

# Newsletter



Friday 26th January 2024

Another fun-filled week, full of exciting activities has literally flown past! Sport seems to have been high on the agenda - with two swimming events, cross-country and orienteering. We continue to maintain our drive to include as many children in different events as possible; the Panathlon Gala was a great example of this - eight very lucky children in Year 5 got to compete at The London Aquatic Centre which was almost as exciting as the train journey there! Another 16 children took part in orienteering and next week, we have children participating in' Move With Us' at Mayflower! Busy, Busy, Busy!

# Parking Issues

Sadly, we have a few issues to report this week:

- Yellow lines please don't park on the yellow lines or zig zag lines at the front of the school. There is clear signage stating that this is not permitted;
- Please do not park on the corner of any junction; particularly Chestwood Close and Springfield Road as this is dangerous and restricts visibility;
- Please do not drive into the school entrance as reversing out onto the road is dangerous;

I think it is only fair to share with you my frustration at having to put notices like this in the newsletter, week after week - I am sure you are equally fed up of having to read these messages! I appeal to the handful of parents who continuously disregard these notices - do we have to wait for a child to get run over before things change?

#### Sponsored 'Hoopla' Event

This morning, we had our annual sponsored event - this year, the children chose a 'hoopla' activity - how many times can you continuously spin the hoop, in one minute?'. All the money raised will go the children's chosen charity this year - Cancer Research UK' which, is a charity close to many of our hearts, including mine.

Now, it's the harder task of collecting the sponsor money in. If this could be done via ParentPay, this is much easier for the Admin Team, as there's no cash to count or bank!

Thank you, in advance, for your generosity.









#### **Next Week's Diary Dates**

School Dinners - Week 2

### Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> January

Year 3/4 Cross Country Competition (am); Year
 5/6 Cross Country Competition (pm) - both at
 Mayflower High School

## Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> January

- FA Quiz Night for parents 7.30pm Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> February
- Year 4 DT morning (am) children need to bring: a small mixing bowl (plastic); a measuring jug (plastic); a tablespoon; a teaspoon; a set of scales. Please make sure all items are named.

#### Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> February

Book Fair in the Computer Suite











#### **School Discos**

Thank you very much to the parents and staff who helped at the school discos on Friday - they were great fun and the Skittleman, as ever, ensured that everyone had a wonderful time. We raised £1,793.40 which is amazing!

# Year 6 Giant Sleepover - Friday 26<sup>th</sup> January

Just a few reminders -

- Children need to arrive at 7.00pm having already had their dinner - the back gate will be open for parking
- Children need to bring a small inflated mattress or something else to sleep on, pillow and sleeping bag
- Tooth brush, toothpaste, wash kit and a small towel are also needed
- Please bring a filled, <u>named</u> water bottle
- Please do not bring mobile phones, money, sweets/snacks
- Collection time after breakfast 9.30am the back gate will be open for parking

'Maxímum Effort for Maxímum Achíevement'

Well Done' to all the children who were awarded MERIT certificates this week.

George Morgan Emily Lycett Elizabeth Sheehan Georgie Hodges William Smith Luella Cronjaeger Alex Marsh Isabella Magee Jennifer McSharry Alessia Tutuianu Kaydee Quirk Orest Savchuk

Rhys Povey Albie Rangecroft Finley Pike Grace Pierce **Eva** Moughton Frankie Trott Scarlett Stone Cameron McGee James Knowler Talia De Gray Birch





Schools Games - Orienteering Festival On Tuesday, 16 children from Years 3 and 4 took part in a range of Orienteering activities led by our School Games Organiser, Katherine Jaggard, and our School Sports Coordinator, Rachel McSweeney. The children had a really enjoyable morning despite it being extremely rainy! They, alongside South Green and Grange Primary took part in

some team building games, navigational activities and also

used the orienteering course that we had installed within Buttsbury's grounds. The children were able to apply their

mathematical knowledge to complete the course cards

given to them. It was really lovely to see the children interacting with one another and working in mixed groups with

the other schools! We would like to thank South Green &

Grange Primary School for joining us and Katherine and

Rachel for running this magnificent event. Thank you also to Miss Hall and Miss Pretty for overseeing the teams

throughout the morning.













This week's 'Writers of the Week' are:

Fred Cronjaeger Kaitlyn Charles Pradeep Leonie Fairhead Jenson Wallis Oghoghosa Egharevba Dylan McGinness Kaiser Thorby-Mead Well done to our writing super stars!











This week's 'Mathematicians of the Week' are: Carter Lewis Preston Mills-Martin William Smith Megan Forder Henry Buckle Olivia Taylor Chey Henry Leif Emanuel-Francis Well done to our magical mathematicians!











This week's 'Readers of the Week' are:

Olivia Johnson Thomas Chandra Isaac Harding Ayra Ahmed Riwaya Atapattu George White Alfie Moclair - Julian Hak

Well done to our enthusiastic readers!



Grayson Kemp Jacob Ovel Ivy-May King Ríwaya Atapattu Bella Salmon Joe Jackson Avijith Kottapalli Harry Parker Jenson Wallis



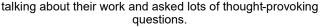




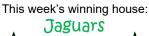








House Points





<u> Afternoon Tea</u> The children excitedly made their way to the Staff Room for

this week's afternoon tea and eagerly tucked into their treats

of mini-doughnuts, muffins and chocolate biscuits. They were equally enthusiastic when listening to their peers



#### Top Table

This week, the children chosen by the Midday Assistants to sit at the 'Top Table' were:

Ruben Skehill **Daniel Henry** Jorgie Jackson Jonny McConnell Elizbeth Sheehan



This week's attendance figure is: 95.4%! This year's attendance target is 97.0%.

A special 'Well Done' to Class 6M who had 100% attendance this week! Congratulations!



#### 6P 'Parents to Lunch'

On Monday, the parents and grandparents of children in 6P joined us for lunch. The meals seemed to be very popular with smiling faces across the hall. Thank you to our catering team, our Midday Assistants and Mrs Hall, for facilitating the event.



#### Swimming Gala - Round 1

On Wednesday, eight children from each year group competed at Billericay School in the Billericay Consortium Swimming Gala. It was a very exciting morning which, for many of the younger team members, was the first time they had represented their school. The teams had been training very hard under the expert coaching of Elites Swim School and it certainly paid off, with our team scooping many first place wins including almost all the relay races too. Both our teams finished in first place overall! This means that both teams now go on to represent the Billericay Family (along with Quilters) at the next stage of the

competition which is at William De Ferrers School on Thursday 13th June (pm). Congratulations to all our swimmers - you were amazing and made me very proud! Thank you to Alex and Will (Elites Swim School) and to the staff who assisted at the gala or training sessions. Thank you also to the children's parents who have been extremely supportive of the gala preparations and training sessions - 7.45am training sessions are not the easiest!

Kenya Day - Thursday 15th February - Early Notification

Following on from my visit to Kenya during the October half-term, to further develop our partnership work with Ciamanda School in Embu, we will be holding a themed day, across both the infant and junior school on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> February. Children are invited to wear clothes in the colour of the Kenyan flag (red, black and green) instead of their school uniform. During the morning, the children will experience a day in a classroom at Ciamanda school - so, they will be seated in rows, there will be no IT used and no worksheets! During the lunch break, alongside their school meal, they will be able to try a small portion of the beans that the children in Ciamanda School literally devoured for lunch each day as, for many, this would be their only meal until porridge at school the next day at 11.00am. During the afternoon, we will return to Buttsbury-style lessons to find out more about the geography of Kenya. As you know, I was over-whelmed by the level of poverty and lack of funding I saw when I visited Kenya and I hope that our special Kenya day will enable us to raise some money which we can send to Ciamanda School to help them purchase further resources for the children. If you would like to make a donation, you can do so via your child's ParentPay account.









# Out of School Success

Well done to Bella Salmon (6S) who took part in her first Cheer Competition on Sunday in Crawley at Future Cheer with Black Ice Academy.



Poppy Goring and Joshua McCarthy who both received their Pen Licences this week.





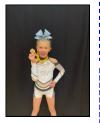


Year 5 Panathlon Swimming Gala

Yesterday, I had the privilege of accompanying eight children in Year 5 to a Panathlon Swimming Gala at the London Aquatic Centre. It was a very exciting day out - especially as we went on the train! The children loved swimming at such an amazing venue and rose to the challenge of healthy competition! It is hard to capture in the written word just how fabulous the day was - I hope that we can continue to participate in events like this so more children can experience these magical moments. We had an extra moment of celebration at the end too when we found out we had finished in third place and all the children received a BRONZE medal. Thank you to the staff who assisted with the visit - either by attending the event or providing lifts to the station and back!



50 Things To Do Before Leaving Primary School Congratulations to Ayda Kemal who has completed 10 things! A very special 'Well Done' to Rhys Carey who has completed 30 things at home!





results and league tables will be updated on the Pope and Smith schools' cross-country website.

A very big thank you to Mrs Lee, Mr Nation, Mrs Webb and Mrs Whiting for their support with the cross-country team. Lastly but not least, a very big thank you to the parents and grandparents who helped with transport and cheered our runners on.