



Message from the Head

Dear Parents/ Carers,

I hope that you had an enjoyable time together as a family over the half term break. It's been a brilliant first week back with all of the children getting stuck into new topics and units of learning. This half term for New Hall PE will be Tag Rugby. Mr Pearce has sent out information about the kit children need for this.

Thank you for your generous donations of the most fantastic (and spooky) cakes for the PTFA Halloween Bake Sale before half term. A total of £98.40 was raised which is brilliant and will go towards PTFA events throughout the year. On Friday 5th December a travelling pantomime company will be coming to Messing to perform. As it is the same day as the Christmas Fair and to allow the PTFA to set up, All Saints Church have kindly offered to host this and so we will be walking the children down to the church for the performance in the morning.

On Tuesday I had the pleasure of accompanying a small group of children from Wrens and Robins class to Charter Hall for a mini athletics events. All of the children had so much fun trying out different games and using equipment, including mini javelins! The most exciting part was when each child received a medal on the podium and two children were chosen by the coaches to receive certificates for their skills. Next week all of the children in Robins will be attending a Born 2 Move festival which is set to be great fun.

Next week the children in Owls class will be leading our annual Remembrance assembly on Tuesday 11th November. Following their unit in the previous term on World War II, they have produced some thought provoking readings and poems. Please do take time to look at the windows on the school hall. Children have been working on creating a stained glass installation in memory of the fallen soldiers.

Our curriculum at Messing is always evolving as we seek to ensure we have the best academic opportunities for the children. This term we will be working with the Maths Hub to review the curriculum. We are looking forward to trialling some of the latest strategies, particularly with our focus on mixed age teaching and building a real confidence and curiosity around number.. We will keep you up to date on new initiatives as they arise.

Finally, I am delighted to share that Mrs Evans has welcomed a beautiful baby girl, Ettie, into the world. Both are doing well and I am sure you will join me as we send our very best wishes to the whole family.

Very best wishes,
Mrs Charlotte Cornelius

Agents of Change

It has been a busy first half term with children getting stamps in their passports for different Agents of Change projects. The children from Owls who attended the school residential trip in Overstand earned 'Be Still' for their exceptionally slow movements and calmness in achieving a record for the centre on the human seesaw. I received wonderful letters from some children in Robins as they focussed on 'Expressing Gratitude'. The children in Kingfishers have been 'Celebrating themselves' and others by capturing personalities and characteristic through an online tool, Wrens also got to join in on the action. All children have also gained a stamp for their performances in church for the Harvest Festival. You can have a look on the Agents of Change section the [school website here](#).



PTFA Pumpkin Winners

A very big well done to everybody. We had the largest amount of entries this year! Congratulations to the following children for their fantastic designs:

Wrens- Charlie (Autumn leaves)
Robins- Olivia (Seasonal seeds and peelings)
Kingfishers- Bonita (Golden collage)
Owls- Agatha ('I Picasso Pumpkin')



Colchester Castle

On Wednesday 15th October the children in Robins Class went on their school trip to Colchester Castle. Having learned about Castles through their first topic, they were full of excitement in the build up! Thank you to all of the parents who were able to support with transporting the children. This makes such a difference to keeping the costs down.

Recount by Otilie

First we walked to the castle and some of us opened the portcullis (portcullis). Then we met the helper Georgia and we hooked our coats up. Then we looked at the museum upstairs and did some chariot racing. Next we had lunch and I had a chocolate biscuit.

Finally we had a tour of the castle and we got to be knights and got to see the prison, did a puppet show and made a pretend arch and dragon also. We also saw weapons and we saw an old toilet.



Mathemagicians



The teachers have selected their first 'Mathemagicians'. The following children are our latest Mathemagicians:.

- Wrens-** Charlie: working hard and developing a confident approach to all tasks
- Robins-** Max: excellent mental maths and making connections between numbers
- Kingfishers-** Jamie: demonstrating a fantastic understanding of place value beyond 1000 and explaining his reasoning
- Owls-** Jess: showing a positive mindset towards 4-digit addition and subtraction problems

Online Safety

The 2 Johns have been commissioned by Essex Safeguarding Children Board to deliver an online safety talk for parents with a focus on gaming and screen time.

They are very knowledgeable and excellent presenters, so I would highly recommend attending if you are able. [Sign up here.](#)

Thursday 11th December at 8pm.



Autumn Term Diary Dates

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

- Mon 10th Nov-** Parents of children with SEN Cuppa and Chat at 2pm
- Tues 11th Nov-** Robin class Born to Move Sports Festival
- Weds 12th Nov-** Positive Noticing Day & Writing event at New Hall for a group of Yr 5/6 children
- Fri 14th Nov-** PTFA Film Night (KS2) and games picnic (EY/ KS1)
- Fri 21st Nov-** Free Write Friday
- Thurs 27th Nov-** Bags2School Collection
- 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

