



School Newsletter



Reception children enjoying wildlife in their wildlife area

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Site News

We were very much hoping to be able to share a lovely new playground, with colourful line markings for games for the children to enjoy, at the start of this term, however this is unfortunately not the case. For those of you who have stood on the Colleges Playground since Easter, you will have seen the rather poor attempt that has been made (by the company who laid the tarmac) to rectify issues with the initial laying. We have been in dispute with this company since Christmas and have needed to escalate our complaint in order to get a satisfactory outcome. We are now looking forward to these issues being properly addressed during the May half term break and for the children to return to a lovely colourful playground for the second half of the summer term. I am confident in the reassurances that I have received, from the Managing Director of the company involved, that this will be completed appropriately at that time.

In other site related news, we are continuing to develop our outdoor courtyard classroom this term, and I should be able to share some pictures of the new features that we will have created for the children to enjoy in there in the next newsletter. These will include equipment to allow the children to use this space in the summer as a quiet lunchtime place to read.

The Gardening club are also planning to create an Olympic Garden in this area to make it an even nicer place to spend time.

Year 5 have been taking part in the Big Plastic Count as part of their learning about looking after the environment. For a week they counted plastic packaging that was being thrown away at home (some products such as medical packaging and nappies etc were not included). The data was then submitted to the Big Plastic Count website. The results made for interesting reading. In one week the school community threw away 1,411 pieces of plastic (the equivalent of 73,372 across a whole year). This certainly has proved food for thought for the children. More detailed results will be circulated via Dojo to Year 5.

Summer Term reminders

As we are entering the Summer Term, we'd like to remind you all that should we get any days of particularly warm weather, there are a few precautions we would like you to take. Firstly, please apply any sunscreen to your child prior to school. If they bring in any to top up in school then they should be able to apply it themselves, as staff will not be able to do so. Please also ensure that sunhats and appropriate clothing are with the children on these days too.

Dogs on site

Can we please remind parents that the school site is a dog free site, unless it is a guide dog. Please do not bring dogs on site, as we will be asking you to leave if you do.

Year 2 trip to Mountfitchet Castle

Our Year 2 children had a great time just before Easter visiting Mountfitchet Castle in Essex. This was a great opportunity for the children to experience a recreation of a working castle from the Norman period. They learnt lots about the different jobs carried out by different people in the castle, as well as experiencing some of the castle features that they were learning about at the time. Very many of the children enjoyed being put in the stocks (which gave us a few ideas for behaviour management back at school!).

They tried out grinding corn in the traditional way (see below) as well as firing siege weapons, climbing the battlements and exploring the jobs of surgeons, blacksmiths and bakers.



House Points Trophy

Congratulations to the Sapphires and Diamonds houses for joint winning last term's overall House Point trophy.

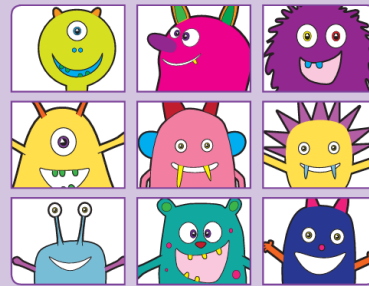


Year 1 – Phonics Screening Check Information for Parents session

Key stage 1

Phonics screening check

Pupils' materials



Do you know your alien words from your tricky words? Can you tell a digraph from an alternative sound and what it is the national screening check for Year 1 all about? To find out more come along to a short information session (about 30mins) for all parents of children in Year 1 with Mrs Thompson on Monday 29th April at 2:30pm. Find out about the national Phonics Screening Check in May. Any parents of children in Year 2 who will be taking the screening check are also welcome to attend. The session will be held in the school hall - please contact the office to book.

Mrs Thompson will talk about what the screening check is, how children have been preparing for it, what their mock scores are and how you can help at home. If you are unable to make the session, information will be shared on Dojo and can be viewed via our website here: [Phonics Screening Check](#).

Year 5 and 6 SATS Information

Year 6 SATs are also happening during the week of the 13th May this year. If your child did not attend the school earlier in the year, when the workshop about this happened, and you have any questions about it, then please speak to your child's class teacher.

A SATs breakfast will be provided for all Year 6 children each morning that week (details will be sent out soon). For Year 5 parents, please keep in mind that mid-May will be the likely time for SATs week for your children next year, so please don't plan anything at that time next year which would keep your children off school.

Early Minds Workshops and ideas for parents



Over the last few weeks we have been pleased to have worked with Suffolk Mind to deliver the Early Minds programme with every class across the school. Each child took part in a fun 90

minute interactive workshop led by the Suffolk Young Minds team learning about the Mental Health Continuum and developing their own mental health toolkit to support positive mental well-being.

In school, we will be continuing to use these strategies with our mental health Kitbags and resources. There is a short video about the programme and resources for families to use at home and some further information

<https://vimeo.com/suffolkmind/parents>

And there are some links to useful resources to encourage and support positive mental health and well-being. [Resources to support children and young people - Suffolk Mind](#) and for Year 6 pupils and teens: [Signposting guide for young people.ind](#) (suffolkmind.org.uk)

Free mental health and neurodiversity workshops for parents

There are some upcoming free online parent/carer workshops that might be of interest to you. Please see the flyers attached for dates and booking information for parent/carer workshops on mental health and wellbeing and childhood neurodiversity series.

All these upcoming workshops can be booked for free on [Eventbrite page](#), a referral is not needed to access them. Information on all the workshops, past and present, as well as workshop recordings, can be found on this [website](#).



Safer cycling to school

As the weather improves, more children will want to take the option of cycling to school. Please make sure your children know to be very aware of traffic and cars around the entrances of the school and cycle in a sensible way on the narrow roads to the school. Also ensure that they are wearing cycle helmets and that bikes are road-worthy and have working breaks.



Contextual Safeguarding- April Edition



We are all hoping for a bit of sunshine and warmer weather over the Easter holidays, which means that many of us may think about enjoying a ride out on our bicycles or scooters with our friends or family. This is a great idea, as regular exercise can have a positive effect on physical, mental and emotional health, but we must make sure that we stay safe whilst out and about!



TIPS TO KEEP SAFE:

Wear it Properly

Sit it evenly between your ears and flat on your head.



Wear it low on your forehead – 2 finger widths above your eye brows.

Tighten the chin strap* and adjust the pads inside for a snug and secure fit. *Specific to bicycle helmets.

Before they took part on their [Bikeability](#) course last month, the Year 5 children had to carry out some important checks on their bikes:

1. **MECHANICAL CONDITION:** Are the saddle, handlebars and wheel fixed on tight?

2. **FRAME & SEAT POST:** Is the frame the appropriate size for your child?

Can your child comfortably touch the floor with their toes whilst sat on the saddle?

3. **BRAKES:** Does the cycle have a working front and rear brake capable of stopping the cycle?

Can your child comfortably reach and operate the brake levers?

4. **TYRES:** Are both tyres inflated to the required tyre pressure stamped on the side of the tyre?

5. **CHAIN:** Have you cleaned and oiled the chain?

6. **GEARS:** If present, do the gears change smoothly without any delays?

Did you know? Many local bike shops offer free cycle checks for Bikeability participants.



Library News

The school library has had some new additions, such as a reading tent, reading rugs to cuddle up in to read, a display of books about artists (due to World Art Day), and it now has a resident dragon mascot. The children are currently taking part in a competition to name our new fire-breathing friend, which ends on the 1st May. We also have a number of new titles coming soon.



Friends of Feoffment News

The Easter Bingo was a great success and was both an enjoyable family event whilst also raising very much needed funds for the school. We are now turning our attentions to some upcoming children's cinema events and importantly planning for the summer fete. The summer fete really is a huge undertaking, whether it's located at the school or elsewhere, and really needs the whole school community to come together to make it happen and be an enjoyable experience for families. For this event to go ahead, we really do require lots of additional offers of support from parents to help with preparations, running stalls for an hour out of the day and for setting up and packing away. It is really not fair for all of this to fall on the shoulders of a small number of very dedicated parents. So please be ready to put your hand up when asked (fairly soon) for an offer of support in some capacity or another. We are currently exploring venues for this event and will update you very soon.

Cinema Night

We are also having the first of our pupil cinema nights very shortly. This will be on **Monday 29th April** for Reception, Year 1 and Year 2. It will be watching the film 'The Incredibles' from after school until 5pm (this is a change from the previous announcement, as Year 4 have now seen the Wizard of Oz in school). The ticket price of £3 per child will include popcorn, snack and a drink. There is no need to book a ticket in advance, it will simply be paying on the door (school hall) in cash on the day. Cinema nights for other year groups will follow.



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