

Attendance, Attention and Achievement

Weekly Newsletter

Date: 5th February 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

In our school grounds, the Spring bulbs are starting to shoot, signalling a new season of hope. In school, some of the special projects our children have enjoyed, such as the Mayor's Maths Challenge and Debate Mate, have also found new ways to start up again, bringing our children together with those in other schools to investigate, debate, create and express themselves in spite of the isolation some may be experiencing in lockdown. Our live zoom lessons, google classrooms and assemblies have also brought us together as a community, and it is a joy to see how excited the children are to see their friends whenever they can. That's why we encourage all children to use their cameras during their lessons with us as well as ensuring there is a safe online environment.

Children's Mental Health Awareness Week

In special assemblies, shared across all year groups via Google Classroom, Mrs Mojzes focused on the importance Essex gives to children's mental health. She encouraged children to find creative ways to express their thoughts and feelings, especially during this period of lockdown. Teachers set follow up projects for children and you can see the children's work showcased in this SWAY presentation. Copy and paste this link in your browser:

<https://sway.office.com/F4QZ9OUfmvZFOZ7D?ref=Link>

Well done to all the families that supported their children to complete their activities!



Mayor of London's Maths Challenge

There may be school closures brought by the pandemic, but this has not stopped our budding mathematicians in years 4 and 5 from taking up the Primary Challenge. As part of 'Count on Us', funded by the Mayor of London, pupils in both year groups have been busy working together online practising their number fluency, problem solving and code breaking.

The challenge consists of 4 rounds: Tangrams, Pentominoes, 24 Game and Code breaking. The aim is to challenge, motivate and inspire! Our mathematicians look forward to representing Essex Primary School in the heats where they will compete with other London schools.



Caesar Cipher

The cipher key:

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z	A	B	C

This cipher shift alphabet three letters to the left.

DebateMate

Essex Primary School are delighted to have started their after school club called Debate Mate. Students were left feeling determined and excited after their first session last week. The students worked confidently with specially trained university student, Bushra, who has been assigned as Essex Primary School's Debate Mate mentor. The students had fun exploring the first round of debating techniques through the interactive game called hot air balloon debate. The students were tasked with debating why their chosen character should be saved from the imaginary descending hot air balloon. The element of role play helped bring to life the situation and further supported them in devising persuasive arguments. It was certainly a fun way to introduce the students to the idea of debating with one another.



Debating is shown to improve students' critical and creative thinking, confidence, teamwork, leadership, aspirations, resilience and self-management. Students who have been on the programme see substantial progress in their speaking and listening skills, their engagement with school, and a range of students have been shown to benefit from these clubs. Sessions will continue to be delivered through fun, interactive Zoom meetings.

Remote learning

Essex Primary School is committed to preparing our children to become successful global citizens of a 21st Century world, so they can use technology and digital tools to think critically, problem solve, deepen understanding and create new knowledge in the world of the future. With this in mind, we have been investing in a wide range of tools to support this including Google Classroom, Britannica, Bug Club and Phonics Play. We would like to encourage parents to make sure their children are accessing all that is available and free to use throughout their child's time at Essex.



<https://school.eb.co.uk/login?username=essexprimary&password=britannica>

To ensure that your child receives the best digital support that they can, we have bought a subscription of Britannica School. You can access this by copying and pasting this link in a new browser. You may enjoy researching some of your own interests too!

This is accessible for all ages and abilities. For primary aged children, we recommend that you use the foundation stage, however if your child is in Upper KS2, they could also use the Intermediate level. We encourage that your child uses this tool to help them with their research tasks. The information found on Britannica School is aligned to the national curriculum and is updated daily and includes a range of media for children to explore.

Supporting Remote Learning

Sometimes new information can be difficult to understand. There are tools in place within the website to support your child with reading. Use the Read Aloud tool to highlight the text whilst a neutral voice guides you through the text. Next, you can double click a word for the dictionary definition of that word!

The website also has a translation tool, which you can use by clicking on the icon displayed in the image and hovering over the translation to view the original text.



Have fun exploring the website!

Bug Club!



Our school has recently acquired a reading programme called Bug Club that we'd like to share with you.

What is Bug Club? Bug Club is a finely-levelled reading scheme, which ensures that all children can find books at exactly the right level for them.

Using the online reading world Please ensure your child can enjoy reading eBooks using the **Bug Club** programme. Each child has a unique homepage and can log into it by following these steps:

1. Go to www.activelearnprimary.co.uk
2. Enter the login details.
3. Your child's homepage will appear.

We recommend that your child reads daily for 20 minutes.

Reading a book online Your child's class teacher will allocate books to your child according to their reading levels. These books will appear in the 'My Stuff' area of their personal homepages.



Throughout the books there are quiz questions for your child to complete. To answer a question, just click on the bug icon. Your child does not need to finish all the quiz questions in one sitting and can come back to a book later.

When your child has finished all the quiz questions in a book, he or she will earn 'ActiveLearn Coins'. By reading more books, your child will earn enough coins to 'buy' a reward in one of the many reward schemes. The answers to the quiz questions will be sent back to our teacher site so that we can see how your child is progressing. We will also be able to assign more books for your child to read if the virtual book bag is running low.

When your child has finished a book, it will move to 'My Library'. Children can read these books again if they want to.

If your child has any issues logging into the programme: please message the class teacher, so they are able to resolve the issue for you.

Enjoy Reading!

Safer Internet Day Family Assembly

We will be holding a special whole school assembly on Tuesday 9th February at 9.00am during which we will attempt a fun interactive family quiz as well as sharing important information on keeping safe online.

We would like to remind all parents about the importance of online safety. Whilst children are using the Google Classroom to complete their work, we must be vigilant of their online behaviour. Here are some tips to use at home:

- Set up a parental code to ensure that children do not go on to different sites
- Always be informed of the programme your child searches
- Use the internet with your child, to model good online behaviour



- Remind your child of the importance of personal information
- Understand the different games and apps that your children use

Here are the zoom details for the Safer Internet Assembly:

Meeting ID: 824 3583 5434

Password: 697303

International Mother Tongue Day Assembly

On Friday 12th February we will be celebrating International Mother Tongue Day in special assemblies. This year's theme is tolerance and community and we look forward to coming together as a whole school community next Friday morning. Details will be pinged to parents on Monday.

Lockdown Rules

We would like to encourage all families to continue to follow all the lockdown rules and public health guidance to help maintain the safety and wellbeing of our school community.

Remember:

- Don't meet indoors with anybody outside your household or support bubble
- Keep your distance and wear a face covering when out in public
- Wash hands regularly
- Reduce the number of journeys you take, to work from home where possible
- Self-isolate and seek a test if you experience any Covid-19 symptoms



We wish you a safe and enjoyable weekend. Remember to: " Wash Hands, Cover Face, Make Space!"

Mrs Cecilia Mojzes
Executive Head Teacher

Mr Rick Probett
Chair of Governors

Mrs Amber Ilyas
Associate Head Teacher