



Danbury Park Community Primary School

Be wise, be happy, belong!

Newsletter

Website: www.danburypark.essex.sch.uk

2nd February 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

Reading Awards

Congratulations to:

Alice B – **Book Trail** Avie B- **Bronze** Amber M – **Bronze** Katie P - **Bronze**
Chemmy W- **Diamond** Jake W – **Diamond** Freya A- **Topaz**
Chloe M – **Ruby** Alexander S – **Ruby** Barnaby F - **Ruby**

Reading certificates will be presented in assemblies and in class throughout this term.

Weekly News

Next week is Children's Mental Health Week and this is a very important aspect of our ethos at Danbury Park School. Many years ago, we established a strong team of trained well-being mentors in school who support the class teachers and learning support assistants by providing additional support outside the classroom for children struggling with either difficult times in their lives or with their social development. They work with the children on an individual basis building up their trust through art and play therapy.

If we feel that we need a higher level of expertise, we are then able to refer children to our bccs counsellor who comes in one morning a week for individual and highly personal sessions. We always work in partnership with parents and in the vast majority of cases, this approach supports the child and the family successfully. This year we have also welcomed the Mental Health Schools Team (MHST) into school every Friday morning and they have been working on the *Brain Buddies* programme with Class Cuckoo and the Year 5 children in Class Budgerigar so that the children develop an understanding of their emotions and how their brains react to different situations. Further down the newsletter you will find ideas so that you can support Children's Mental Health Week at home.

As a school we are always looking to improve what we do so that we can be the best that we can be. Gathering parents' views is an important part of this and thank you to those parents who informally pass on their thoughts and comments with me at the beginning and end of the school day.

We would like to invite as many parents as possible to complete the online Ofsted Parent View survey as this gives a very quick overview of how you feel we are doing. So far, we have only 7 responses. It will only take a few minutes so please take some time to register and give us your feedback. The link to the school's page is:

<https://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk/parent-view-results/survey/result/11006/6>

Thank you!

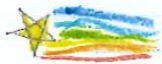
Class Cuckoo's Royal Observatory Greenwich trip 2024

Yesterday, on Tuesday 23rd January, class Cuckoo of Danbury Park school went on a school trip to the Royal Observatory, in Greenwich, so we could learn more about Earth and Space.

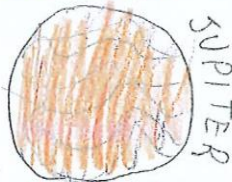
THE SUN



The first thing we did when we arrived there was go to the Peter Harrison Planetarium. It was led by an astronomer named Sam. We sat down in big, comfy chairs and looked up at the half, white globe. Sam showed and told us all about the planets. My favourite fact was that Saturn's rings were made two of Saturn's 100 moons colliding.



After the Planetarium, one of the people who worked there led us to a room called the Galaxy room. In the Galaxy room, Mrs Evans gave us a activity sheet that included a cross-word and comic strip that we could make. We also watched a video about our solar system and how it was formed.



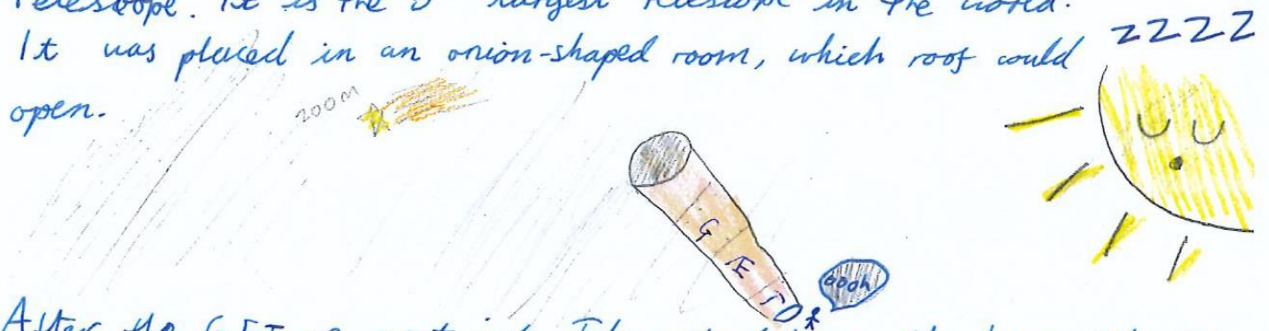
Next, we had lunch, and then went into another room called the Star room. In there, another astronomer told us more about the Sun, the Earth, and the Moon. The astronomer had a big, inflatable beachball and another ball. He told us that the smaller ball was the ^{earth,} big, inflatable ball was the Sun. Everybody was amazed at how big the Sun was compared to the Earth. After the



astronomer showed us some more comparisons, we left the star room and outside where the Prime Meridian Timeline was.



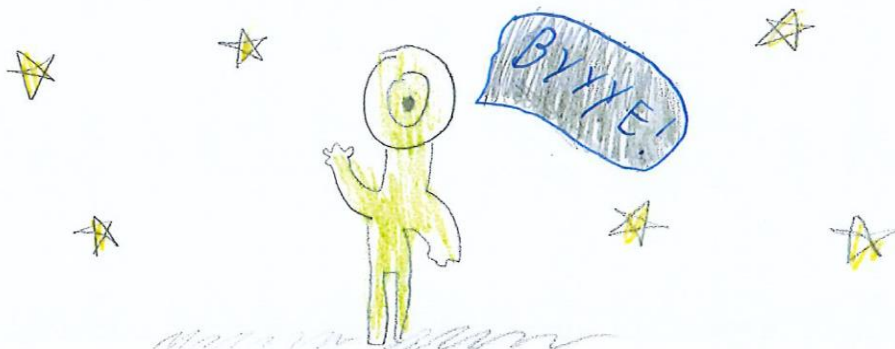
Outside, we actually stood on the timeline. Then, we went into the museums and looked around at some of the clocks and telescopes. Next, we went to see the Great Equatorial Telescope. It is the 3rd largest telescope in the world. It was placed in an onion-shaped room, which roof could open.



After the G.E.T, we went into Flamsteed house, the house that John Flamsteed lived in. It was very interesting, as it contained the Octagon room, a room that was designed by Sir Wren (Christopher Wren) so John could study space and look at the stars.

Σ

Next, we went into the other parts of the museum. Then it was time to leave. I thought the trip was out-of-this world.



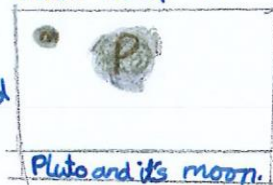
Royal Observatory Greenwich 2024

On Tuesday 23rd January 2024 Class Cuckoo visited the Royal Observatory in Greenwich to learn more about Earth and Space, our topic.



When we arrived at the Observatory, we were led to the Peter Harrison Planetarium for a spectacular show about space. We journeyed far into space where we first landed on the desert planet Mars. The astronomer, Sam, told us that the volcano that we saw is as big as the UK! After Mars we travelled to the Gas Giant planet Saturn, we learnt that Saturn's rings, ~~made out of asteroids~~, shone so that is why we can see them. Sam said that most planets have rings we just can't see them. We also learnt that Saturn has over 100 moons but two moons collided creating the rings. Our next stop was at one of the three dwarf planets in our solar system - Pluto. Pluto has one moon that is nearly as big as Pluto itself. We then travelled to one of Saturn's moons - Titan.

After we had a closer look at Titan we headed home. This was definitely the best part!

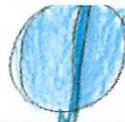
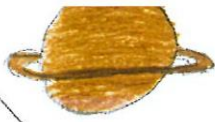


Pluto and its moon.

After the Planetarium we went to the Galaxy Room where we completed a crossword and learnt lots of facts. For example did you know that Mars should have bigger but Jupiter 'took' it's

SPACE AND EARTH

SPACE AND EARTH



food so it ~~couldn't~~ couldn't grow,
Did you know that when Planets
move away from the Sun it is called



Migration. Exo planets are planets ~~circ~~ orbiting a star not in the Milky Way.
Did you know that scientists think that Jupiter formed first?



EARTH



EARTH



After lunch it was time for a lesson about the Sun, the Moon and the Earth. We learnt that Earth would be as small as the smallest marble if the Sun was the size of a beachball. You could fit 1.5 million Earths inside the sun. We learnt about the Lunar Eclipse and the Solar Eclipse but I loved learning about the blood moon.

A blood moon happens when the moon is behind the Earth.



We saw the Prime Meridian Line of the world. The Meridian Line separates the East hemisphere and the west hemisphere. We then went into the galleries and saw the third biggest telescope in the world! We visited the Flamsteed house where the royal Astronomers lived. My favourite room is the octagon room where it was in the shape of an octagon with windows on every side so that we could see space through every window. Then we went back pausing to look at the wonderful view.

Overall our day was brilliant and we learnt a lot about Space.



SPA

CE

Space



Space



Space



Talented and Thoughtful Children



Chemmy and Savannah were in the Future Cheer Essentials cheerleading competition last weekend, earning 5th place and Distinction in their respective teams of Destiny and Flash!

Well done girls!

Mathletics Challenge

The Mathletics Challenge is back and the children are keen to start clocking up the minutes each week to earn a reward for the winning class over the term.

The class that made the most use of Mathletics last week was:

Class Dove

Lily W in Class Dove

Well done and keep up the good work!

Safeguarding

This week is Children's Mental Health Week and the 6th Feb is Safer Internet Day. We know how damaging the use of social media can be for some people including children so this week is a good opportunity to talk to your child about how they communicate electronically and the power they have to make some feel happy or miserable. Agree some protocols but we would urge parents to check their child's phone regularly so that you can support them with tricky or potentially damaging situation.

There is lots of information on the 2 Johns' website:

<https://esafetytraining.org/resources/parents-carers-area/>

Let's work together to keep the children safe!

Children's Mental Health Week 5th – 11th February 2024



BCCS

a children's charity for
Essex and East London

My Voice Matters

For parents and carers

We know we can be naturally distracted when our children are talking to us. It is vital to your child's ego, their sense of self, and their belief in their own self-efficacy that we really invest in and listen to them. So, how do we show and allow our children to feel confident in our ability to hear them: to essentially model to them that their voice matters to you? Below are some basic counselling techniques to help. As an aside, we find talking to children whilst sitting alongside them can be more effective than sitting directly opposite them.



- Active listening: it sounds so simple to say it, but it takes commitment to be fully present in a conversation! But doing so enables you to fully concentrate on what is being said and, perhaps, tune into what isn't being said.
- Summarise: giving a short acknowledgement of what was said, i.e., "you say you've had a tough day, it sounds like it" allows your child to feel fully heard and validated.
- Empathise: empathic responses such as, "I can see how difficult that was for you", or "I hear it made you feel really angry", helps your child to feel heard and, most importantly, understood. We don't have to "get it", but empathy is all about walking in another's shoes and seeing things through their lens. It is a powerful thing to do for your child.



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www.bccs.org.uk



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BCCS, 133 High Street, Billericay, Essex, CM12 9AB

Brentwood Catholic Children's Society - Registered Charity Number: 1000661

Children's Mental Health Week

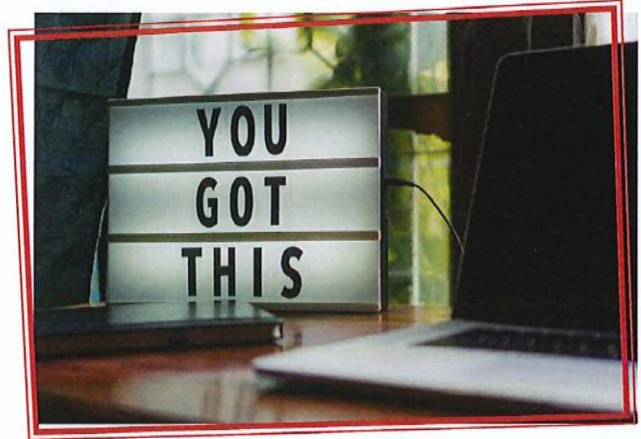
5th – 11th February 2024

My Voice Matters



For parents and carers (continued)

- Verbal encouragement: repeating or echoing the last few words of your child's sentences when they pause, can encourage them to keep talking. For example, "you had fun ...", or "you were frustrated ..." and they'll likely feel your encouragement and give you more. The more your children talk about their feelings, the better!
- Be curious:
 - "Tell me more..."
 - "I loved hearing about ...",
 - "That sounds really ..., tell me how it went?"
 - "What do you think about ...?"
 - "What did you feel when ...?"
- Don't try to fix or solve: it is a real challenge when your child is distressed, worried or angry about something. Our natural urge may be to fix things and you may hear yourself saying, "you should do this", or "say this ...". but the reality is there are things we can't fix. We are a far more powerful ally when we acknowledge this, and ask instead, how you can help them manage it/the situation/the feeling.



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BCCS, 133 High Street, Billericay, Essex, CM12 9AB

Brentwood Catholic Children's Society - Registered Charity Number: 1000661

Emergency School Closures – SNOW!

As we approach the time of year when inclement weather and snow is more likely, we would like to advise you of the school's emergency closure procedure. The decision to close the school is never taken lightly but there may be rare times when the site is unsafe or insufficient staff can get into the school and closure is unavoidable. Please note that the local radio stations no longer give out announcements.

Schools will notify Essex County Council and the information will be available on their website at: <http://www.essex.gov.uk/Education-Schools/Schools/Dates/Pages/Emergency-School-Closures.aspx>

We will also put a message out on Parentmail and on the scrolling news on the first page of the school website. We will aim to do this by 7.30am.

If the weather and traffic are bad, please take care and get to school safely. We will understand if you delay your journey and arrive later than the usual time.

If you have not yet joined *Parentmail*, please ask at the office.

Danbury Park School Vacancies

Get Active Co-ordinator

We are looking for an enthusiastic and caring person to join our friendly, supportive midday team working 12.00pm to 1.30pm term-time only as soon as possible. We have an all-weather track around our field and the older children enjoy the challenge of trying to walk a mile every day.

We are looking for the right person to help organise the Daily Mile and encourage the children to take part. This involves being creative and setting inter-class competitions as well as adding extra challenges. We can be flexible as to days. For more information, please contact the school office.

Midday Assistant

We are looking for a midday assistant to join our team working at lunchtimes on Wednesdays, Thursday and Fridays. For more information, please contact the school office.

The school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and expects the staff to share this commitment. All appointments are subject to an enhanced DBS check, medical clearance and satisfactory references.

Attendance

Part of our safeguarding duties and procedures is ensuring that when children are absent from school, we know where they are and that they are safe. Please remember to inform school by **9.20am each day** if your child is absent from school and to follow this up with a written letter of explanation on their return. If we do not know where your child is, we are required to use the emergency contact numbers you have given to school. So, it is vitally important that if you change your phone numbers, or your family and friends do, that you inform us.

The government, local authority and school take attendance seriously and school is required to follow up on irregular attendance and prolonged absences and also for unauthorised absences, so please do not be offended when we ask for proof of doctors' and dentists' appointment or ask for details of holiday bookings or delayed flights or sickness on return after school holidays. The government is also asking parents to send their children into school with mild illnesses and we would, of course, contact you should their condition deteriorate.

Important information - Term time holidays

Improving school attendance is a key priority for all schools across Essex. Where families choose to take a family holiday during term time, this can detrimentally impact a pupil's progress and can prevent them from fulfilling their true academic potential. Our school attendance policy, available via our school website, clearly sets out the process that parents should follow if they wish to apply for leave during term time. Please note that applications should only be made, if you feel that there are exceptional circumstances which mean that the leave cannot be taken during the school holidays.

We would ask all parents to note that, where families choose to go on holiday during term time and the absences are coded as unauthorised, Essex County Council may not issue penalty notices and may instead proceed to prosecution and place the case directly before the Magistrates for their consideration in court. If found guilty by the Magistrates, parents could face a fine of up to £2,500 and/or 3 months imprisonment.

In the Autumn Term we received answerphone messages and e-mails informing us that children are ill. A pattern is emerging and this often seems to happen on the day(s) before an unauthorised holiday. If we have reason to suspect that you have taken your child(ren) out of school on a holiday or excursion, the absence will be unauthorised and we will write to you. If you can prove that you travelled on the days in your original application for leave of absence or explain why school could not contact you on your home phone line or why we got the international dialing tone, then we will reconsider the classification of the absence. Please be advised that this may still lead to a fixed penalty notice or prosecution as explained above.

The Essex Libraries Winter Reading Challenge is back!



Our plucky penguin is back once again! But this year, she's setting off on an even bigger journey...

Join Lyra as she travels around the world, finding out all about endangered animals. There will be 12 challenges for your child to choose from. Once they complete six of the challenges they will be rewarded with a certificate and a prize (while stocks last).

The challenges will support literacy skills, confidence with reading and creativity, with many of the fun challenges completable in the library.

Lyra will be leaving on Saturday 25 November and returning on Saturday 3 February, but you can join her on her travels at any time!

You can sign up to the challenge by visiting any of our 74 libraries, or one of our two mobile libraries.

Keep your eyes peeled on our social medias over the next few weeks to be the first to find out more...

Danbury Park School Lottery

We would like to remind parents about the school lottery and thank those who regularly donate their winnings back to the school.

The Schools' Lottery is where parents can take part in a weekly draw with proceeds going to the school.

Over the past four years we have raised £4 000 which we have spent on special projects like the EYFS outdoor classroom and the KS2 garden, which we could not otherwise afford. Every little contribution helps!

Please visit the website and support us:

www.yourschoollottery.co.uk

Search for Danbury Park School

You must be 18 years of age to play and tickets cost just £1 a week.

A purple poster for the Danbury Park School Lottery Super Draw. It features the text 'Enter our Super Draw' in large, bold letters, followed by 'Win a £1,000 Luxury Getaway OR £1,000 CASH PRIZE'. There are images of a red double-decker bus, Big Ben, and the Eiffel Tower. A list of bullet points is provided: 'Tickets cost just £1 a week', 'Chance to win up to £25,000', 'Play weekly, or just play the Super Draw!', and 'Get away from it all in 2024!'. At the bottom, there is a QR code, a logo for 'YOUR SCHOOL LOTTERY', and a section titled 'PLAY NOW:' with the text 'Go to www.yourschoollottery.co.uk Search for: Danbury Park Communi'. A small '18+' logo and the word 'Gamble' are also visible.

Notification and Reminders

Tarpaulin – Classes Jay and Hummingbird have asked if parents have any spare tarpaulins they no longer needs. We can use these to cover some of the EYFS outdoor equipment to protect it from the elements.

PE - The weather has turned colder this week but we will still be doing outdoor PE as much as possible as long as it is safe. Our school uniform does specify that the children need a track suit and that this should be navy blue. It does not have to have the school logo so parents can obtain affordable versions from the local supermarkets. The DPSA also have their pre-loved option. We have noticed many children wearing their school maroon sweatshirts for PE and this is not good when the children start to build up a sweat or get damp in light drizzle and then their clothes smell. It would also be useful if children had a pair of socks for PE in their bags. We are aware that many children have coughs at the moment but we would still encourage them to participate in PE lessons and we will keep a careful watch over them. We all need to be as active as possible to stay fit and healthy!

School Gateway – Thank you to all the parents who have now joined the new online payment system. Please ensure that you download the app as per the letter sent out at the end of last term. Payments for school dinners and trips need to be made via this app. 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.

Measles – The Primary Health Care Trust has asked us to remind parents about the measles vaccine, which is available through GP surgeries. They are anxious to vaccinate all children to prevent an outbreak of a potentially dangerous disease.

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>

This is the eligibility criteria ECC use:

Entitlement and what is required

The Government set the criteria for free school meal entitlement. To be entitled, you need to receive:

- Universal Credit with an annual income of £7,400 or less
- Income Support
- Income Based Job Seekers Allowance
- Income Related Employment & Support Allowance
- Pension Guarantee Credit
- Child Tax Credit (But not working tax credit) with an annual income of less than £16,190
- Parents with Asylum Seeker status who receive support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- Working Tax Credit 'Run-on' – the payment someone may receive for a further 4 weeks after they stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit

Please apply on the link above

ParentMail Letters sent out this week:





Owl's Barn School Meals

Week beginning 5th February 2024

Week 1

Fresh bread and milk available daily

Monday	Homemade Cheese and Tomato Pizza	White/Wholegrain Pasta Sweetcorn Cucumber	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 Baked Beans Mixed Vegetables Green Salad	Jacket Potato with a choice of filling Cheese Baked Beans Tuna Mayo	Flapjack Fresh Fruit Fruit Yoghurt
Wednesday	Mild Beef Chilli with Nacho's or (V) Vegan Mince Chilli with Nacho's	White/Wholegrain Rice Carrots Green Salad Peas	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) Macaroni Cheese	Crispy Potato Wedges Sweetcorn Cucumber	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 Green Salad	Key Stage 2 only Jacket Potato with a choice of filling	Iced Sponge Cake Fresh Fruit Fruit Yoghurt

SCHOOL DINNERS

COSTS FOR SPRING TERM 2024

1st Half Term: 4th January – 19th February 2024 = 31 days at £2.70 = £83.70

2nd Half Term: 26th February - 28th March 2024 = 24 days at £2.70=£64.80

Please note that all school meals should be paid for in advance via School Gateway.

Dates for the Diary Week beginning 5th February 2024

Children's Mental Health Week

Mon 5th

Tues 6th

9.30am-11.45pm

Safer Internet Day

Year 4 Superstars

Weds 7th

10.00am

2.55pm

**Class Jay and Hummingbird visit to watch a performance of *The Gruffalo's Child*
Let's Present**

Thurs 8th

Fri 9th

2.45pm

Class Goldfinch's Assembly to families and the school

Full term dates for the academic years
2023-24 and 2024-25 are available on the school website.

Yours sincerely,

Carol Gooding,
Headteacher



FOREST-LED THEMED FEBRUARY FUN

★ **FEBRUARY HALF TERM** ★
ACTIVITY DAYS in Bicknacre

- Open to all school children up to the age of 12
- Fully equipped indoor play space & large gardens
- Flexible drop off & collection from 8am to 6pm
- Discount 3-5 consecutive days & sibling reduction

	MONDAY 19th	TUESDAY 20th	WEDNESDAY 21st	THURSDAY 22nd	FRIDAY 23rd
AM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pottery activity Build and sail a mini raft Creative mud paintings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local woods and footpath hike with picnic lunch and nature activities along the way. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Loose parts landmark recreation Hedgehog roll-baking Popping bags science experiment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create your own lava lamp Map your patch-map drawing Build your own board game 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Colour changing flowers experiment Cross head growing using egg shells Twig wreath making
PM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stuck in the mud game Make your own pasta meal Bare foot sensory safari 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Make a teepee Make and play mini hopper Nature detectives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Compline popcorn Movie marathon with the popcorn Nature postcard designs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wind catcher crafts Rasp cloud in a jar STEAM activity Fruit and vegetable hug snack creation

Book online today!





www.jesterskids.org

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Danbury Park Community Primary School

Dates for Spring Term 2024

Date	Time	Event
February		
6th	9.30am – 11.45am	Year 4 Superstars
7th	10am	Classes J and H to The Gruffalo
9th	2.45pm	Class Goldfinch Assembly to parents
13 th	3.40pm – 6.10pm	Parent Consultations – all classes
15 th	3.40pm – 6.10pm	Parent Consultations – all classes
16 th		School closed for staff training
19 th – 23 rd		Half-term break
Fortnight beg 26 th		Book Fortnight
29 th	7.00pm	Governors Resources Committee meeting
March		
6 th		Pre-school activity morning
7 th		World Book Day
8 th		School Dress-up Day
	2.45pm	Class Hummingbird Assembly to parents
14 th	6.30pm 7.00pm	Governors Pay Committee meeting Governors Personnel Committee meeting
15 th		Comic Relief
	2.45pm	Class Jay Assembly to parents
Week beg 18 th		Assessment Week
19 th		Display Change – Book Week
21 st	7.00pm	Full Governing Body Budget Setting Meeting
22 nd	Am & Pm	Maldon Tag Rugby Tournament
27 th	9.15am 2.30pm tbc	KS2 Spring Assembly to parents Watched by Year 3 & 4 parents with classes J & H Watched by Year 5 & 6 parents with classes F & G
28 th	Pm	Inter-house Hockey Matches
		Last day of Spring Term

To be arranged

EYFS Welly Walks