



## Message from the Head

Dear Parents/ Carers,

How wonderful it has been to welcome Spring as we have begun this half term! The lunchtime sunshine has certainly lifted the children's spirits. Some have been so desperate for the intake of Vitamin D that they have used the car tyres to set up sunbeds- very imaginative.

We've kicked off the half term with a range of events in the diary. Thank you to Mr Pearce for hosting the pancake competition. Choosing a winner was very challenging with so many delicious toppings. Congratulations to Agatha Bunting on the winning entry! Please check the school's Twitter page for photos from the assembly. This week we welcomed governors into school for their termly monitoring visit day. Lessons in Art, DT, Music, Computing and No Outsiders were visited and many children had the opportunity to share their views of school life. Thank you to all of the governors for their time and continued support they show to the school. World Book Day saw the children dressing up and kick-starting the day with the parade. Thank you to all of the parents who were able to stay for this.

This half term many of the classes will be planting seeds. This forms part of the school's curriculum, but is also excellent for engaging children more generally in the seasons and understanding where food comes from. At Messing, we are fortunate to have beautiful outdoor spaces and engaging the children with the outdoors is always a priority for us. If you have any unwanted gardening tools, pots, gloves, spare seeds or even greenhouses, these would all be gratefully received. We are hoping to hold a plant sale later in the summer term where the children will be able to sell some of what they have grown in order to raise funds for outdoor learning.

Next week on Wednesday and Thursday you will be able to sign up for a parents' evening appointment. Please remember, if your child has a One Plan, you do not need to sign up as you will have a meeting planned. Both Mrs Brooks and Miss Osborne will be meeting with parents of children in Kingfisher class. On Friday 14th March you are invited into your child's class from 2:30pm to share in their learning.

Very best wishes,  
Mrs Charlotte Cornelius

## Bikeability

On Tuesday 11th and Wednesday 12th March a group of children from Year 5 and 6 took part in Essex Bikeability training. This was a fantastic opportunity for them to gain the skills and confidence to ride their bikes safely on the road.

Write up by Arthur & Jess

On the first day of bikeability, we started with a quiz on how we should dress for riding on the road. Then we learnt a different way of checking our bikes called ABCDE (air, brakes, chain, direction and bar ends). When we went out, we started by riding around and learning how to pull into laybys and properly use our brakes. Later that afternoon, we rode around Messing and went down to the church. On the second day we did our bike checks then set off towards Tiptree. We cycled past Thurstable High School and learnt some more skills whilst we were there including u-turns and hand signals before cycling back. After lunch, we went through Messing once again practicing our skills. Everyone received a Bikeability badge, certificate and feedback on cycling areas to further develop. We found it very enjoyable and were delighted to have the opportunity to do so.





## World Book Day

On Thursday 6th March we celebrated World Book Day. Many of the children enjoyed dressing up for the costume parade in the morning- thank you for cheering the children on.

The children took part in a range of different reading activities throughout the day and our new gift a book initiative was great to see in action. The children were so thoughtful in their book choices to others and considered their interests. They were all very excited to unwrap their new books to see the reactions of others. Thank you for supporting this. Lunch was also particularly popular and the children were very grateful for their Book themed biscuits lovingly baked by Mrs Owens.

Special thank you to Mrs Evans who spends a long time planning engaging activities for classes and putting together all of the communication.



## Young Voices

Final reflections from our Music Ambassadors, Pipp and Olivia

At first, we got all of our stuff ready and lined up at the door to get onto the coach. Once we got onto the coach and in our partners we were excited for the journey. When we arrived and went into the O2 we got to eat our lunch. Afterwards, we went into the arena and starting the practice rehearsals where we were singing the songs with the band.

We got to eat our packed dinner while the parents were arriving into their seats. After that, we got ready for it to begin and then we sang our hearts out for the rest of the night.

## Washing Pods and Capsules - Child Accident Prevention Trust

Young children are vulnerable to all sorts of dangers in the home. One of the most present issues can come in the form of everyday cleaning products. Some like sink unclogger can look like fruit juice. The thick consistency and similarity to apple juice in colour make it particularly enticing. However, one threat stands out from all others in this regard. The washing pod. Many washing pods bear a striking similarity to over the counter confectionary. For children the mistake can be easy to make, especially when washing pods may be kept in a lower location than other cleaning supplies.

The Child Accident Prevention Trust has recently published a page that looks to offer guidance on this issue. If interested, please follow the link below: <https://capt.org.uk/washing-pods-and-capsules/>

## Design Technology

It has been brilliant to see so many classes working on DT projects. Recently, children in Owls class finished their pop-up books (mechanisms) and these are now on display in school. During lessons, children learnt the importance of accurate measuring, precise cutting and appropriate design features for the intended audience (Year 1). In Kingfisher class, the children have been designing their very own 'sling-shot' vehicles. The skills they have developed include: making a wooden chassis with the aid of a hot-glue gun, accurate measuring to make axles with wheels and creating a design for the vehicle body, The children reviewed their models, making adjustments as they discovered that their vehicles only travelled in a straight line if their wheels and axles were aligned.

## Diary Dates

**Weds 12th & Thurs 13th March** - Parents Evening sign up sheet in the school hall before/ after school

**Fri 14th March** - Stay and play/ Share and learn from 2.30pm

**Tues 18th & Thurs 20th Mar-** Parents evening

**Fri 21st March** - Comic Relief (uniform as usual- we will hold 'Red Nose and Spoon' Races at lunch time- 50p to enter) Any additional donations are welcome

**Fri 28th March** - Final swimming lesson for Kingfisher class