



Message from the Head

Dear Parents/ Carers,

We have had lots of wonderful opportunities to share school life with parents this half term. Thank you for those who were able to join for share and learn last week- the children love to show off their classrooms and books. I hope they spoke proudly about some of the units they have already covered and the areas of learning they are enjoying so far. We also hosted the EYFS and KS1 parent phonics talk. The teachers are passionate about early reading and how valuable the support at home is for children in making progress. Mrs Evans and Mrs Williams have been thinking about how to run this slightly differently next year, perhaps with an invitation to watch a phonics session for each year group. Watch this space.

Yesterday's Harvest service at All Saints church was a wonderful opportunity to bring our community together. My thanks to you for taking the time to attend and for some of the lovely feedback about the children. My apologies for the squeeze at the back of the church, but it was brilliant to see so many proud parent faces. Hopefully the 'harvest tango' does not get stuck in your head for too long. Thank you for the generous donations made so far for the Colchester Foodbank. This will be delivered at the end of the half term, so there is a little more time if you would like to make a contribution.

Last week the Multi Schools Council hosted an assembly for children in Year 1-6 with a focus on Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). Mrs Lewis and I were incredibly proud to hear the feedback from the speakers who were so impressed by the children's focus, engagement and contributions. Excitingly, two children from Year 2 have been invited to become ambassadors as a result of their inclusive and kind comments. In November we will be having an assembly delivered about Young Carers and I look forward to hearing the children's reflections following this.

Autumn term always seems to rush by in school where we are focussed on settling the new children in Wrens class, as well as showing prospective Reception parents around the school. We have had a number of school tours over the past few weeks, however, if you know of anybody in the local area looking for a school space for September 2027, please do ask them to get in touch. We are always happy to meet with families looking to join our community.

Finally, I will share the news with everybody following a letter to Kingfisher class families, that Mrs Southgate will very sadly be leaving us at Christmas. She has worked at Messing for thirteen years is well known among the staff team for her care, kindness, patience, good humour and excellent TV choices. Our priority is to make the transition as smooth and positive as possible for the children. We are already working hard to ensure that arrangements for spring term are in place, with a particular focus on providing consistency and high-quality teaching, and on supporting the wellbeing of the children through this change. Mrs Southgate will continue in her role until the end of term, and we will be working closely together to ensure that the children are well supported and prepared for the change ahead.

Very best wishes and enjoy the weekend,
Mrs Charlotte Cornelius

PTFA Update

This morning the PTFA team for the year ahead were elected at the AGM. Congratulations to the following:

Chair- Mrs Hicks

Vice Chair- Ms Morris

Co-Secretaries- Mrs Boucher & Mrs Robinson

Treasurer- Mrs Chalkley

There were a number of ideas shared for fundraising including; festive film night; hot chocolate Friday; wreath making and more.

A reminder that all members of the parent community are automatically a part of the PTFA, however please do not let this panic you! If you are able to give any amount of time to support at events or behind the scenes throughout the year we would be most grateful.

Last year, the PTFA raised over £3000 which is amazing for our small community. This money always goes directly towards supporting all of the children through subsidised travel costs for trips, the travelling panto at Christmas, donation of Easter eggs and money towards books and resources, plus so much more. This year a large proportion of the money will be spent on new folding tables for lunchtime. We were kindly gifted second hand tables from New Hall a number of years ago, however these are now reaching the end of their life.

With your continued help and support, we hope for it to be another year of fundraising success to benefit all of the children at Messing!

Funding Wall and Easy Fundraising

As some of you may already be aware, the school is registered with Easy Fundraising. This is an excellent way for the school to make some income from all of your online shopping, at no extra cost to you! It is particularly useful in the run up to Christmas and covers retailers such as John Lewis, Amazon, Argos, M&S, Dunelm and Tesco.

Find out more and sign up using the link below:

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/messingptfa/?searchSessionId=ff70b0f7-6f0c-4eaf-8fa3-8779a1d88018>

In addition, we are working with Funding Wall to generate income through donations from individuals or local businesses. Again, this is an excellent way to support the school in generating additional funds that can support curriculum enrichment and exciting opportunities. You can see some of the fundraising projects we are working towards by clicking on the link below. If you know of any small or large businesses, or individuals that would be interested in partnering with us for either a one off or regular donation, please do share the link.

<https://www.fundingwall.org.uk/wall/messing-primary-school-co59th>

Thank you for your support.

The Big Future Survey

As Children's Commissioner, I am writing to ask you to support your child to complete my survey, [The Big Future](http://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/thebigfuture).

Under the Children Act 2004, it is my role to promote the views and interests of children in England, and I have done this so far by conducting the two largest ever children's surveys: The Big Ask and The Big Ambition.

Now, for the first time, hundreds of thousands of children will be eligible to vote in the next general election, the biggest change to the franchise in half a century. Yet just one in five children say politicians listen to them. That's why I'm launching my final survey, The Big Future.

Children can complete the survey here: <http://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/thebigfuture>.

I want to make sure that I hear from as many children as possible, aged 0-18, from all backgrounds, in all schools and colleges, and in every part of the country. To do that, I need your help.

I am asking children about the changes they want to see in their communities, their biggest concerns, and their hopes for the future. More than anything, I want to know what they think a good childhood should look like today.

Dame Rachel de Souza



PTFA Autumn Competition

On Monday 12th October children will be bringing home instructions for the annual PTFA competition.

This year, children in Kingfishers and Owls are asked to put on their poetry hats and come up with an autumnal themed poem. This could focus on the season or a particular celebration, such as Bonfire Night. Children should try and include adventurous vocabulary, their own ideas and present it creatively. For children in Wrens and Robins class, they are invited to create their own pumpkin artwork, being as creative as possible. I am hoping to create a display in school with some of the most impressive entries from across the school.

One winner will be selected from each year group, which means there are 7 prizes up for grabs.

The closing date for entries will be on Monday 19th, with judging taking place on Tuesday 20th. The winners will be announced and awarded their prize during our praise assembly on Friday 23rd October.

Freddo Friday Award

You may have already heard, but we have a new award to celebrate children who consistently demonstrate a smart school uniform, with their shirts tucked in and ties correctly tied. This is something that we speak with about the children on a regular basis, showing respect for themselves and others. Mr Pearce in particular does his very best to model this to the children at all times.

Well done to our winners so far:

25th Sept- Brody, Yr 5
2nd Oct- Olivia, Yr 5
9th Oct- Chloe, Yr 6



PE Kits

Please could you help us support all children in being prepared for their PE lessons each week as we still have a number of children across classes who are missing essential items. We have limited space in the hall and therefore PE is outside as much as possible and children do use their winter PE kit which includes black jogging bottoms, red polo, trainers and a black jumper/ hoody.

If you have problems sourcing PE kit, please let us know as we do have some limited spares, however these are running low as we lend them to children and they are not always returned.

Please also ensure all PE kit is clearly labelled.

Autumn Term Diary Dates

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

Tues 3rd Nov- Children back in school

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

Sat 7th Nov- Messing Market 11-2 (village hall)

Tues 10th Nov- Young Carers assembly

Weds 11th Nov- Owl class to lead Remembrance assembly

Fri 13th Nov- World Kindness Day

Tues 17th Nov- Positive Noticing Day

Fri 4th Dec- Travelling panto in school / PTFA Christmas Fair

Mon 7th Dec- Nativity dress rehearsal 1.30pm

Tues 8th Dec- Nativity afternoon performance 1.30pm

Weds 9th Dec- Nativity evening performance 6pm

Tues 15th Dec- Christingle service at All Saints 1.45pm

Weds 16th Dec- Christmas lunch & Christmas jumper day