The Buzz

Keeping you up to date with our weekly news bulletin

Earls Colne PRIMARY SCHOOL AND NURSERY

JAKKI SIBLEY HEADTEACHER **19TH JANUARY 2024**

BUDDING SCIENTISTS!

Our Year 6 pupils have been unleashing their inner scientists this week and studying how electricity is generated. Their brief was to create a wind turbine that rotated the most when blown and we're sure you'll agree that their future in Science is looking very bright!

If that wasn't amazing enough, our Year 2 pupils have been using algorithms to give our robots instructions. They predicted where the robot might end up and then programmed them to see if they were right. They used the same 4 instructions in different algorithms to see what difference it made.

REPORTING ABSENCES

A reminder that you **MUST** report all pupil absences from school. We have a 24 hour answer phone facility, so you don't even need to speak to a human! Alternatively, e-mails can be sent to ecps@earlscolne.essex.sch.uk

Please do not send messages regarding absences via Dojo, as the school office do not have sight of these and the office should be your first point of contact for the reporting of all absences.

Request for absence forms can be found in the main reception area. These should be completed and submitted to the office for all planned absences taken during term time. As per Local Government and Department of Education policies – fines will be issued for absences not deemed exceptional.

3PR Weekly Totaliser Champions!

This week's winners are **Giraffes** Class!

Key dates – 2023-24	
February 2024	
15th	Break The Rules Day!
16th	Non-Pupil Day
19th – 23rd	Half Term Break
27th	Year 6 NHS Height and Weight Checks
March 2024	
5th	Year 5 Planetarium Visit (in school)
7th	Year 1 Animal Workshops (in school)
21st	Year 6 Trip to Layer Marney
29th March – 01st April	Bank Holiday Weekend
April 2024	
2nd – 12th	Easter Holidays

Attendance champions

Congratulations to both **Monkeys** and **3W** classes whose attendance was a fantastic **98%** for this week!!

CHILDHOOD ILLNESS AND ATTENDING SCHOOL

With it being the typical time of year for illness within school, please find attached a link to the **Department of Education guide to keeping children healthy and in school**. Also attached is the useful **NHS guide** to establish if your child is too ill for school. The NHS guide also reiterates the need for children to stay away from school for **48 hours** from their last episode of sickness and/ or diarrhoea. Please be vigilant as there are various illnesses in circulation at the moment, including measles and whooping cough as well as the usual colds and flu. Due to the decline in the MMR uptake, measle cases are sadly on the rise. The illness can start with cold like symptoms, including a temperature, before the rash appears. If your child has a temperature, please do not give them calpol and send into school – keep them at home! Please see attached letter from Essex County Council providing further guidance regarding Measles.

KEYRINGS

Keyrings on bags seem to be the new favourite thing at the moment however, they are also quite easy to lose! Rather than run the risk of children being upset from losing their favourite keyring, please can we ask for keyrings to be removed from school bags and kept for home use only.

Public Health
County Hall
Chelmsford
CM1 1QH

Essex County Council

Date: 19th January 2024

Dear Parent / Guardian

re: Measles

Cases of measles are increasing in England currently. If your child has not been fully vaccinated with the MMR vaccine it is a good time to get this done to protect them. This can be arranged through the child's GP practice. You can check your child is up to date with their MMR vaccinations by looking at their personal health record (Red Book) or by asking their GP.

The early symptoms of measles can look like other illnesses: runny nose; cough; conjunctivitis. The child may also have a high fever. The distinctive rash of measles begins around day 3 of the illness, a rash of flat red or brown blotches appear, beginning on the face, behind the ears and spreading over the body.

Any child thought to have measles should not be sent to school. Where possible NHS 111 or the GP should be phoned for advice, rather than visiting the surgery or A&E. This is to avoid passing the infection on to others. Further details about measles can be found at https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/measles/.

Yours faithfully

Danny Showell

Danny Showell
Public Health Consultant

SMART WATCHES IN SCHOOL

It has come to our attention that more and more pupils are becoming distracted by their smart watches in class and using apps on them which are not appropriate for use in school.

After some careful consideration we have decided to treat smart watches as we currently do mobile phones. Going forward, all pupils in years 1 – 5 **MUST NOT** wear a smart watch to school. If a pupil in any of these year groups is found wearing/ using one, the watch will be removed and given back at the end of the school day.

For those pupils in year 6 who would like to wear a smart watch to school – these must be kept in the class purple trays duing the school day with the mobile phones. They will then be handed back at the end of each day as the phones are now.

SCHOOL CAR PARKS……

……**ARE NOT PLAY AREAS**!!

When arriving at school in the morning please make sure your children do not go wandering into the Learning Centre Car Park. Likewise for families waiting for the main gates to open at the end of the day, please do not allow your children to play on scooters or run around in the main car park. This request is as much for the safety of all children as it is to avoid any damage being caused to any parked vehicles.

THANK YOU!

Our Christmas card recycle bin is barely movable – thank you to everyone who has dropped in with their unwanted cards to recycle. We will update you with the final weight result in the near future.

Essex County Council
Early Years and Childcare

Childcare funding for working families

Working families can now qualify for funded childcare. By September 2025, you could benefit from up to 1,140 hours of funded early learning and childcare per year with participating childcare providers in Essex.

From April 2024	15 hours for 2 year olds of working parents (the term after the child's 2nd birthday)
From September 2024	15 hours for 9 month olds of working parents (the term after the child is 9 months old)
From September 2025	30 hours for 9 months up of working parents (the term after the child is 9 months old)

Childcare Choices **To check if you're eligible and to apply, visit: www.childcarechoices.gov.uk**

The funded hours are available to families:

- where both parents are working, or a single parent is working in single parent families
- earning more than the equivalent of the National Minimum Wage for working 16 hours a week
- where each parent earns less than £100,000 per year.

Working families can also access tax-free childcare to help with the cost of childcare.

You'll need to claim your additional hours and receive your eligibility code before the start of the term to access your funding in that term.

Deadline date	Funding paid from
31 March	Summer term
31 August	Autumn term
31 December	Spring term

Remember, if you miss the deadline, you won't be able to claim your additional hours until the next term, and may have to be pay for your childcare fees if your child starts before this.

To find out more about childcare in Essex
Visit: www.essex.gov.uk/earlyyears
Email: Family Information Service at **fis@essex.gov.uk**
Speak to: Your local Family Hub or childcare provider