

Message from the Head

Dear Parents/ Carers,

As we enter our final week of the half term, I'd like to take the time to congratulate all of the children on their efforts. We have already celebrated so much with the children, Authors and Mathematicians, a wealth of certificates and achievements, both great and small. I hope that parents evening gave you an opportunity to hear about your child's learning and development, as well as their next steps. Please remember, if you have any further questions, the teachers are always happy to arrange an additional time to meet with you, or you can catch them after school in the playground for quick queries.

Children in Wrens have settled so well, and it feels like they have always been a part of our community. To all of the new families who have joined throughout the school, I hope you have been able to get to know some of the other parents and carers at Messing. If you ever need a friendly face, please always feel free to stand with Ms Gooday and I on the gate, we are always happy to have a chat and understand the playground can feel like an overwhelming place with so many new faces.

A reminder to Year 6 parents that secondary applications for Year 7 places must be submitted by 31st October 2024. Applications can be made via the website www.essex.gov.uk/admissions. Please do let me know if you would like to discuss your child's secondary options. Although this is parental preference, we are happy to support where needed.

On Friday we have rather a lot happening, including non-school uniform for the children in exchange for chocolates for the Christmas Fair. Please ensure that children are wearing sensible shoes and have their coats as they will still be outside for break and lunch playtime as usual. We will also be opening the school gates early, at 2:40pm on Friday. This is for the opening of the Wellbeing Cabin, fundraised for by the PTFA. You are very welcome to join us for this and I believe there will be a selection of cakes to buy too. Please do drop any cake donations into the office.

Well done to the children for all of the entries to the pumpkin competition- it will be very challenging to select the winners! You can see some of the great designs for these, as well as photos and updates on school life by following the school's Twitter account, search @MessingPrimary.

Finally, I hope you have a wonderful break over the half term. Please do be safe and mindful of others if you are taking your children trick or treating.

Very best wishes,
Mrs Charlotte Cornelius

Acts of Kindness and Generosity

We are incredibly fortunate at Messing to have a wonderful and ever growing community of people who think of us. I was humbled to arrived to school on Wednesday morning to a delivery of flowers and compost. This donation was made for the children to re-pot the planters around the school. A dedicated group of children in Key Stage 2 worked wonders and have brightened up the space. A fabulous effort from our gardening team, including Jamie, one of our Gardening Ambassadors. This has put smiles on so many faces, both children and staff.

Online Safety

Horror Films and Age Ratings

Many children and young people enjoy exploring new and exciting genres and themes in the films and TV they consume – and as they grow, the maturity of this content will likely increase with them. However, without proper supervision and safeguarding, youngsters looking for a new title to enjoy – especially in the horror genre – might get a little more than they're ready for.

The emotional and psychological impacts of viewing age-inappropriate content can be severe. It's vital for parents and educators to know how to keep the children in their care as safe as possible while young people explore new, potentially grittier or darker, pieces of media. This [parent guide](#) breaks down the risks of viewing age-inappropriate content, with a particular focus on horror, and offers expert advice on how to limit youngsters' exposure to material that might upset or disturb them.





New Hall Open Day

By Margot



When I came through the wrought iron gates, there was a drinks truck and a marquee. There were a number of tour guides waiting for a child to take round. Our tour guide was called Edward. He has been at New Hall since he was three and was currently in year 12.

We stopped to listen to the sweet sound of the school orchestra. So we started making our way to the playing fields for rugby where Mr Harris was teaching, Hockey taken by Mrs Cooper, basketball, football and tennis. Then we walked past the large dance studios and stopped to talk to the Duke of Edinburgh awards section. There were tents and camping equipment on display which they use for their expeditions. Then we wandered down to the talk by the headmistress, Mrs Jeffrey, who had been principal since 2001. When the talk was over we went to the maths and computing departments. On our way we passed the little train which goes around the school. Finally we entered the computing department where they showed us some impressive 3D printing and coding. Soon, we came across the maths department where there were some resources and games to support maths learning.

We started to smell something delicious... it was some paella (native Spanish food) which they had cooked in the food tech and foreign languages kitchens. They had combined them together to make learning fun. I tried it, as it was absolutely scrumptious. As we walked down the path, we came across the French food where they had luscious lemon tarts, onion tart and quiche. After that we looked around the boarding house which was a pleasant surprise. I had assumed it was going to be quite plain, but it was so colourful and exciting. Apparently, they play games, watch movies and have silent discos.

We quickly scurried off to biology where they were doing some dissections, then we started down the corridor to physics where they lit fire to music, next we visited the attic rooms of photography and art. We rounded off the day in the dining hall with luscious fish and chips and DIY cheesecake. Yum.

All in all the New Hall open day was amazing with some highlights such as the music, food and having my picture taken outside number 10 Downing Street. We are very lucky that we are in partnership with this beautiful school.

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Bag2School

As a school, we are always looking for creative ways to fundraise, and the PTFA are also experts in this field! You may have noticed that we moved the clothing collection bin into the main parent carpark and this has been a positive move with so many donations.

The collection date for this has been arranged for Thursday 22nd October. Please do remember that this is not specifically for clothes, but old curtains, bedding and other fabrics too. You can find out more about [Bags2School here](#).

Parent Talks/ Workshops

As a staff team, we have been thinking carefully about how best to engage parents through events such as parent talks, workshops and shared learning experiences. We understand that it can be very challenging for working parents to attend all that is offered. We are therefore seeking your input through a survey. This is to find out the most suitable times to put on parent events so that we are able to engage with you on the school's curriculum. You can access the [survey here](#).

Thank you in advance for your support.

Autumn Term Diary Dates

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

- Fri 25th Oct-** Non-school uniform in exchange for chocolates/ PTFA Cabin grand opening at 2.40pm/ Last day of term
- 26th-27th Oct-** ARU Family Science weekend
- Mon 4th Nov-** Non-pupil day
- Fri 8th Nov-** Remembrance assembly for children
- Mon 11th Nov-** Anti-bullying week // Reception & Year 6 height and weight check
- Weds 13th Nov-** Agents of Change Positive Noticing Day
- Fri 15th Nov-** Children in Need fundraising // PTFA Free Hot Chocolate in the playground after school
- Thurs 28th Nov-** PTFA Film Night
- Sun 1st Dec-** Messing Church Christmas Tree Event
- Thurs 5th Dec-** Travelling Panto at School
- Fri 6th Dec-** PTFA Christmas Fair (3-5pm)
- Weds 11th/ Thurs 12th Dec-** Nativity performances