



22nd May 2026

Newsletter No 31

Message from Mr Bullivant

As we reach the end of another busy and successful half term, I would like to thank all of our children, staff and families for their continued hard work and support. It has been wonderful to see so much enthusiasm, effort and achievement across the school this term.

Year 1 had a very exciting surprise this week as they welcomed a very special visitor into school — a real pug! The visit was linked to the launch of their new class book, *Pig the Pug*, and the children absolutely loved meeting the dog and learning more about the story. It was fantastic to see such excitement and enthusiasm for reading, and the visit certainly brought the book to life for the children.

Year 3 have certainly had a very active week. The children thoroughly enjoyed their local geography walk, where they explored the local area and took part in litter picking to help care for our community. They also celebrated filling their class star jar with a well-earned comfy day. Well done to Year 3 for all of your hard work and positive behaviour this term!

In EYFS, the children welcomed a special visitor from the NHS Oral Hygiene Team. A dentist visited the children to teach them all about the importance of looking after their teeth and developing healthy brushing habits. The children were incredibly engaged and are now enjoying brushing their teeth every day in school. We are proud to be part of this fantastic scheme promoting healthy teeth and healthy lifestyles.

Year 6 have certainly been embracing the world of drama this week. The children took part in an exciting drama workshop led by staff from TLA, where they explored performance skills and began preparing for a special showcase performance that they will present at TLA next month. I am very much looking forward to watching them perform. Alongside this, the children have also been rehearsing for their own production, with some excellent singing already filling the hall. We certainly have some natural performers in Year 6, and now that the cast has been selected, excitement is continuing to build!

To end the half term, we held an exciting celebration assembly focused on attendance and punctuality. As part of our ongoing efforts to improve attendance across the school, we were delighted to present two pupils with vouchers for Ten Pin Bowling. One pupil was recognised for achieving over 97% attendance, while another was celebrated for arriving at school on time every single day this year so far. We are incredibly proud of their commitment and look forward to seeing even more children aiming for these exciting rewards next half term.

Thank you once again for your continued support this term. I hope you all have a restful and enjoyable half term break, and we look forward to welcoming the children back refreshed and ready for another exciting term.

Warm regards,

Mr Bullivant

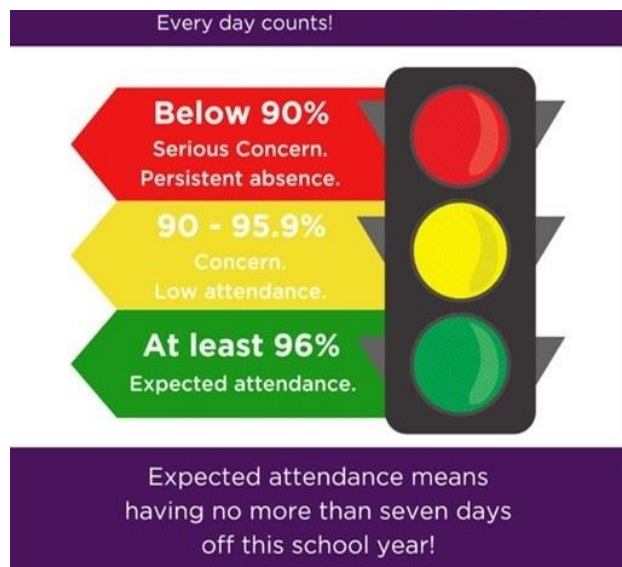
Attendance Matters

Good attendance is essential for children to make the most of their learning and to fully take part in all the experiences school has to offer. Every day in school really does count, and even small amounts of absence can quickly add up to lost learning time.

To help raise the profile of good attendance across the school, we have recently launched an exciting new initiative called **Attendopoly**. Each week, the three classes with the best attendance — particularly those achieving or exceeding our school target of **96%** — earn the opportunity to roll the dice during our **Celebration Assembly**.

Where they land on the board could lead to a range of exciting prizes for the class, making attendance something we can all celebrate together. - last week Year 4 enjoyed hot chocolate with Miss Symonds!

We look forward to seeing which classes make it onto the Attendopoly board next week. Thank you, as always, for your support in ensuring children arrive at school every day, on time, ready to learn.



Attendance results – week ending 22nd May 2026

EYFS	93.33 %
Year 1	97.27 %
Year 2	92.38 %
Year 3	96.00 %
Year 4	97.39 %
Year 5	96.36 %
Year 6	93.31 %
Whole School	95.15 %
YTD (from 01.09.2025)	94.94 %

Summer Term 2026 Dates

Dates for the Summer Term

Monday 1st June 2026 - Inset day

Monday 1st June -12th June - Year 4 Multiplication checks

Monday 8th June 2026 - Sports Day – KS1 9-10.45am – KS2 1.15-3pm

Tuesday 9th June 2026 - Year 6 Crucial Crew

Thursday 11th June 2026 - Sports day reserve – KS1 9-10.45am – KS2 1.15-3pm

Friday 12th June 2026 - Group Photos

Monday 15th June 2026 - SEND coffee morning Yr5/6 transition

w/c Monday 8th June 2026 - Phonics Screening check for Year 1 (and some YR2 pupils)

Thursday 18th June 2026 - Year 6 1st transition day at Thurstable

Thursday 25th & Friday 26th June - Year 6 Transition days at TLA

Thursday 25th June 2026 - Year 6 transition day at St Helena School

Thursday 25th June 2026 - Year 6 2nd transition day at Thurstable

Thursday 25th June 2026 - Year 6 transitions day at Paxman Academy

Thursday 25th June 2026 - EYFS Meet the Teacher 9.30-11.30am – transition / move up day

Monday 29th June – Friday 3rd July 2026 - One Plan Meetings

Tuesday 30th June 2026 - EYFS Stay & Play 4-5pm

w/c Monday July 6th 2026 - Reports out during this week

Tuesday 7th July 2026 - SATs results released. These will be checked and shared with pupils and parents/carers as soon as possible.

Tuesday 7th July 2026 - Year 6 performance to parents

Wednesday 8th July 2026 - EYFS Stay & Play 2-3pm

Thursday 9th July 2026 - iROCK concert followed by Cherry Tree Summer Concert

Thursday 9th July 2026 - School Disco

Friday 3rd July 2026 - After School Clubs finish

Monday 13th July 2026 - Open Classrooms – parents invited

Tuesday 14th July 2026 - Gardening Competition

Thursday 16th July 2026 - Year 6 Leavers' Assembly

Friday 17th July 2026 - Last day of term.

Monday 20th July 2026 - Inset day

Achievements Outside of School

We are keen to celebrate the children's achievements outside of school and would love to hear from you if your child has taken part in something special they enjoy. Please send a brief description and a photo if you wish, of your child's achievement to be included in the newsletter.

The Great Fire of London

Year 4 have been learning all about the Great Fire of London and Solomon and Oliver made these great models after school.



1 - Solomon



2 - Oliver

Roman is player of the term!

Roman received a player of the term medal at his football club this week. He received this medal because of his great teamwork, determination and overall improvement this term. Well done Roman!



Rory & Thomas get their Acorn Awards

Rory and Thomas in Year 1 have both earned their Chief Scout's Acorn Award for Squirrels.

This is the top award for Squirrel Scouts – they are now moving up to the Beavers Groups



Special Award for Writing



Year	Awarded to
EYFS	Ayham
Year 1	Husna
Year 2	Colby
Year 3	Harley
Year 4	Talia
Year 5	Daisy
Year 6	Noah

Times Tables Rock Stars & Numbots Challenge



We are trying to increase engagement of the pupils with the excellent Numbots and TTRS programmes.

We will be handing out a certificate for the child, in each class, who has engaged the most with their class TTRS/Numbots on a weekly basis.

Please encourage your child to play at home.

Year group	Most engagement this week
1	Cameron
2	Danny
3	Lincoln
4	Layla
5	Tiana
6	Sumai

Useful Info



Are you worried about your child travelling to secondary school on their own in September?

Is your child anxious about travelling to school by bus for the first time on their own?

Being able to travel independently is a key life skill.

Travel Training gives people with SEN or additional needs the confidence and skills to travel on buses and trains independently. We can also help with walking routes.

Anyone can refer using our online referral form, we aim to be in touch within 10 days

www.travel-training.co.uk

Travel.training@essex.gov.uk

03330322872

Please take a look at our travel training video by clicking here: [Travel Training, The journey to independence - Essex County Council](#)



Are you a parent of a Year 5 child who has Special Educational Needs?

Worried about transition to secondary school?

Ask questions? SEN support or EHCP

What might provision look like for your child in Year 7?

Come and meet with Jane Hearn, Nicola Chisnall and Emily Henty from SEND services.

9th June	9.30am to 11am Old Heath Primary School Old Heath Road, Colchester CO2 8DD
16th June	1.00pm to 2.30pm St Michael's Primary School Camulodunum Way, Colchester CO2 9RA
24th June	1.30pm to 3.00pm Monkwick Junior School School Road, Colchester CO2 8NN

All dates are open to parents of pupils in Year 5 on the SEN register at any school listed


Fingringhoe Primary school
Mersea Primary School
Langenhoe Primary School
Cherry Tree Academy
Old Heath Primary School
Monkwick Junior school

St Lawrence Primary School
Montgomery Primary School
St Michael's Primary School
Gosbecks Primary School
Kings Ford Academy

Please only attend ONE session.


FREE
MOVING UP
WEBINARS
FOR PARENTS/CARERS
of primary aged children
Provided by your Mental Health Support Team
@EssexMHST_and_SETeamhs

bit.ly/3MaR1wJ




**Moving Up from
Infants to Juniors**
17th June 10 am and 7 pm

**Moving Up from
Primary to Secondary**
24th June 10 am and 7 pm



Striving to provide the best care by the best people



Autism Anglia

We'd like to highlight Autism Anglia's Community Connect — a *free* support service specifically for children with neurodiverse needs and their families.

! No diagnosis needed ! Support available even if your child is just *on a pathway* or you're exploring possible neurodiversity

They can help with: 🌟 Autism-related questions or concerns 🌟 Communication and social interaction 🌟 Emotional regulation 🌟 Sensory needs 🌟 Anxiety or behaviour linked to neurodiversity

Find out more here: 📍 <https://www.autism-anglia.org.uk/our-services/community-connect/>

If you're unsure if this service is for you and you'd like some advice, don't hesitate to ask.

Mrs Donnelly

Cherry Tree Foodbank

At Cherry Tree, we understand that life can sometimes bring unexpected challenges, and there may be times when a little extra support with food is needed. That's why we're launching the **Cherry Tree Foodbank** — a resource available to all our families whenever it's needed.

To help us keep the foodbank stocked, we welcome donations of **long-life food items**, including:

- Cereals
- Long life milk
- Tinned potatoes
- Pasta and rice
- Sauces
- Tinned vegetables
- Baked beans
- Tinned pies
- Tuna and other canned goods

Every contribution, big or small, makes a real difference.

If you'd like support, please don't hesitate to get in touch. You can call, email, or drop by to speak with me directly. I'll be happy to put together a food hamper for you, and I can also provide food bank vouchers if needed.

Together, we can support one another and make sure no family goes without.

Warm regards,

Miss Symonds

Communication with school.

When trying to communicate with members of staff at Cherry Tree, please bear in mind that they are working extremely hard with the children.

We aim to acknowledge all parent communication within 48 hours - this includes phone calls and emails.