

Jakki Hammond Headteacher - 9th October 2026

Park Lane – Our School Road

We've been politely asked to remind friends and families of our pupils that the speed limit outside of school is 20mph. Zig zag lines must also remain clear in the restricted times to ensure the safety of our children and to prevent delays or potential accidents.

Thank you for helping us keep everyone safe!

Wraparound Care - EPC

Our wraparound care provider is EPC (Essex Professional Coaching) and they deliver lots of before and after school clubs.

Don't miss out — secure your child's spot today!

Sign up here: [Enrolmy | Essex Professional Coaching - Booking Calendar for Wraparound Clubs \(Before & After School\) | Autumn term 26/27](#)

Children in Need

Children in Need is on Friday 13th November this year! We are inviting all pupils to wear something yellow or spotty for the occasion. On this day, children won't need to wear their normal uniform but children are welcome to wear it if they'd prefer to.

Harvest Festival

Harvest Festival - Friday 16th October

We are excited to celebrate the Harvest Festival in assembly next week!

We are asking families to bring in items from the poster below to help us support the local foodbank. This is a celebration for the school community; **parents are not invited this time but do look out for photos on class Dojo.**

Your generosity makes a big difference in our community. Thank you!

Key dates – 2026-27

Oct 2026	
15th	Y4 Trip to Colchester Zoo
15th	Reception ONLY Parents Evening (additional appointments)
16 th	Harvest Festival
20th	Parents Evening
21 st	Y5 Trip West Stow
21 st	Giraffes ONLY Parents Evening (Tuesday and Wednesday)
22nd	Parents Evening
23 rd	Non pupil day
26 th -30th	Half-term
Nov 2026	
2 nd Nov	Non-pupil day
3 rd Nov	Return to School
13 th Nov	Children in Need
19 th Nov	Flu Immunisations



Attendance champions

Congratulations to **6AS** whose attendance was a fantastic 98.7% for the week beginning 5th October 2026.



Our current shopping list

2026

Food items

- Tinned Fish
- Tinned Fruit
- Tinned Veg
- Packet Mash
- Packet/Cup Soup
- Biscuits
- Pot Noodles

Non food items

- Soap (Bars or Hand Pump)
- Shampoo
- Washing Up Liquid

We ask for small packs as larger packs do not fit in our boxes making it difficult for our clients to carry home.

We follow the standards set by the Food Standards Agency. We can only accept donations of unopened and undamaged goods that are still well within their "use by" date (no less than six months if possible).

We have lots of ways that you can help including Fundraising. Hold a tea party, do a sponsored personal fitness challenge or just make a monetary donation it will help someone in food hunger

W: braintreearea.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/collection-points/

T: 01376 330694

Registered Charity Number: 1148702 Company Number 08163618



Support Starts Here

More Than Just Food



Benefits & Income

Bills & Budgeting

Employment

Housing Support

Health & Wellbeing

Fuel & Energy Costs

Access Local Services

Don't Face Things Alone



Braintree Area Foodbank
Together with Trussell



01376 330694

Info@braintreearea.foodbank.org.uk

braintreearea.foodbank.org.uk



Friday 9th October 2026

Issue: 1

WHO STOLE MRS SERCOMBE'S PUMPKIN...

Can you help us solve the mystery?



MR WOODCOCK
Deputy Headteacher
Possible motive:
He wanted to create a special surprise for the school's Halloween assembly.



MRS SMITH
Admin Assistant
Possible motive:
She wanted to decorate the school office with a giant Halloween display to welcome visitors.



MR EASTERBROOK
Teacher of 4E
Possible motive:
He wanted to use the enormous pumpkin for a giant maths investigation about weight and measurement.



MR WELLERD
Teacher of 5W
Possible motive:
He wanted to carve the pumpkin into an incredible Viking-themed masterpiece for his classroom.



MISS FITZGERALD
Teacher of Elephants
Possible motive:
She wanted a giant pumpkin for Reception's play area.



MRS BROWN
Cook
Possible motive:
She wanted to make enough pumpkin soup to feed the whole school.

Investigation has begun...

Friday 9th October 2026

Issue: 1

🍁 BREAKING NEWS! 🍁

Something VERY strange has happened at Earls Colne Primary School... Mrs Sercombe had grown the BIGGEST pumpkin the school had ever seen! 🍁

It had been proudly sitting outside the school office, ready to be admired by everyone. You may have already seen it! But when Mrs Sercombe arrived at school this morning...

🤖 THE PUMPKIN HAD VANISHED! 🤖

There was no pumpkin.

No explanation.

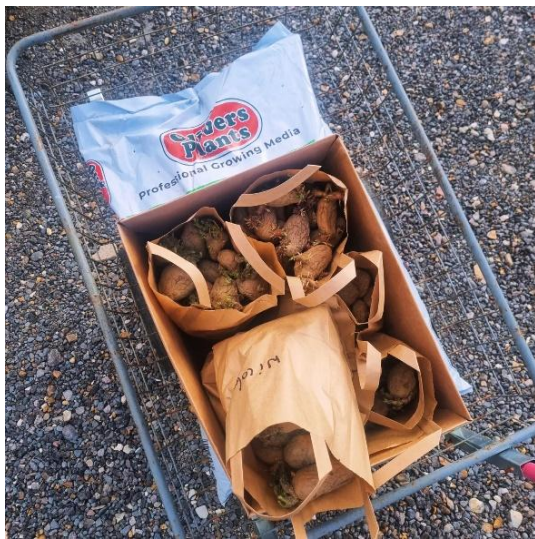
And no sign of the culprit.

Investigations have begun and 6 suspects have been identified!
Can YOU help us solve the mystery and find the missing pumpkin!
Watch out for clues to help us find who took the pumpkin and why!

School Gardening

A huge thank you to Oliver's plants for their generous donation of Christmas potatoes, KS1, Forest School, Meerkats and Garden club have enjoyed planting them out – It's a race to Christmas! Who will have the biggest crop of potatoes?

RHS School Gardening awards – We have achieved our final RHS award - Level 5 school gardening! This has been achieved by all children across the school and if you are a parent helper or ever bought plants from one of our plant sales then you have helped us too! The funds from these awards have helped to secure vital gardening resources for the children.



ECPS in Pictures

The Nest

We are starting to explore a variety of Autumn activities this week, making playdough hedgehogs with spaghetti spikes, designing spooky pumpkin faces and making spicy imaginative Autumn soup.



All School



Monkey class loved learning from Mrs Felton about the wool making process this week. They got to see a spinning wheel in action, feel the wool and have a go at making our own felt. We showed excellent Tizzy listening, looking, sitting and thinking skills

Elephants had a brilliant time creating beds and chairs for the "three bears" after we read "Goldilocks and the three bears"

