



'BIRCHANGER BUZZ'

'Learn to Love, Love to Learn'

Friday 27th January

This week our Year 5 and 6 children took part in the indoor athletics tournament at Forest Hall school. The whole class were involved in running, jumping and throwing activities. Three children earned certificates for 1st, 2nd or 3rd place and the boy's team came 4th overall. Well done to all the children who took part and to our sports coach, Tom who has been working with the children to develop these skills in PE sessions. In a couple of weeks it will be the turn of Year 4 pupils to take part in an indoor athletics event.

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

With the cold weather we are running indoor 'cosy clubs' each lunchtime. Children have the opportunity for a run around outside before they eat lunch and then if they wish can choose to come along to a club. School Council gathered ideas about the clubs children would like and this year's cosy clubs are:

Monday – Lego Club

Tuesday – Drawing, sketching and colouring

Wednesday – Story Club

Thursday – Games and puzzles

Friday – Computing and Homework Help

Thank you to the staff who are giving up part of lunchtime to run these. With the cold weather we've had some busy days this week!

Snacks

Children in Ladybirds and Hedgehogs Classes are provided with a fruit snack at playtime through a government fruit for schools scheme.

Children in Key Stage 2 are able to bring a healthy snack for playtime but this should be **a piece of fruit**. No biscuits, sweets, cereal bars, chocolate covered raisins etc please!

Book week

The last week of this half term, 6th – 10th February, will be our Book Week in school. A separate letter was sent out today from our English Coordinator, Miss Lucas.

Our week is planned to coincide with the Bishops Stortford College Festival of Literature and we have arranged to take children from Years 2-6 to events at the college. Please look out for letters about this and return promptly. **Children will not be able to attend the visit if we have not received a reply slip.**

On Tuesday 7th February we will be having a second hand children's book sale. If you have pre-loved books that are still in good condition please bring them into school that morning and come along after school to pick up some book bargains.

Friday of that week children are invited to dress up as their favourite book character and bring their favourite book into school to share. We will have a Big Read morning where children gather in house groups to share their favourite books.

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
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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
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							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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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
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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