

**Message from Mr. Martinson**

Welcome back and a very Happy New Year to you all. I love the spring term, it's my favorite term. The weather changes, the days get longer, I love the spring flowers and it has always been the term where I feel the children make the most noticeable progress. It has been wonderful to stand on the gates welcoming the children in and seeing them exit with smiles on their faces, long may this continue!

In our virtual assembly this week, we spoke about resolutions and about how we promise to do something better at the start of a new year. We spoke about how easy it is to give up when you break a resolution but it is important to carry on and start fresh the next day.

COVID

I'm afraid that this is still with us and I wrote to you before we started back. We have started 2022 with a depleted staff. Here is a reminder of what was published and emailed out at the start of term.

"With so much in the news relating to schools and measures being put in place in secondary schools, I wanted to take this opportunity to clarify the steps we will be taking to keep all members of the school community as safe as possible.

- We will continue to operate an enhanced cleaning and sanitising regime as we have done since our return to school in June 2020. This involves regular cleaning of toilets and shared spaces.
- In line with Government advice, we will continue to ventilate classrooms and teaching spaces thoroughly with doors and windows being kept open throughout the day to allow a free flow of air.
- CO2 monitors will be used throughout the school to continuously monitor the levels of CO2 in the classrooms and ensure that ventilation is effective.
- Good hand hygiene will be encouraged
- Staff members and visitors will wear masks in all communal areas and some may choose to wear them when they are teaching
- Health advice continues to be that children in primary schools should not be asked to wear face coverings.

- We will continue to follow all DfE advice relating to maintaining safety in school and share this with you as appropriate.

What can you do to help?

- Please continue to test your child at home using a Lateral Flow Device Test twice a week. These are highly effective in assisting with the identification of Covid-19 in children who may be asymptomatic.
 - If your child receives a positive Lateral Flow result, they should not be sent into school but should instead take a PCR Test and await the negative result before returning.
 - If your child is showing any of the three major signs of Covid-19. These are: a new continuous/ persistent dry cough, a temperature or a loss of taste or smell please do not send them into school. Instead they should be taken for a PCR test at a local testing centre in order to confirm that these are not related to Covid-19. They should not attend school until they receive a negative result.
 - If a family member receives a positive LFT or PCR result, we would ask that you take any children in the household for a PCR. Providing they are showing no symptoms, the children can attend school prior to receiving the result.
 - Isolation periods have now been reduced from 10 to 7 days and this period begins on either the day your child first displayed symptoms or from the date the confirmatory PCR test was taken. It is now possible to end self-isolation after 7 days, following 2 negative LFD tests taken 24 hours apart. The first LFD test should not be taken before the sixth day.
- Close contacts in schools are now identified by NHS Test and Trace and education settings will no longer be expected to undertake contact tracing. From 14 December 2021, adults who are fully vaccinated and all children and young people aged between 5 and 18 years and 6 months identified as a contact of someone with COVID-19 are strongly advised to take a LFD test every day for 7 days and continue to attend their setting as normal, unless they have a positive test result. Daily testing of close contacts applies to all contacts who are all children and young people aged 5



to 18 years and 6 months, regardless of their vaccination status

We are very much hoping that schools will remain open throughout the coming year. We are firmly of the opinion that children are better off learning in school and, in line with DfE guidance it is our intention to remain open to all pupils and attendance remains compulsory.

One of the biggest challenges that all schools, as well as all other organisations and businesses, face in the coming weeks is the potential impact on staffing provision as a result of illness and isolation. Should there be any changes to 'normal' provision, please be reassured that we will contact you as soon as possible."

Mathletics

Our award winners for last three weeks are:

Bronze - Freya Dale (x2), Mia Lewis-Allen (x2), Isabella Reed

Silver - Isabella Reed

Primary School (Reception) Admissions

As you may be aware, the primary school (Reception) admission round opened on 8th November 2021, for parents/carers to apply for a Reception school place for the academic year that starts in September 2022

The statutory national closing date for applications is 15th January 2022. From 8th November 2021, applications can be made online via www.essex.gov.uk/admissions.
