



Message from the Head

Dear Parents/ Carers,

As we race through another half term I reflect on a truly wonderful week full of awe, wonder, curiosity and reflection. All of the children have embraced activities to promote and support their mental health and wellbeing, something that is a very strong focus at our school. Reverend Anne-Marie led assembly on Wednesday about Candlemas, the Christian festival of lights. This gave the opportunity for children to reflect on a time they may have felt lost, lonely or afraid and how they are able to find peace or seek comfort. They were very taken by seeing the candle flickering in the darkness of the school hall.

We have had some very excited children in Wrens class (and some confused parents) as they have been completely immersed in their traditional tales topic. The children have been so excited to show me the traps they have set to try and catch the Gingerbread Man and I have heard so many different theories about how he got into school after everybody had gone home. The mystery continues into next week...

Mr Pearce led a Year 6 parent information session around SATs last week. Thank you to all who attended this and very well done to the children in Year 6 who have been responsive to the homework they have been given. This week Mr Pearce planned a Year 4 parent information session focussing on the statutory multiplication check. Unfortunately only 1 parent joined for this. Mr Pearce has therefore offered an alternative date, Tuesday 4th March at 3:20pm. Please do let him know if you are unable to attend. The partnership between school and parents is so important to ensuring the children reach their potential.

On Tuesday 11th February the school will mark Safer Internet Day and Mrs Evans has been putting together plans for this. It is an important event on the school calendar as we follow up learning in the computing curriculum about online safety. Please do engage in conversation with your child about this. The theme is 'Too good to be true? Protecting yourself and others from scams online.' There are some excellent resources for parents [linked here](#).

Very best wishes,
Mrs Charlotte Cornelius

Online Safety

How Safe is WhatsApp for Children - NSPCC

WhatsApp is one of the most popular instant messaging apps, used by over 2 billion people in 180 countries. It allows you to send and receive messages, as well as make voice and video calls. You can connect with people individually or join group chats where lots of people can contribute. All you need to set up a WhatsApp account is a phone number. However, children and young people can easily subvert the restrictions placed on its access. Although rated at 16+, all that is required is a phone number. All it takes is one child in a class to be on whatsapp, and all the others will wish to join. This can lead to increased vulnerabilities for child users.

The NSPCC has released its own analysis about the dangers of the app. You can find out more, as well as [advice for parents here](#).

Football at Shrub End

On Monday 27th January a group of children from Kingfisher Class went to a football tournament at Shrub End in Colchester.

When we arrived, we decided who was going to play the first match. It was very exciting. Myla- Rose, Sophia and Jackson worked hard to defend their goal while Ben, Rocky, Sonny, Alfie, Isla CC, Dexter and Felix played as a team to pass the ball to each other and score as many goals as they could.



Spotlight on Sport

Last weekend Alba attended a gymnastics competition and won not one, but two trophies for youngest competitor and winning first place for all events. "I couldn't believe I won. I am so proud of myself and all the other children that took part."

Writer of the Month

Congratulations to the following children on their efforts in writing:

Isla in Wrens // Ava in Robins // Isla I in Kingfishers // Olivia in Owls

Young Voices

On Thursday 23rd January children in the Key Stage 2 Choir went to The O2 Arena, London, to take part in Young Voices. This is always such a fantastic event for the children to take part in, but also a great opportunity for parents in the audience to join in and have a boogie!

We were so proud of all of the children from Messing, not only for their truly beautiful singing and enthusiastic dance moves, but also the impeccable behaviour they modelled at all times throughout the day.

A special thank you to Mrs Lewis for organising, all staff for accompanying the children and also to parents for your support.

Roll on next year!



Children's Mental Health Awareness Week

As part of the theme for this year, 'Know Yourself, Grow Yourself', all of the children began the week with a screening of Inside Out (Reception - Year 3) or Inside Out 2 (Year 4 - 6). This was a great starting point for discussing emotions. There were a range of activities planned for children across the classes and some highlights include: mindfulness sessions, yoga, emotions bingo and walk and talk. Mrs Lewis led assembly at the start of the week and has been busy checking in on the classes.

You can find out useful information for parents on Place2Be's website, [linked here](#).

PTFA Events

We are very fortunate to have a dedicated team of parents who support the school in raising additional funds. Events coming up include:

Thurs 13th Feb: PTFA Valentines Bake Sale- if you are able to donate themed baked we would be very grateful (please ensure there are no nuts, and a list of ingredients is supplied)

Thurs 27th Feb: World Book Day Costume Swap an opportunity to pick up a costume or accessories and donate unwanted or items that are too small

Fri 28th Feb: Film Night after school

Fri 4th April: Non-uniform in exchange for a bottle & sponsored sports event

Diary Dates

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

Mon 24th Feb- Non-pupil day

Fri 28th Feb- PTFA Film Night

Mon 3rd Mar- Governor monitoring visit day

Tues 4th Mar- rescheduled Year 4 parent talk for the multiplication assessment 3.20pm

Thurs 6th Mar- World Book Day (parade at 8:50am)

Mon 10th Mar- British Science Week

Fri 14th Mar- Share and learn/ stay and play

Tues 18th/ Thurs 20th Mar- Parent's evening

Fri 21st Mar- Comic relief (nose and spoon races in school)