

# School News

## A MESSAGE FROM THE SENIOR LEADERSHIP TEAM

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been a busy week in the run up to the half-term break. Children and teachers have been working hard and there has been a positive learning atmosphere across the school.

### Keeping safe online

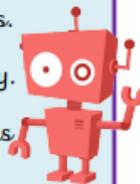
We have had a number of concerns raised by children and parents around the use of WhatsApp. Please be vigilant with your children's access to devices and be mindful of the age restrictions applied to apps like WhatsApp. Children under 16 should not be using this platform.

[Thinkuknow](#) - for advice from the National Crime Agency to stay safe online

[UK Safer Internet Centre](#) - advice for parents and carers

#### **Online Research Tips**

- 1) Make your keywords as precise as possible. If you're looking for information on a Tyrannosaurus Rex, don't type in "dinosaurs".
- 2) Use two or more keywords in your search, but put the most important keywords first. For example, if you wanted information about what the T-Rex ate, you might use the following keywords in this order - Tyrannosaurus Rex diet. The search engine will look for web pages that contain all of these words.
- 3) Make sure you spell the keywords correctly.
- 4) Use a child-friendly search engine, such as [Kiddle](#).
- 5) Include the words - '**for kids**' - to help make the results more age appropriate.



Keeping a healthy dialogue with children about their online activity and a degree of monitoring, especially on messaging sites, and setting clear boundaries is the best way of keeping your child safe.



Minimum age requirements for apps:  
 WhatsApp - 16  
 TikTok - 13  
 Facebook - 13  
 Snapchat - 13  
 Instagram - 13  
 Skype - 13

*These applications have age limits in place to keep users safe, and protect younger users from inappropriate contact and content.*

### Year 6 SATs practice week

The year 6 children and staff have been working hard this week to prepare for their SATs exams in May. The children experienced a 'SATs like' week, learning about the routines and procedures of the tests so that they can be fully prepared for the real thing in May.

We wish you all a relaxing and enjoyable half-term break,

The Leadership Team

# Upcoming Events

## WORLD **BOOK DAY**<sup>®</sup>

7 MARCH 2024

### World Book Day

We will be celebrating World Book Day on the 7<sup>th</sup> of March. Pupils may come as a book character of their choice. Throughout the day the pupils will celebrate books through joining in with games designed by our Reading Ambassadors.

### Comic Relief

On Friday 15<sup>th</sup> of March pupils are invited to wear red to school in support of Comic Relief.

# COMIC RELIEF



# SEND in Focus



**Is your child struggling with learning or behaviour at school?**



**Are you concerned about your child's development?**

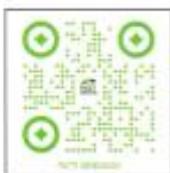


**Would you like information, advice or guidance about Special Educational Needs?**



**Do you want to know what's going on in Thurrock for SEND families?**

**PATT SENDIASS provide free, confidential, and impartial information, advice, and support to children and young people (up to 25 years) and their parents and carers, in relation to Special Educational Needs and Disability.**



**VISIT OUR WEBSITE [WWW.PATT.ORG.UK](http://WWW.PATT.ORG.UK)  
CALL OR TEXT 07702 127 252**



# SEND in Focus

## Local Information, Advice, and Support Organisations

1

### Thurrock Carers Service

Provides information, advice, and support for unpaid carers of residents of Thurrock

01375 659 172

[carers@tbmind.org.uk](mailto:carers@tbmind.org.uk)

Facebook: Thurrock Carers

### Thurrock and Brentwood Mind

Offer counselling and groupwork, IAPT and Recovery College, wellbeing activities and more

[www.thurrockandbrentwoodmind.org.uk](http://www.thurrockandbrentwoodmind.org.uk)

01375 391 411

[reception@tbmind.org.uk](mailto:reception@tbmind.org.uk)

### Citizens Advice South Essex

Provide free, confidential, and impartial advice on issues including money, housing, and employment

[www.citizensadvice.org.uk/local/south-essex](http://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/local/south-essex)

Telephone: 0808 278 7877

### Thurrock Food Bank

In order to get help from a food bank you will need to be referred with a voucher, which can be issued by a number of local community organisations for instance, schools, GPs, and advice agencies

[www.thurrock.foodbank.org.uk](http://www.thurrock.foodbank.org.uk)

[info@thurrock.foodbank.org.uk](mailto:info@thurrock.foodbank.org.uk)

### Community Pantries

There are Community Fridges and Pantries across Thurrock run by various voluntary organisations. Community pantries are designed to eliminate food waste and are not meant as a substitute for the food bank.

There are community fridges/pantries in the following locations:

**Purfleet-on-Thames Community Hub; Aveley Community Hub; Tilbury Hub; The Beehive, Grays;**

**Friends of Hardie Park, Stanford-Le-Hope; East Tilbury Library**

For further details and opening times:

[www.strongertogetherthurrock.org.uk/new-food-network-page/](http://www.strongertogetherthurrock.org.uk/new-food-network-page/)

### Thurrock Healthwatch

are the independent champion for people who use health and social care services in Thurrock.

Their purpose is to understand the needs, experiences and concerns of people who use health and social care services and to speak out on their behalf.

[www.healthwatchthurrock.org](http://www.healthwatchthurrock.org)

01375 389 883

[admin@healthwatchthurrock.org](mailto:admin@healthwatchthurrock.org)

### Open Door

Housing Advice and Support Service (HASS)

give general and specialist housing advice, homelessness information and signposting to supported housing projects in the Thurrock area.

We also provide help with form filling for those who have difficulty with completing benefit applications and housing registration forms etc

[www.opendoorthurrock.co.uk](http://www.opendoorthurrock.co.uk)

01375 390 849

### Thurrock LGBTQ+ Network

We are Thurrock's LGBTQ+ community network, open to all who identify as LGBTQ+. Friends and allies are welcome too.

[thurrocklgbtqnetwork@gmail.com](mailto:thurrocklgbtqnetwork@gmail.com)

Facebook: Thurrock LGBTQ+ Network

### Thurrock Transport

Bus Pass

[www.thurrock.gov.uk/bus-passes/applying-for-your-bus-pass](http://www.thurrock.gov.uk/bus-passes/applying-for-your-bus-pass)

Thurrock Blue Badge Scheme

[www.thurrock.gov.uk/.../blue-badge-disabled-parking-scheme](http://www.thurrock.gov.uk/.../blue-badge-disabled-parking-scheme)

### TRUP

The Re-Use Partnership is a Thurrock based charity with a wide range of good quality pre-loved furniture and household items for sale at affordable prices.

[www.trup.org.uk](http://www.trup.org.uk)

01375 846 702

### We Are Family

An adoption support family. Rather than offering advice we offer community.

Contact Nicole at

[thurrock@wearefamilyadoption.org.uk](mailto:thurrock@wearefamilyadoption.org.uk)

### Local Area Coordination (LAC)

Local Area Coordinators support people who may feel vulnerable due to age, frailty, disability, or mental health needs. They will take time to get to know you, those closest to you, and your community.

[localareacoordination@thurrock.gov.uk](mailto:localareacoordination@thurrock.gov.uk)





# SEND in Focus

## Local & National SEND information, advice, and support organisations

### Parent Advisory Team Thurrock (PATT SENDIASS)

PATT provide free, confidential, and impartial information, advice and support to young people, and parents/carers of children, with special educational needs 0-25.

[www.patt.org.uk](http://www.patt.org.uk)

07702 127 252

[info@patt.org.uk](mailto:info@patt.org.uk)

Facebook: PATT SENDIASS  
PATT ADHD Support

### BATIAS

BATIAS provides advocacy to people with learning disabilities and also supports young people and adults with physical and sensory impairments, complex needs, and behaviours that challenge.

[www.batias.com](http://www.batias.com)

01375 389869

[batias.grays@batias.com](mailto:batias.grays@batias.com)

Facebook: BATIAS Grays

### Thurrock Centre for Independent Living (TCIL)

Information, support, advice, and advocacy for disabled people on a range of issues including radar keys, access to services, equipment, benefits, form filling and Lasting Power of Attorney

[www.tcil.org.uk](http://www.tcil.org.uk)

01375 389 864

[admin@tcil.org.uk](mailto:admin@tcil.org.uk)

### SNAP (special needs and parents)

SNAP is a charity for families from Essex, Thurrock and Southend who have any additional need or disability.

SNAP's aims are to inform, encourage and support parents so that they can grow in strength and knowledge and become better equipped to give the best possible help to their children.

[www.snapcharity.org](http://www.snapcharity.org)

Helpline: 01277 211 300

[info@snapcharity.org](mailto:info@snapcharity.org)

Facebook: SNAP Charity

### Thurrock Transport

#### Bus Pass

[www.thurrock.gov.uk/bus-passes/applying-for-your-bus-pass](http://www.thurrock.gov.uk/bus-passes/applying-for-your-bus-pass)

#### Thurrock Blue Badge Scheme

[www.thurrock.gov.uk/.../blue-badge-disabled-parking-scheme](http://www.thurrock.gov.uk/.../blue-badge-disabled-parking-scheme)

### DIAL

Disablement Information & Advice Line  
Support with benefits and form filling

[www.dialsouthessex.co.uk](http://www.dialsouthessex.co.uk)

0333 366 1045

[enquires@dialsouthessex.co.uk](mailto:enquires@dialsouthessex.co.uk)

### Thurrock lifestyle solutions (TLS) 18 +

Day opportunities, short breaks, provision of PA's, transition houses, independent living, Liam's nightclub, supported employment, TACT programme

[www.choiceandcontrol.co.uk](http://www.choiceandcontrol.co.uk)

01375 370 460

E-mail: [info@choiceandcontrol.co.uk](mailto:info@choiceandcontrol.co.uk)

Facebook: Thurrock Lifestyle Solutions

### IPSEA

IPSEA offers free and independent legally based information, advice and support to help get the right education for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities.

Book helpline calls via the website

[www.ipsea.org.uk](http://www.ipsea.org.uk)

### Sky Badger

Online resource for families with disabled children covering health, education, benefits, finance, legal and support.

[www.skybadger.co.uk](http://www.skybadger.co.uk)

### National Autistic Society Thurrock (NAS)

Support group for families with autistic children. Regular events for parents and holiday activities for families

07795 252 480

[nasthurrock.group@nas.org.uk](mailto:nasthurrock.group@nas.org.uk)

Facebook: NAS Thurrock

### Contact

Website has comprehensive directory of medical conditions and associated support groups. They have a listening ear service and provide training for parents and professionals.

Book listening ear and telephone advice calls via the website

[www.contact.org.uk](http://www.contact.org.uk)

### Shining Stars

Support group for families with Downs Syndrome.  
Regular meet ups and events for families.

07903 081 572 or 07901 866 613

Email: [white0504@gmail.com](mailto:white0504@gmail.com)

Facebook: Shining Stars

### Thurrock SEND Family Forum

A voice for parents

We aim to be an active voice in promoting disability equality and challenging discrimination on all levels within the borough. We aim to actively challenge Thurrock council and health to influence better outcomes for the families in Thurrock.

[www.thurrocksendfamilyforum.org](http://www.thurrocksendfamilyforum.org)

Facebook: Thurrock SEND Family Forum

### The Local Offer Thurrock

The Local Offer aims to provide clear, comprehensive, and accessible information about what services and provisions are available in Thurrock for parents and young people.

[www.askthurrock.org.uk](http://www.askthurrock.org.uk)





# SEND in Focus

## ReThink ReCreate ReCycle

Open to all young people aged 5-16 with SEND

**Competition opens:**  
22nd January 2024  
**Competition closes:**  
28th March 2024



Take a plunge into the world of recycling like never before. It's not just about bins and bottles; it's about turning everyday items into extraordinary creations and give them a new lease on life.

We want to see your innovative minds at work, turning old items into mind-blowing masterpieces.

### HOW TO ENTER

- Collect the items you want to recycle and transform these finds into a mind-blowing creation.
- Take a photo of your masterpiece, and in a paragraph, share the inspiration behind your creation while highlighting the materials you recycled.

Email it to [QASEND@thurrock.gov.uk](mailto:QASEND@thurrock.gov.uk)  
Remember to include your name, age, year group and current school setting.



### THINK ABOUT:

What message does your creation convey about recycling?

How did you recycle materials to create something new and exciting?

How can your creation inspire others to join the movement?

# Important Information



**FREE School Uniform**  
free for everyone,  
no referral needed!

**Events**

**Fridays**  
3 - 4.30pm

19th January  
16th February  
15th March  
19th April  
17th May  
21st June

**Saturdays**  
10 - 11.30am

20th January  
17th February  
16th March  
20th April  
18th May  
22nd June

**Community Church Chadwell St Mary**  
Defoe Parade (enter from Brentwood Road)  
RM16 4QR

**Save the planet 🌍, and your pennies 💰!**  
**Hundreds of items in stock:**

- Polo shirts
- Shirts & blouses
- Skirts
- Trousers
- Socks
- Pinafore dresses
- Jumpers & cardigans
- Blazers & ties
- PE kit incl football socks
- Plimsolls
- Black shoes
- Coats

Clean, good condition school uniform donations accepted when space allows. Please check our facebook page to see if we are currently collecting. Search facebook for "The 180 Project"

An event run by The 180 Project, part of Community Church  
Registered charity no. 1062301. Tel: 01375 484 101

We have a very limited stock of uniform due to our uniform store being in the RAAC area of the school. If you are in need of uniform please visit the 180 project at the Community Church in Chadwell St Mary.

If your child has an injury and has been given medical advice that we need to follow as a school, please bring them to the school office for 8.15am on their first day back at school following the injury so that we can complete a risk assessment. Thank you for your cooperation.

## Absence

If your child is too ill to attend school, this must be reported to us by no later than **9.00am**. Please telephone the school, press one and leave a message on the voicemail box stating your child's full name, class, the reason for absence and when we can expect them to return to school (if known).

Home Visits will be carried out for any child that is absent for 3 or more school days without reason.

# We need you



If you are collecting Year 1 or 2 pupils from the school playground, please go back out of the blue gate you came onto the playground through rather than waiting on the inside of the Key Stage 2 silver gate.

Thank you

Please label all children's school uniform. This helps us return lost property to the correct child and prevents parents from having to replace missing uniform as often. This is particularly important as the weather is cold and children are wearing jumpers/cardigans to school.

We need some additional Lego for our pupils to play with. If you have any at home, that you no longer need, donations will gratefully be accepted via the school office.

Thank you



Please be reminded that pupils should not be wearing jewellery to school. Children with pierced ears may wear stud earrings but hoops are not permitted.

Thank you for your support

Please ensure your child has a PE kit in school at all times. If you need support providing this, please contact Mrs Jarvis or Mrs Allen via the school office.

We are continually updating our OPAL resources and would gladly accept donations of:

- Dolls buggies & prams
- Dolly's
- Buckets & Spades
- Scooters
- Dressing up clothes



# Diary Dates

19th – 23rd February 2024	Half Term
w/b 24 <sup>th</sup> February 2024	Clubs restart
27 <sup>th</sup> & 28 <sup>th</sup> February 2024	Reception Hearing, vision, height and weight check
Thursday 7th March 2024	World Book Day
Monday 11th – Friday 15th March 2024	Science Week
Friday 15th March 2024	Reception Parent Workshop and stay and play
Friday 15th March 2024	Comic Relief/Red Nose Day – Wear red to school
Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> March 2024	Curriculum enrichment day 22 <sup>nd</sup> Friday
Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> March 2024	Bank Holiday – No school
Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> April – Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> April 2024	Easter Break
Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> April 2024	Pupils Return to School

# Do you need support?



## East Tilbury Primary Schools Online Pastoral Support.

We are very excited to launch our new Pastoral service to our school community. From today you can access support by completing a simple and quick online form.

We have been working hard over the last few months to set up extra support for our families which is very much needed at this challenging time. If you require support, then please do not hesitate to reach out. We are hoping this service will be a fantastic addition to the support we can provide for our school community. Please reach out if you need anything, we are always here to offer you support.

To make the process simple we have created a QR Code (at the top of the poster) which you can just scan, and this will take you directly to the form.

## WE CAN HELP WITH

- Food
- Wellbeing
- Trip Payments

## FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT:

[www.easttilburyprimary.thurrock.sch.uk](http://www.easttilburyprimary.thurrock.sch.uk)

Our school uniform shop is currently closed due to our stock room being affected by RAAC. If you need support with school uniform please visit the 180 project in Chadwell St Mary.

[mycommunitychurch.org.uk/community/projects](http://mycommunitychurch.org.uk/community/projects)

The next Non-Uniform day is on Thursday  
28<sup>th</sup> March 2024



# Non-School Uniform Day

To support our daily biscuit time, we will be holding a non-uniform day on the last day of each half term.

For this day we are asking for a small voluntary donation or a packet of plain digestive biscuits.

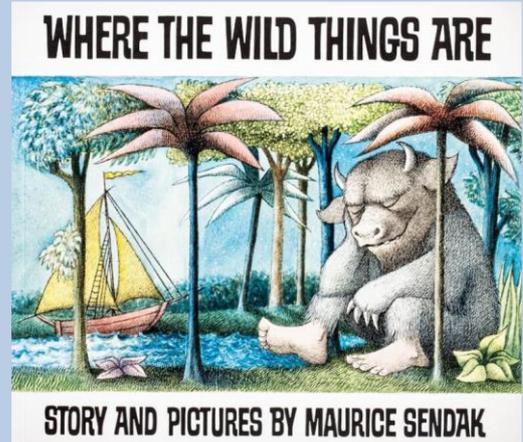
Dates for these events each half term can be found on the weekly newsletter.



# Class News

## Reception

This week in Reception we have been reading *Where the Wild Things Are* by Maurice Sendak. In Literacy we have been using our known sounds to write short sentences and phrases in a narrative style. We have enjoyed going for a walk through an imaginary forest as well as having a dance parade! We have used our creative skills this week to create our own wild things and created different boats for Max and the Wild things! In Maths we have been deepening our learning of 6,7 and 8 and started to look at length, where we have been comparing items and using vocabulary such as longer and shorter.

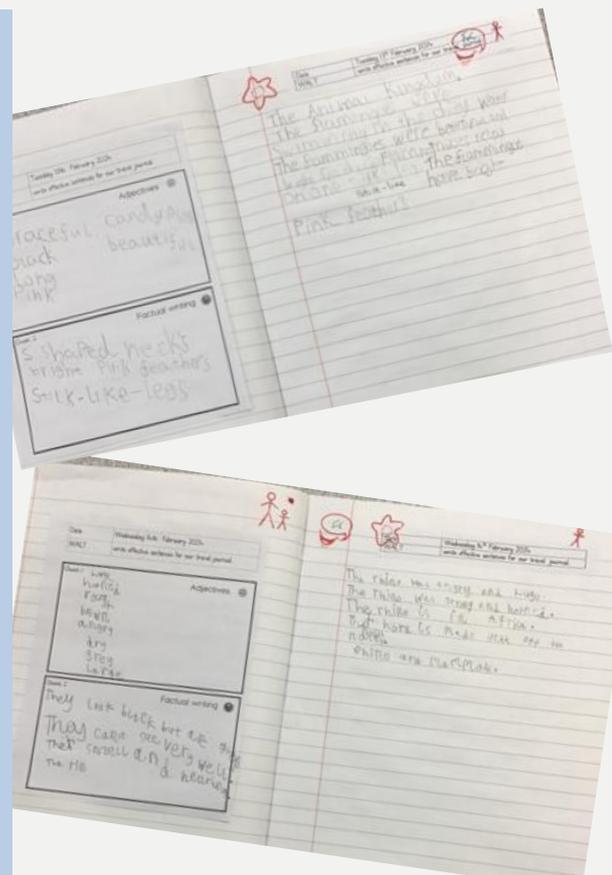


Here are some of our wild thing masks from this week:



## Year One

In English this week, Year 1 have been focusing on writing their own travel journal about Africa. We started the week by having an experience day! We enjoyed using the iPads and information sheets to find out information about different Safari animals, such as lions, giraffes and tigers. We learnt some interesting facts about lots of different Safari animals and shared their information with the whole class. From the research, the children focused on flamingos and rhinos using a range of adjectives to describe these animals.



# Class News

## Year Two

Last Friday was our enrichment day. This is a day where we can develop our life skills further by solving problems, thinking critically and creatively, communicate effectively, build healthy relationships and work as a team or as a leader. For our enrichment day, we developed these skills by working in pairs to research an astronaut of our choice on an iPad. Once we had gathered all the information needed, we created a poster all about their life, how they became an astronaut and the journeys they travelled in space. We thoroughly enjoyed working as a team and being creative and we think our posters look great!



## Year Three

This week in Year 3 we have been incredibly busy focusing on traditional tales, inspired by Julia Donaldson's *The Magic Paintbrush*. Pupils were able to develop their ideas from their plans to create a new magical item and apply features such as dialogue, similes and time adverbials. In maths, we are looking at sharing and division. We practiced division with and without reminders and then went on to learn the bus stop method of division.

In Science, we have come to the end of our unit of Animals including Humans. Pupils revised the different types of skeletons, the benefits of exercise and a healthy lifestyle, the food groups and their benefits, and examples of vertebrates and invertebrates. Through a quiz format and class discussion, pupils were able to reflect on what they had learned the past 6 weeks. In Computing, we continued expanding on our skills in Scratch and focused on programming a musical sprite to create sounds. Their aim was to identify and implement their algorithm as a working code and debugging their algorithms if necessary. Creatively, pupils were able to plan and create their Roman theme shield designs in preparation for the next enrichment day on 22.03.2024.

As always, we encourage pupils to try to access the home learning platforms such as TTRS, MyMaths (when work is set, Google classroom is to revise spellings or Active learn (Bug Club) for online reading books. Login details are located at the front of their reading records, alternatively pupils can get a physical reading book from their bookcases in class; any queries please feel free to speak to any member of the Year 3 team. We wish you all a wonderful half term.

# Class News

## Year Four

This half term, Year 4 has been diving into geography, focusing on earthquakes, volcanoes, and rocks.

We've been learning some interesting stuff this week – did you know that petrology is all about rocks? Geologists are like detectives, studying rock cycles to figure out how our Earth changes over time. Rocks aren't just lumps of stuff – they're like treasure chests full of clues. Fossils in rocks give us a sneak peek into what life was like on Earth way back when. Heat and pressure are like rock magicians – they can totally change the way rocks look and act. Thanks to a visit from the British Geological Survey, we got to see how petrologists use powerful microscopes to reveal more rock secrets.

Rocks aren't just boring old stones. They're like nature's little helpers, hiding oil, gas, metals for making batteries, and minerals for green energy stuff like solar panels and wind turbines. Some rocks even keep homes warm with geothermal heat!

Before we hit the playground for our rock hunt, we learned all about the rock cycle and how to spot different kinds of rocks – like metamorphic, sedimentary, and igneous ones. As you can see, whilst it may have been a little muddy, we had a rockin' time!

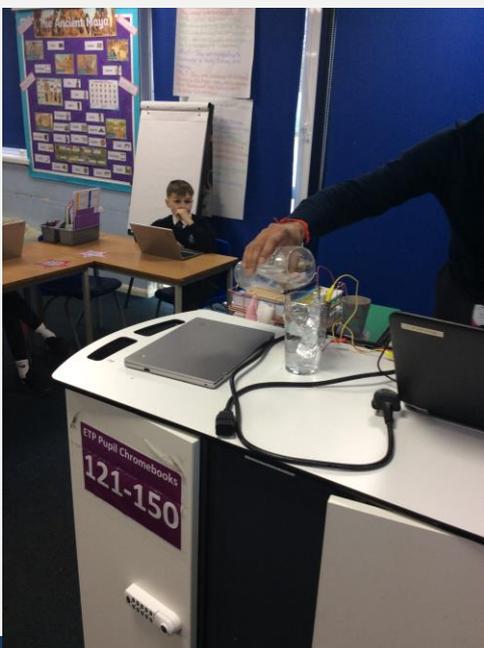


## Year Five

This week we have been looking at decimals in maths, using our prior knowledge of fractions to help us to convert them whilst learning the relationships between them.

Our computing sessions, using the micro:bits, have continued and this week, working as a class, we linked together to show how electricity passes through a circuit. When creating a break in the circuit, we were then able to explain what would happen to the electricity and how this would impact on the output. We were able to see the micro:bits work in an experiment-based task. We used crocodile clips, tin foil and water to create a warning system, this sounded an alert when flooding occurs. We were then able to experiment with the programming side; creating commands to make different warning signals, involving flashing lights and sounds. We are looking forward to continuing this into the next half term.

Our space topic began this week, with an introduction to our solar system. We looked at the different planets and learnt some very amusing mnemonics to remember the planets in order from the sun. We were shocked to find out that some planets have more than one moon!



# Class News

## Year Six

This week pupils have been working especially hard during their Mock SATs tests. The children have been able to experience what the real SATs week will be like. The aim of this week is to ensure children are in the best groups to support them, and to prepare them as much as possible for SATs.

### Science:

This week children have had lots of fun in their science lesson; learning all about blood! After learning about the different cells that are in blood, the children participated in some role play, acting as different blood cells, to fully understand their roles. Some children acted as plasma and helped other children move around the classroom; some acted as red blood cells, delivering resources (oxygen) to other classes; some were white blood cells, preventing classroom invaders (germs) from entering; and others were platelets; repairing damage (clotting the blood).

After this, the children got to make a model of blood, using food! They used yellow-coloured water to represent plasma, red-coloured Cheerios to represent red blood cells, a white marshmallow to represent white blood cells, and a pink marshmallow to represent platelets. The children estimated how much of each food to put into their models, based on the percentages of each cell type in blood.





# Reach for the Stars



Our 'Stars of the Week' are the children that have gone over and above in their efforts. We are very proud of them for their achievements and thought they deserved an extra-special mention!

RJG	Teddie	For independently writing cvc words.
REC	Carter	For his positive attitude to his learning.
RES	Rosie	For always having a positive attitude.
1GC	Harry	For having a positive attitude and working really hard in English.
1FK	Matthew	For consistently being a positive role model for his peers.
	Ronnie	For being a kind friend and also having a positive attitude towards his learning.
1BA	Cooper	For consistently demonstrating his best effort in all lessons.
2BG	Abdul	For his excellent effort in his maths work this week.
2RS	Mollie	For her excellent effort in History this week.
2CH	Elizabeth	For trying really hard with her reading.
2RM	Noah S	For a brilliant start to his writing about Neil Armstrong.
3VP	Taliah B	For an impressive narrative based upon 'The Magic Paintbrush'.
3ML	Frankie P	For demonstrating self-responsibility across all areas of the curriculum.
3SG	Isla-Rose F	Increased confidence when self-assessing her work.
3SA	Luke T	For achieving over and above expectations in his independent writing.
4CP	Sonny S	For always working hard and confidently sharing his work.
4NM	Isabella	For her continuous efforts to improve her times table knowledge as well as her fantastic ideas during sentence stacking lessons.
4JP	Teddy	For making a great effort with his learning both in school and at home.
5AB	Deb O-D	For having a positive attitude in all lessons.
5TH	Niamh	For showing good reasoning skills in maths.
5MR	Keanu	For being a positive role model to all and logging in to complete schoolwork, even when he was off sick.
6LC	Suttishai N	For creating an outstanding piece of artwork.
6NB	Amber D	For creating an outstanding piece of artwork.
6JM	Mia S	For creating an outstanding piece of artwork.



# Maths Marvels



All pupils at East Tilbury Primary have logins for Times Tables Rockstars and are able to log on at home to practice their times tables.

11th February - 16th February 2024



6JM

463

6NB

176

6LC

57

11th February - 16th February 2024



5MR

6

5TH

2

5AB

0

11th February - 16th February 2024



3SG

101

3ML

54

3SA

36

3VP

15

11th February - 16th February 2024



2BG

6

2RS

5

2RM

0

2CH

0

11th February - 16th February 2024



4NM

194

4CP

91

4JP

6

## Keep in Touch



Our school office is open to receive calls between 8:30am and 3pm.

Tel: 01375 846181

Email: [office.etp@osborn.e.coop](mailto:office.etp@osborn.e.coop)

East Tilbury Primary School

Princess Margaret Road  
East Tilbury, Essex, RM18 0EP



We are also regularly updating our Facebook page and Twitter feed. Log on and have a look!



Twitter:  
[@EastTPrimary](https://twitter.com/EastTPrimary)



At East Tilbury Primary School our Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSL) are:

- Mrs Bates
- Mrs Dawson

Due to the size of the school, we have the following designated staff who can deputise in the Headteacher's absence:

- Mr Gowland
- Mrs Jarvis
- Mrs Mylam
- Mrs Allen
- Mrs Sheridan

Pupils can contact any of our Safeguarding Team during the school day.

Worried about a child? You can phone or write to MASH about your concerns. Phone immediately if you believe it is urgent.

Thurrock MASH (Multi Agency Safeguarding hub), Civic Offices, New Road, Grays, Essex, RM17 6SL, Tel: 01375 652802.

Emergency Duty Team (for out of hours) 01375 372468. · Police Child Abuse Investigation Team 01277 266822 or call 999 if you are concerned a child needs immediate protection. · Childline 0800 11 11 [www.childline.org.uk](http://www.childline.org.uk) · NSPCC 0808 800 5000

[www.nspcc.org.uk](http://www.nspcc.org.uk); [www.facebook.com/nspcc](https://www.facebook.com/nspcc)



**Tues 14:00-16:00:** St. Mary's Church hall, St. Mary's Church, Dock Rd, Grays, RM17 6EX.

**Tues 11:00-13:00:** St. John the Baptist Church, Tilbury, Dock Road, Tilbury, RM18 7PP

**Weds 11:00-13:00:** Gateway People's Centre, High Street, Stanford Le Hope, Essex, SS17 0EY

**Weds 13:00 -14:30:** Sockets Heath Baptist Church, Premier Avenue, Grays, RM16 2SB

**Thurs 11:00-13:00:** St. Francis Centre, Somerset Rd, Linford, SS17 0QA

**Thurs 11:00-13:00:** All Saints Church of England, Foyle Drive, Sth Ockendon, RM15 5HF

**Fri 10:12:00:** St. Stephen's Church of England, London Rd, Purfleet, RM19 1QD

**Sat 09:30-11:30:** Emmanuel Church of England, Sleepers Farm Rd, Chadwell St. Mary, RM16 4TP

**Sat 10:00-12:00:** All Saints Church of England, Foyle Drive, Sth Ockendon, RM15 5HF

**Sat 10:00-12:00:** Christian Gates of Praise International Christian Centre, 79-83 London Rd, RM175YF

# What Parents & Carers Need to Know about ONLINE DATING & RELATIONSHIPS

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Most online dating apps claim to be for over-18s only but, in some cases, relaxed age verification also allows children to access them. What's more, some popular social media platforms use similar design features to many dating sites – blurring the line between why a young person initially downloads an app and what they *actually* end up using it for.

## ONLINE GROOMING

Online grooming is when someone forms a connection with a child in the digital world and carefully cultivates this relationship with the intention of manipulating the child into doing something sexual or illegal. The process involves gaining the young person's confidence – which can make them far less likely to tell a trusted adult about their new online 'friend', or to recognise what is even happening.

## WEBCAM BLACKMAIL

Some young people have been coaxed into getting nude or semi-nude on a video chat with someone they met on a dating platform. They're then told that, unless they hand over a certain amount of money, a recording of the video will be posted online (or possibly sent to their contacts). This can be hugely traumatic for a young person and, in extreme cases, has resulted in self-harm and even suicide.

## DAMAGE TO SELF ESTEEM

Many dating platforms encourage users to rate the images that people upload; this has clear potential to negatively impact a young person's self esteem. On some apps, pictures of a user's face and body can be rated anonymously, with notifications informing them if someone has then declined to match with them. This form of rejection can feel extremely hurtful and degrading.

## CATFISHING AND SCAMS

Creating a false identity to deliberately lure people into a relationship (whether romantic or platonic) online is known as catfishing. Commonly, someone pretends to share interests or beliefs with their victim and gradually gains their trust. A young person's feelings for this fake 'friend' may cloud their judgement and can lead to them surrendering money, personal images, passwords and so on.

## STALKING AND HARASSMENT

Stalking is obsessive behaviour by a fixated individual which disrupts their victim's life; it can bring severe distress and even the fear of violence. There have been frequent reports of stalking cases that originated on dating apps, with perpetrators creating new accounts in response to being reported or blocked. It's a particular cause for concern if a young person has ever given out personal details (such as their street or school name) online.

## Advice for Parents & Carers

### KEEP THE CONVERSATION GOING

Reassure your child that they can always talk to you about anything online that's worried them. Emphasise that if they're being sent unwanted images – or if they've shared images or video content themselves – they should tell you straight away. Discuss the potential risks of online dating and check in with them frequently to ensure that they're feeling comfortable about their online relationships.

### TAKE A 'SAFETY FIRST' STANDPOINT

Encourage young people to be careful about who they send invitations to – and accept them from – on dating sites and apps. Familiarise yourself with how to adjust the privacy settings on your child's devices and apps to help them control who can access their profiles and information. Talk to your child about why it's unwise to share any sensitive, private or confidential information in their profile.

### PROTECT CONTACT DETAILS

If a young person is interested in using online dating sites or apps, strongly encourage them to choose one that offers the facility to conceal both parties' email addresses when messaging prospective dates. If that's not possible, ensure that the young person sets up a separate email address which doesn't include their real name. This is easy to do via providers like Hotmail, Yahoo! Mail or gmail.

### HIGHLIGHT COMMON DANGER SIGNS

Talk to your child about some of the obvious red flags in online dating: requests for money, for instance, should always ring alarm bells. Likewise, if a young person is in contact with someone who they feel is pressuring them into providing personal or financial information – or who they suspect is trying to trick them into it – they should end communication immediately and contact the dating service provider.

## Meet Our Expert

Rebecca Jennings has more than 20 years' experience in the field of relationships, sex and health education (RSHE). As well as delivering workshops and training for young people, parents and schools, she is also a subject matter expert on RSHE for the Department of Education.



The National College®

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#WakeUpWednesday

September 2023							October 2023							November 2023							December 2023						
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<b>Autumn Term:</b>	Monday 4 September 2023 – Wednesday 20 December 2023 <i>Half Term 23 October – 3 November</i>	73 days
<b>Spring Term:</b>	Thursday 4 January 2024 – Thursday 28 March 2024 <i>Half Term 19 February – 23 February</i>	56 days
<b>Summer Term:</b>	Monday 15 April 2024 – Tuesday 23 July 2024 (22-23 July twilight inset payback) <i>Half Term 27 May – 31 May, and May Bank Holiday – 6 May</i>	66 days
		195 days

	School Holiday
	Additional autumn half term
	Inset days, schools closed to students
	Trust conference, schools closed to students