



December Newsletter 2021



Dear Parents and Carers

I cannot express how much I am looking forward to welcoming in 2022. In December 2020 I probably said to you that I was looking forward to 2021 and how challenging the pandemic has been that year, but this year made 2020 look easy!

As I reflect over 2021, I can't believe how many things have happened to our school community. The passing of people we loved, lockdowns, COVID outbreaks, last minute instructions, to name just a few things. When you are faced with these things, you initially think, 'how are we going to get through this?' But together we have done just that. In the face of adversity, we all pulled together and got through to the other side. I am sure that we still have an interesting time ahead with the new variant looming over us this Christmas, but we will remain resilient, and we know that whatever comes our way, we can overcome it and continue to move forward.

I have to say, in a leadership role, you are only as good as your team around you. In my case, I am so lucky and proud of my team who are hardworking, trustworthy, committed and dedicated. I'm not sure that I can say the same for our Prime Minister this Christmas!

I hope that this year you will be able to visit your loved ones and enjoy your time together. I am certainly looking forward to spending Christmas with my family in the north this year.

Thank you for all your support this term.

I wish you all a very happy and restful Christmas.

Mrs Bardetti

Headteacher

Latest COVID guidance for schools from the DfE

All travellers arriving into the UK will need to isolate and get a PCR test by 'day two' after arrival. They may end their isolation once they receive a negative result. If the result is positive, they should continue to isolate and follow rules on isolation following a positive test. Unvaccinated arrivals aged over 18 will follow the existing, more onerous, testing and isolation regime. All Red list arrivals will enter quarantine.

If your child has COVID over the Christmas break you will need to contact Track and Trace

Parent/ staff communication

Please could I ask that due to the current COVID issues that you do not ask to talk to staff at the classroom door. Please could you either email or call the school office and the teacher will get back to you as soon as possible.

Parking

Please can you ensure that you do not park across our neighbours driveways.

WhatsApp

We have had a number of pupils, mainly in upper school, this term who are joining WhatsApp groups. Some of these groups are causing disagreements among pupils and although it is being used while children are at home, the disagreements are being brought into school. Please could I ask, that you are extra vigilant with your child's internet use, to ensure that they are not involved in these issues. Many thanks.

Golden Assembly

Date	Name
26.11.21	Elsie Stiff Ilayda Ates Dylan Finch Daschell Game Ava Gibson Rosie Phillips Florence Bowler Allicia Adams Dylan Roberts Maya Sliney Mia Soames Ethan Wilson Grace Cates Darcey Chandler

Selection box collection.

Thank you so much for all your selection boxes for the 'children in hospital' appeal. We received approximately 230 boxes, which is amazing. I am sure they will be gratefully received.

PTA - Pantomime

This year the PTA has once again paid for an online pantomime for all of our pupils. The panto this year is Cinderella. The children will be watching this on either the 14th, 15th or 16th December .

Wellie Amnesty - KS2

Please donate your used wellies! As a LOtC school, it is handy to have a spare set of wellies -we currently have gaps in sizes 1 and up. If you have any wellies that no longer fit, please send them in with your child.

UKS2 Adventure Mud Run

Last week, children in Upper School took part in a Mud Run at Birch Hall, Kirby. The children completed a 2.5km course which included multiple obstacles. All the children showed great enthusiasm and helped each other get through the course. Evie, Edie, Dylan, Vinnie and Finley all took part in the finals which were held last Saturday. A big well done to all of the children who took part and a thank you to parents/carers for taking the children.

British Heart Foundation - Elf Kick!

This month, every class has taken part in the BHF Elf Kick Challenge. Completing a range of different exercises for 12 days. We would like to thank all those who have made a donation to our schools Just Giving Page. A special thank you to Albie Walker's family for their kind and generous donation. The smallest amounts can go a

long way! The donation page will be running until the end of December. All donations made go directly to BHF. If you would like to sponsor your child and make a donation, please follow the link:

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/HollandHavenPrimarySchool>

Thank you

NAWT Donations - UKS2

A huge thank you to all the children and parents who brought in donations for the National Animal Welfare Trust (Little Clacton). Your kindness and generosity has meant that the animals being cared for will enjoy a little something special this Christmas.

Governor Corner

After what has been yet another challenging term for staff, children and parents it was such a pleasure to be able to assist at last week's school Christmas lunch and see all of the children so happy and excited in their Christmas jumpers. I was also really pleased to observe the children's excellent behaviour and manners too.

As parents, you may not realise just how hard the staff work behind the scenes to make sure the children are able to access these activities, especially in the current climate and a special mention must go to the kitchen staff for cooking so many meals and making the eye catching cakes and desserts, which so many of the children commented on.

As Governors we realise how lucky we are to have such a committed Headteacher and staff team supporting the children with their learning and wellbeing. We thank you for all you are doing as parents too, and the support you offer to all of the staff as well.

From all of the Governors, I wish you all a very happy Christmas and New Year and hope you are able to spend quality time with your family and friends

Seasons greetings

Carolyn Terry
Governor

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

December

16.12.21 - Christmas themed non uniform day - suggested £1 donation

16.12.21 - Last day of the Autumn Term

17.12.21 - Non pupil day

January 2022

04.01.22 - First day of spring term

Essex Library



Lots of prizes to be won!

Essex **Library** Services

Read, learn, connect.

Winter Reading Challenge

Saturday 27 November 2021 - Saturday 19 February 2022

Pick up a giant bookmark from any Essex library. Read six books to complete the challenge and collect a stamp for each library book you read!

Visit libraries.essex.gov.uk for more information

The poster features a teal background with various icons representing library services: an open book, a smartphone, a person reading, a book with a magnifying glass, an envelope with an @ symbol, headphones, and another open book. At the bottom, there is a winter-themed illustration with a reindeer, a fox, a mole, a beaver, an owl, and a dog, all dressed in winter gear, standing in a snowy landscape with bare trees.

