



Message from the Head

Dear Parents/ Carers,

Thank you for joining us for share and learn last week and engaging with parents evening this week. It has been great to see children proudly showing you their classrooms and some of the work they have been enjoying over the first half term. We also had a huge turn out at the church for Harvest Festival which was wonderful to see. There is still time to donate items for Colchester Food Bank if you are able to help.

This will be the final newsletter until after half term and therefore I'd like to share some information from the Child Accident Prevention Trust around keeping children safe at Halloween. You can access the [advice here](#). Today children will be bringing home a pumpkin design competition that they are able to take part in if they wish. These are due back into school on Wednesday 22nd October. The PTFA will also be holding a Halloween bake sale and costume swap on Monday 20th October, please do support this event.

There will be a new lunch menu starting after half term. As we enter the winter, jacket potatoes will be the alternative option instead of wraps. The updated menu is [linked here on the school website](#) and will follow a 2 week cycle. I will also ensure the menu is changed outside the school gates.

After the half term break we will be welcoming Mrs Rita Chalkley into our staff team. She will be supporting Ms Gooday in the office in the mornings and has extensive experience working in primary schools. I am sure you will get to know her friendly face very quickly.

In the next newsletter I will share a write up from the children in Robin class who enjoyed a brilliant trip to Colchester Castle this week. Thank you to all of the parents who were able to support with transport which made the trip possible. I know the children were so excited about their visit and from everything I have heard and seen, they were not disappointed! If you would like to see some photos, you can visit their [class page here](#).

Today is Mrs Evans final day with us as she goes on maternity leave. A big thank you for the kindness you have shown towards her which I know has been very much appreciated. I would like to personally thank Mrs Evans for all of the hard work, time and energy she has put into making it such a successful transition for the children, even squeezing in time for a school trip with Mrs Canham before the baby. I wish Mrs Evans and her family the very best on their new chapter into parenthood.

Have an enjoyable weekend and restful half term when it comes.

Very best wishes,
Mrs Charlotte Cornelius

Admissions

The new secondary school admission round opened on Friday, 12 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.

Applications for Essex Reception school places for September 2026 are open from 10 November 2025 to 15 January 2026. Applications can be made online via www.essex.gov.uk/admissions. Offers will be sent to online applicants by email on 16 April 2026.

Autumn Term Diary Dates

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

- Mon 20th Oct**- PTFA Halloween bake sale after school
- Weds 22nd Oct**- PTFA Pumpkin competition entries due
- Fri 24th Oct**- Last day of term
- 25-26th Oct**- Chelmsford Science Festival ([book here](#))
- Mon 3rd Nov**- Non-pupil day
- Tues 4th Nov**- Children back in school
- Tues 4th Nov**- Mini Athletics event for group of Rec & Yr 1 chn.
- Tues 11th Nov**- Robin class Born to Move Sports Festival
- Weds 12th Nov**- Positive Noticing Day
- Fri 14th Nov**- PTFA Film Night (KS2) and games picnic (EY/ KS1)
- Fri 28th Nov**- PTFA Non-School uniform
- Sun 30th Nov**- Santa at Messing Orchard & All Saints Church Christmas Tree Event
- Fri 5th Dec**- Christmas Fair
- Weds 10th/ Thurs 11th Dec**- Nativity performances
- Weds 17th Dec**- Christmas Lunch

Short Story Competition

Words for a Greener World is a short story competition. Essex Book Festival has teamed up with Essex Year of Opportunity. Children can enter by writing a story of up to 500 words based around the theme of Climate Change. Entries must be submitted to the school by Wednesday 10th December to allow us to send off by Friday 12th December.

For full details visit the [website here](#).
(Open for 7-11 years old)



Kingswood

We are so incredibly proud of all the children in Owls who absolutely thrived during their residential trip in Norfolk. They gave all of the activities a try and displayed excellent teamwork, a super sense of humour and kindness towards one another.

Write up by Rocky and Tavis

It was time for the week that every child in Owl Class look forward to... the biannual residential trip. This year, we set off for a new destination on the North Norfolk coast – Overstrand. During the 2.5 hour coach journey, we were all very excited and when we eventually got there, everyone got off the luxurious coach and ravenously ate their lunch. We all found out our rooms ('Hope' dormitory) and groups and before we knew it, we were active!

Throughout the week, we took part in far too many activities to list but the favourites seemed to be: 'Leap of Faith', Jacob's Ladder, Laser Tag and Caving. However, all of the activities were great for our age as they were exciting, challenging and gave us many experiences we'd never had before. It was so nice to try new things – another favourite being fencing! Touche.

The food was delicious, especially the 'Full English' and a limitless supply of toast for breakfast. And, oh my word... there was a flavoured water station at which the favourite flavour was lemon and lime. All rooms had bunk beds and we actually started to look forward to the daily room inspection. We spent very little time in our rooms, as we were so busy, but got on incredibly well when we were there.

We all looked forward to our evening sweet time (especially Mr Pearce) which gave us a bit of an energy boost. This was especially needed after the silent disco when we all danced and sang our hearts out.

Would we go again? Yes, 1,000,000% We realise how fortunate we are to have had such a great opportunity

