

WHAT'S COMING UP

January

20th - O2 Young Voices Choir Trip
27th - Y4 Colchester Castle Trip

February

4th - Y3 Saffron Walden Museum Trip - details to follow
15th - 20th - Half Term
23rd - Non Pupil Day

March

13th - Y5 Bocking Arts Centre Trip - details to follow

Dear Parents / Carers,

You may have noticed a delightful new addition to our school mornings—music playing as children arrive at drop-off. This simple change has sparked quite the excitement among both pupils and parents alike. It's lovely to see families enjoying the music, with some even sharing a little dance as they come through the gates. Building on this joyful start to the day, we are introducing "Song Request Friday." Each week, our Stars of the Week and Supreme Students will have the special opportunity to request a song to be included in the Friday morning playlist, curated by Mrs Aldous. This initiative will add a personal touch to our school community's start to the day and create a shared moment of enjoyment for everyone.

This week, our children have been fully engaged in some exciting topic hooks designed to ignite curiosity and awe as they begin their new writing units. These hooks are a key part of our Talk for Writing approach, which helps children immerse themselves in a topic before developing their writing skills. For example, Year 3 took on the challenge of solving the mystery of the missing Sphinx cat, investigating which staff member had taken the artefact from their classroom. They honed their skills by asking precise, well-considered questions to uncover the culprit. Meanwhile, Year 2 spent a day studying the Great Fire of London, with one of the highlights being their spirited rendition of the Great Fire of London song amidst a variety of other engaging activities. All classes participate in these hooks, which serve as a springboard for their writing journeys each half term.

The sounds of singing have also been filling our school hall as our choir rehearses diligently for their upcoming performance at the O2 Arena in London. This is a remarkable opportunity for our children to be part of the largest choir in the world, an event that brings over 60,000 children to the O2 Arena alone each year, with hundreds of thousands more participating across the UK tour. Parents will have the chance to watch the choir perform on Tuesday, and we eagerly anticipate hearing all about this exciting experience on Wednesday. A huge thank you goes to Miss Freeman and Mrs Reid for orchestrating this and leading the choir! In the coming weeks, we will feature our choir during Friday assemblies, giving the whole school a chance to enjoy some of the songs performed at the O2.

Today, Year 5 participated in a workshop called Brain Buddies, led by the Mental Health Support Team (MHST). This school-based emotional regulation programme is designed for children in Upper Key Stage Two and teaches them how to identify, understand, and manage emotions through self-care and calming strategies. Delivered in schools by MHST, Brain Buddies creates a non-stigmatising environment where children can develop essential emotional skills, contributing to their overall well-being and readiness to learn.

This week also saw a school improvement visit from our CEO of the academy and the strategic leader. We are proud to report that our high standards of practice were once again recognised. Feedback highlighted our demonstration of high-quality teaching with targeted academic support where needed, teachers' strong subject expertise, and the effective deployment of LSAs to support teaching and learning. This positive recognition reflects the hard work and dedication of our whole school community.

Wishing you all a restful and enjoyable weekend ahead,
Mrs Cagney

BEFORE SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

Fri - IRock

AFTER SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

Mon - CHOIR
Wed - SCS
Thu - SCS



STAR OF THE WEEK

EYFS - Amelie

Year 1 - Erik

Year 2 - Harley

Year 3 - Jack

Year 4 - Phoebe

Year 5 - Diogo

Year 6 - Ann-Mary

AR READERS

Year 4 - Oliver, Millie-Mai

Year 5 - Olivia

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 3

In science this week we learnt about forces, particularly pull, push and friction. We did an investigation with toy cars and different surfaces, using the push force to move the car against a surface. We then measured how far the car travelled to see which one had the largest friction. The surface with the most friction was the carpet, and the least was the wooden tables as they are smoother. In English, we lost our sphinx cat! We had to investigate the mystery by asking other adults clues to narrow down our suspects. We discovered it was Mrs Aldous who borrowed it without asking! We are now good detectives which will help us in our writing. In maths we have been sharing and grouping which has been good because we are using our Year 2 knowledge to help us. In history, we have been learning about ancient Egypt and have been learning about the different job roles before role playing as a Pharaohs, farmers, artists, sculptures and scribes. Next week we are looking forward to history and science! Written by Kaiden and Wren

YEAR 4

This week in Year 4, we have been exploring 3D modelling in computing, which is what designers use to 3D print models. We have been learning about fractions and using our times tables to understand equivalent fractions and mixed numbers. We had a murder happen in our classroom this week too! Julius Caesar was brutally killed, and we had to interrogate his friend Brutus to find out the motive behind the murder (he looked a lot like Orin). To help us learn more about him, we have started our new topic of the Romans and had a go at answering our enquiry question 'Who benefited from the Roman invasion?'. Lastly, we have been working hard in PE in our fitness unit completing circuits (our abs hurt!).

YEAR 5

This week, Year 5 have shown dedication and creativity in our learning. In English, we have been working hard on our portal stories, using unique ideas and beginning to use literary devices such as sensory language, metaphors, and similes to help readers imagine the scenes. In maths, we are nearing mastery of fractions—a complex area involving adding and subtracting fractions and mixed numbers. We are becoming increasingly resourceful, using scaffolds and class toolkits to support our success. Perseverance has been a key theme in PE this half term as the unit focuses on fitness. We have started with circuit training and will soon explore individual aspects of fitness like strength and agility. In science, we have begun our unit on forces, studying Newton's theories and developing an understanding of gravity, what a force is, and the difference between weight and mass. Our geography unit has also begun, focusing on the Americas, with the enquiry question: "Why do people visit the Americas?"

YEAR 6

We have been really ambitious in PE doing hard circuits and haven't given up. In English, we were engaged in planning and writing a narrative set in World War II. We are designing websites in computing based on World War II. In science, we were learning about eye colour and we linked some maths to this to study the results. We have been learning about ratio and scale factors in maths, where we have learnt to enlarge and reduce shapes. We are really enjoying our history lessons and we have studied at evacuation, rationing and air-raid shelters.

By Year 6 Learning Ambassadors- Blake and Aimee



ATTENDANCE & PUNCTUALITY

89% - EYFS
96% - Year 1
95% - Year 2
88% - Year 3
94% - 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..

For Parents - Playstation Family App

The Playstation Family App came out in Sept 2025 and it is a great way to help parents set up and manage their children's Gaming experience. Features include:

- Manage playtime.
- Activity report.
- Visibility into what children are playing.
- Approving playtime requests.

On this web page you will find detailed instructions to guide you through setting up a child account, get notified what game your child is playing in real time, approve or decline a request for extra playtime, apply content filters, privacy settings and more.

Webpage: [Playstation Family App](#)



Help & Reporting (UK)

Where to get help if something goes wrong online

If a child sees something upsetting, is being pressured or threatened, or you're worried about contact from an adult, these UK services can help. For most situations: pause, save evidence (screenshots), and report.

CEOP (NCA)

Child Exploitation and Online Protection Command (part of the National Crime Agency).
Use CEOP if an adult is contacting a child sexually online, or you're worried about online sexual abuse or grooming.
Website: ceop.police.uk

NSPCC

A UK charity working to prevent child abuse and help keep children safe. Provides advice for parents and carers, guidance on online safety, and reporting routes.
Website: nspcc.org.uk

Childline

Free, confidential support for children and young people under 19 (run by the NSPCC).
Children can get help with anything that's worrying them – including online bullying, sextortion, grooming or pressure.
Website: childline.org.uk

Report Harmful Content

A UK Safer Internet Centre service that can advise, signpost, and help escalate reports of harmful online content.
They can support with requests to remove harmful content (for example, images or videos) seen online.
Website: reportharmfulcontent.com