



## Message from the Head

Dear Parents/ Carers,

It has been a wonderful few weeks, with children making the most of the warm, dry weather at lunch and break times. As the leaves have also begun to fall, we have had groups of children working furiously to collect them, creating perfect habitats for wildlife around the fields. In the coming weeks we hope to start our Forest School sessions, where our aim is for all year groups to have the opportunity for rich learning and deep connection across the year. My thanks to Miss Bonvini for her hard work with risk assessments and planning. There will be a letter with more information being sent out next week to the first year groups.

The children are busy practising songs for our upcoming Harvest Festival celebration at All Saints Church, Messing on Thursday 8th October. In a similar style to last year, the service will begin at 1:45pm and at the end, parents who are able to attend can take children home directly from the church. Children will bring their lunch boxes and jackets, but we tend to keep water bottles in school and refresh them the following morning. Reading books also have a 'school sleepover'. This saves the children carrying too much and ensures we can still walk safely. Any children who attend Smiley or sports club will return to school with staff for collection at their usual time.

We are still collecting items for Colchester Food Bank. These are desperately needed to support those who find themselves in times of difficulty or hardship. Any form of long life food items, such as tinned vegetables, soup, pasta and lentils, as well as personal care items including toothpaste and soaps are perfect. There is a collection box in the foyer by the school office. Please do help us if you are able to.

The rota for the Wellbeing Cabin and Lodge are now up and running for children's use at lunchtime. Both are great spaces that children can access as an alternative to outside. We are still looking for a volunteer librarian to support us in the Lodge. Please spread the word if you know of anybody who is able to volunteer one afternoon a week.

I am working hard to get the latest policies onto the school website and will also include links to them in the following newsletter. These will include information on attendance, safeguarding and allergies in the first instance, with more to follow. There will also be a consultation in the coming weeks on our RSHE (Relationships, Sex, and Health Education) policy which forms part of the PSHE (Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education) programme.

Next week, parents of children in EYFS and Key Stage One are invited to a Phonics Workshop on Tuesday 29th September at 3:30pm. This is to share information and resources about how best to support your child with developing their early reading skills. Please do attend if possible. Our apologies about the cancellation of the Maths Workshop. We are continuing our work with the Maths Hub for this term and therefore we will reschedule this parent event in the Spring Term where we can give the most up to date information about our curriculum, resources and ideas to support at home.

Very best wishes and enjoy the weekend,  
Mrs Charlotte Cornelius

## School Council

Last week children across the school were putting together and delivering their School Council speeches in classes. It is always brilliant to see how children engage with public speaking and rise to the challenge of empowering themselves and others. As always, there was some disappointment, however congratulations to the following children:

Year 1- Henry  
Year 2- Isla  
Year 3- Otilie  
Year 4- Camilla  
Year 5- Isla  
Year 6- Rocky  
Secretary- Shyla  
Vice Chair- Felix  
Chair- Alfie

I met with the children on Thursday for our first meeting, where we discussed The Lodge, our library space. For the past two terms it was used as a staffroom due to building works, however, we are determined to refresh the space. All of the school councillors drew some designs, floor plans and shared ideas on how they think we could make the library a more engaging and welcoming space to share and swap books. We also discussed how we could write letters to ask for support in gathering some resources.

Mrs Evans and I will use the children's ideas to put a plan together as we are excited to get the space looking and feeling it's best for everyone.

## House Captains

Congratulations to the following children in Year 6 who were voted in by their house teams on Friday 18th September:

Diamond- Chloe  
Ruby- Lenny  
Sapphire- Alba  
Emerald- Rocky

As always, this is a popular position among the Year 6's and there were some inspiring speeches about teamwork and resilience.

The first house competition will be our annual decoration of Christmas trees for All Saints Church, Messing. This is when the children work in their teams with either a colour or theme to decorate their house tree. Later in the year there will be sporting opportunities and of course, Sports Day culminating in the cup winners. Last year saw Rubies lift the trophy for the first time in a number of years.





**YOUNGMINDS**

# Hello Yellow

## Hello Yellow for Mental Health

As part of our school vision and ethos, we believe passionately in supporting children to develop strategies to promote positive Mental Health. Children have access to the Wellbeing Cabin at lunchtime, as well as sessions in class linked to Zones of Regulation that supports their understanding of emotions and how to develop a toolbox of approaches to support themselves.

On Friday 9th October, all children and staff are invited to wear a yellow item along with their school uniform (e.g. yellow top, jumper, socks, hair accessory) to raise awareness for World Mental Health Day. You can find out more about [Young Minds Hello Yellow Campaign here](#). If you are able to make a donation, these will be shared with the charity to support their vital work.

## Message from Governors

On Wednesday 16th September, governors met for the first meeting of the new academic year. At the meeting the parent governors elected at the end of the previous academic term were recognised and the positions of Chair and Vice-Chairs were filled. Pip Parmenter continues in the role of Chair and Amelie Macrae and Rebecca Gillanders continue as Vice-Chairs. The governors also had time to see the completed building and site improvements which we are sure you'll agree have added so much to the school.

As well as general business, the governors spent time recognising and celebrating the excellent end of KS2 outcomes which were above national average, particularly for children achieving 'greater depth'. There were discussions around the outcomes for younger children in EYFS and the Year 1 phonics screening check, where there has been an improvement from the previous year.

The school's attendance figure for the coming academic year has been set at 96.5%. Although this was not reached in the previous year, the school's attendance of 95.3% was above the national average of 94.7%. The updated Attendance Policy, as well as Child Protection and Allergy policies were also ratified and will be updated on the school's website in the coming days.

Other areas of the meeting included governors ensuring the correct procedures were in place for the 2027/28 Owl class residential trip to Norfolk and reviewing the staff and governor training completed so far. The governors aim to continue working closely with New Hall School this year through the NHMAT to ensure the school continues progressing and fulfilling its aims to provide the best school experience for every child.

If you have anything you wish to discuss with the governors, please do not hesitate to contact us via [admin@messingprimaryschool.co.uk](mailto:admin@messingprimaryschool.co.uk). We look forward to another positive year ahead.

## Lunch boxes and Allergies



Across the school, we have children with a range of allergies including nuts, egg, sesame, dairy and grass seed. We pride ourselves on being an allergy aware school and always try to put in measures to ensure everyone can access school safely.

Where children bring packed lunches into school, we ask parents to support us in keeping all of the children safe. This means there are some items that we ask are not packed into children's lunches and these include:

- Complete egg products such as scotch eggs, quiche, egg sandwiches and boiled eggs
- Products containing nuts such as chocolate spreads and satay chicken.

Where products contain processed egg, for example cake or coleslaw with mayonnaise, this is fine.

## Autumn Term Diary Dates

**Tues 29th Sept-** Parent Phonics workshop 3.20pm (for EYFS and KS1 parents)

**Weds 30th Sept-** Whole school SEN assembly run by Multi Schools Council

**Fri 2nd Oct-** Share and Learn 2.30pm (parents are invited into their child/ren's class to get a taste of learning so far)

**Mon 5th- Tues 6th Oct-** Parents evening sign up

**Thurs 8th Oct-** Harvest Festival at All Saints Church, Messing at 1.45pm (parents invited and children can then go home directly from the church- any children attending Smiley, sports club or have parents unable to attend will return to school with staff)

**Fri 9th Oct-** Wear something yellow (World Mental Health Day)

**Fri 9th Oct-** PTFA AGM 9am (all welcome, please come along)

**Tues 13th Oct-** Flu immunisation for children

**Tues 13th/ Thurs 15th Oct-** Parent's evening

**Mon 19th Oct-** SEN Cuppa and Chat at 9am

**Fri 23rd Oct-** No swimming for Owl class

**Fri 23rd Oct-** Last day of half term

**Mon 2nd Nov-** Non-pupil day

**Thurs 5th Nov-** Outdoor classroom day

**Fri 6th Nov-** Height and weight check for EYFS and Year 6