



'BIRCHANGER BUZZ'

'Learn to Love, Love to Learn'

Friday 13th January

Children started their new topics this week.

Ladybirds Class are basing their learning on Superheroes and their Ghostbusters role play area is taking shape! Hedgehogs Class are working on the topic of Space and Aliens – finding out about the history of space travel and imaginative writing on the theme of aliens. Badgers and Squirrels Class learning is history based, studying Ancient Egypt. Owls Class topic is geography based 'City Explorer' - comparing the local area to London. You will receive topic webs from teachers giving an outline of the learning for this half term.

Next Friday children will take part in assembly presentations by the NSPCC as part of the PSHCE curriculum. The theme is *Speak Out Stay Safe* and you will have received further details of this in a letter yesterday. Please get in touch if you have any questions about this.

An important letter was sent home today from Mrs Haggerwood-Bullen, our Chair of Governors. Please check book bags and make sure you have received this.

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 3rd February – Squirrels Class
Friday 10th February – Owls Class
Friday 24th February - Badgers Class
Friday 3rd March – Hedgehogs Class
Friday 17th March – Ladybirds Class

Residential Visit - Autumn 2017

The Year 5 /6 residential (for pupils currently in Year 4 and 5) is being arranged for Monday 9 October to Friday 13 October 2017. Letters have been sent home with details and a meeting for parents was held this morning. We need to confirm numbers and collect initial deposits by February. If you have any concerns or think your child may not be able to go on the visit for any reason, please make an appointment to discuss your concerns with me – children really miss out on a great experience and have often regretted their decision not to take part when they hear what a great time their friends have had!

January Birthdays

Happy Birthday to Harrison, Fletcher, Louis, Florence, Archie, Christian, Henry and Charlie who celebrate their birthday this month.

Winter Weather

The children all came back to school in warm coats with an array of hats, scarves and gloves – thank you. We do go out to play if the weather is cold or a bit drizzly so children do need a waterproof coat. Please make sure everything is named.

Emergency School Closures

In the event of a school closure due to bad weather or other emergency, School closures will be published on the Essex County Council website – [essex.gov.uk](http://www.essex.gov.uk). The direct link is:

<http://www.essex.gov.uk/Education-Schools/Schools/Dates/Pages/Emergency-School-Closures.aspx>

In the event of severe weather or other circumstances, parents should also check the school website where information regarding school closure will be updated.

Term Dates

Full term dates for this year are below. Please be aware that the school Easter break this year falls in the two weeks before the Easter weekend and children return to school on the Tuesday following Easter Monday. This is the standard Essex and Hertfordshire holiday dates but some schools may vary their holidays so please check if you have children in different schools.

Term dates for 2017-18 can be found at

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

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
			1	2	3	4						1	2		1	2	3	4	5	6				1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30			24	25	26	27	28	29	30	28	29	30				26	27	28	29	30	31		
							31																				
January 2017							February 2017							March 2017							April 2017						
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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2	3	4	5	6	7	8	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	27	28					27	28	29	30	31		24	25	26	27	28	29	30		
30	31																										
May 2017							June 2017							July 2017							August 2017						
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
1	2	3	4	5	6	7				1	2	3	4						1	2		1	2	3	4	5	6
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
29	30	31					26	27	28	29	30			24	25	26	27	28	29	30	28	29	30	31			
													31														

= Schooldays / Weekends

= School holidays

= Bank holidays

INSET days