



Message from the Head

Dear Parents/ Carers,

Welcome back! The Summer term is here and it has been great to enjoy the lovely weather at lunch and break times. I've had 3 beautiful daisy bouquets picked for me over the week which are looking very cheerful on my desk. Please do remember that children should have a named sunhat and water bottle in school every day.

Last week we were able to share letters and induction dates with the children who will be joining Messing in Reception in September. I am pleased to share that we have filled our 12 spaces and also have a waiting list. In June we will be having some taster sessions for the new children and will also be organising a moving up event for other classes. I will share more information about this later in the term.

Classes have been busy getting stuck into their new topics and many have been finishing off Agents of Change projects from the previous term. If you have not already seen them around the school, please do look out for the beautiful bird boxes made by children in Owl class to encourage a wider variety of small nesting birds to the school site and therefore improve the wellbeing of others. Children in Wren class will be delivering the flowers they planted from seeds to people living in the village. They chose to do this after feeling inspired by a book they read in class. A small group of children who use the space at Oaksbrook Retreat have been litter picking on their walk through the village and are feeling happy that there is less rubbish along their route now. I am so proud of the way this group of children have been so passionate about collecting litter, organising themselves each time and requesting support from the teachers in school. Please do remember to share any projects you may have completed together as a family or at home so that we can stamp the children's passports.

This term we are on a mission to improve our whole school attendance. The governors and I set the target each year and this is for 96.5% across the school. We have suffered with some widespread illnesses such as sickness bugs and chickenpox, but hope these have now passed and we can get back to having really positive attendance figures that are in line with national levels. It is vitally important that children attend school every day, not only does this support their academic outcomes later in life, but helps to continue developing positive, healthy relationships with others. If you have any specific questions regarding your child's attendance, please do get in touch.

The children will be coming home with National Geographic projects over the long weekend. They have chosen these from kits we have had a school for many, many years. My apologies if the paint or any elements of the kits are dried out/ not working, but I felt it important that these are used, rather than sit in school storage for another 7 years...

Have an enjoyable long weekend,
Mrs Charlotte Cornelius

Music in Kingfishers

A small group of children in Year 3 and 4 have taken part in their first music lesson delivered by Essex Music Services. They are learning to play the ukulele. In the small group, children got the opportunity to meet with the music teacher and handle the instruments, getting to ask a range of interesting questions along the way too.

All children in Kingfisher class will be having ukulele lessons and these will start on Monday 12th May.

"A ukulele is a small instrument that looks like a mini guitar and it has 4 plastic strings."



"We learnt a silly song called *My Dog has Fleas* and we sung it in the hall and then played it on the ukulele".

"The first lesson was a bit noisy. Did you know, that each string makes a different sound?"

Agents of CHANGE

On 22nd April it was Earth Day and it marked the 55th year since it first began. You can find out more about [Earth Day here](#). There are many incredible people working tirelessly to protect our planet as well as everything that calls it home. Here are some ideas of Agents of Change projects you could do at home together that are linked. Remember to let us know so you can get a stamp in the passport.





Online Safety- Zepeto

ZEPETO is a hugely popular social app where users create custom avatars to explore virtual worlds, play games and chat with others. With millions of active players worldwide, it offers an engaging digital experience – but not without its concerns, especially for younger users.

ZEPETO's vibrant world of custom outfits, interactive spaces and daily challenges might appeal to children – but those same features come with risks. From unfiltered chats and stranger danger to the temptation of in-app purchases, there's plenty for parents to be aware of. You can access a [parent guide here](#) giving an overview of the associated risks of ZEPETO and what you can do to keep young people safe when having fun online.

Honey Bees

On our first day back to school we enjoyed a visit from approximately 4000 honey bees who descended upon the school field. Rather excitingly, many of the children were able to see the hive they had created (from a safe distance) in the tree. A local beekeeper visited and came to remove the bees for us. His plan was to use a special Hoover which we all found very interesting. However, after returning home to Feering to pick up his ladder, the bees had all moved on! We were just a short 2 hour stop over on the bees journey.

He kindly gifted us a jar of beautiful local honey from his hives for all of the children to try. The school has made a donation to [The British Beekeepers Association](#) to cover the cost of the visit.



Did you know...

The distance a bee flies in its life is astonishing. It is possible for bees to fly as far as 5 miles for food. However, an average distance would be less than a mile from the hive. A strong colony of around 60,000 bees therefore flies the equivalent distance from earth to the moon everyday!

(Fact taken from <https://www.bbka.org.uk/>)



Statutory Assessments

In the Summer term, children across the school will be working on a range of assessments as they do in all terms. However, this term also sees assessments that are statutory and the results are gathered and analysed by the Department for Education.

I wish the children every success as they showcase their learning in the following specific areas:

- Year 6 SATS in Maths, Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar and Reading (Writing is teacher assessed)
- Year 4 in their Multiplication tables check
- Year 1 in their Phonics screening check

As always, if you have any questions about your child's learning, please do speak to the class teacher, or drop them an email. The teachers are always happy to help.

Diary Dates

- Fri 9th May** -PTFA Film Night
- Fri 9th May** -Yr 1/2 Fun Run event (letters shared)
- Thurs 8th May** - VE Day 80th Anniversary
- Fri 9th May** - Free Write Friday
- Mon 12th May** - KS2 SATS week
- Tues 20th May** - Yr 5/6 water safety session
- Fri 23rd May**- Final day of the half term
- Mon 2nd June**- Non pupil day
- W/b Mon 8th June**- Year 1 Phonics screening check
- Weds 11th June**- Water safety assembly
- W/b Mon 16th June**- NSPCC Stay Safe, Speak Out
- Mon 16th June**- School photographs
- Tues 17th June**- KS2 Consortium Sports Event
- Fri 20th/ 27th June**- Year 2 swimming at New Hall
- Tues 24th June**- Reception multi-skills & Kingfisher Food and Farming
- Fri 4th July**- Sports Day and Summer Fete

