



'BIRCHANGER BUZZ'

'Learn to Love, Love to Learn'

Friday 24th March

A new half term and classes have started their new topics. Ladybirds Class are starting with work around the theme of Healthy Food and Healthy Eating. Children in Hedgehogs Class are learning about Animals Around The World and will also be visiting Daisy May's Farm to find out about animals closer to home! Children in Year 3 and 4 are focussed on transport with a local geography study of transport links and looking in history at transport over time. They will be visiting the Aerozone exhibition at Stansted airport. There is also a visit planned for Year 3 and 4 to the Hindu Mandir at Neasden as part of their work in RE. Owls Class are working on the theme of mountains – a Geography focus using maps and atlases to locate mountains and finding out about the features of mountains.

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 24th February - Badgers Class

Friday 3rd March – Hedgehogs Class

Friday 17th March – Ladybirds Class

If you have any special experience, knowledge or resources you would like to share with the children to support these topics we would be happy to hear from you.

Relief Mid-Day Assistant

We have a great team of Mid-day Assistants who look after the children at lunchtimes – supporting in the dining hall and supervising children's play outside.

We would like to appoint a relief Mid-Day Assistant to cover for when lunchtime staff are absent or out of school and to provide an extra pair of hands when we've got special events. The role could lead to a permanent part-time position.

Hours of work are 11.45am – 1.15pm Days to be agreed on an 'as-and-when' basis initially.

If you are interested please pop in and see Carolyn or Mrs Coop.

The school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all pupils and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. As such, the post is subject to an enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check which the school would arrange.

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.

School Meal Ordering

A reminder to parents that school meals should be booked online by Sunday evening each week, or it may be more convenient to book for the half term. If meals are not booked online by parents it is a time consuming job for us to contact each parent and check with children to confirm if a lunch is required.

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.

Leave of Absence

Can I remind parents that head teachers can only grant a leave of absence for exceptional circumstances. In most cases, a family holiday or travelling abroad is not considered to be an exceptional reason.

You are strongly urged to book family holidays during the 13 weeks of school holidays. Term dates can be found below and are published up to two years in advance. Term dates for 2017-18 can be found at <http://www.essex.gov.uk/Education-Schools/Schools/Dates/Pages/Term-Times-Holidays.aspx>

It is also a good idea to ensure grandparents and other family who may make travel arrangements are aware of school term dates as it seems sometimes a generous family member books a holiday but is unaware of term dates!

If you would like to apply for leave of absence, for a day or longer, an absence request form must be completed and returned to the head teacher who will arrange to meet with you to discuss the circumstances of the absence. In the event that a pupil is absent and it is believed to be unarranged leave of absence/ holiday it will be treated as an unauthorised absence. Unauthorised absence may result in a penalty notice issued by the local authority.

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

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
						1			1	2	3	4	5			1	2	3	4	5						1	2
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