



Message from the Head

Dear Parents/ Carers,

We have had a rather exciting and tiring end to the week for many of our Key Stage 2 children who attended Young Voices at O2 Arena yesterday. I am incredibly proud of the children who were all in school today despite a very late finish. The children were excellent ambassadors for the school, courteous, polite and really put out their best singing and dancing performances! There will be a write up by some of the children in the next newsletter. A very big thank you to all of the parents who joined the audience with their fab dance moves and energy and to the staff who gave their time to make the trip happen.

In sporting news, Mr Pearce and I were very proud of the children in Owls who attended the Tag Rugby event. Special mention must go to our captain, Arthur, for his guidance, as well as Agatha and Olivia who played every match in our mixed girls and boys team with such determination. Following them in sporting endeavours, next week a mixed group of children from Kingfishers will be taking part in a football event. I wish them the very best!

As a small community, I am always very grateful for the support parents and the wider community show towards the school. Last week, thanks to an exceptionally kind donation, the school were able to purchase brand new multi-use netball and basketball posts and nets. These have had a huge impact already, ensuring we are able to offer both sports for after school clubs. There are a few other areas (of far less expense) that we are reaching out for support with. In Reception, the children love to play and create with playdough. It is an excellent resource for developing imagination, as well as fine motor skills. If there are any parents who would be able to make batches of playdough then please do let Mrs Lewis, or Miss Brooks know. We are also looking for donations of guttering for the Wellbeing Cabin, as well as an additional waterbutt and compost bin to go either side of it. Mrs Hart is busy compiling a 'wishlist' of practical resources (including more car tyres) to further enhance our lunchtime provision.

Have a restful weekend.

Very best wishes,
Mrs Charlotte Cornelius

Tag Rugby

After a week of lunchtime practices, going through passing drills, skills and 5v5 matches, we were ready for the year 5&6 TAG Rugby Tournament at Maldon Rugby Club. After a Mr Pearce pep-talk, rules reminder and warm-up, we entered the field of play. Looking resplendent in our red and black kit, we lined up to play our first ever competitive match. We produced an awe-inspiring performance to win 2 - 1.

With our spirits high, we performed with great determination through our remaining matches and gave a good account of ourselves in every match against some very strong opposition. Excitedly, we progressed to the play-offs where we drew 2-2 with Unity (Colchester) in a match which no-one deserved to lose. It was a very enjoyable and exhausting morning of rugby.

Tries scored by: Luke (5), Xavier (4), Thomas (2), Tommy (1) and Arthur (1)

Xavier & Arthur





RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch

It's been pleasing to see the number of children and families collecting their bird feed over the past few weeks. Thank you for supporting our mission to reduce our use of plastic by sending in containers from home. The mealworms caused much discussion (and disgust) among the children, but are great for attracting birds such as:

sparrows, robins, starlings and blue tits.

Remember to put bird seed out over the weekend to attract birds into the garden and record your bird sightings on the [RSPB's website](#).



Online Safety

Among children and especially teenagers, TikTok boasts approximately 220 million users, providing a near-endless reel of short clips intended to entertain, educate and more. However, along with its enormous user base comes a significant number of possible risks: Ofcom have dubbed it the most likely app on which teen users would potentially suffer harm.

With the platform reaching astronomical levels of success among the younger generation, it's vitally important for parents and educators to understand the risks it poses. This [parent guide](#) lets you know about the most prominent potential dangers associated with TikTok and offers expert advice on how to safeguard youngsters who are navigating the site.

Lunar New Year



It is Lunar New Year on Wednesday 29th January and it is the year of the snake, believed to be a sign of good fortune and fertility. The Chinese New Year is based on the lunar calendar, which follows the cycles of the moon rather than the sun, meaning it falls on a different date each year, usually between late January and mid-February. The festival lasts for 15 days, concluding on February 12 with the Lantern Festival.

Children's Mental Health Awareness Week

We are busy putting together our plan for Children's Mental Health Awareness Week. This will be 3-9th February 2025. The theme for this year is 'Know Yourself, Grow Yourself', encouraging self-awareness in building resilience, growing and developing. You can find out more information on [Place2Be's website](#).

Excitingly, we are also taking part in Mental Health Champion training for a group of children in Year 4 and 5. The children will take part in online training modules each week through One Goal. At the end, they will graduate with certificates. Children have been selected based on the interest they have shown towards mental health and the impact they are able to have on supporting their peers. This is such an exciting project to be a part of.

Mental Health Champions:

Year 4: Lily, Alfie, Harriet, Felix, Isla **Year 5:** Jess, Margot, Arlo, Tommy, Agatha

Curriculum Overviews

Teachers have added the curriculum overviews for the Spring term on their class pages. These can be accessed on the school [website here](#). The link for the information is also included on the weekly bulletin document.

As well as information about the different areas of learning, the class pages also give useful information about topic related books.



Diary Dates

Mon 27th Jan- Yr 6 SATs talk for parents 3.20-4pm & Yr 3/4 Football event

Weds 29th Jan- Lunar New Year

Fri 31st Jan- PTFA hot chocolate in the playground after school (50p)

Mon 3rd Feb- Children's Mental Health Awareness Week

Thurs 6th Feb- Yr 4 parent talk for Multiplication Check 3.20-4pm

Fri 7th Feb- NSPCC Number Day & Online parent session on emotionally based school avoidance 10am

Tues 11th Feb- Safer Internet Day

Tues 11th/ Weds 12th Feb- KS2 Bikeability

Thurs 13th Feb- PTFA Valentines Bake Sale (gate open at 3pm)

Fri 14th Feb- End of half term