

Parents' Newsletter

Love, Respect, Honesty, Perseverance



Friday 17th January

Dear Parents

Welcome back to the spring term, we hope you had a lovely Christmas holiday and a Happy New Year to all our families and community.

The children have settled back to the new topics and this has been super to see. We are sharing last term's Sport Newsletter from Mr. Reeve, it outlines the areas of coverage for the coming term of PE. We look forward to our team competing in the Cross-Country Competition in early February and wish them the best of luck with their preparations.

As we enter a new year, can we encourage families to either take up or continue to have a bedtime read as part of your routine. We cannot emphasise enough what a difference this makes for your children's progress in so many areas. As we look at independent reading as a Trust we come up with more and more evidence that reading to children is an important part of growing strong readers and writers. Your choice of books for this special time can be wider than those available to your child as an independent reader and choosing books together is such a lovely way of growing reading preferences, exploring genre and authors. We are always happy to make recommendations as a staff and also want to promote children talking about what they have read with adults as well as independently. If you have any recommendations you would like to share please let class teachers know on Class Dojo, we would like to add this item to the next class newsletter. This is the perfect time of year to enjoy a cosy read and we look forward to hearing all about the story adventures you share.

Kind regards

Bridgette Gough

Learning Together Theme for the coming term

This term we have planned for our learning together theme to support our focus on improving writing and scaffolding how children can bring about those improvements. We are linking this work to topic themes for this term. This will be a science or humanities theme, allowing the children an opportunity to write for various purposes linked to these. For example, Y6 have written about being an evacuee in WWII. We look forward to welcoming you to these events and have added the dates to our diary dates to support this.

Love Life and Learning

Collective Worship Themes

Last week saw some great discussions in worship around Warm Fires and Open Doors, our thought-provoking theme for the week. We shared the picture book Eric by Shaun Tan for one session and used the film of the New Year's Eve Paddington display to prompt discussion about the new mural in London and Paddington being our Welcome Ambassador.



Our children gave great suggestions as to ways we make our community a welcoming one, from buddies and play leaders to learning ambassadors telling visitors about their lessons when they tour our school. The importance of being kind and polite really came through in this theme and I'm sure the children will have lots to share.

This week our Collective Worship Committee have led worship on our theme of stereotypes, they did a good job and shared some of the literature used for the writing project last term with the same theme.

We also used some of the No Outsiders materials and tackled questions like

Is Spiderman just for boys? After one little girl was told this when she announced her Halloween costume to her class. We also learnt of a magician who disguised herself as a man to gain access to The Magic Circle in 1990 and led to a change in the rules about membership. Both week's themes have led to children offering thoughtful and insightful responses, please do ask them to chat about these themes further. Counter stereotypes in literature has captured the children's imagination to such an extent that we are now using this theme for our speeches work for Mighty Oaks this half term.

Headteacher's Cup

Tiger Cub Class:	W1-Elliot W2-Elijah
Reindeer Class:	W1-Margot W2-Arthur
Fennec Fox Class:	W1-Maisie W2-Tudor
Panda Class:	W1-Violet W2-Connie
Snow Leopard Class:	W1-Bonnie W2-Leonardo
Turtle Class:	W1- Poppy W2-Ava
Seal Class:	W1-Stanley W2-Freddie



Birthdays in January

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



Going For Green

Hazel & Willow

Sports Cup

Elsie & Louie

Jewellery in school

Just a reminder that children should not be wearing rings, bracelets or necklaces in school and if earrings are worn, they are the stud type. This has started to be a bit of a problem in more than one class and staff have asked for this reminder to be sent. Of particular concern are thick chains that can easily be caught and cause injury. If children are asked to take them off in school, we are concerned they will then get mislaid, and this will cause unnecessary upset for them. Therefore, we are asking that these items are kept at home.

Volunteering in School

We welcome support with reading and other areas of the curriculum. As part of this we deliver initial advice to ensure the children get the most from your time. This is a really rewarding role and our current volunteers really enjoy seeing the difference this time makes.

We hope that this year we can increase our reading volunteer group. If you can volunteer some time on a regular basis, please do let us know. We do require that anyone on site over an extended period, such as volunteers undertake a DBS check as we are aware they become familiar adults to our pupils.

Essex Library Service

Winter Reading Challenge - The Dragon's Adventure in 2025
Thursday 2nd January to Saturday 22nd February 2025
at Halstead Library, Earls Colne and Sible Hedingham libraries
All Essex libraries in fact!
This is an ideal activity post-Christmas!

Six dragons have been out on an adventure, but now they are lost. They need to get back to the dragon castle before they get too cold.

Can you collect the dragons (stickers) and help them get home?
Complete the challenge to receive a certificate and a pencil, as well as entering into a prize draw for the chance to win some larger prizes (tablets, book tokens, arts and crafts packs, and dragon themed toys).

