

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 30th January

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

Wednesday 31st January

- FA Quiz Night for parents - 7.30pm

Thursday 1st 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 2nd 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 26th 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, named 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

*'Maximum Effort for
Maximum Achievement'*

Celebration Assembly

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

<i>George Morgan</i>	<i>Rhys Povey</i>
<i>Emily Lycett</i>	<i>Albie Rangecroft</i>
<i>Elizabeth Sheehan</i>	<i>Finley Pike</i>
<i>Georgie Hodges</i>	<i>Grace Pierce</i>
<i>William Smith</i>	<i>Eva Moughton</i>
<i>Luella Cronjaeger</i>	<i>Frankie Trott</i>
<i>Alex Marsh</i>	<i>Scarlett Stone</i>
<i>Isabella Magee</i>	<i>Cameron McGee</i>
<i>Jennifer McSharry</i>	<i>Alessia Tutuianu</i>
<i>Kaydee Quirk</i>	<i>James Knowler</i>
<i>Orest Savchuk</i>	<i>Talia De Gray Birch</i>

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 Co-ordinator, 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!*

Afternoon Tea

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 talking about their work and asked lots of thought-provoking questions.



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!*

House Points

This week's winning house:

Jaguars



This week's 'Times Table Rockstars' are:

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

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
Elizabeth 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 15th 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. Thank you, in advance, for your support.



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!



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.



Pen Licences Well done to:

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

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!

Rainbow Awards

Well done to this week's **INDIGO** award recipients:

Emily Lycett Aaron Barnes

Congratulations to this week's **BLUE** award winners:

Dougie Kerr Samuel Hall

Well done to this week's **GREEN** award winners:

Jasper Jenkins
William Stafford
Charlie Partridge
James Lyons
Scarlett Welch

Leo McDougall
Jude Cavanagh
Oliver Sutton
Charlie Vail

Isabelle Neathercoat
Jack Campkin
Nellie Amos
Larry Mitchell

Luke Richardson
Luca Evans
Kayn Bowerman
Eni Omopariola

Congratulations to our **YELLOW** award winners:

Max Barford
Summer Tait
Kimberley Brathwaite
Holly Lague
Amelia Walton
Nancy Dormer
Fraser Loudon
Liam Simms
Jack Tyler
Harvey-Thomas Perry
Joshua McCarthy
Florence Costello
Emilia Escudero Bradshaw
Andrei Aldea Nicolaescu

Olivia Taylor
Heath Tanner
Mahi Dalal
Evie Prudom
Teddy Amos
Leonie Fairhead
Ben McCreery
William Smith
Thomas Wright
Mollie Smith
Thomas Dyer
Rosie Hadassi

Rhian Powell
Summer McMahon Aronson
Isabella Davies
Noah Vasiliou
Oliver Bowie
Izzy Hadassi
Eddie Nunney
Riley Tear
Elizabeth Moody
Zachary Phillips
Flo Cable
Hannah Lister
Alfie Asfour
Felix Halder

Rhys Carey
Ella Goodenough
Ruby Warren-Gunn
Jess Cambridge
Dylan Knowler
Grace Pierce
Daniel Tinworth
James Natusch
Jude Philips
Bluebell Cole
Amelia Mangan
Oliver Baker
Finley Paton



Pope and Smith Cross Country Tournament

On Thursday 25th January runners from our Year 4, 5 and 6 cross country squad competed in the third league race of the Pope & Smith Primary Schools Cross Country League at Writtle University College. Individual successes came from Bonnie Atkinson-Lassman (Year 5 Girls) who came a very impressive 3rd place; finally earning a well-deserved individual medal. Further top 10 places came from Lauren Crook (9th Year 5 Girls) and Archie Pearce (8th Year 5 Boys). A special mention and thank you to Freya Childs who stepped in at the last minute to complete the Year 6 Girls Team. The competition was very strong across each year group and all runners gave their all, knowing that every place counted towards the final team positions. Further individual 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.