



## Message from the Head

Dear Parents/ Carers,

Thank you for your support in attending the 'meet the teacher' sessions this week. Hopefully you have found these a useful way to find out about expectations for your child and their learning for the year ahead. You can find out more information, including the termly overview (also sent out via Classlist) and recommend reads related to the topic on the [class pages](#) on the school website.

Elections have been taking place this week for new School Councillors and this will continue into next week. This is an important part of school life, ensuring children have a voice and choice regarding important school decisions. A child represents each year group, and children in Year 6 take the roles of Chair, Vice-Chair and Secretary. Well done to all of the children who have already made their speeches in advance of the elections! House Captains will also be voted in by the House teams next week during assembly on Wednesday. I wish all who have put themselves forward the best of luck.

A reminder to please ensure any food brought into school that is to be shared (e.g. birthday cupcakes) has a list of ingredients as it is a legal requirement for the allergens to be checked. We are unable to share any food with children without this information. On a separate note, as many of you will know, we made the switch to crockery a number of years ago and this was made possible by your kind donations of plates and bowls picked up from charity shops etc. As the school continues to grow (and we have had a few breakages) if you are able to donate any white bowls then we would be very grateful. These can be patterned and the children love selecting their crockery each day.

I have shared a number of upcoming dates including a Maths Workshop for parents being held next week, Tuesday 23rd Sept at 2:15pm. In Mr Pearce's own words "there really is going to be something for everybody, so come along in order to support your child in a brilliant subject." Additional dates include a Phonics workshop for parents of children in Reception and KS1 on Monday 29th September at 3:20pm and the school's Harvest Festival service on Thursday 9th October at 1:45pm. There will be dates shared in the next few weeks for PTFA events. If you would like to get involved, please do come along to the PTFA AGM which will take place on Friday 3rd October at 9am.

A reminder to please record all reading at home in your child's reading journal. We do not set lengthy homeworks each week as we believe reading is the most essential skill to unlocking all areas of the curriculum. Please speak to your child's class teacher if you have any questions.

Best of luck to the children sitting the 11+ on Saturday. I wish you the best success as you try your very best and use your growth mindset.

Very best wishes,  
Mrs Charlotte Cornelius

## Car Park Notices

### Essential information for the safe use of the car park:

- **The Drop off zone** is the only space to allow children out of the car is by Miss Andrews close to the gate. DO NOT drop off at any point before this or get out of the car yourself, this slows down the system.
- **Reverse** into parking spaces only.
- **Do not park on the grass** area as this restricts the view for pedestrians.
- **Please be patient** and wait for a space at pick-up (you may have to drive around a second time at the busiest times).

## Secondary Applications

Parents of children in Year 6, as you may be aware, the new secondary school admission round opened on Friday 12th September 2025, for parents of current Year 6 children to apply for a secondary school (Year 7) place for September 2026.

The statutory national closing date for applications is 31 October 2025. Applications can be made online via [www.essex.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.essex.gov.uk/admissions). All of the application information is available on the website.

The website also has a copy of the Secondary Education in Essex 2026-27 booklet which contains details of all secondary school admission policies.

## Message from the Governors

The governors would like to welcome everyone back to school after the summer holiday. A very warm welcome to all of the new families and children who have joined in Wrens and across the school. We are happy to have you as part of our community.

We met on the evening of 17th September and elected Pip Parmenter as Chair of Governors and Amelia Macrae and Rebecca Gillanders as our Co Vice- Chairs. We have had a lot of interest for the vacancies of community governors and look forward to meeting with the candidates in the coming weeks before appointing the roles.

Over the course of the meeting we received an update from Mrs Cornelius on pupil progress from the summer term. We discussed updates in national safeguarding and attendance policies and reviewed the child protection policy. We have set an attendance target of 96.5% for the year. School attendance was positive last year, however we hope to continue improving on this with less term time holidays.

You can contact the governors through the school office if you would like to speak to us about any queries or concerns you may have. We look forward to working with the staff team again to continue supporting the children.

Pip Parmenter.





## School Clubs

The teachers are very excited to begin their extra-curricular activities next week. With clubs on offer for children from Year 1 through to Year 6 (Reception after the October half term) we have a great number of children already signed up. Most popular, as always, is the Key Stage 2 Choir, who have already begun the preparations for their performance as part of Young Voices at the O2 Arena in January.

[Teacher led clubs](#) for Autumn term are:

- Monday lunchtime: Mindfulness (all)
- Tuesday lunchtime: Imagination stations (KS1)
- Wednesday lunchtime: Choir (KS2)
- Wednesday after school: Yr 4-6 Netball
- Thursday lunchtime: KS1 Football

## Online Safety

### Conspiracy Theories

The latest update to 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' includes clarification that misinformation, disinformation and conspiracy theories are recognised safeguarding harms. Although they might seem far-fetched, for many people they are very convincing – especially when presented by persuasive influencers or sensationalist videos online. [This parent guide](#) unpacks the risks, including isolation, anxiety, and exposure to extremist content online, that can arise when conspiracies go unchecked.

## Spotlight on Sport

A slightly different focus as we celebrate the wonderful Mrs Cooper from New Hall! The children were very excited and proud to see her medal from the women's European Hockey Masters where her team beat Germany in the final, 1-0.

Mrs Cooper has played hockey all over the world with the England women's team and this term she is sharing her skills with the children every Thursday in PE as hockey is the focus.



## Attendance

As mentioned in the message from the Chair of Governors, we are aiming for **96.5%** attendance again this year. As improving school attendance continues to be a national focus, the NHS have produced some guidance for parents - [Linked here: Is my child too ill for school?](#) We understand that attending school for some children is challenging, and are always happy to listen and offer support in any way that we can. Please do come and talk to us.

The most recent Attendance and Punctuality Policy will be published online in the coming days, but below are some timings for your information:

- School gates open: 8.35-8.45 am
- Morning Registration: 8.45 am
- Morning Registration closes: 9.20 am
- Afternoon Registration: 1 pm
- Afternoon Registration closes: 1:15 pm
- End of the school day: 3.15 pm

Children arriving after 8.45 am receive a late mark (L) and must be escorted into school by a parent/ carer and signed into the book in Reception, giving a reason for lateness. Children arriving after 9.20 am receive an unauthorised absence mark (U).

### **National Framework for Penalty Notices**

There is now a single consistent national threshold for when a penalty notice must be considered by all schools in England, of 10 sessions (equivalent to 5 school days) of unauthorised absence within a rolling 10 school week period. The 10 sessions of absence do not have to be consecutive and can be made up of a combination of any type of unauthorised absence. The 10 school week period can span different terms, school years or education settings.

Although we understand the reduced cost of holidays during term time, it is challenging for both the children and teachers when children miss periods of school. We ask that you are honest if taking your child out of school on holiday as the implications for children feeling they have to pretend to have been ill to their friends and the teachers is very uncomfortable.

## Autumn Term Diary Dates

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

- Tues 23rd Sept-** Maths workshop for all parents 2.15pm
- Weds 24th Sept-** Thurstable School Open Evening
- Fri 26th Sept-** Whole school flu vaccine from 1pm
- Sun 28th Sept-** Village Harvest Festival service at All Saints Church
- Mon 29th Sept-** Owls residential trip to Norfolk
- Mon 29th Sept-** Phonics workshop for Rec, Year 1 & 2 parents 3.20pm
- Weds 1st Oct-** Mrs Canham (Robins maternity cover) starts
- Fri 3rd Oct-** PTFA AGM in the school hall 9am (all are very welcome)
- Thurs 9th Oct-** School Harvest Festival at 1:45pm (all welcome)
- Fri 10th Oct-** Wear something yellow for World Mental Health day // Stay and Play & Share and Learn- parents invited in from 2.30 pm
- Tues 14th & Thurs 16th Oct-** Parent teacher consultations
- Fri 24th Oct-** Last day of term