



Message from the Head

Dear Parents/ Carers,

Thank you for your support in attending the 'meet the teacher' sessions this week. Hopefully you have found these a useful way to find out about expectations for your child and their learning for the year ahead. You can find out more information, including the termly overview and recommend reads related to the topic on the [class pages](#) on the school website.

Last year we introduced **Agents of Change**, a project based in helping our community and the world through **activism** and **change**. This project is fantastic because it is accessible to all and demonstrates to children how they can have their **voice heard** and be a **changemaker**, making positive contributions to society. As a school we also recognise how thinking about others promotes our own positive mental wellbeing. We will continue this year, and for families new to the school, you will receive a poster for home and a letter of explanation. Children will keep their passports in school, and receive a stamp each time they complete an activity. Thank you to the parents who have shared some wonderful photos showcasing your child's (and family's) achievements over the summer. Please do share any experiences with your child's class teacher.

Elections have been taking place this week for new School Councillors. This is an important part of school life, ensuring children have a voice and choice regarding important school decisions. A child represents each year group, and children in Year 6 take the roles of Chair, Vice-Chair and Secretary. Well done to all of the children who made a speech in advance of the elections! The School Council section of the website will soon be updated with the new team.

There will be dates shared in the next few days around PTFA events. The events support the school in raising vital funds that go towards paying for additional opportunities, such as a travelling pantomime company at Christmas. If you would like to get involved, please do come along to the PTFA AGM which will take place on Thursday 10th October at 2pm.

Very best wishes,
Mrs Charlotte Cornelius

Secondary Applications

Parents of children in Year 6, as you may be aware, the new secondary school admission round opened on Thursday 12th September 2024, for parents of current Year 6 children to apply for a secondary school (Year 7) place for September 2025.

The statutory national closing date for applications is 31 October 2024.

Applications can be made online via www.essex.gov.uk/admissions. 99% of parents in Essex applied online last year. All of the application information is available on the website.

The website also has a copy of the Secondary Education in Essex 2025-26 booklet which contains details of all secondary school admission policies.

House Captains 2024

On Friday 13th September, children got together in their house teams to vote for their House Captains. These are children in Year 6 who represent and lead their house team for the year.

Congratulations to all children who put themselves forward to stand.

Diamond - Jamie
Sapphire - Luke
Ruby - Arthur
Emerald - Thomas

Message from the Governors

The governors would like to welcome everyone back to school after the summer holiday, and extend a warm welcome to all our new families and children. We met on the evening of 18th September to discuss the end of last academic year and to plan for the year ahead.

We were delighted to welcome our new staff governor - Mrs Lewis, and we elected Pip Parmenter as Chair of Governors. We have vacancies for community governors that we are keen to fill, so if you know of anyone who you think may be interested in this, please do put them in touch with the school office.

Over the course of the meeting we received an update from Mrs Cornelius on pupil progress from the summer term. We discussed updates in national safeguarding and attendance policies and reviewed the child protection policy. We have set an attendance target of 96.5% for the year. School attendance was positive last year, but we are hoping to reach this target and would love to see the children in school every day unless they really are not well enough.

We look forward to meeting many of you over the course of the next year. You can contact the governors through the school office if you would like to speak to us about any queries or concerns you may have.

Pip Parmenter.



Author of the Month

September: Enid Blyton



School Clubs

The teachers were very excited to begin their extra-curricular activities this week. With clubs on offer for children from Reception through to Year 6, we have a great number of children signed up. Most popular, as always, is the Key Stage 2 Choir, who have already begun the preparations for their performance as part of Young Voices at the O2 Arena in January.

[Teacher led clubs](#) for Autumn term are:

Tuesday lunchtime: KS2 Choir

Wednesday lunchtime: KS2 Newspaper // EY KS1 Recorders

Thursday lunchtime: Everyone Starbooks

Wednesday after school: Yr 4-6 Netball

Friday lunchtime: KS2 Sports Ambassadors

Online Safety

Top Tips for Using & Reviewing Parental Controls

With most children today having their own phones, computers and other devices, it's vitally important that parents and educators know how to keep young people protected while using them. Between targeted adverts, age-inappropriate content, and other online safety concerns, it can sometimes feel overwhelming to keep on top of. Parental controls, present on most devices and several apps, can make this job significantly easier.

Find out more in the [guide linked here](#).

No Outsiders

At our school there are no outsiders. We are all different and we know that this is something that should be celebrated! This was an area highlighted by Ofsted during their visit last year.

This year, we continue developing our curriculum offer to promote children as kind, caring and accepting members of their communities. This aligns with our relationships education within the RSE curriculum and our key drivers:

Respect | Resilience | Relationships

The '[No Outsiders](#)' programme educates children about diversity within our communities and addresses issues such as sexism, ageism, race and different types of families. It is taught to classes through the use of age-appropriate books. Through these beautiful picture books, the children explore the concepts of equality, diversity, acceptance of differences and of the right of someone to have an opinion different to their own.

More information will be coming soon on the school website. If you would like more information, then please speak to your child's class teacher.

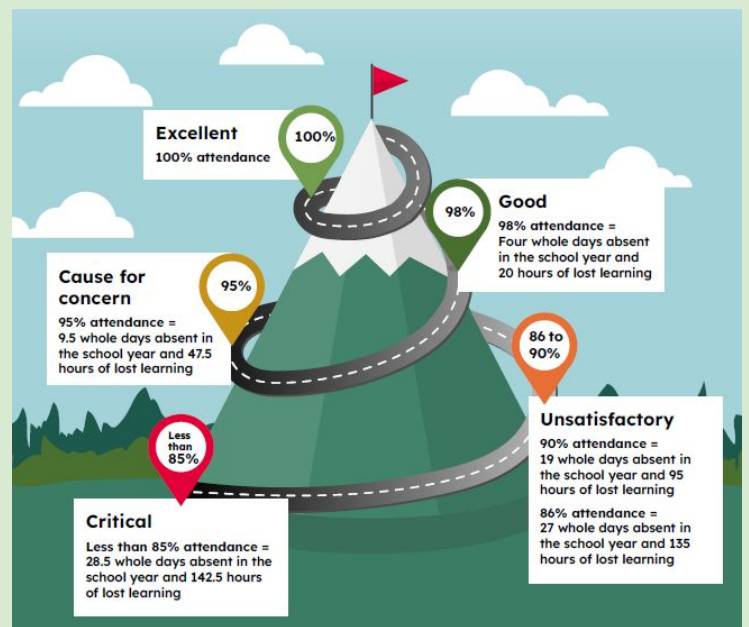
School Attendance

As mentioned in the message from the Chair of Governors, we are aiming for **96.5%** attendance again this year. With a lot of illness last year, we were pleased that our school attendance remained above national average, **96.2%**. However, we would really like to improve on this in order to support every child to reach their full potential.

Every moment at school really does count! Not only do children develop their academic learning, but time spent with friends and building on social skills stands them in excellent stead for their future.

As improving school attendance continues to be a national focus, the NHS have produced some guidance for parents -

[Linked here: Is my child too ill for school?](#)



Macmillan Coffee and Cake

Year 6 are hosting a fundraising event for Macmillan, a charity that does so much vital work within communities. The 'Come for a Coffee and Stay for Cake' afternoon will be at 2:15pm on Wednesday 25th September. Please do come and join us to help raise money and have the opportunity to get to speak with other parents. If you are able to bake or donate cakes, please drop them into the school office along with a list of ingredients.

Autumn Term Diary Dates

You can find dates for the year ahead on the school planner- [linked here](#).

Weds 25th Sept- Macmillan coffee and cake afternoon

Thurs 26th Sept- European day of languages

Weds 2nd Oct- Maths talk for all parents 3.20pm & 6pm

Fri 4th Oct- Phonics talk for EY & KS1 parents 8.50am

Thurs 10th Oct- PTFA AGM 2pm (date change from 30/09)

Fri 11th Oct- 'Stay and Play' / 'Share and Learn' 2.30pm

Tues 15th & Thurs 17th Oct- Parent teacher consultations

Tues 22nd Oct- Harvest Festival at All Saints Church 9:45am

Fri 25th Oct- Last day of term