

Dear Parents and Carers,

Reading Awards

Congratulations to the following pupils who have passed their reading award this week:

Arthur M – Emerald Ella R- Emerald Jensen H – Emerald Sophia W - Emerald Darcie R-Silver Oscar R- Silver

Weekly News

Thankfully this week we had some long awaited rain which was great for the gardens. I have started our lunchtime gardening club in earnest this term and have worked with children from Class Cuckoo last week and Class Budgerigar this week. Next week it's the turn of Year 6 and over the course of the term all junior children who want to help, will be able to do so as there are lots of jobs.

We have cleared some of the raised beds and planted tomatoes, peas and tidied up the strawberry bed.



We are also entering the schools' competition organised by Meadow Croft Garden Centre and our selection of plants have arrived so next week we need to transplant hundreds of seedlings into individual pots. We will then work on a design for the flowerbed which will be judged in July.

Some of our wooden raised beds are deteriorating so we would be grateful for some help and expertise in making some repairs to get us through this growing season.

We will keep you up-to-date with our progress and success throughout the term.

Year 6 Trip to Danbury Mission and St John's Parish Church

Last week, Year 6 were lucky enough to be kindly invited by Danbury Mission and St John's Church to uncover some more fascinating facts about Christianity.

Danbury Mission

We left school after lunch on Monday, the class filled with uplifted chatter; we had already picked our partners to walk with! Mrs Booth and Mrs Babbs accompanied us on our walk to the Mission. We were greeted warmly by Dave, who is the pastor at the church. He gave us the chance to explore, before showing the meaning behind many of the items and paintings dotted around the building; we even got to see and go inside the baptismal pool, which lies beneath the stage and is surprisingly the size of an average hot tub. Next, he gave us a more detailed tour of the entire building. This was extremely thrilling as many of us had never even stepped inside the Mission. After a quick snack and drink, we started on our trek back to school.





<u>St John's Parish Church</u>

Energized, on Friday morning, we filed out of the class in pairs, ready to begin the day by walking to St John's Parish Church. Thankfully, this walk was much shorter than the one to the Mission so our legs were not half as tired. When we arrived, we admired the grand architecture of the building. The edges of the pews were intricately carved and very ornate. Year six discovered that the church was built around the twelfth century and was filled with priceless antiques. We peeked round the back of the organ and even found a secret door that led back round to the pews! Our tour guide Jackie allowed us to see the font up close, which was incredibly detailed but not at all large. Eventually, the tour sadly terminated and we began our short journey back to school.



Overall, this experience was incredibly enjoyable and we would all love to go again.

By Emily and Eve

Thank you to the DPSA for providing us with the jackets in our school colours so that our children are easily recognisable when out and about in the community.

Notification and Reminders

Stomach bugs – Please remember that if your child suffers vomiting or diarrhoea, **they must stay at home for 48 hours** after the last bout. This is a directive from the Health Authority and the Local Authority. Tummy bugs spread very quickly and we want to protect the other children and the adults in school. We have some members of our community who are vulnerable and a stomach bug could be a serious illness for them and could lead to hospitalisation. Please do not be offended if the office staff ask for more details after an absence or if a child tells us they were sick.

Ink Pen Purchases - As we have moved to becoming a cashless school, the purchase of ink pens now needs to be made via Pay360 and not the school office. You will need to order the pen via the stationery tab on Pay360.

Once we have seen a payment of £1.50 on Pay360 the school office will deliver the pen to the child's classroom.

Pay 360 – Thank you to all the parents who have now joined the new online payments system. Our office staff are happy to support you if you are experiencing difficulties. Please note that we are now well on our way to being a cashless school as part of *Our World, Our Future* project. By having the online system, staff need to make fewer journeys by car to the bank, thus reducing emissions and we are using less paper.

Free School Meals – Due to Covid-19 we understand that your circumstances may have changed or may change in the near future and you may now be eligible for free school meals. To check eligibility please contact Essex County Council on 0345 603 2200 or for more information and online application go to https://www.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals

Letters/Parentmail sent out this week

- Year 4 Superstars Festival
- Year 2 Mini Games Festival
- Year 5 Permission to walk to school

Midday Assistant and Staffing Vacancies

We still urgently require Midday Assistants to help us at lunchtimes starting after the Easter break. This is a rewarding and busy job helping the children enjoy their school dinners and playtimes.

We can be flexible on days so please contact the school office for more details.

COVID Guidance from 1st April

The government has issued the following guidance:

- Children and young people who are unwell and have a high temperature should stay at home and avoid contact with other people. They can go back to school, college or childcare when they no longer have a high temperature, and they are well enough to attend.
- Adults with the symptoms of a respiratory infection, and who have a high temperature or feel unwell, should try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people until they feel well enough to resume normal activities and they no longer have a high temperature.
- Adults with a positive COVID-19 test result should try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for 5 days, which is when they are most infectious. For children and young people aged 18 and under, the advice will be 3 days.

Safeguarding

Now that the weather is improving and you may be considering letting your older children walk to and from school on their own, it would be a good time to remind them about road safety. Main Road and the roads around the village do get very busy in the mornings and at the end of the school day. We are working with the Parish Council and the local community to improve safety in the village but this will take some time. A gentle refresher in road safety for the children from families would go a long way!

Let's work together to keep the children safe!



Owl's Barn School Meals

Week beginning 9th May 2022 Fresh bread and milk available daily

Monday	Homemade Pepperoni Pizza or Homemade Cheese and (V) Tomato Pizza	White/Wholegrain Pasta Cucumber Sweetcorn	Key Stage 2 only Jacket Potato with a choice of filling	Shortbread Biscuit Fresh Fruit Fruit Yoghurt
Tuesday	Local Butcher's Pork Sausages or (V) Vegan Sausages	Creamy Mashed Potato Carrots Peas Green Salad	Jacket Potato with a choice of filling Cheese, Baked Beans, Tuna Mayo	Marble Cake Fresh Fruit Fruit Yoghurt
Wednesday	Homemade Chicken Korma or (V)Sweet Potato and Lentil Korma	White/Wholegrain Rice Naan Bread Mixed Vegetables Green Salad	Key Stage 2 only Jacket Potato with a choice of filling	Peaches and Ice Cream Pot Fresh Fruit Fruit Yoghurt
Thursday	Chicken Nuggets or (V)Cheese Stack Wrap	Crispy Potatoes Wedges Sweetcorn Green Salad	Jacket Potato with a choice of filling Cheese, Baked Beans, Tuna Mayo	Apple Crumble and Custard Fresh Fruit Fruit Yoghurt
Friday	Omega 3 Fish Fingers or (V)Omelette	Chips Baked Beans, Peas Cucumber	Key Stage 2 only Jacket Potato with a choice of filling	Iced Sponge Cake Fresh Fruit Fruit Yoghurt

School Lunches - Costs for Summer Term 2022

 1^{st} Half Term: 19^{th} April – 27^{th} May 2022 = 28 days at £2.25 = **£63.00** 2^{nd} Half Term: 7^{th} June – 21^{st} July 2022 = 33 days at £2.25 = **£74.25**

Total for the whole term = £137.25

Please pay via the online payment system Pay 360 – Thank you

Meals should be paid for in advance and if possible for the whole half-term. You will only pay for those meals that your child has and any credits will be carried forward to the next term. Please note Key Stage 1 and EYFS are entitled to Universal Free School Meals.

Week 1

Dates for the Diary Week beginning 9 th May 2022 Year 6 SATs Week				
Mon 9 th				
Tues 10 th				
Weds 11 th 2.45pm	Let's Present			
Thurs 12 th 7.00pm	Governors' Curriculum meeting			
Fri 13 th				
Full term dates for	r the academic years 2021-22 and 2022-23 are available on the school website. 2023-24 will be added shortly.			

Yours sincerely,

Carol Gooding, Headteacher

Dates for Summer Term 2022

Olympic athlete to visit school	

7 th	7.00pm	Full governing body meeting	
8 th		Year 6 Induction Day at Sandon	
	1.30pm –	New entrants to visit	
	2.30pm	Meet your teacher for next year	
		Pupil end of year reports to go out	
	Eve	DPSA Year 6 Leavers' Event	
Week beg		Year 6 School Journey	
11 th			
13 th		New entrants to visit for lunch and stay and play afternoon	
	12.45 –	Year 3 Swimming 6/6	
	3.15pm		
18 th		Sports Day & Open afternoon	
20 th		DPS Got Talent	
21 st		Last day of term	

KS2 SATS Week beginning 9th May 2022

N.B. Start and finish times are subject to change.

Date & Time	Test	Location
Monday 9 th		
9.20 – 10.05am	English grammar, punctuation and spelling Paper 1 – short answer (45 minutes)	Hall and Class A
10.10 – 10.30am	Paper 2 – spelling (approx. 15 minutes)	Hall and Class A
10.30 – 10.45am BREAK		
Tuesday 10 th		
9.20 – 10.20am	English Reading (1 hour)	Hall and Class A
10.30 – 10.45am BREAK		
Wednesday 11 th		
9.15 – 9.45am	Maths Paper 1 - Arithmetic (30 minutes)	Hall and Class A
10.00 – 10.40am	Maths Paper 2 – Reasoning (40 minutes)	Hall and Class A
10.45–11.00am BREAK		
Thursday 12 th		
9.20 – 10.00am	-	
10.30 – 10.45am BREAK		
Friday 13 th		
9.15am – 10.00am 10.30 – 10.45am BREAK	Science Test A (internal test)	Hall and Class A
11.00– 11.45am	Science Test B (internal test)	

When tests are finished, runners will be sent to classes to confirm that playtime can commence.