

Newsletter October 2023

Dear Families,

We have been back at school for around a month now and I am astonished at how much our amazing students have achieved in such a short space of time! Children have settled into their new classroom routines really well and whenever I do my daily visit to each class, I am so impressed with everyone's behaviour and focus. Playtimes have also been a joy to watch and I can see that our new Reception pupils are loving playing with the bigger children. I have seen them play an (almost) whole school game of hide and seek which looked so much fun! Small village schools really are great places to make friends for life.

Please check the dates section as some things have been updated.

Best Wishes,

Mrs Penney

Harvest

The children were amazing at the Church last Thursday, celebrating Harvest time. I thought they conveyed the important message of 'Giving Thanks' to the audience very effectively. It is mind blowing to think that our Reception children, after only 3 weeks in school, can stand up and perform a dance in a church in front of over 100 people! Wow - just think what they will be able to achieve in the future if this is their starting point. If you were able to attend and to donate items, we thank you very much. It was lovely to see so many of you there.

Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)

Please see the following notices from our SENCo, Vicky Childs:

SEND Resource Van : The SEND resource van will be in Chelmsford on Thursday 5th October 2023 1030am-1130am at Broomfield Village Hall. Parents and carers are invited to come along and find out more about local SEND services, as well as having the chance to view the range of resources we have available to support community events/ try things out during the event before buying something for home etc (e.g. weighted lap cushion/ sensory lights/ black out tent/ feeling fan cards/ story sequences/ whizzy dizzy spinners/ wobble boards etc).

SEND Roadshow : Are you the parent/carer or family member of a child with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)? Do you have questions about accessing support in your area or questions about SEND support available in Essex through Health, Education and Social Care? Would you like to link up with other parents in your area? If you do, please come along and see us at the Roadshow. There will be representatives from Essex Family Forum, SENDIASS, health, social care as well as representatives from the education teams, SEND Navigation Leads and local support groups. The roadshow is a drop-in event with no need to book. Mid Essex: Witham Public Hall, Witham on Wednesday 18th October from 9:00am to 12:30pm

Cook

We are still looking for a school cook and haven't had anyone suitable apply for the position yet. If you (or someone you know) are interested, please contact the school on 01371 850336 and speak to Mrs Coombs for an informal chat about the role.

No Outsiders Project - preparing children for life in modern Britain

We have added an extra strand to our curriculum this year, which was trialed in some year groups last year. It is a recognised and respected programme called the No Outsiders Project, which many schools use already across the country. The aim is to promote community cohesion and prepare young people for life as global citizens. It is mostly taught through stories and discussion.



MCAS APP



Please use the MCAS (My Child at School) app to pay for school dinners, Breakfast Club, Thursday Lego and Fun Club, school trips/experiences. You also need it to book parent evening appointments and One Plan (SEND) meetings. If you struggle with the app, you can also use the browser version of MCAS:

www.mychildatschool.com

Reading – it's a home/ school collaboration

Some children are still not reading at home - please help your child to reach their potential! They cannot do it without your support.

Every child needs to engage in at least one enjoyable reading activity at home with a grown-up every day, which is where they will be able to put into practise what they have learned and develop a love of books and reading. Please help your child to reach their potential by supporting them with reading at home. Thank you for your support and

How I act when I get a new book:



commitment. We are so passionate about reading at Shalford and hope you are too!

Balances

IMPORTANT MESSAGE: If you would like your child to have a school lunch, your account must be in credit. You must therefore top up in advance, using MCAS. If your account is below £0, we will call you and ask you to top up or bring in a packed lunch.

Keeping Safe Online - Essentials

As staff and parents, it is our joint responsibility to ensure we:

- have safe filtering
- have age-appropriate screentime limits
- control which websites, apps and games children have access to (making sure children are the correct age to use them)
- don't allow children to talk to others online
- teach children not to make online 'friends' that may not be who they say they are
- don't allow primary school aged children to use any Social Media sites such as Instagram and Tiktok, etc.
- supervise all use of the internet (especially Youtube!) and regularly check search history
- talk your child through any worries
- discourage any overly violent games or games that have the sole aim of 'killing' – this is really unhealthy and affects how children play and socially interact at school.

Water Bottles Reminder

All children need a water bottle in school each day and will be encouraged to drink fluids throughout the day.

Communication at drop off time

Parents are not allowed on site in the mornings. Reception children only, can be accompanied by their parent, to the low gate or door of Elm Class. All other pupils must say goodbye at the main entrance gate. Teacher email addresses are the bottom of this newsletter if you need them.

Times Tables

Please encourage your child to know their times tables off by heart. It is an essential life skill. In particular Y2, Y3 and Y4 pupils should be working towards knowing them 'off by heart' before the summer term of Y4. Children can use this fun website to practise - It's free.

[Multiplication Tables Check - 2023 - Timestables.co.uk](https://www.timestables.co.uk)

School Day and Attendance Reminders

THANK YOU if you are dropping your child off on time for school each day. Drop off time is between 8.35am and 8.45am. **If children miss the register at 8.45am, they will be marked as unauthorised/late.** Pick up time is 3.15pm outside your child's classroom.

Term-time holidays or days out cannot be authorised, so do expect a fine if you take your child out. All schools across Essex follow the same expectations. We strongly encourage you to ensure that your children have high attendance levels, otherwise they are at risk of falling

behind their peers academically and missing out on social opportunities.

If your child needs time off school for essential appointments or other reasons, you will need to fill in an absence request form and provide evidence (e.g. screenshot or copy of appointment letter). Mrs Coombs can provide you with a form. We request that you book dentist appointments and anything non urgent, outside of school hours.

Y6 parents – Secondary Schools

The closing date to apply for Secondary school places for September 2024 is 31st October 2023. Once you have decided, you can apply online here: [Secondary school places | Essex County Council](#).

Morning Snack Reminder

All children are only allowed to eat FRUIT/VEG/DRIED FRUIT at breaktimes. No cereal bars or other snacks are allowed. Elm and Ash Class (Year R, 1, 2) are provided with a free piece of fruit/veg each day.

Uniform/PE Kit Reminders

New uniform can be ordered here:

<https://sign-language-essex-ltd.myshopify.com/collections/shalford-primary-school>

For preloved stock please contact:

fosps1@yahoo.com

Please name all individual items of PE Kit and uniform.

Jewellery: very small, plain stud earrings are permitted but larger studs and hoops/dangly earrings are not permitted. **All jewellery to be removed for PE.** If children are too young or unable to take out own earrings, they should not wear them on PE/swim days.

Hair: hair must be tied back for the whole school day. We will ask children to tie their hair back when they come in with it loose.

- No trainers or sandals for school please - plain black shoes only.
- No nail varnish please.

Swimming Information

All children in Beech Class go swimming in the Spring Term (January to Easter Holidays), meaning they have approximately 12 lessons, for 2 year in a row, totalling around 24 lessons. More information will come to you nearer the time. Differing abilities will be catered for, but it is obviously much better if your child can swim a little before these lessons start, so please go ahead and book swimming lessons if it is something you are considering doing outside of school. It is so good for wellbeing and general fitness, as well as being an essential life skill.

Breakfast Club and After School Clubs

To attend Early Bird/Breakfast Club, just turn up at the black door in the carpark and ring the doorbell. There is a sibling discount which will show up on your MCAS account.

Option 1: Breakfast Club starts at 8am and includes Toast/cereal/drinks for £3.50 per day. Option 2: 'Early Bird' Club starts at 8.15am and does not include food or drink - we expect that children have eaten before they arrive. The cost for Early Bird Club is only £1.25 per day. If

a child needs to arrive before 8.15am, the price will be £3.50, regardless of whether they eat or not.

All our after-school must be booked in advance. All Clubs are available to all ages. See details for each club below:

PLACES AVAILABLE IN ALL CLUBS - YOU DO NOT NEED TO WAIT UNTIL THE BEGINNING OF A HALF TERM TO BOOK ON

Monday	Dance Club – £5 per week book on MCAS or contact Mrs Coombs
Tuesday	Martial Arts Club - £5 per week book on MCAS or contact Mrs Coombs
Wednesday	NEW netball Club £2 per week – Pay on MCAS finishes at 4pm (NO CLUB ON 22nd NOV due to staff training)
Thursday	Lego and Fun Club: run by school staff (small snack and drink included). £4.75 per session (book and pay on MCAS APP)
Friday	Football Club run by Colchester United https://colchester-united-cf.classforkids.io/info/924

Key Dates: Autumn Term 2023

- 10th October – Tours for new intake of Reception children hoping to start in September 2024 - 9.30am and 10am
- 19th October Chestnut Class Trip Duxford
- 20th Oct – Flu Vaccination
- 23-27th October 2023 School closed for half term
- 30th October 2023 Non Pupil Day
- 1st November Parents Evening 2.30-6pm
- Sunday 12th November: Choir and Chestnut Class (SAVE THE DATE) to attend a church service of Remembrance at St Andrew's Church - more details to come. Time TBC
- 17th November 2023 Wear Spotty accessories or Children in Need/Pudsey merchandise (bring £1)
- 21st Nov Elm and Ash Trip to Audley End
- 21st Nov Beech Class History day details TBC
- 24th Nov 9am-9.30am Coffee Morning in School Hall - all parents and carers welcome
- 14th December Elm and Ash Class Nativity 10.30am
- 15th December Elm and Ash Class Nativity 1.30pm
- 18th Dec 6pm Beech and Chestnut Carols-venue TBC. Piano students will also perform festive pieces.
- 19th December Xmas Dinner day and Xmas Jumper day (bring £1 for Save the Children Charity)
- 20th Dec 2023 last day (non-uniform and Christmas Craft Day)
- 21st Dec – 3rd Jan 2024 School Closed for Christmas break

More Dates...

Here are some brief details of key future dates:

- 4th January 2024 Children return to school
- 8th Jan last tours for prospective families 2pm and 2.30pm
- 10th January – swimming starts for Beech Class

- 15th Jan Y6 parents only meeting about residential PGL trip 3.15pm
- 6th Feb Parents evening 2.30-6pm
- 1st March Beech Trip to Sutton Hoo
- 19th-23rd Feb School closed for half term
- 26th Pupils back to school
- 5th March – whole school Science day
- 7th March World Book Day – wear PJs to school and bring a favourite book
- 28th March last day
- 29th March -14th April - school closed for Easter holidays
- Monday 15th April – pupils back to school
- 24th -26th April Y6 2 night residential trip
- 6th May Bank Holiday
- 10th May 9-9.30 coffee morning – all welcome
- 13th -16th May KS2 SATs exams for Y6
- 21st May FAB Science experience morning (at a small cost to parents- more details nearer the time)
- 27th -31st May school closed for half term
- 3rd June back to school
- 5th July Sports Day 10am start. Family Picnic 12-1pm
- 10th July KS2 Production 1.30 and 6pm
- 11th July informal parents evening (no appointments) 3.15-4pm
- 12th July Annual reports come home
- 16th July Meet the new teacher morning plus new Reception pupils to visit
- 19th July Non Uniform day (bring £1 for FOSPS) and last day for pupils
- 22nd and 23rd July Non Pupil Days
- 24th July Summer holidays begin (first day back in Sept 2024 TBC)

*Please note - More details, dates and FOSPS events will be added throughout the year, so check the 'dates' section each month when the new newsletter comes out. *

Contacts:

Executive Head: kharrison@compassps.uk

Head of school: jpenney@compassps.uk

SENCo: vchilds@compassps.uk

School office: sfcontact@compassps.uk

Teachers:

klocke@compassps.uk

nhinton@compassps.uk

kbarford@compassps.uk

aneave@compassps.uk