



NEWS & VIEWS

Achievement & Enjoyment

Headteacher Mr S Bowsher



Headteacher Comment:

You may well have seen stories in the news this week about school attendance; how it needs to improve and what political parties are trying to do to help improve it. There is a direct link between good school attendance and good academic outcomes. The more you come to school, the better you do. Last term we had attendance of 95.5% which was above the national average. It is nearly back to the pre-pandemic levels we had as a school which is great. However, there is still room for improvement. Persistent absence (children with attendance below 90%) is also a big problem nationally and we still have more children with attendance below this than we would like.

There is no getting away from the fact that there is more illness around at this time of year and people seem to have found it harder to shift coughs and colds. Children can still come to school if they have a cough or cold and it is important to remember things like good hand hygiene. The BBC had a really good article this week giving advice on when children should and shouldn't be going to school if they are ill. This can be found [here](#).

One of the biggest problems around attendance nationally seems to be where parents think it is ok for their children to have a day off for their birthday or for a special day out. Term time holidays are also a problem. We don't really have many parents taking children out of school for trips or birthdays thank goodness, but we do have children going on term time holidays. This is not acceptable and the local authority will issue fines for these.

As I said at the start, our attendance continues to be above national average and improving. I was also really pleased this week to sign 108 certificates for children who had 100% attendance last term which is a record. Well done everyone and I'm sure we can beat this in the spring term.

Tech Tuesdays

Mr Weston will be sending out weekly Tech Tuesday letters this half term giving advice to parents about keeping children safe online. We very much live in an online world which has many benefits, but ensuring we keep our children safe when gaming or using a device is really important. In the Online Safety section of our website ([here](#)) you can find many helpful resources.

Curriculum

With a new term comes new curriculum topics. To find out more about what your child will be learning this term have a look at the Year Group Overviews and Subject Overviews on our website [here](#).

Times Table Rock Starts (TTRS) Battle of the Bands

This week marked the start of our new TTRS competition, 'Battle of the Bands'. Each week, KS2 classes will be pitted against each other aiming to score points and add to their team's total. At the end of the week, scores are tallied and the winning team will earn 3 points, whereas the losing team will earn one. This is then presented in a league table on our TTRS board. Once all the fixtures have been played, the top four teams will move into a semi-final knockout match in



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order to win the coveted 'Battle of the Bands' league trophy. Next week the fixtures are:

4LC vs 3C

3B vs 4T

6R vs 5P

5L vs 6C

Reception 2024

A final reminder that applications for a place in Reception 2024 close on Monday and can be made via Essex's admissions website [here](#).

Word of the Week

Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Author	Link	Photographer	Enable	Evolve	Presume	Undertake



Mr Bowsher's and Superstar Award

Robyn in 6R demonstrating the value of friendship.



Stars of the Week

RM	RT	1A	1P	2C	2G	3B
Callie	George	Indie	Scarlett	Layla	Olivia	Bella
3C	4LC	4T	5L	5P	6C	6R
Nancy	Lily	Alayna	Laila	Evan	Evie	Joel



Reading at Home

Well done to the older children – great start to the year. Come on the rest of the school, too many of you are not reading 4 times.

Class	Table shows numbers of children and percentages who read from Monday 8th January 2024 to Friday 12 January 2024			Percentage Read 4 & 5 times %
	Less than 4	4	5	
RM	7 (24%)	4 (13%)	19 (63%)	76%
RT	4 (14%)	7 (24%)	18 (62%)	86%
1A	7 (24%)	6 (21%)	16 (55%)	76%
1P	3 (10%)	7 (25%)	18 (65%)	90%
2C	3 (10%)	5 (17%)	22 (73%)	90%
2G	2 (7%)	5 (17%)	22 (75%)	93%
3B	4 (15%)	6 (21%)	18 (64%)	85%
3C	3 (10%)	2 (7%)	24 (83%)	90%
4LC	0 (0%)	5 (18%)	23 (82%)	100%
4T	0 (0%)	10 (38%)	18 (62%)	100%
5L	1 (4%)	6 (21%)	21 (75%)	96%
5P	0 (0%)	5 (18%)	23 (82%)	100%
6C	0 (0%)	2 (7%)	26 (93%)	100%
6R	0 (0%)	1 (4%)	26 (96%)	100%
Total				92%



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Diary Dates

Below are some of the important dates coming up this term:

Wednesday 24 th January	Boys football vs St Helens
Friday 26 th January	Year 4 Viking Day
Tuesday 30 th January	Young Voices at the O2
Wednesday 31 st January	Early Years Maths workshop (9am)
Tuesday 6 th February	Year 6 Mayan civilisation workshop
Wednesday 7 th February	Road safety day for Year 5 and Reception
Thursday 8 th February	Don Rae dance workshop for Year 1 and 2
Thursday 8 th February	DET Trustee meeting at Larchwood
Wednesday 14 th February	Parent Consultations (3:30pm-6:00pm)
Thursday 15 th February	Parent Consultations (5:30pm-8:00pm)
Friday 16 th February	Break up for half term
Monday 26 th February	Back to school
Friday 22 nd March	Don Rae dance workshop Year 4
Tuesday 26 th March	Reports sent home
Wednesday 27 th March	Easter discos
Thursday 28 th March	Break up



Weekly Attendance

Weekly Attendance – week commencing Monday 8th January 2024

Class	RM	RT	1A	1P	2C	2G	3B	Whole school
Attendance	98%	95%	95.3%	96.2%	88.3%	97%	94.3%	
Class	3C	4LC	4T	5L	5P	6C	6R	94.7%
Attendance	97.3%	93.3%	94.74%	93.3%	95.7%	96.9%	90%	

1 st	2 nd	3 rd
RM	3C	2G



Yearly Attendance

Yearly Attendance – from 6th September 2023

Class	RM	RT	1A	1P	2C	2G	3B	Whole school
Attendance	97.1%	94.8%	95.5%	95.1%	96.6%	96.1%	95.9%	
Class	3C	4LC	4T	5L	5P	6C	6R	95.6%
Attendance	96.1%	95.3%	94.3%	95.1%	95.4%	97%	94.2%	

1 st	2 nd	3 rd
RM	6C	2C



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