



# NEWS & VIEWS

Achievement & Enjoyment

Headteacher Mr S Bowsher



## Headteacher Comment:

This is the last full News and Views of the term as next Friday we will have broken up and it will be Good Friday. It feels like only yesterday that it was February half term, and with Easter being quite early this year, it wasn't long ago. However, the change in the way we feel at this time is often dramatic.

One of the biggest reasons for this is the change in the weather. The last few days have really been the first proper days of spring. The temperature outside is above average and I've managed to stand at the gate at the end of the day without my coat on. It is light in the mornings when we get up and when school closes at 6pm it is still light.

It isn't just the weather that has been changing. Spring coincides with Easter. As well as Christians celebrating the Easter story, we also associate Easter with new life. I was reminded of this by the LPPA pop-up Easter shop where there were lots of wonderful things to purchase including Easter chicks, rabbits and spring flowers as well as the usual chocolate. Outside, there are more birds out singing and plants and trees are waking up. Spring is in the air! This all makes a massive difference to how we feel and our mental health and we often feel more positive as a result.

Over the last few weeks members of the senior leadership team have been popping into lessons (which we do regularly) to watch the learning that is going on. It was a really positive experience and we were able to see high-quality teaching across the board and teachers and children working really hard to make sure that there was a good understanding of what was being taught. This is something we have been working hard on over the last year or so, following our last Ofsted.

Something else we have been working on over the last year or so is our enquiry-based curriculum for many of our foundation subjects (history, geography, RE, science and PSHCE in particular). We had some of our colleagues from other local schools checking on the impact of this on the children's learning and the really pleasing thing was that children were able to demonstrate to them how much they had learnt and remembered. In these lessons there is a 'big' question followed by a number of 'little' questions which are a focus of each individual lesson. By finding out the answers to the 'little' questions in each lesson children are able to answer the 'big' question.

The effectiveness of this was clear to me this week when I taught a geography lesson in Year 2. It was the last lesson of the unit where the 'big' question was: Where does our food come from? We recapped the different types of farms we have in the UK, how dairy farms work, where they often are, the different types of fruit we eat in the UK and then where things like bananas come from and why they grow there. The children then had to write the answer to the big question. Their knowledge and skill at writing this was very evident from all of them and just showed the effectiveness of our curriculum. This weekend, ask your children about what the big questions they have been learning to answer in history and geography have been. You'll find their knowledge and enthusiasm for the subjects impressive.



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## Happy News

Firstly, I'm pleased to say that Mrs Calver has had her baby. Archer Calver was born last week and the whole family is doing well. Congratulations to them all.

Miss Charlesworth, who teaches 2C, is getting married over Easter. She will officially be known as Mrs Wickenden, but will be keeping her professional name of Miss Charlesworth at least for the rest of the year. Congratulations to the future Mr and Mrs Wickenden.

## Word of the Week

Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Found	Goal	Transmit	Convert	Approach	Comprise	Synchronise



## Mr Bowsher's Superstar Award

Alex in 2C for demonstrating all the school values and being a great member of the class.



## Stars of the Week

RM	RT	1A	1P	2C	2G	3B
Kylo	Willow	Jacob	Amelia	Isabella	Jack	Thomas
3C	4LC	4T	5L	5P	6C	6R
Archie	Matthew	Eleanor	Brooke	Alex	Lucy	Seb



## Reading at Home

Good to see Year 6 doing well. After Easter we need to make sure that we have more 100% classes.

Class	Table shows numbers of children and percentages who read from <b>Monday 18<sup>th</sup> March to Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> March</b>			Percentage Read 4 & 5 times %
	Less than 4	4	5	
RM	3 (11%)	7 (25%)	18 (64%)	25 (89%)
RT	6 (21%)	7 (25%)	15 (54%)	22 (79%)
1A	5 (17%)	7 (23%)	18 (60%)	25 (83%)
1P	4 (14%)	5 (18%)	19 (68%)	24 (86%)
2C	3 (10%)	3 (10%)	24 (80%)	27 (90%)
2G	3 (12%)	5 (17%)	20 (71%)	25 (88%)
3B	2 (7%)	6 (20%)	22 (73%)	28 (93%)
3C	1 (4%)	6 (21%)	21 (75%)	27 (96%)
4LC	0 (0%)	21 (70%)	9 (30%)	30 (100%)
4T	2 (8%)	6 (22%)	19 (70%)	25 (92%)
5L	3 (10%)	4 (14%)	22 (76%)	26 (90%)
5P	2 (6%)	9 (32%)	18 (62%)	27 (94%)
6C	0 (0%)	1 (4%)	27 (96%)	28 (100%)
6R	0 (0%)	4 (14%)	24 (86%)	28 (100%)
Total				91%



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# Diary Dates

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

Tuesday 26 <sup>th</sup> March	Reports sent home
Wednesday 27 <sup>th</sup> March	Easter discos
Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup> March	Break up
Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> April	Start of Summer Term
Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> May	Year 4 Trip – Duxford IWM
Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> May	Year 6 SATs week
Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 5 Trip – Colchester Zoo
Monday 17 <sup>th</sup> June	Reception, Year 1 and 2 sports day (am)
Wednesday 19 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 3 – 6 sports day (am)
Thursday 27 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 3 Trip – Colchester Museum
Friday 28 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 1 Trip - Barleylands
Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> July	Year 2 Trip – Thorndon Country Park
Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> July	Year 6 Residential Trip – Mersea Outdoors
Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> July	Reception Trip – Boydells Dairy Farm
Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup> July	Celebration Evening
Thursday 25 <sup>th</sup> July	Last day of term



# Weekly Attendance

A much healthier week for attendance this time.

## Weekly Attendance – week commencing Monday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2024

Class	RM	RT	1A	1P	2C	2G	3B	Whole school
Attendance	93.3%	96.3%	96.3%	96.9%	99.3%	97.3%	98.7%	
Class	3C	4LC	4T	5L	5P	6C	6R	96.4%
Attendance	94.7%	97%	94.3%	96.6%	97.6%	98.2%	92.4%	

1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>
2C	3B	6C



# Yearly Attendance

## Yearly Attendance – from 6<sup>th</sup> September 2023

Class	RM	RT	1A	1P	2C	2G	3B	Whole school
Attendance	95.8%	92.6%	95.5%	95.7%	96.3%	95.3%	96.1%	
Class	3C	4LC	4T	5L	5P	6C	6R	95.3%
Attendance	96%	95%	94.4%	95.3%	95.9%	96.5%	93.5%	

1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>



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