

Parents' Newsletter

Love, Respect, Honesty, Perseverance



Friday 31st January

Dear Parents and Carers

As we approach the halfway stage of this academic year, we have lots to look forward to in the coming terms and much to celebrate in the way of children's achievements. As ever, we are looking forward to having the opportunity to discuss these with you during our February Parent Consultation Sessions. This year we are launching an online system for booking your appointments. This system allows you to have an email sent to you confirming your slots at the point of booking. Can I politely request that the event times and evenings are kept to and teachers are not asked to provide slots outside of these times, this is important as part of our teacher's wellbeing. This is an essential opportunity to share with you the latest assessments, that will take place for children over the final two weeks of the half term, and to discuss ways you can support your child going forward to make the most of the time ahead. This is also a time to discuss any concerns you may have and of course for us to let you know how additional interventions such as Thrive or academic extras are impacting upon your child. A link to book your parent evening slot will sent out to you at the earliest opportunity.

Please can we ask that you take a look at our diary dates for the coming half term. We have lots of dates to put into diaries with the Easter Enterprise event, church led services and the many trips planned. We also want to alert Year 5 parents to preparing for the PGL residential trip coming up in September. We have sent about the trip and details of the face-to-face information evening so that parents can ask general and specific questions with a member of the team who has accompanied groups to PGL.

Kind regards
Bridgette Gough

Collective Worship and Reflections

Last week our theme for worship was 'caring for the natural world'. The children enjoyed the stories 'Who Swallowed Stanley' and 'The Promise' in addition to the creation story. Our school Reflections Area followed this theme too with the children being asked to reflect for a moment on small changes they can make to support reducing ocean plastics. The children have really embraced these ideas and there is a link here to the National Geographic Kids page which outlines ways we can reduce plastic in our oceans.

<https://www.natgeokids.com/uk/kids-club/cool-kids/general-kids-club/tips-to-reduce-plastic-pollution/>

This week we have been exploring the importance of truthfulness, this topic has included 'The Empty Pot' story, 'The Boy Who Cried Bigfoot', a variation of the classic boy who cried wolf tale and the story of 'Joseph and his Brothers'. The children have been so thoughtful with their responses to all the stimuli used and even our youngest pupils have had much to say about the importance of honesty. We used the opportunity to link truthfulness to safety and how it links to being trustworthy.



Love Life and Learning

All things reading and books!!

One of our Key Drivers for this year is to get our children into books. This is in the form of listening to texts, reading to adults and independent reading. This means we are really encouraging book talk at school, encouraging children to develop a knowledge of their preferences and finding a book that they can't put down.

As part of this I want to share with you a resource that is currently available on CBBC, it encourages children to take a quiz on what they like and don't like about books to get suggestions of next reads from their book club list, every month they add another six books. We are also sharing lists for phases we have sourced and adapted some lists considering what children in school are talking about to support visits to the library or book purchases.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbbc/quizzes/bp-book-club-personality-2024>

Blue Peter Badges for book reviews – I also wanted to draw your attention to the fact that you can earn a BP badge for writing a book review, this allows free entrance to 200 attractions and is well worth doing. The badge is a special book edition with an illustration by Quentin Blake. See the link below.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbbc/findoutmore/blue-peter-apply-for-a-book-badge>

Whilst on the topic of exciting reads we are sending a reminder that next half term we are hosting the annual Book Fair event. Sales earn free book stocks for school and with budgets becoming tighter and tighter this has become an essential way to replenish and refresh our reading materials. We hope you can support the event and this year we will purchase individual/ independent reading books for our graded book boxes and our class library shelves. Our book fair will arrive on Monday 3rd March and we will send a timetable for purchasing books on the Friday before half term. A £1 book token will be sent home with each child.

The dress up day this year will follow the theme which is "Read Your Way" and be Dress Your Way, so whether you feel a pyjama day, a fancy-dress costume day or party outfit are in order, it's up to you. We really hope removing the pressure of dressing as anything in particular, will allow us to get back to what is at the heart of the event, exciting children about books and would much rather any funds available, can support this rather than a costume need. However, do keep in mind the children will be playing outside as usual and if they will be required to do PE that day, it is not going to stop them taking part safely. This will be on Thursday 6th March.

Wet Weather Drop-off

When the weather is wet the gates and doors will be open to allow the children to be taken round to their external classroom entrances to ensure they get no wetter than necessary before the school day starts. Gates will then be locked as soon as practical after 8:45am.

Headteacher's Cup

Tiger Cub Class:	W1-Yaren W2-Roman
Reindeer Class:	W1-Bella W2-Isla
Fennec Fox Class:	W1-James W2-Henry
Panda Class:	W1-Leon W2-Matilda
Snow Leopard Class:	W1-Ava W2-Jacob
Turtle Class:	W1-Brody W2-Dougie
Seal Class:	W1-Sebastian W2-Lauren



Birthdays in January

Connie	Lauren
Harper	Benjamin
Mason	Rafe
Emily	Nicholas
Olivia S	
Ethan	
Albie	
Aubrey	
Alex H	
Huey	
Mya	
Ellis	
Esme	



Going For Green

Orla & Albie

Sports Cup

Tommy S & Parker

Easter Enterprise

Context and Purpose of the project – This is a chance to offer children to have the experience of enterprise, to have the opportunity to sell a service or a product to raise money for a school community project, to be decided upon by the children. This fits with reinforcing community and supporting children in community action; community is an aim of the Vision for Education as set out by the Church of England. The planning phase of preparations supports our maths curriculum, our pedagogy and depending upon what classes choose, many other areas too. Children will be creating slogans, film making and using advertising space wherever they can! This year we have asked the children to think of ways to spend the funds raised on improving our grounds in support of well-being. These ideas have been shared with the School Council and they are now costing ideas and researching how these ideas will be achieved, to produce a priced wish list for the winning class to decide from.

‘This week, School Council met to discuss ideas from each class about how our Easter Enterprise earnings could be spent. This year, the aim is to work together to fund a project that helps to care for our school environment, protect the planet and increase our engagement with nature.

Every class had suggested developing the Reflections Garden into a more relaxing, sensory environment. The main idea was to raise enough money to buy a reading cabin, which could be made into a comfortable space to encourage more of us to read and talk about books in our own time. EY even suggested some hammocks! In addition, there were lots of discussions about introducing more calming sights and sounds into the area; for example, Buddha statues, windchimes and a water fountain, which could double as a bird bath. Ideas to make our school grounds more 'bird welcoming' were also popular, as was the idea of funding equipment to have a school litter picking team.

We're all looking forward to planning our Easter Enterprise business and raising as much money as we can to enrich our school environment.

**Chloe and Stan N
Y6 School Council Representative’**

Each class has a start-up fund to work with and decides collaboratively what their project will be. We then ask parents and families to attend the event, purchasing these goods and services in a marketplace environment with classrooms becoming retail bases. We are hoping everyone will find time to join in with this bi-annual event and make this a memorable learning experience. So please do put the date in your diary and support the children’s entrepreneurial efforts!!

Improving Attendance Meetings

As part of our duty to ensure all children are in school as much as possible and attendance is rated good for each of our pupils, I am holding meetings to support improving attendance for those for whom we are most concerned. These meetings are being scheduled, where possible to fit with parent consultation sessions. These will be organised by the school’s admin team over the coming weeks. Please do find time to take up this offer to support your child.

Mighty Oak Project

Every term we undertake a writing project to inspire our young writers across our whole community of learners. Some examples from each year are displayed on our Writing Project display board and children can see their work displayed; and the journey from emergent writer to skilled wordsmiths can be seen by visitors.

Last term the children’s writing was stimulated by children’s books that countered stereotypes, the children talked about these books so much and produced some great work. Therefore, we have decided to use this as a stimulus for their speech creation as part of the Mighty Oak Public Speaking Programme followed by Years 2 to 6. We hope the children will share these with you in due course.

Roots to Food – Great Again!!

We have welcomed Darren Tinkler from Roots to Food into school, once again, he worked with classes from Year 2 to 6. The children thoroughly enjoyed their session, and this experience complimented our Design and Technology event which took place last term. The dish completed took an Asian theme and showed the children how to cook from scratch using a recipe. They prepared all the vegetables and meat and with the use of a slow cooker created a well-balanced main meal. Safe tool use and hygiene were an important part of the session and of course taste testing and review. This has all been made possible due to this event being sponsored by our PTA (SASHA). May I take the opportunity to thank them on behalf of our pupils and staff. We are circulating the recipe with a list of ingredients and the method so that the children can help cook this at home, should you wish.



Love Life and Learning

Year 6 Residential

We will be holding a meeting for parents on Thursday 13th February at 6pm in the Year 6 classroom. A video will be shown to give you an idea of the scope of the residential trip and range of activities the children can take part in along with the opportunity to ask any questions you may have. Please do take advantage of this!

PARLIAMENT TRIP YEAR 6



'Brave Voices in the Capital!'

On Thursday 23rd January, Year 6 arrived at school at 6:45am to leave for London! When we arrived, we visited the Houses of Parliament. This included walking into Westminster Hall, where people queued for hours to say their goodbyes to the Queen and we found out that there are zero screws in the roof. We visited both the House of Lords and the House of Commons and watched a debate in both, as well as seeing a bill being delivered from one to the other! While we were there, we also presented our letters about how we would like his support in addressing issues of injustice in Halstead to James Cleverly's office.

In the afternoon, we visited Westminster Abbey. While we were there, the priest welcomed St. Andrew's to the Abbey in front of the congregation at the beginning of afternoon prayer, we sat in the former prime ministers' seats and we touched Britain's oldest door! We found out about the construction of the Abbey and its links with Parliament - it was fascinating to be able to make these connections to what we had learnt that morning.

Delilah, Mason and Freddie

Dentist Pilot – EYR & Y3

We would like to introduce you to an important dental programme that NHS Mid and South Essex Integrated Care Board (MSE ICB) are rolling out to improve children and young people's oral health and to help your child learn how to take care of their teeth and mouths.

This programme aims to support your child by providing a free oral health mouth check in school and there will be fun interactive lessons on looking after their oral health.

Letters and consent forms will be going out to Reception Class and Year 3 today.

ST. ANDREW'S SCHOOL DISCO – AND NON-UNIFORM DAY



Friday 7th February 2025

Tiger Cub, Reindeer, Fennec Fox - 3.15 – 4.15pm

Panda, Snow Leopard, Turtle, Seal - 4.30 – 6.00pm

Please book and pay for a ticket through Parentmail - (this will close at 11.00am on Friday 7th February)

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO HELP PLEASE CONTACT THE SCHOOL OFFICE

Love Life and Learning

ST ANDREW'S CHURCH | HALSTEAD

Food

Crafts

Songs

Messy Church

At St Andrew's Church, Halstead.
Fun for all the family

Stories

Come and join us this year:

- Saturday 8th March 1.30 - 3
- Monday 21st April 10.30 - 12
- Saturday 14th June 10.30 - 12
- Saturday 1st November 2.30 - 4
- Saturday 13th December 1.30 - 3

Essex County Council Libraries

Essex Library Service

Winter Reading Challenge

The Dragons' Adventure!

Thursday 2 January to Saturday 22 February

Help the dragons get home out of the cold by completing fun challenges!

Sign up at any Essex library.

@essexlibraries

Love Life and Learning