



Friday 17th May 2024

Issue No. 23

## WONDER, AWE, CURIOSITY: HEARTS AND MINDS INSPIRED FOR LEARNING

### Message from Mr Davey

Our wonderful Year 6's have worked their socks off this week and we are incredibly proud of them all. They have done everything they can and we now await the 'fruits of their labour'. I hope they enjoy this weekend that little bit more than usual.

Please see that information later in the newsletter about the importance of reading with or reading to your children. I cannot stress how vital this is to children's imagination, brain development, reading and writing ability, natural curiosity. If you have any questions about suitable books for your child's age group please talk to your children's class teacher.

Attendance this week is amazing!! Every single year group is above our target of 96%. Thank you for your support with improving school attendance. Have a lovely weekend. 1 week to go before half term.

### Team points

These points were collected this week, you can find the rolling totals on our school website.



1209

### Attendance

Reception— 98.99%

Year 1— 97.33%

Year 2— 97.25%

Year 3— 98.0%

Year 4— 98.99%

Year 5— 97.98%

Year 6— 100%

### Children who achieved gold this week:

Charlie (Rec)

Jesse P (Y2)

Freya (Y4)

Lily (Rec)

Brooke (Y2)

Aiden (y5)

Mia (Rec)

Poppy (Y2)

Charlotte (Y6)

Cali (Y1)

Fletcher (Y2)

Priscilla (Y1)

Sophia (Y3)

Freddie (Y1)

Dylan (Y3)



1282

### Dates for your diary

Friday 24th May— Break up for half term (3:15 finish)

Monday 3rd June— INSET Day (no school)

Tuesday 4th June— children back to school

Thursday 6th June— D-Day 80th anniversary special day (special menu)

Wednesday 19th-21 June— Year 6 Residential

Wednesday 3rd July— Whole School Trip

Tuesday 9th July— Y5/6 Production- (9:15am and 4:30pm)

Wednesday 10th July— Sports Day

Friday 12th July— Henham Transition Morning (children with their new teacher)

Friday 19th July— End of Year Reports out to parents

Tuesday 23rd July— End of term (Break up at 1:30pm)



1246



1070

## School Menu changes

Due to the Catering Manager having a medical procedure in hospital next week, we are providing the attached alternative menu with effect from Monday 13th May 2024 until Friday 24th May 2024.

Alternative Menu				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Chicken Nachos With Rice	<b>PICNIC DAY</b>	Pasta Bolognese With warm bread	<b>PICNIC DAY</b>	Omega 3 Fish Fingers Chips and Peas
Quorn Nachos With Rice	Baguettes with Cheese Tuna or Ham	Cheese and Tomato Pasta Bake With warm bread	Baguettes with Cheese Tuna or Ham	Quorn Buttermilk Burgers and Chips and Peas
Salad bar	Salad bar	Salad bar	Salad bar	Salad bar
Pancakes, Peaches and Sauce	Ice Cream Tubs	Fruit, Yogurt and Peaches	Donuts	Arctic Roll

A selection of fresh fruit, wholemeal bread and yogurts are available every day.



You may remember that at the beginning of the year I put out a questionnaire to parents to find out your opinions of the school when I first started. Between now and the end of the year what I thought would be good for you to see is how I have addressed the results of that survey.

I will highlight each question one by one

### Back in October, Our Survey said!

5. The school makes me aware of what my child will learn throughout the year (0 point)

#### [More Details](#)

Strongly agree	8
Agree	21
Neither agree nor disagree	9
Disagree	5
Strongly disagree	1



### The actions we have taken to improve this since October

1. 'Class in the spotlight' section on Newsletter
2. Termly Parents evening meetings
3. Updated Curriculum content on school website.

We are also developing further ways to improve this yet to be announced.

## Term Dates for 2024/2025

### Essex County Council School Term and Holiday Dates for Community and Voluntary Controlled Schools - Academic Year 2024-2025

September 2024							October 2024							November 2024							December 2024											
M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S					
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January 2025							February 2025							March 2025							April 2025											
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26	27	28	29	30	31		23	24	25	26	27	28	28	29	30	31			25	26	27	28	29	30	31							

= Schooldays  
 = School holidays  
 = Bank holidays  
 = Weekends

## SCHOOL PARKING

Since last week's message about using our school car park there has been a huge improvement in the mornings but there is still great concern for the safety of our children at the end of the day.

The car park is not to be used by parents unless they have special consideration and it has been approved by the headteacher.

## Secondary Transition Days

We have called the secondary schools and they have informed us that these are the dates of 'moving up days'

Joyce Frankland – **28th June**

Boys High – **11th July**

SWCH – **27th and 28th June**

Hockerill – **8th June**

Herts and Essex – **3rd July (pm) and 11th July**

Birchwood – **11th July**

Avanti - ?

Helena Romana – **27th and 28th June**

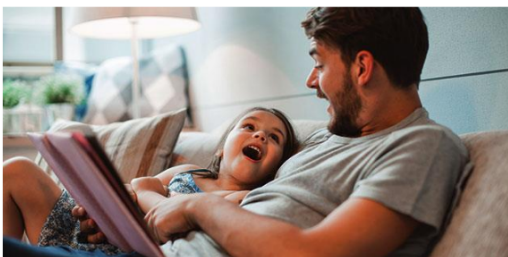
Forest Hall – **27th June**



# Reading at home

**"Reading aloud to your children is a gift that will last a lifetime."**

Maya Angelou, author & poet



## Why is Reading important?

Reading is a vital skill in education and allows children to access a deeper understanding of the world around them. Studies show that reading for pleasure is strongly linked to children's educational performance. It is suggested that children who read for enjoyment every day, not only perform better in reading tests than those who don't, but also develop a broader vocabulary, increased general knowledge and a better understanding of other cultures. In fact, reading for pleasure is more likely to determine whether a child does well at school than their social or economic background. Therefore, reading matters emotionally, culturally and educationally and it matters to everyone.

## Creating a positive reading routine

Reading with your child should be an enjoyable and regular experience, where you can connect and be curious about what you are about to read together. It is an opportunity to have quality time with your child and get an insight into their amazing progress and learning journey. Here are some tips to ensure you are creating a rewarding reading experience for your child:

- **Be curious** – "Let's look at the front cover together – what do you think this story is about?"
- **Make it enjoyable** – If you're not showing interest and enjoyment, your child won't either.
- **Read stories again** – revisit favourite stories, encourage your child to join in with bits they know, explore interesting vocabulary together and link stories and events to personal experiences.

## Breadth & Depth

It is important that children read a wide range of books to increase their confidence and fluency. By exposing your child to different text types, you are offering them an insight into different worlds, extending their vocabulary and showing a variety of images and cultural insights. Here are some different genres to start exploring with your child that stretch beyond fiction:

- Non-fiction/ fact and information texts
- Science fiction & fantasy
- Historical fiction
- Poetry and playwriting
- Graphic novels

## Freedom of choice

If we want children to read for pleasure, we need to ensure they are reading books that they deem enjoyable. Choice and interest are highly related. Therefore, try to encourage your child's independence with reading so that they can take ownership of this. Research states that, "having access to resources and having books of their own has a greater impact on your child's attainment." Therefore, try to create a reading culture at home where your child can explore choice and freedom with their reading.

## Class in the spotlight

Each week, we will focus on a different class and share all the creative and fun lessons they have been doing. This week we are focussed on our Year 5 children.

Year 2 have had an excellent week! Their behaviour has been impeccable and they have been working really hard on collaborating in small groups and teams without any disagreements. We are so proud of them and how they are being excellent friends and classmates :)



In Science this half term, we have been looking at Plants. We decided on a question that we wanted to find out about how plants grow and then created our own experiment.

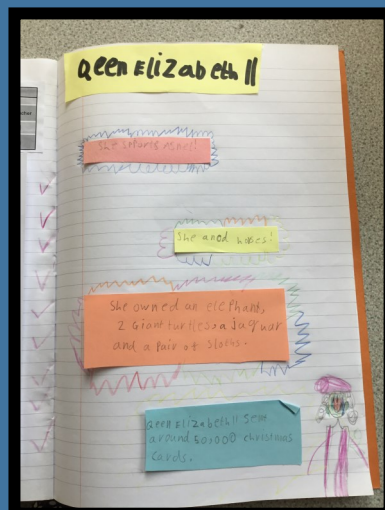
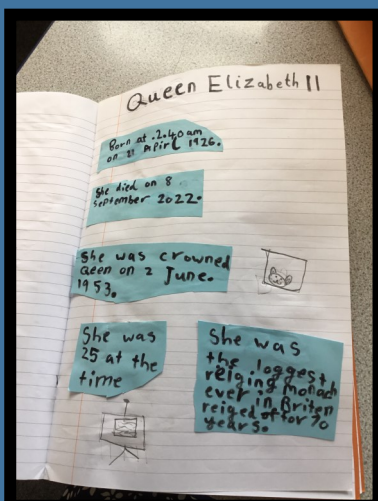
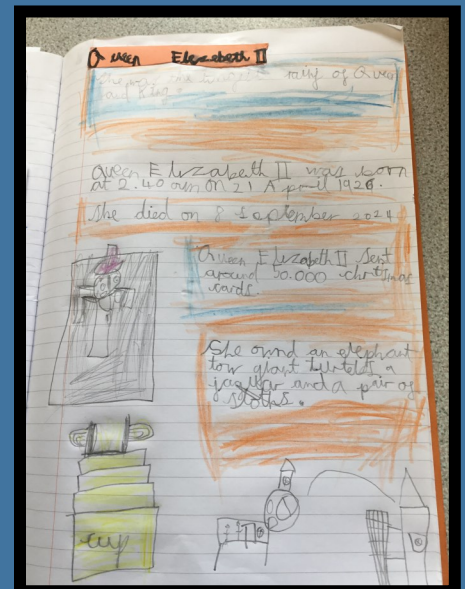
Some questions tested:

- Do plants grow better in the light or dark?
- Can plants grow when you water them with orange juice or Ribena?
- Will plants grow taller when planted in sawdust, soil or cotton wool?

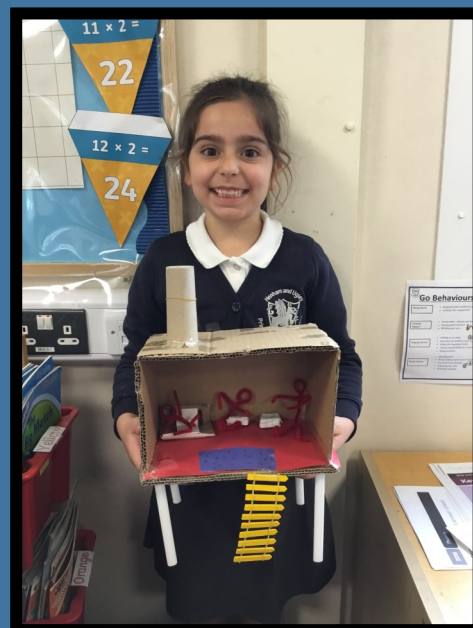
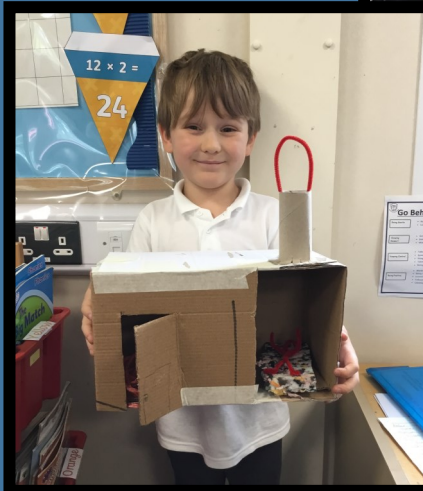
We watered our plants at school and took care of them seeing how

In History we have been learning all the three longest reigning queens. We have found out facts all about Queen Elizabeth I, Queen Victoria and our most recent Queen, Queen Elizabeth II.

As we are almost at the end of the half term, this week we created fact files about one of the queens. We wrote down facts we had learnt and decorated them with pictures of the queens or things that reminded us of them. Did you know that Queen Elizabeth II supported Arsenal?

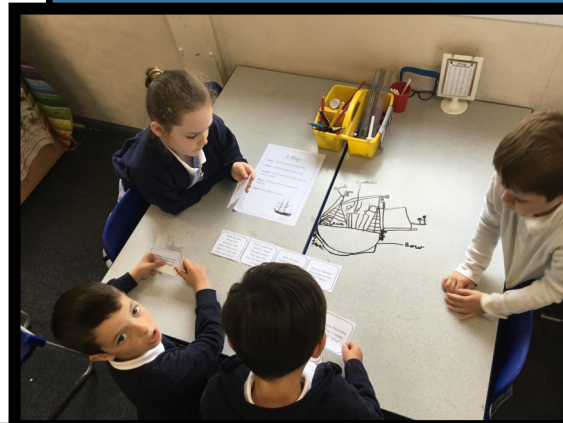
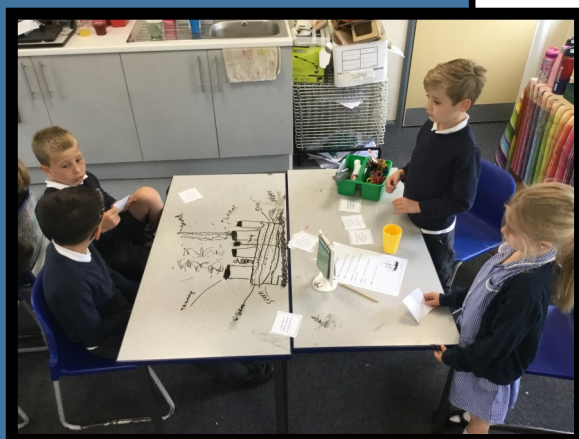


In Art, we have been attempting to become Architects and design our own buildings. Some of us created houses, stadiums, shops and even a few caravans and flying homes! We then worked on showing our expert tidying skills as the classroom was a mess!



In English, we have been reading The Green Ship by Quentin Blake. A lot of children already recognised his illustrations from

their favourite Roald Dahl books. We thought about what we would want to find in the forest and then worked as a table to label the different parts of the ship.



# Henham & Ugley Primary School PSA



## Pre-Loved Uniform Sale

**Monday 20<sup>th</sup> May 3.15pm**

**All non-Logo items FREE!**

**Logo items £1**

**All boxes sorted by age (from 3yrs-12+ yrs).**

**Card and Cash accepted.**

**Parentkind**  
Member Association



Well done to the children who attended the tennis event last week. For the second year running we came home  
**CHAMPIONS!**  
Very proud of you all.

## **HENHAM TENNIS CLUB OPEN DAY**

**SUNDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2024**

**Carters Lane, Henham CM22 6AQ**

**2 pm – 5 pm**



***Everyone welcome***

***BBQ/Refreshments***

***Have a 'go' on court***

***Ball machine***

***Meet some of the members***

***Fun for everyone!***

**We look forward to seeing you!**

At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one of many devices which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit [www.nationalonlinesafety.com](http://www.nationalonlinesafety.com) for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

# 10 top tips for safely using SMARTWATCHES

Kids love gadgets, and smartwatches – available to buy from as little as £20 online – make a tempting gift. As with any type of mobile technology, though, smartwatches can pose risks to children unless they're used safely. Receiving unwanted calls, cyber-stalking and distracting a young person when they're crossing the road are all known risks associated with smartwatches. However, these devices can bring plenty of benefits for children and parents alike – so let's examine the pros and cons of smartwatches.

## AVOID CHEAP OPTIONS

A quick search online yields a torrent of cheap smartwatches for kids, costing as little as £20. It's wise to avoid this bargain basement tech: It tends to deliver a poor experience with inferior battery life, and it's hard to have faith in the software's safety. There have been cases of smartwatches being hacked to track or contact children; stick to known brands who have a reputation to protect.

## CONTROL CALLING

Many smartwatches have the facility to make or take calls. As with a phone, you may want to restrict who your child can call – or be called by. On Apple Watches, you can select trusted contacts who are allowed to ring your child, while other watches' controls vary hugely. Some need to connect to a linked phone for calls, so you may be able to block unknown contacts via that device instead.

## BEWARE HIDDEN COSTS

For a smartwatch to allow calls independently (that is, without being connected to a phone via Bluetooth), it will need its own mobile data plan. This might take the form of a tiny SIM card that you slot into the watch – or an eSIM, where the physical card is replaced by software settings. Either way, this will incur an additional monthly cost that you'll need to factor into any buying decision.

## ENABLE FAMILY SHARING

Apple Watches aren't cheap, but they do offer superb safety features – allowing parents to control calls, messages and emails on the device, as well as a location tracking system that can send alerts if kids wander beyond pre-set boundaries. Their SOS function enables children to contact emergency services instantly if they're in trouble, which simultaneously also alerts parents and carers.

## MAKE THEM COOL FOR SCHOOL

Some schools have banned smartwatches, as pupils have been using them as substitute phones. If your child's school does permit them, some devices can be set to prevent distractions in class. For example, Apple's Schooltime feature turns their watches into ordinary time-keeping devices during school hours. The display changes in this mode, showing teachers that it isn't being used for other purposes.

## TRACK ITS LOCATION

Both Apple and Android devices have apps which allow you to track a smartwatch's location. You can also initiate an audio alert – avoiding those cushion-hurling panics when a treasured device can't be found at home. If you're planning to track your child's location via their watch, make them aware of that in advance. You could even make it a condition of them getting the watch in the first place.

## THINK 'SAFETY FIRST'

Smartwatches are often worth hundreds of pounds, which can make young people wearing one a target for thieves. Advise your child to keep the watch hidden in public (when possible) and not to resist if muggers demand their watch. If you manage to track a stolen device, pass that information to the police: location data isn't always accurate, so you could end up wrongly accusing someone.

## STORE MEDICAL INFO

Devices including the Samsung Galaxy Watch and Apple Watch can store the owner's medical details (such as their blood group and any pre-existing medical conditions), potentially giving emergency services access to vital information in a crisis. These devices also have 'hard fall' detection, which sends a text message to selected contacts along with a map showing the wearer's location.

## USE THEM AS MOTIVATION

If you're worried your child's spending too much time slumped on the sofa staring at screens, smartwatches are great fitness trackers and can be a powerful incentive to get moving. Some devices will alert the wearer if they've been inactive for a long time and encourage them to do some exercise. Many watches record the user's daily step count and measure other health metrics.

## BE MINDFUL OF BEDTIME

Many smartwatches offer sleep tracking, which some (usually older) children use to justify wearing them to bed. However, that also presents a temptation to message friends or check social media late at night, even if their phone is downstairs. Unless there's a valid reason not to, you could encourage your child to remove the watch in the evenings and ensure the charger stays in a different room.

## Meet Our Expert

Barry Collins has been a technology journalist and editor for more than 20 years, working for titles such as the Sunday Times, Which?, PC Pro and Computeractive. He's appeared regularly as a technology pundit on television and radio, including on BBC Newsnight, Radio 5 Live and the ITV News at Ten. He has two children and writes regularly about internet safety issues.

