



## Message from the Head

Dear Parents/ Carers,

Happy New Year and welcome back. I hope that you had a restful break over the Christmas period. It's been straight back into learning, with all classes beginning their new topics. Children in Robin class have been very excited to tell me their fantastic questions they are hoping to answer all about dinosaurs. Teachers have shared the curriculum overviews with you via Classlist or email, but they can also be found on the school website under '[class pages](#)'.

This week I met with the School Council about the impact they wish to have on the school community. They came up with some excellent ideas about creating surveys to understand the views and opinions of all of the children about different aspects of school life, including clubs and school lunches. They also had some suggestions about supporting more children to complete Agents of Change projects and so I will be leading an Agents of Change club during lunch playtime on Tuesday. The first project will be 'research an activist' and children are welcome to drop in.

We have some spaces remaining in two of our clubs, Gold on Monday morning (8am) and Racquet Sports on Wednesday morning (8am). Although these were put on for children in Year 3 upwards, we are also able to offer some spaces to children in Year 1 and 2. Please email the school office if your child is interested and Ms Gooday will be in touch.

Sadly, I have shared some upsetting news with the staff and children in KS2 that Mr Tom Johnson, one of the much loved members of New Hall PE staff, passed away unexpectedly during the Christmas holidays. I attended Mass at New Hall and will be writing a message in a book of condolence that the school is putting together for Mr Johnson's family. Mr Johnson had always been actively involved in PE at Messing and some of you may remember the videos he shared during lockdown to encourage the children to keep moving. Mr Harris and Mrs Cooper, our current New Hall current sports coaches and I shared some fond memories of Mr Johnson and his positive, creative and imaginative approach to always championing every child.

Have an enjoyable weekend,

Very best wishes,  
Mrs Charlotte Cornelius

## Big Garden Birdwatch

The RSPB's [Big Garden Birdwatch](#) is 23-25 January. It is the world's largest garden wildlife survey and we try to support this at school by encouraging everyone to get involved. Children have already been busy spotting British garden bird posters across the school to get them familiar with native bird species.

Next week, children are able to bring in a small container or bag from home to collect some bird feed from school, think seeds and mealworms, delicious! We will have our 'pick n mix bird feed station' ready for children on Monday onwards.

## Spring Term Diary Dates

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

**Thurs 22nd Jan-** KS2 Choir at Young Voices  
**Fri 23rd Jan-** Free Write Friday  
**Mon 26th Jan-** Yr 6 SATs talk for parents 3.20pm  
**Weds 28th Jan-** Height & weight check (Rec & Yr 6)  
**Mon 2nd Feb-** Road Safety Awareness  
**Thurs 5th Feb-** KS2 Sportshall Athletics  
**Tues 10th Feb-** Safer Internet Day  
**Thurs 12th Feb-** Year 4 MTC talk for parents 3.20pm  
**Fri 13th Feb-** Final day of half term  
**Mon 23rd Feb-** Return to school  
**Thurs 26th/ Fri 27th Feb-** Yr 5/6 Bikeability  
**Mon 9th Mar-** British Science Week  
**Tues 10th/ Weds 11th Mar-** Parents eve sign-ups  
**Fri 13th Mar-** Share and Learn/ Stay and Play  
**Tues 17th/ Thurs 19th Mar-** Parents evening  
**Fri 20th Mar-** Odd socks day for Down Syndrome  
**Fri 27th Mar-** End of half term

## Attendance to Celebrate!

Each term we celebrate individual attendance successes and before Christmas was no different. However, I am very happy to share that our whole school attendance is the best we have seen at Messing for a number of years. We are currently at 96.6% which compares to 94.8% nationally. Furthermore, nearly half of the children in the school (48%) have an attendance record of 99%+ which is fantastic.

We know that attending school for some children is very challenging and we are always working hard with children and families to put things into place to. Please do come and speak to any of us if you need support.

