

WHAT'S COMING UP

March

30th - 10th April - Easter Holidays

April

- 13th April - Summer Term
- 16th - Y1 Phonics Meeting at 2:45
- Y6 SATs Parent Meeting 2:15pm
- 22nd - Y3 Braintree Institute

May

- 11-15th SATs Week
- 21st Open Door 14:30
- 22nd Celebration assembly 14:40

June

- 1st - School Photographer
- 8th June - SPACE coffee morning 9-10:15am
- 11th Bocking Summer concert 4-5pm
- 17th - Sports Day - EYFS & KS1 am 10-12 Whole school Picnic lunch 12-1 KS2 pm 1-3 (24th Sports day if weather does not permit on the 17th)
- 18th - EYFS trip to Boydells Farm (more details to follow)
- 23rd - Y6 Bikeability
- 30th - Y6 Bikeability
- 25th Stay and Play New EYFS 26/27 admission

July

- 6th - School Reports
- 14th - Y6 Performance to Parents 2-3pm
- 15th - Y6 Performance to Parents 5-6pm
- 17th - Y6 Leavers Assembly 9:30-10:30
- 17th Y6 Leavers Tea 10:30-11

BEFORE SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

Fri - iRock

AFTER SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

Mon - CHOIR w/c

Wed - SCS

Thu - SCS

Dear Parents/Carers,

Yesterday saw our boys' football team take to the field for their very first league match of the season having had a warm up tournament a few weeks ago. Facing an exceptionally strong side from Whitecourt, our players showed tremendous grit, resilience and determination throughout the game. Although the final score reflected a heavy defeat, the effort, teamwork and positive attitude displayed were something to be proud of. Defeats often provide the greatest learning opportunities and our lunchtime training sessions will now focus on the key areas we want to develop. We know the boys will rise to the challenge and come back even stronger for their next match.

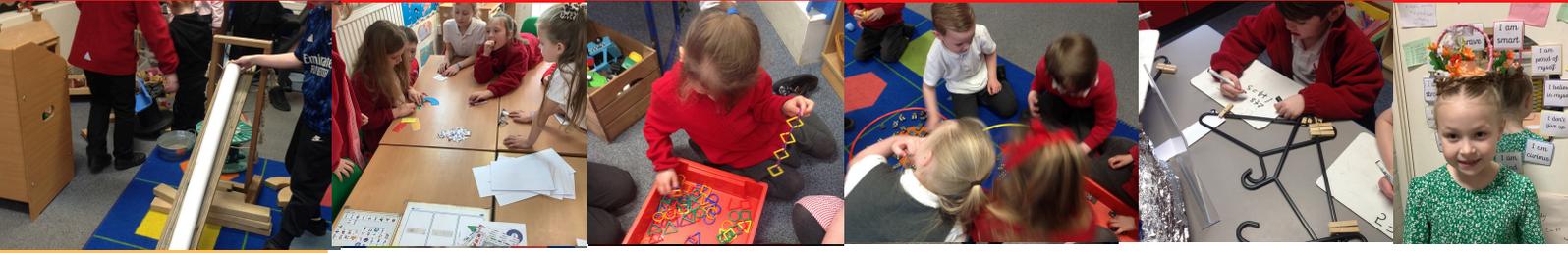
Music has also been in the spotlight this week as our iRock concert lit up the hall with energy and enthusiasm. It was wonderful to see how much our music provision has grown, with increasing numbers of pupils choosing to learn instruments and perform confidently in front of an audience whether that is in assembly, iRock concerts or in lessons. Alongside iRock, we are delighted to share that four new violinists will be starting lessons after the Easter break. With this boost in numbers, keep an eye out for the launch of our new string group during the summer term!

In staffing news, we are sadly saying goodbye to our newly appointed Site Manager, Mr Griffiths, who will be leaving us today for personal reasons. Although his time with us has been short, we are grateful for his work and commitment and we wish him all the very best for the future. We are now recruiting for a new Site Manager - please look on Essex Schools Jobs, if you or anyone you know might be interested. On a brighter note, we are pleased to welcome Mrs Cannon, who will be joining the team after the Easter break as an SEN Learning Support Assisstant.

Although this has been a shorter term, it has certainly been packed with enriching opportunities. Year 4 enjoyed a hockey workshop at Braintree Hockey club. We are really lucky to have this facility so close to us, while our older pupils took part in Anne Frank online sessions that deepened their historical understanding. The choir visited the local Church Hall with the Friday friends, Year 6 experienced a theatre trip to Gosfield School and Year 5 explored future possibilities through an Eco Careers event. We also participated in the Braintree Sings celebration, completed online workshops on online gambling awareness and Year 3 expanded their learning with a trip to Saffron Walden Museum. And that is only a brief snapshot of the term!

Looking ahead, the summer term promises even more exciting experiences as children move into their final stretch of the school year. Please keep an eye on our newsletter dates so you don't miss any upcoming events.

Have a lovely Easter break
Mrs Cagney



STAR OF THE WEEK

EYFS - Isla-Rose
Year 1 - Jacob
Year 2 - Phoebe
Year 3 - Isabella
Year 4 - Bolu
Year 5 - Lucas
Year 6 - Oliver

AR READERS

Year 4 - Aniamina

Please remember we are a No Nuts School, that includes Nutella

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 EYFS, we tackled some challenging maths activities that really got us thinking! We learned how to double numbers and identify odd and even numbers. We created doubling ladybirds, making sure each side had the same number of spots. We also sorted number blocks into odd and even by checking whether they could be split equally in half. Miss Freeman was very impressed with how quickly we understood this. In literacy, we retold the story Whatever Next using props and created our own story maps as a Mountain Challenge. We have really enjoyed learning this story and finding out lots of information about space, alongside it!

YEAR 1

On Wednesday, Year 1 had a DT day creating smoothies out of fruit. We tasted fruit in the morning and then we wrote words to describe the different fruits we were tasting. In the afternoon, we cut up strawberries and bananas to make a fruit smoothie. We loved tasting the different types of fruit and our smoothies were delicious! During our RE session on Thursday, we created our own cross using different materials and thought carefully about what the cross means to Christians. We then watched the Easter story to finish off our unit.

YEAR 2

We've had a busy week to finish off our Term. In maths we have been reading data in a variety of ways such as bar graphs, tally charts and pictograms. We have finished writing our Rags to Riches story in English and have tried so hard to produce our best handwriting when we published them. Ask us to share with you our story of the servant boy and how his life changed! Our afternoons have been very creative! In music we created our own piece of music on the iPads. We chose different tones and speeds that we thought would represent one of four animals, elephant, cheetah, butterfly or bat. We then played our piece to the rest of the class to guess which animal our music piece was written for, there was some very creative pieces. Finally in art we were practising our drawing skills. Our photo was taken and then just half of our face was printed. We then drew the other half of our face taking time to get the proportions just right. It's been a very productive term in Year 2 and we are very proud of all their hard work!



ATTENDANCE & PUNCTUALITY

93% - EYFS

93% - Year 1

92% - Year 2

93% - Year 3

92% - Year 4

94% - Year 5

94% - 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...

Parents should monitor children '24/7' on Roblox, says developer:

An independent game developer for Roblox says he believes the platform's child safety measures, including age verification checks, do not go far enough.

Click the link to read further information:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cd6l07wwwlpo>

How Long Should Young Children Spend on Screens?

New UK government guidance released in March 2026 has provided the clearest picture yet of how much screen time is appropriate for young children—and the recommendations are firmly grounded in recent developmental research.

For Children Under 2

- Avoid screen time completely
- Only use screens for shared activities (e.g., video calls with family)
- Keep devices out of playtime, mealtimes and sleep areas

For Children Aged 2-5

- Aim for no more than 1 hour of screen time per day
- Avoid screens during:
 - Mealtimes
 - The hour before bedtime
- Choose calm, slow-paced content rather than fast, overstimulating videos
- Turn off autoplay to prevent endless scrolling or video loops

Healthy Screen Habits

- Watch or play together whenever possible—talk about what your child sees
- Make screen time purposeful, not a default activity
- Set clear routines (e.g., “screens only after outdoor play”)
- Encourage breaks—every 20-30 minutes for young children