



'BIRCHANGER BUZZ'

'Learn to Love, Love to Learn'

Friday 10th March

This morning our Year 1 children went to the KS1 dance festival held at Bentfield School. They have been working hard on their 'Jungle Book' dance and enjoyed the opportunity to perform and to watch dances from other schools.

Next week children in Hegehogs Class will be visiting Daisy May's Farm as part of their topic and Children in Squirrels and Badgers Class are visiting a Hindu Mandir in London. We also have four children from Owls Class who will be taking part in the Year 6 Essex maths competition.

In assemblies this half term we are talking about friendships and bullying. This week we focussed on how being left out can make us feel, using ideas from the book Willy and Hugh. Children talked about times they had felt left out, strategies to deal with this and how sometimes an unlikely person can become a good friend. Watching on the playground I am always pleased to see how well children manage these situations and include others.

Woodland Area

As you know, our children take part in Forest School activities each week in nearby woodland. Unfortunately there has been some damage to the log circle and litter left in the area, apparently by local young people. Mrs Miles inspects and clears the area each week to make sure it is safe for our children but this has been a difficult and time consuming job recently. If you are aware of teenagers who use the space we would like to appeal to them to use the area respectfully – most local teenagers have probably enjoyed Birchanger Forest School themselves once!

Sainsbury's Vouchers

We are collecting Sainsbury's Active Kids vouchers again this year. Please bring vouchers into school and we are able to use them to buy PE equipment, playground games etc.

Caretaker Vacancy

We are looking for an enthusiastic and reliable person to become our school caretaker. The role involves opening up and locking the school, with some routine tasks and basic maintenance. The position is for 10 hours a week, holidays and working hours to be agreed. Please pass on details of the job to anyone you think might be interested. More information is on the school website or please contact Mrs Field in the school office.

Class Assemblies

Parents are welcome to join us in our Friday assembly each week at 2.50pm when we celebrate the achievements of the children. Class assemblies will take place on the following dates, starting at 2.45pm

Friday 17th March – Ladybirds Class

Looking ahead, our Easter service will be held in church on Thursday 30th March at 9.30am



Coffee Afternoon for parents of children with learning needs – Wednesday 15th March at 2.15pm

Following a suggestion from a parent we would like to host an informal meet-up for parents of children with learning difficulties and Special Educational Needs. The idea is for this to be an informal coffee meeting for parents to get together to share ideas and experiences. We know parents have a wealth of knowledge and information to share, or sometimes it's just good to meet like-minded parents who are facing similar issues. All parents are welcome, whether your child has a diagnosed special need or you are just concerned about difficulties they are having with learning. Mrs Cook and Mrs Coop will be available to welcome parents (and put the kettle on!) but this is intended to be an informal parent led coffee afternoon. The meeting is not for parents to discuss individual issues with school staff– if you have concerns about your child's learning then Mrs Cook, our Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator will be happy to meet with you at parents consultation evenings next month.

Term Dates

Full term dates for this year are below.

Term dates for 2017-18 can be found at

<http://www.essex.gov.uk/Education-Schools/Schools/Dates/Pages/Term-Times-Holidays.aspx>

Diary Dates – more details to follow

- Parents consultation meetings – Wednesday 22nd March 5 – 8pm and Thursday 23rd March 3.30 – 5.30pm.
- Mothers Day Lunch – Wednesday 22nd March
- Easter service in church – Thursday 30th March at 9.30am

Have a lovely weekend

Helen Coop

Essex County Council School Term and Holiday Dates for Community and Voluntary Controlled Schools

Academic Year 2016 - 17

September 2016							October 2016							November 2016							December 2016						
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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							31																				
January 2017							February 2017							March 2017							April 2017						
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May 2017							June 2017							July 2017							August 2017						
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29	30	31					26	27	28	29	30			24	25	26	27	28	29	30	28	29	30	31			
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= Schooldays / Weekends



= School holidays



= Bank holidays



INSET days