

# Newsletter

October 2023



Dear Parents & Carers,

What a fantastic start to our school year! The sunny weather has meant more time outside, but also a slight delay to our usual Autumn topics! Have a read of everything we've had going on, what we've been learning and what we've got coming up. Next term is always a busy but exciting one, so we look forward to seeing you all back in November!

Happy Holidays.

## Oak Class

Oak class have been super busy making new friends and learning lots.

In history we have learnt to compare homes from different periods in history. We have tried to answer questions such as...Do you know why Celtic houses had no windows? Why was the wood used to build Tudor houses so wonky? Why did Saxons build their homes facing the sun?

Our science lessons this term have focused on animals. We love answering our rocket word quizzes. We are getting quicker at answering the questions and love to try and beat our scores. There was a good discussion about whether cows, pigs and horses could be pets. Thankfully no one thought hyenas would make a suitable pet!

## Birch Class

Birch Class have settled in well over the first few weeks. They have enjoyed the different topics such as volcanoes and earthquakes in geography, forces in science and trinity in RE. They have also written excellent recounts in Literacy and are currently writing their own versions of Sherlock Holmes. In maths, year 6 have been learning about angles and place value whilst year 5 have been focusing on place value and their written methods. As well as their learning, many of the children have put themselves forward for different roles across the school and we look forward to seeing the impact they will make.

## Chestnut Class

We have kicked off the year brilliantly in Chestnut class and all the children have been working really hard! We enjoyed listening to Winnie the Pooh stories and wrote our own stories using these characters - they were brilliant.

Our science topic this half term has been fascinating - learning about Living things and their habitats. We have also learnt about Islam in RE and have recently started our new history topic, all about the Ancient Greeks.

## Sports and Teams

We had a record 23 children take part in the Gipping Valley cross country which is an amazing effort. Every child finished with a smile and tried their hardest and the school finished 5th overall. Well done to Zakariya and Hattie who qualified for the next round of the event. We also have a Tag Rugby tournament and Girls football before half term and we wish them the best of luck.

**Edit- the Tag Rugby team won all of their matches and the whole tournament, scoring 23 tries in total!**



## Ash Class

The children in Ash Class have settled really well into school. They have enjoyed a Teddy Bears' picnic with Barking Pre-School and an American Football PE enrichment session. They have made a great start with their phonics and number work. Their behaviour was fantastic when we went to church for the Harvest Festival

Well Done Everyone! LF

Mon Oct 30 <sup>th</sup>	PD Day
Fri Nov 11 <sup>th</sup>	Remembrance Services KS1 / KS2
Fri Nov 17 <sup>th</sup>	Children in Need / Enrichment P.E
Sat Dec 9 <sup>th</sup>	Christmas Fayre
Wed Nov 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Flu Vaccinations
Wed Dec 13 <sup>th</sup>	Values Morning
Thurs Dec 14 <sup>th</sup>	Christingle Service
Fri Dec 15 <sup>th</sup>	Funday Friday
Mon Dec 18 <sup>th</sup>	Nativity rehearsals
Tues Dec 19 <sup>th</sup>	9.15am Nativity for Parents
Wed Dec 20 <sup>th</sup>	Party Afternoon / End Of Term
Wed Jan 3 <sup>rd</sup>	PD Day
Mon Feb 19 <sup>th</sup> – Fri Feb 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Half Term
Mon Apr 1 <sup>st</sup> – Fri Apr 12 <sup>th</sup>	Easter holidays
Mon May 27 <sup>th</sup> – Fri May 31 <sup>st</sup>	Half Term
Fri July 19 <sup>th</sup>	END OF TERM.

### PSA

After a successful AGM meeting this month, we have had a slight reshuffle of the committee, with Jo Cobley stepping up to be Chair. Plans are coming together for our Christmas Fayre, which this year will be on Saturday December 9<sup>th</sup> in school. As always, volunteers are needed to help set up, run stalls, manage the day and clear down at the end. Please let your class rep know if you're able to help at all! We need new committee members, without which the charity cannot run. As a PSA we raise money for the extra bits in school that contribute to your child's experience. More details on what we do can be found on the leaflet with this newsletter – we would love to have you on the team! The PSA.

### Reading at home

Please never underestimate the enormous difference you can make to your child's education and self-esteem by reading with them every day.

Working together as parents and teachers combined, we're helping our children to become confident readers who are ready to access and enjoy and wealth and variety of reading opportunities.

Every half term children who have read with an adult at home 4 times a week or more, receive a certificate. Last term this was the lowest it has been in Chestnut and Year 5 specifically. We would always love to see more certificates handed out, celebrating this achievement!

### Collective Worship

Our theme for this half term has been PERSEVERANCE. We also had a wonderful Harvest Festival in Church which the new Worship Committee planned and helped to lead.

### Attendance & Lates from 01/09/23 – 17/10/23

Ash	98.3%
Oak	96.1%
Chestnut	95.8%
Birch	95.4%
Ash	7 lates
Oak	8 lates
Chestnut	2 lates
Birch	15 lates

Remember, the DFE expects all children to attend unless they are too ill to do so.

### Councils

All our councils have now been elected and are already starting to make moves within the school. The Junior Road Safety Officers have already looked at the safety of walking to and from school, and have organised a poster competition for the Be Bright, Be Seen day. Eco Council have been doing litter picks round the school grounds and have set up a competition for a junk modelled animal made from recycled items. School Council are working well together to try and combat the overuse of paper towels in school and making sure the school runs smoothly. Well done to all those elected!



**BACK TO  
SCHOOL**

**TUESDAY OCT  
31ST**