

Grange Primary School

Elder Avenue, Wickford, Essex, SS12 0LR

Tel: 01268 734420

Headteacher: Mrs M Elfenich

Deputy Headteacher: Miss B Langley



Friday, 22nd March 2024

Drop –off and pick-up times

A polite reminder to please ensure your children (even younger siblings) are not scooting or cycling on the school grounds in the mornings or after school as this can be dangerous. Please also make sure that children (and parents) are not walking across the car park as staff members are coming and going at these times. Thank you for helping us to keep the children safe.



Attendance

Well done to **Chestnut** class for having the highest attendance this week! Remember if your class gets 100% attendance, you win a £25 reward to spend on whatever you like!

Oak	98.2%
Ash	98.3%
Hazel	86.4%
Holly	91.9%
Elder	91.1%



Willow	96%
Rowan	92.3%
Beech	95.3%
Chestnut	98.7%
Maple	96.8%
Elm	92.3%

Outstanding debts on School Money

Could we please politely remind parents to check whether you have any money owing on School Money and to pay it off before the Easter holidays as we are nearing the end of the school financial year. It is important that as much of this money as possible is paid off to give us a good start to the new financial year - thank you!



SchoolMoney

Skipping festival

The children in year 2 had a fun (and a bit soggy!) time at the skipping festival. A big thank you to the year 5 children who helped out and ran the different activities!



Cup stacking

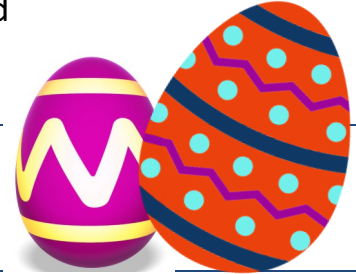
Some children from year 3 and 4 went to a cup stacking event at Buttsbury Junior School on Friday. They all had a fantastic time and showed our school values of co-operation and deter-



Diary dates - upcoming events

March

Wednesday 27th	Year 1/2 trip to Braintree Museum
Thursday 28th	House reward for house in the lead Last day of term
Friday 29th March—Friday 12th April	Easter holidays



April

Monday 15th	Children return to school
Monday 22nd	Year 6 mock SATs
Thursday 25th	PTA discos - times TBC
Monday 29th	Class photos



May

Thursday 2nd	EYFS trip to Boydells Farm
Thursday 9th	Year 3/4 trip to Mountfitchet Castle
WB Monday 13th	Year 6 SATs
Tuesday 21st	Year 5/6 trip to the Tower of London on the train
Thursday 23rd	SEN coffee morning



June



Wednesday 5th—Friday 7th	Year 6 residential (Mersea)
Tuesday 18th— Thursday 20th	Workshare (dates and times to be confirmed)
Monday 24th	Year 1/2 trip to Colchester Castle
Thursday 27th	SEN coffee morning Year 6 at Bromfords
Friday 28th	Move up for children in EYFS—year 5 Year 6 at Beauchamps and Bromfords



July

Thursday 4th	Sports day (times to be confirmed)
Friday 5th	Year 5 taster day at Bromfords
Thursday 11th	Year 5 taster day at Beauchamps
Friday 12th	Final year 3 swimming session
Thursday 18th	House reward SEN coffee morning
Friday 19th	Year 6 coffee morning
Tuesday 23rd	Last day of the school year! Year 6 leaver's show



Rewards and achievements in school

This week's Headteacher awards for **determination, co-operation and imagination** were awarded to the following children. We also celebrate **excellence** for those children who consistently show all of our school values.

EYFS	
Daisy R	<i>Excellence</i>
Kipras L	Imagination
Ripley M	Co-operation
Year 1 and 2	
Alfie D	Determination
Lenny C	Determination
Evie W	Co-operation
Year 3 and 4	
Freya G	<i>Excellence</i>
Rose H	<i>Excellence</i>
Amber M	<i>Excellence</i>
Year 5 and 6	
Isaac B	Co-operation
Edward W	Determination
Fran S	Imagination



'Star Readers' this week who got a golden token for the vending machine and to choose a book to take home were:

EYFS — James F and Leo L

Year 1 and 2 — Joseph T, Marley R and Rosie W

Year 3 and 4 — Connor J, Ralph B and Petar T

Year 5 and 6 — James T, Scarlett E and Harry S



Celebration

We enjoy seeing what the children are proud of outside of school, so please don't forget to send your photos to Miss Langley!

Izzy gained a distinction in her
grade 2 tap exam.



Elliott moved up to yellow sash at
kung fu.

Riley got man of the match at
football.



Matthew was awarded his green/blue belt in kung fu.



Celebration

Well done to everybody who received a postcard this week from their teacher!



Local clubs and events

If you would like to let the school community know about any local clubs, we are more than happy to share them on our Facebook page. Please look on the [Grange Facebook Page](#) using this link to find out more about Flames Netball Club's Easter camp and Go Bonkers inflatable fun days.



New school menus

After the Easter holiday, there will be a new 3-week school dinner menu. The ladies in the kitchen have spoken to the children about what meals they like and would like to see back on the menu. We have also decided that there will be a blue band option every day alongside the red, yellow and green bands. These new menus will be sent out next week.



Save the date

Grange 2024 Leavers' Party

On Friday 19th July from 6pm until 9pm

Miracle House, Wickford.

Invitations have come home today!



Summer fete

The PTA are holding a summer fete on Saturday 13th July 2024. It will run from 11am until 4pm and we would love to see as many families and friends attending as possible to support our fantastic PTA. We would love to have a range of stalls, so if you could run one or know someone who could, please let the PTA know - thanks!

Grange
Primary
PTA

We need
you!



Grangefest
13th July 2024
get in touch if you
can help us out

your help
means a lot!

Volunteers Needed

Stallholders also needed
pitch fee and raffle prize
will apply

Contact us
grangeprimarypta@hotmail.com

<https://www.facebook.com/GrangePrimaryPtaWickfordEssex>

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

ENCOURAGING OPEN CONVERSATIONS AT HOME

With tricky topics and occasional clashes of opinion, it can be challenging to maintain an environment where children feel able to talk candidly and honestly. However, encouraging such conversations helps to develop trust – making it easier to unpack even sensitive subjects as children get older. Here are our top tips for promoting open conversations at home.

1 CREATE A SAFE SPACE



Criticism, blaming or shaming can all prevent children from feeling emotionally safe – while showing affection, positive attention and an interest in what a child has to say builds their sense of security. These formative years are when children's opinions and values begin to take shape, so it's important to provide a non-judgmental environment in which to discuss them – especially if their opinions differ from your own.

2 CONSIDER OTHER OUTLETS



Some children may find it easier to talk while they're participating in another activity such as drawing, writing, walking or sport. If it's possible, taking part in these activities together presents you with an opportunity to communicate while doing something side by side. A child may feel less pressure that way and can be more inclined to open up of their own accord.

3 NORMALISE CHATS ABOUT FEELINGS



Incorporate mental health and emotional wellbeing into everyday conversations, using age-appropriate language and examples to help children understand their emotions. Ask questions like "How are you feeling today?", "What was the best and worst part of your day?", "If you could start today again, what would you do differently?" and "Is there anything you want to talk about?"

4 LISTEN ACTIVELY



When children express themselves, make it obvious that you're listening closely and giving them your full attention. Maintain eye contact and validate their feelings without immediately trying to solve the problem. It's not helpful to dismiss their issues as childish or 'teenage angst' – or to assume that they'll simply 'get over' whatever they're feeling. Children don't have your life experience; their resilience is still developing as they learn to push through difficulties and handle problems.

5 ASK OPEN QUESTIONS



Encourage children to share their thoughts by asking open questions about their feelings and experiences. Closed questions (such as "Did you enjoy school today?") are more likely to elicit a simple "yes" or "no" response. Instead, you could ask things like "Who did you spend time with at break?" or "Who did you sit with at lunchtime?"

6 RESPECT THEIR BOUNDARIES



If a child isn't ready to talk to about something yet, respect their boundaries: this reinforces that their feelings are important and worthy of consideration. Ideally, you're aiming to let them know you care without smothering them, so just make it clear that you're there for them whenever they're ready to chat. Gentle, regular check-ins can sometimes be the best form of progress.

7 LEAD BY EXAMPLE



Model open, honest and healthy communication in front of children and young people. Try to demonstrate kindness when talking about others and yourself, because if children hear adults being overly harsh, critical or judgmental, or see them having unrealistic expectations of themselves, it makes them more likely to adopt and repeat this behaviour themselves as they grow.

8 HAVE REGULAR CHECK-INS



Check in with children periodically to discuss how they're feeling and what's going on in their lives. This could be a weekly or monthly conversation, where the child has an opportunity to share whatever's on their mind. For parents and carers, getting away from the house and other distractions might be productive here; you could consider regular trips to a coffee shop or a café, or just a weekly walk.

9 PROVIDE RESOURCES



It's often beneficial to let children know about other support that's available to them if they're struggling to talk to you specifically. Encourage them to talk to school counsellors, trusted adults or even a therapist, if necessary – while normalising this route and dispelling the harmful stigma around asking for help. Older children could engage with resources such as Kooth or YoungMinds.

10 CELEBRATE EMOTIONAL EXPRESSION



It's beneficial to praise children for expressing their feelings honestly – emphasising how important it is to talk about their emotions and how proud you are of them for doing so. This can be especially pivotal for boys, who often experience more of a stigma around talking frankly about their feelings and their mental health – a barrier that can be overcome, with enough love and support.

Meet Our Expert

With 30 years' experience as a teacher, trainer, consultant and interim executive board member, Anna Bateman has a superb understanding of what works in pedagogy, school improvement and leadership. She has also advised the Department for Education on their mental health green paper.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College



Essex Year of...

Spring into action
this Easter with the


Essex Year of Numbers

Easter Egg Hunt!

This Easter, we're launching a maths competition to encourage all pupils preparing for SATs at home.

Each day from March 25th to April 5th we'll add a new maths puzzle on the Essex Year Of... app so children can have fun keeping their maths skills sharp. And every correct answer earns an entry to our daily prize draw!

Following the success of our Advent competition, this activity can strengthen links between home and school, supporting parents to participate in their child's learning journey.

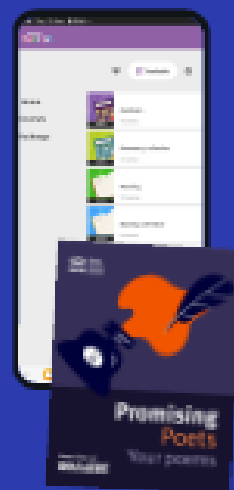


We encourage schools to promote this opportunity to parents and have provided a sample letter for you to send.




Something for everyone!

The Essex Year of... app is FREE and full of engaging educational content and activities for all ages. It offers important opportunities for your pupils and their families to read for pleasure and have fun using numbers.



Although designed with Year 6 SATs in mind, parents and carers and siblings of all ages can come together to challenge themselves and each other.



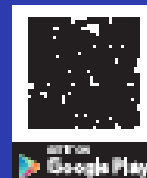
Join us for an egg-ceptional Easter adventure in the Year of Numbers!



Use the codes below
to download the app.



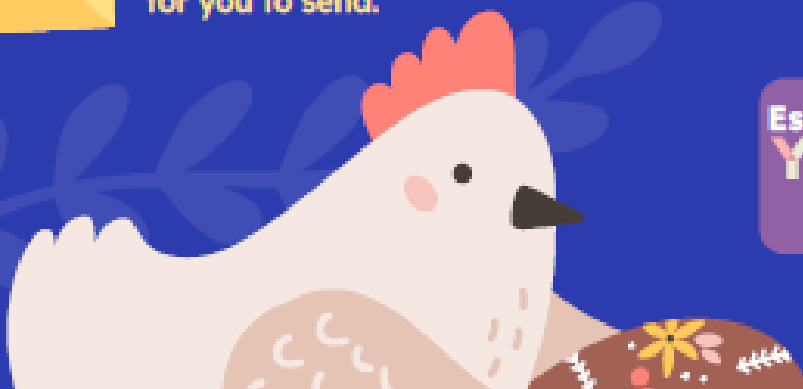
Essex
Year
of...



Get it on
Google Play



Download on the
App Store





Essex Year of...

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Spring into action this Easter with the Essex Year Of Numbers *Easter Egg Hunt!*

We're excited to announce a new opportunity for your child to practise their maths skills this Easter. The Essex Year of Numbers initiative is hosting an Easter Maths Competition!

Each day from March 25th to April 5th, we'll add a new maths puzzle to the Essex Year Of... app to help your child have fun with maths over the Easter holidays.

Although we've got the Year 6 SATs in mind, everyone in your family can come together to challenge themselves and each other and every correct answer enters your child in a daily prize draw.

Participating in this competition is a great opportunity to support your child's learning and celebrate their achievements together.

To join the Easter Maths Competition, scan the QR codes below to download the Essex Year Of... app and look for the *Easter Egg Hunt* in the *Numbers* section. The Essex Year Of... app also hosts free maths and reading content for the whole family, so everyone's invited!



Join us for an egg-ceptional Easter adventure in the Year of Numbers!

Essex Year of Numbers Team