



We are growing
our learning

St John's Green Primary School

Learn to Live, Live to Learn

We ♥
Maths

We are all
writers ...



Newsletter

Volume 46, Issue 14

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Follow us on Twitter: @SJG_News School Uniform: www.smartyantsschoolwear.com

Important Christmas Dates

Friday 11th December—
PTA Draw for Christmas Raffle

Saturday 12th December—4.00p.m.—8.00p.m.
PTA Christmas Lights Trail

Wednesday 16th December—Christmas Class
Crafts will start being sold by Class Teachers

Thursday 17th December
EYFS—Polar Express Day
Year 1 & 2 Pyjama and Arthur Christmas Day
Year 3 Elf Day

Friday 18th December—
Christmassy Dress Up day—
for £1 or more come to school dressed as Christmassy as you like.

Last day of Term
Tuesday 5th January
First day of Spring Term.

Christmassy Dress up Day

The countdown to next Friday has begun, as all things Christmassy will descend on the school with the challenge being for the children to dress as Christmassy as they either like or can!

Each Year Group has chosen a different charity to support, so for the abandonment of school uniform in favour of festive creativity, please send your child in with at least £1. Parents, bearing in mind the different charities that each year is supporting, may want to send their children in with more than a £1

EYFS—Home Start Colchester

Year 1—Children's Liver Disease Foundation

Year 2—Colchester Zoo

Year 3—Youth Enquiry Service

Year 4—Refugee Action Colchester

Year 5—Help for Harry

Year 6—St Helena Hospice

Year 3 parents please note 'Elf' day is definitely on Thursday 17th December

Christmas Crafts

Children will be getting creative next week as they make a whole host of different things—especially for you! These festive wares will be the cream of the crop as far as Christmas decorations are concerned and those which no home should be without.

These will be being sold directly by the class teachers and parents will be asked to send the money with their children in an envelope to the class teacher, rather than via the School Office.

Year Groups will communicate with their parents next week, but these will not be going on sale until Wednesday at the earliest—so please temper any enthusiasm for sending money in.

Please also bear in mind that you will be buying blind and that we will NOT be setting up stalls/tables. So you will have to take your child's word, as to the exceptional quality and necessity to have it of their creations.

All money will be heading in the PTA's direction.

Book Bingo

Please remember that Book Bingo cards should be completed and handed back to class teachers by next Wednesday—so Mrs Skinner and Miss Wiggins can analyse the completed Bingo cards and award non uniform days to those successful 'Book Bingo' children. Exciting!

Awards

Year 6 (Lathes) - Elliot (CC)
Year 6 (Trinovantes) - Whole Class (RREX)
Year 6 (Cymbeline) - Whole Class (RREX)
Year 5 (Oysters) — Jack (CC)
Year 5 (Raedwald) - Jeahlyn (RREX)
Year 5 (Magnets) - Taliyah (MM)
Year 4 (Castle) - Chanel (CC)
Year 4 (Garrison) - Nicole (MM)
Year 3 (Iceni) - Ramone (RREX)
Year 3 (Paxman) - Tabitha (CC)
Year 3 (Dutch) - Whole Class (MM)
Year 2 (Mercury) - Romeu & Phoenix (MM)
Year 2 (Claudius) - Evelyn (RROX)
Year 2 (Romans) - Kiara (MM)
Year 1 (Eagles) - William (MM)
Year 1 (Circus) - Edward (MM)
Year 1 (Roses) - Jasper (MM)
EYFS (Jumbo) - Amelia (RROX)
EYFS (Star) - Katie (CC)
EYFS (Chariot) - Esmee (MM)
Attendance—Garrison
HUB—Austin

"Practice isn't the thing you do once you're good. It's the thing you do that makes you good." —Malcolm Gladwell

YOUR CHILD WILL FOLLOW YOUR EXAMPLE, NOT YOUR ADVICE.

At the end of the day, the most overwhelming key to a child's success is the positive involvement of parents.
Jane D. Hull

Non Pupil Day—Please note that Monday 4th January 2021 has now been agreed as a non pupil day. This means that children will now return to school, following the Christmas Break, on Tuesday 5th January 2021.

Coronavirus—Self Isolation

I am obviously very aware, as I'm sure you are, that if we have a confirmed Coronavirus case going forward—families will have to Self Isolate until after Christmas.

In addition, school's have been asked to keep open communications into the start of the Christmas break—meaning we could need to contact you in the Christmas Holiday, to Self Isolate.

This will, I know, cause anxiety for parents and could have implications for Christmas plans already made.

We have been asked by several parents, what the implications are, if they don't send their children into school next week, other than the fact that the children will obviously miss out on the Christmas activities/crafts that teachers have got planned.

In short, if a child is absent next week, unless it is sickness absence or a confirmed case of Coronavirus, then the absence will be unauthorised.

The school, will also not be providing remote support as they should/could be at school.

However, in the case of next week, the school will not seek to take any further action as we do appreciate that no parent would take the decision not to send their children into school next week lightly and that for many, the importance of seeing family over the Christmas period is of paramount importance.

I would ask though and expect, that if a parent does take that decision, that they communicate honestly with us, so we are aware. It's also important that parents remember that tracing links back to 48 hours of when the symptoms started, so no news is not necessarily good news as there is still a delay in the testing system.

In other words, if you do decide that you're not going to send your child into school next week, for unauthorised absence, please do not pick and choose odd days as this will have no benefit or ease your anxieties in any way.

I'd obviously prefer that your children are in school—fingers crossed it will be a great 'Christmassy' week.

Food Parcels for our Families most in Need

Our community's generosity is amazing. Thank you so much to all those parents who gave so very generously to those less fortunate than ourselves. Every tin and packet counts and makes a difference and I cannot thank parents enough for their contributions. The best word I can come up with is 'Heart-warming' but that doesn't really do justice to parents extreme generosity. So to everyone, your individual contributions are and will be much appreciated by others in these difficult times. Thank you on behalf of the parents that will be receiving them for your kindness and generosity.

PTA Christmas Light Trail takes place tomorrow (Saturday 12th December)

Start: Abbey Field Site Car Park from 4.00 p.m. and last trail to start at the latest 7.00 p.m. to collect map and festive gift. Tickets are £2.00 per child. If you still want to take part just come along and pay at the start to collect your map and festive gift!! Unfortunately, due to current restrictions there will not be hot chocolate and cookies offered for sale. PLEASE BRING A TORCH!

XMAS RAFFLE DRAW - A big thank you to everyone who has supported the raffle by buying tickets and/or donating prizes. The draw has taken place at Abbey Field Site during this afternoon. All winning tickets will be announced early part of next week. Thanks again to all our sponsors for kindly donating prizes. A list of all sponsors will be on the PTA Facebook page!

ELFRIDGES has now sold out !! All orders will be distributed as soon as the Elves have had time to deliver to the school.

And Finally

US scientists calculated that Santa visits 822 homes a second to deliver all the world's presents on Christmas Eve, travelling at 650 miles a second.

Santa has to deliver presents to 22 million children an hour. That's 365,000 kids a minute and 6,100 a second.

Father Christmas is incredibly smart so he'll know to travel from east to west with the Sun. That way, he'll maximise his available night-time.

Have a good Weekend

Simon Billings

Winter Reading Challenge 2020

Essex Library Services would like to announce a brand new reading scheme.

Unique to Essex, we will be launching The Winter Reading Challenge 2020 on Saturday 5th December and we would love to invite all of your children and their families to take part.

All families need to do is visit their local library and collect one of our exclusive Giant Bookmarks, which will be stamped with one of our special woodland creature stamps for each book they read. The aim is to read 6 books over the winter period and receive a large golden star to complete the challenge. There is no joining process or forms to complete and families can take part at any point from 5th December 2020 - 27th February 2021.

This year's theme is the Animals of Snowy Wood where Connie the fox and her friends will help Fraser the squirrel to get a good night sleep. Please encourage your students to collect their bookmark from any Essex Library and fall in love with reading this Winter. Watch the start of Fraser's story on our YouTube channel. We will also be telling more of Fraser's story every week via our social media platforms so follow us on Twitter and like us on Facebook to find out what the animals of Snowy Wood get up to and if Fraser can finally get a good night's sleep.

Report to Parents on the Full Governing Body meeting 7/12/2020

Nicola Roberts, Vice Chair of Governors.

On Monday we had our last Governing Body of the term and welcomed our new parent governor Mark Scaife and introduced him to the world of governorship. As is customary for a first meeting Mark was given a responsibility; to monitor the progress of Very Able Children. Governors discussed their upcoming training. All Governors are expected to attend training for various roles, whether it is Chair or those with specific responsibilities, as well as general training on the duties of every governor.

Governors agreed the agenda for the January meeting which will include the Budget Planning Update, Catering Business Plan and Key Facts Document; reviewing pupil attainment data from Assessment Period 1.

We heard from Mr Billings about the challenges faced since having the first confirmed in school COVID positive case, and the Governors are very grateful for the remote learning sessions that have been provided by the school over the past week.

The Governors noted that during these unprecedented times teachers and other staff have worked tirelessly to ensure that the consistency of support and the educational provision of the children have continued. Governors were reassured over the comprehensive Covid Risk Assessment that the school has written and updated regularly according to the latest restrictions and government guidelines, it has undergone several revisions since March!

I am sure your children have told you about their Recovery Curriculum where there is a set timetable everyday with no diversions. This accelerated way of teaching is enabling children to catch up from the missed sessions during the summer partial school closure. The whole school approach to wellbeing allows children to discuss a key theme each week and use these discussions to support them in their learning and self-development. We were pleased to see that the school takes the wellbeing of the staff seriously and governors are happy to support this.

It was amazing to hear how generous parents and staff have been in donating to our foodbank collection scheme. Staff will be making up food parcels and delivering them to our vulnerable families in the two week Christmas break.

We discussed the various fundraising activities carried out by the PTA this term. They have proved themselves highly adaptive and resilient in these times of COVID, continuing to raise money for the school and keep school community spirits high. Governors and the school Senior Managers' are highly appreciative of all their efforts.

Governors formally approved the spend on new ICT hardware to improve online connectivity and provide additional laptops for pupils with a charging unit and three policies were also approved.



The graphic features a light blue background with a large, stylized tree in the center. The tree is decorated with various woodland creatures, including a fox, a squirrel, a rabbit, and a hedgehog, all wearing winter hats and scarves. The tree's branches are bare, and there are snowflakes falling around it. To the left of the tree, there is a large, stylized 'Library' logo with the word 'Essex' above it and 'Services' to its right. Below the logo, the text 'Read, learn, connect.' is written. A large, dark blue banner with white text reads 'Winter Reading Challenge 2020'. To the right of the tree, there is a large, stylized 'Pick up your giant bookmark today from any Essex library and collect stamps for each library book you read!' text. At the bottom right, there is a small logo for Essex County Council and the website address 'libraries.essex.gov.uk'.

Essex Library Services
Read, learn, connect.

Winter Reading Challenge 2020

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libraries.essex.gov.uk

Essex County Council