

WHAT'S COMING UP

December

15th - EYFS/Y1 Nativity @ 2pm
16th - EYFS/Y1 Nativity @ 9:30
17th - Christmas Dinner, Christmas jumpers can be worn.
18th - Whole School Carol Service @ 2pm
19th - Celebration Assembly
22nd - 5th Jan 2026 - Christmas Holidays

January

6th - Spring Term

Dear Parents and Carers,

This week, over 50 children had the wonderful opportunity to attend the pantomime at the Mercury Theatre. The tickets were allocated on a first-come, first-served basis, and those on the waiting list will be given priority for future allocations. The children thoroughly enjoyed the performance and once again demonstrated themselves as outstanding ambassadors of our school. My sincere thanks to Mrs Francis for organising this fantastic trip.

Our school choir visited local care homes on Thursday, bringing festive cheer to residents. The children sang beautifully, and I am told that their performance melted the hearts of many. It was a great demonstration of our pupils' musical talents and community spirit.

We have also been actively preparing for the Christmas tree festival at the church. A variety of decorations created by our pupils will be on display during the weekend, showcasing their creativity and festive enthusiasm. Please go and see all the tress looking so amazing.

Looking ahead, next week will be filled with Christmas celebrations. The Early Years and Year 1 nativity for parents and family will take place on Monday afternoon at 2pm and Tuesday at 9:30am. I can't wait to see the children dressed up and performing their Christmas story. Special recognition goes to Mr Leonard and Miss Freeman for writing this year's nativity, ensuring it captures the uniqueness of Bocking.

Our Carol service at Bocking Church, will conclude the week on Thursday afternoon, commencing at 2pm, with doors opening at 1:45pm. Year 6 pupils will deliver readings of the nine lessons, and the entire community is invited to join in singing carols. Please note the dismissal arrangements: children will be released from the church, and those not collected will return to school for standard dismissal. Please be patient with us as it is quite a logistical challenge dismissing from the church building.

The final day of term will be Friday, featuring our Celebration assembly at 9am and TOPS time celebrations in the afternoon. This will be an opportunity to recognise and celebrate the exceptional learning and social behaviours demonstrated by our pupils throughout the term. The winning House for this term and who can wear non uniform on the last day of term is Brunel

A special mention to Ronnie who has made the U10s North Essex County Cricket team - we are so proud of your achievement - congratulations!

We look forward to sharing these festive moments with you.

Have a lovely weekend

Mrs Cagney

BEFORE SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

FRI - IROCK = RETURNING AFTER XMAS

AFTER SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

Mon - NO CHOIR

Wed - SCS

Thu - SCS

Fri - Taekwondo



STAR OF THE WEEK

EYFS - Mylah- Rai
Year 1 - George R
Year 2 - Sidney
Year 3 - Livia
Year 4 - Millie
Year 5 - Linda
Year 6 - Blake

AR READERS

Year 2 - Monty, Callie, Sidney, Jacob, Emmanuel, Phoebe

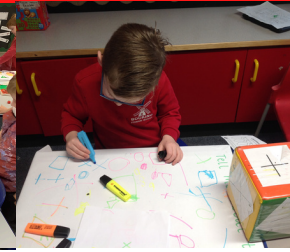
Year 4 - Orin

Now the weather has changed, please ensure you child has a water proof jacket.

All items of clothing should be named.

Water only in bottles please.

Polite Reminder:
 The school toilets are closed for cleaning from 3:20.



CLASSROOM NEWS...

YEAR EYFS

This week in Early Years we have really begun to feel the Christmas spirit, as we rehearse our nativity and try on our costumes for the upcoming performance. We have also been getting just as creative with Christmas crafts, making our own wreaths and painting nativity scenes with watercolours. Alongside all the festivities, we have enjoyed exploring manipulatives in maths to build numbers to 5. Using Numicon and dice frames, we looked for different ways to make 5, even challenging ourselves to explain our methods using number sentences. Miss Freeman and Mrs Pennington are very proud of how much we have grown as mathematicians!



YEAR 1

We have had a very exciting week in Year 1. On Tuesday we travelled back in time to the Victorian age and experienced life as a Victorian child. We started by writing in sand and found this very satisfying. We then got to make Victorian peg dolls and used lots of different fabrics to create clothes for them. In the afternoon we learnt what it was like to go to school and also some of the different punishment's children had if they misbehaved! The children all looked amazing in their Victorian outfits and have used their enrichment day to write a recount in our English lessons.



YEAR 2

In English, the children completed their independent write: a brilliant persuasive review encouraging people to visit the United Kingdom. They worked hard to use exciting vocabulary, opinions and reasons to make their writing truly convincing! In maths, we learned how to add two-digit numbers across ten. The children used number lines, tens-and-ones knowledge and regrouping strategies to solve problems with growing confidence. In geography, we explored our local area from a bird's-eye view. The children created diary entries describing Bocking and identified its human and physical features. They loved spotting what makes our local community unique. We also enjoyed a creative session making beautiful ornaments for the church, which the children can't wait to share at the upcoming celebrations. Well done, Year 2, for another fantastic week of learning!



ATTENDANCE & PUNCTUALITY

88% - EYFS

96% - Year 1

85% - Year 2

87% - Year 3

90% - Year 4

91% - Year 5

91% - Year 6

Attendance
target 95%

Please be aware that the gates open at 8:35, and your child is marked late, affecting their attendance from 8:50am. Punctuality is a valuable lifelong skill. Late arrival affects not only the pupil who is late but disrupts the whole class. Where a pupil arrives after the registers close, with no justifiable reason, a U code will be entered into the register. The U code amounts to an unauthorised absence for the whole session. We must warn you, a penalty notice may be issued where there have been at least ten sessions of unauthorised absence during a rolling 10 school week period.

ONLINE SAFETY..

Roblox - Polybuzz

Over the last couple of weeks there have been some concerns about an apparent game within Roblox called Polybuzz (sometimes referred to as Polyfuzz).

Polybuzz is an Ai chat app. It is an 18+ app and therefore undoubtedly there is going to be content/chat unsuitable for children. Further to that, Polybuzz is 'supposed' to have highly robust age verification in place meaning users below the age of 18 can't use it, however we all know that this can be circumvented.

It sounds like this is a pop-up advertisement rather than a game within Roblox, and these ads are now very common to see across games, social media and other platforms. What is disappointing from the context of Roblox is that age-inappropriate ads are being shown to children when Roblox are supposed to know the ages of their users and therefore serve age-appropriate content/ads.

With the Christmas holidays coming up it might be worth remembering that Roblox has parental settings, and it's also worth checking what age your child has used if they have created their own profile. It may also be worth reminding children not to click on pop-ups but to seek the advice of parents/carers first.

Roblox parental settings can be found [HERE](#).

Parent Survey: Personal Development & Wellbeing in School Selection

Hi I'm Hannah Wilson,

As part of my postgraduate research, I'm exploring how parents make secondary school choices, and whether wellbeing and personal development are starting to outweigh traditional academic performance and grades in their decision-making.

Thank you for taking the time to complete this short survey.

This research is part of a postgraduate university project exploring how schools support pupils' wellbeing and personal development, and how much these factors influence parents when choosing a school.

The study seeks to understand whether parents believe schools should give greater emphasis to supporting students' broader personal growth, such as resilience, confidence, and mental health, over academic achievement. Findings from this research will contribute to current discussions on the balance between academic outcomes and wellbeing within the Ofsted inspection framework, helping to inform future educational practice and policy. Link: <https://forms.gle/7yRpBbUaCBezZRBEA>

🕒 It should take around 8-10 minutes to complete.