

### Newsletter November 2023

Dear Families,

Welcome back – I hope you all had an enjoyable half term break. The children worked so hard before half term, so I really hope they had a good rest. We are now moving to Autumn/Winter Uniform so please put away the gingham dresses! The Autumn is a lovely time for the children – we always have a lot of beautiful colours to look at, in and around the school, as we begin to get ready for the festive period. Mrs Tabor and I have already been discussing Christmas songs for the concert believe it or not!

Looking forward to seeing you all.

Best Wishes,

*Mrs Penney*

#### Photos

Individual/Sibling Photos will be taken this Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> November.

#### Scarecrow Trail

Many thanks to the lovely people at FOSPs for organising the scarecrow trail. Did your family take part or make a scarecrow? We hope you had fun if you did. Well done to Elm Class who made a wonderful Scarecrow.

#### Reading – it's a home/ school collaboration

**A massive thank you! We have noticed more children reading at home and parents signing the reading diaries. This will be one of the biggest and most important gifts you can give to your child. They will thank you for it one day, I promise (probably when they are teaching their own child to read!). Keep going!**

#### 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. In the meantime, we continue to be supported by staff from other schools in the Trust.

#### Parents Evening

Our first parents evening of the academic year is coming up on Wednesday (1<sup>st</sup> November). Please book your 10 minute slot, either using MCAS, or by contacting Mrs Coombs, although I am certain most of you have done this by now. We do advise that you bring your child with you, so all parties can discuss progress in an honest and open way. Books will be in the hall for you to look at while you wait for your appointment or alternatively, you can look at the books after the appointment. Please do not take the books home with you as they are needed in school.

#### Governors

We have a really good team of governors who monitor various aspects of school life and we are looking to expand. The current team is made up of staff at John Ray Junior School and Shalford, as well as some parents/carers and a few local people with different backgrounds too. We would like at least one more parent governor from Shalford to join the team. You will

need to commit to four meetings per year, complete monitoring visits to each school per year and be able to provide reports and feedback after each visit. Training is given to all new governors. Please contact Mrs Karen Harrison if you are interested in becoming a governor ([kharrison@compassps.uk](mailto:kharrison@compassps.uk)).

#### 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](http://www.mychildatschool.com)

#### 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 Children 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 violent games -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 to contact them about anything.

### \*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

It is the law that parents bring their children to school every day and ensure that they are on time and prepared for their day. Days off/days out/holidays are increasing and we really need to work hard to improve our attendance. I cannot authorize any time out of school, unless there is a genuine reason, with evidence provided (e.g. an impossible to move medical appointment with a letter as proof). Do expect letters from the attendance officer, a fine and possibly even legal action if you take your child out during term time.

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.

THANK YOU so much 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.

If your child needs time off school for essential appointments or other reasons, you will need to fill in an absence request form 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 DEADLINE

The closing date to apply for Secondary school places for September 2024 is 31st October 2023 - apply online here: [Secondary school places | Essex County Council](https://www.essex.gov.uk/secondary-school-places).

### 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:

[fosp1@yahoo.com](mailto:fosp1@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 will 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. Different 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

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

### Key Dates: Autumn Term 2023

- 1<sup>st</sup> November Parents Evening 2.30-6pm
- 3<sup>rd</sup> November individual/sibling photos
- Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> November: Choir and Chestnut Class church service of Remembrance at St Andrew's Church at 10.25am.
- 17<sup>th</sup> November 2023 Wear Spotty accessories or Children in Need/Pudsey merchandise (bring

£1). Wear uniform, along with the accessories. Pudsey T shirts are fine but not essential.

- 21<sup>st</sup> Nov Elm and Ash Trip to Audley End
- 21<sup>st</sup> Nov Beech Class History day
- 24<sup>th</sup> Nov 9am-9.30am Coffee Morning in School Hall - all parents and carers welcome
- 14<sup>th</sup> December Elm and Ash Class Nativity 10.30am
- 15<sup>th</sup> December Elm and Ash Class Nativity 1.30pm
- 18<sup>th</sup> Dec 6pm Beech and Chestnut Carols-venue TBC. Piano students will also perform festive pieces.
- 19<sup>th</sup> December Xmas Dinner day and Xmas Jumper day (bring £1 for Save the Children Charity)
- 20<sup>th</sup> Dec 2023 last day (non-uniform and Christmas Craft Day)
- 21<sup>st</sup> Dec – 3<sup>rd</sup> Jan 2024 School Closed for Christmas break

### More Dates...

Here are some brief details of key future dates:

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

section each month when the new newsletter comes out. \*

### Contacts:

Executive Head: [kharrison@compassps.uk](mailto:kharrison@compassps.uk)

Head of school: [jpenney@compassps.uk](mailto:jpenney@compassps.uk)

SENCo: [vchilds@compassps.uk](mailto:vchilds@compassps.uk)

School office: [sfcontact@compassps.uk](mailto:sfcontact@compassps.uk)

Teachers:

[klocke@compassps.uk](mailto:klocke@compassps.uk)

[nhinton@compassps.uk](mailto:nhinton@compassps.uk)

[kbarford@compassps.uk](mailto:kbarford@compassps.uk)

[aneave@compassps.uk](mailto:aneave@compassps.uk)

*\*Please note - More details, dates and FOSPS events will be added throughout the year, so check the 'dates'*