Swimming

This term for swimming we will have a group of children in Key Stage 2 who will continue developing their swimming skills during weekly lessons. We truly believe swimming to be a valuable life skill that all children require.

After May half term, New Hall School will offer lessons to children in Year 2. There will be 2 lessons. Unfortunately due to changes in provision and staffing at New Hall, since September 2022 we have been unable to offer lessons to children in Year 1 and Reception as the school once did. We are grateful for the continued support and our partnership with New Hall that gives our pupils so many opportunities.

## Summer Term Diary Dates

**Mon 29th Apr-** SEND parents cuppa and chat

**Weds 1st May-** KS1 group football event in Colchester

**Mon 6th May-** Bank Holiday

**W/B Mon 13th May-** KS2 SATs week

**Thurs 16th May-** KS1 Sports Events at Charter Hall

**Mon 20th May-** Water Saving Week (Agents of Change project)

**Fri 24th May-** PTFA Non-school uniform and sponsored event (and final day of term)

**Mon 3rd Jun-** Non pupil day

**Weds 5th June-** KS1 Three Tees Cricket Event

**Weds 12th Jun-** New Sept. 24 Reception intake parent talk (3.30pm)

**Thurs 13th Jun-** School photographs

**Fri 14th Jun-** PTFA Remote Control Car event

**Mon 17th Jun-** Governor monitoring visit day

**Tues 18th Jun-** KS2 Athletics competition

**Thurs 20th Jun-** KS2 Cricket event

**Fri 21st Jun-** Agents of Change pupil conference

**Tues 25th Jun-** Yr 4/5 Food and Farming event

**Thurs 27th/ Fri 28th Jun-** Thurstable Yr 6 Transition days

**Tues 2nd July-** EYFS Sports Day at St. Lawrence School

**Fri 12th Jul-** SPorts Day and Summer Fair

