

# School News

A MESSAGE FROM THE SENIOR LEADERSHIP TEAM

This time of year is often busy and can be stressful. Our hope for you this Christmas is that you all have time to create special memories with your family and loved ones. May we take this opportunity to thank you all for your support over the last term. East Tilbury is a special school community, and we are so grateful for all the hard work the pupils, staff and parents have put in to making this the best possible school!

We look forward to welcoming you back on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2026.

Merry Christmas and a happy new year!

From Mrs Dawson, Mr Gowland, Mrs Mylam and Mrs Jarvis



# *Important Information*

## **A Reminder About Parking Around School**

**We kindly ask parents and carers to be mindful of how they park around the school gates and on local roads. Please help us maintain positive relationships with our local community and, most importantly, keep our pupils safe. Thank you for your cooperation and support.**

### **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.

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

# *Message from Revd Michèle*

Dear Parents, Carers, Staff and Pupils,

I just wanted to say how much I have enjoyed visiting the school community in this first term of the school year. In October I led the Harvest assembly; in November I visited Years 5&6 to support their RE learning; on Remembrance Day I joined the Year 6's for their very special Act of Remembrance; in December I welcomed the Year 6's to St Catherine's Church and on the last Monday of term led the Christmas assembly.

After all their hard work I'm sure both pupils and staff are ready for the Christmas holiday.

If you would like to join us at St Catherine's Church in East Tilbury for the Christmas Services they are on:

**Sunday 21st December - 6pm Carols and Candlelight Service with Grays Town Brass Band**

**Wednesday 24th December - 3pm Children's Christmas Eve Crib Service**

**Wednesday 24th December - 11pm First Communion of Christmas**

**Thursday 25th December – 10am Christmas Day Celebration**

May I take this opportunity to wish everyone a 'Merry Christmas'

# We need 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 colder and children are wearing jumpers/cardigans to school.



Our Year 1 classes are getting creative and are in need of junk modelling materials. If you have any of the following items at home, we'd love to have them:

- Toilet roll tubes
- Cereal boxes
- Egg boxes
- Any other clean, recyclable craft materials

Please hand them in to the Year 1 teachers or drop them off at the school office.

Thank you for your support!

Please ensure your child has a PE kit in school each day. If you are struggling with this, please contact Mrs Jarvis or Mrs Allen.

Thank You

 **Mud Kitchen Donations Needed!** 🍰

We're on the lookout for any **old pots, pans, baking trays, and plastic or wooden utensils** to help stock our mud kitchen! If you have any kitchen items you no longer need, we'd love to give them a second life in our outdoor play area.



# SEND in Focus

## Speech and Language Drop-in Advice Sessions



Do you have any concerns about your child's speech? If your child is not already under the care of the Speech and Language Services, you are able to gain advice and support by self-referring through: [drop-in@nelft.nhs.uk](mailto:drop-in@nelft.nhs.uk)

Once you have made contact the service, they will send a link where you can 'choose and book' an appointment at a time and place that is convenient for you and, following the drop-in session you will be emailed with the outcome of the session and a link to the advice that has been provided.

If you require any further information, please contact Mrs Mylam

# Specialist Health Visiting Team Advice Line

**Tuesdays  
and  
Thursdays**

**Between  
09:30am  
11:30am**

**0300 300  
1816**

## Who Can Call?

Parents, Carers and Professionals for Children with additional needs that require specialist health advice and support, who are currently/previously known to the Community Paediatricians.



*For more information on the Specialist Health Visiting Team, please scan the QR code.*

**NELFT**

**NHS**



# THURROCK SEND AND AP LOCAL AREA PARTNERSHIP SEND INSPECTION - SURVEY

Thurrock SEND and AP Local Area Partnership have been informed that His Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education, Children's Services and Skills (HMCI) and the Care Quality Commission (CQC) will be inspected under section 20 of the Children Act 2004 from 8 December to 12 December 2025.

The inspectors want to hear from as many children and young people with SEND, their families, and practitioners as possible.

Please find QR Code link to the survey. The survey is open now and will close at 9am on 2 December 2025.



Should anyone have any access difficulties, please print, complete and send back to [Ofstedinspection@thurrock.gov.uk](mailto:Ofstedinspection@thurrock.gov.uk)

# Diary Dates

Monday 5th January 2026 – INSET day	INSET day
w/b 5th January 2025	No teacher run clubs this week
w/b 12th January 2026	Teacher run clubs start back.
Tuesday 13th January 2026	Year 4 start swimming
W/b Monday 16th February 2026	Half Term
Monday 23rd February 2026	Trust Day
Tuesday 24th February 2026	Young Voices @ 02
w/b Monday 9th March 2026	Parent consultation week R,1,2 Mon /Tues KS2 Wed/Thurs
Monday 30th March 2026 – Friday 10th April 2026	Easter Holidays
Monday 4th May 2026	Bank Holiday
w/b Monday 25th May 2026	Half Term
Tuesday 2nd June 2026	Year 6 swimming
Wednesday 8th July 2026	Open Evening
Monday 20th and Tuesday 21st July 2026	INSET days

# 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
- School Uniform
- Hygiene Products
- Wellbeing

## FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT:

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



# READERS OF THE WEEK

1CD  
&  
5SA

## Congratulations

Each week, teachers keep track of how many pupils have read at home **at least five times**. The class with the highest number of regular readers is celebrated during our **Friday Celebration Assembly**. Let's keep up the great reading habits!

# Class News

## Reception

This week has been filled with Christmas cheer as we have fully embraced the season! We have completed so many different Christmas activities such as colour by number, letters to Santa, split pin Santas, present weighing, making reindeer food as well as exploring sensory snow.

Here are a few photos to sum up our week!



## Year One

This week we have completed lots of English challenges set by a Christmas elf! We edited some postcards from Santa to make sure the capital letters were in the correct place, we practised writing the days of the week and we have been busy unscrambling silly sentences! In maths we were introduced to 'clockwise' and 'anticlockwise' and recapped quarter, half and whole turns. We then directed our friends to move around obstacles using this mathematical language. In computing, we practised using freehand painting tools and used these tools to create our own interpretations of 'Snail' by Henri Matisse.



# Class News

## *Year Two*

What a wonderful final week before Christmas it has been for Year Two! The children have been busy spreading festive cheer by making beautiful Christmas cards, writing their own Christmas poems, and even designing their very own elves – plus so much more!

In maths, they've put their problem-solving skills to the test by using multiplication and division to crack some Christmas-themed puzzles. It's been a fantastic way to combine learning with holiday fun!

Also, keep an eye on the school's social media page for their performance of "*Knock Knock*" – you won't want to miss it!

From all of us here at school, we wish you and your families a very **Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!**

## *Year Three*

This week Year 3 finished off our persuasive writing about a festive dessert that they had designed; specifically using techniques such as rhetorical questions, power of 3 and impactful adjectives. This was no ordinary English lesson, this was a delectable, delightful, free-range imaginative English lesson! We also had our Art Enrichment day where the children practiced sketching and shading with a focus on texture. This ultimately led to them creating a detailed drawing of a festive cuddly toy.

# Class News

## *Year Four*

Year 4 have had an exciting and creative final week filled with learning and celebration.

In Maths, we explored division through partitioning and discussed using short division to divide two-digit numbers by one-digit numbers. In Art, we showcased our learning across the unit by working collaboratively to create giant prints inspired by our max-resist drawings.

Finally, we embraced the festive spirit with fun Christmas activities in our classrooms and recorded our very own Christmas song!

Well done Year 4 for all your hard work this term. Wishing you an amazing Christmas break!



# Class News

## Year Five

On Monday, Year 5 set off on an exciting adventure to the Imperial War Museum in London! We travelled up by coach, buzzing with excitement about what the day would hold.

Once we arrived, we dived straight into the First World War galleries. It was fascinating to step back in time and see what life was like in the trenches. We got up close to the weapons soldiers used, the rations they ate (including the famously dry biscuits!), and the different uniforms worn during the war. Many of us were amazed at how tough life must have been for the soldiers, and it really helped us understand history in a way that books just can't.

Next, we visited the Blavatnik Art, Film, and Photography Galleries. Here, we were blown away by over 500 incredible pieces of artwork. One of the highlights was *Gassed* by John Singer Sargent – its huge size and detail left us all speechless! It was amazing to see how art can capture such powerful moments in history.

Before leaving, we had a quick look at the Second World War gallery. This was a sneak peek for Year 6, giving us a glimpse of what's to come next year. The whole day was a huge success, and the pupils made us incredibly proud with their curiosity, enthusiasm, and outstanding behaviour. Everyone asked thoughtful questions, shared interesting observations, and really engaged with everything the museum had to offer. It was a day full of learning, fun, and unforgettable experiences!



## Year Six

In Year Six this week, we have had a week full of festive cheer and jolliness! In English lessons, we produced a letter to Mr Grinch to persuade him to change his ways. We used all the persuasive devices we have learnt over the past few weeks to form some incredible writing. In Computing, we built on our work on what makes an appealing webpage, to create our own designs, based on a subject of interest. In geography, we created our own village, adding renewable energy sources to create a sustainable settlement.

# 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	Morgan	For independently using his sounds to blend word
RMB	Ismae	For always being helpful around the classroom, especially during tidy-up time.
RES	Sadie	For her increased confidence in class.
1SL	All of 1SL	For a wonderful year group Christmas song performance
1CD	All of 1CD	For a wonderful year group Christmas song performance
1EC	All of 1EC	For a wonderful year group Christmas song performance
2BG	Anu	For her great week of learning.
2NB	Maddison	For her creative elf and Christmas poem.
2RS	Edie	For being a helpful member of the class.
3TG	Lyla	Her dedication while practicing for our Christmas song.
3CS	Clara	For her incredible performances during our daily read alouds
3MR	Alby C	For always being an excellent role model to his peers and helpful to his teachers.
4ML	Shahaan	For always being kind and considerate to others.
4CP	Teddy D	For increased confidence in lessons.
4BA	Freddie C	For his amazing effort on TTRS.
4KC	Mollie P	For her enthusiasm when rehearsing spring production songs.
5SG	Archie D	For his use of ambitious vocabulary in his independent write.
5SA	Dilans S	<b>For challenging himself in his independent write and upleveling vocabulary.</b>
5LC	Robyn C	For a confident, well rehearsed audition for our spring production
6AB	Kymani	For having a positive attitude towards his learning this week
6NM	Sonny	For always striving to improve in all areas of learning
6TH	Lorna	For having an amazing first week

# What Parents & Educators Need to Know about AI TOYS

This festive season, the newest toys on the shelves do not just blink or make noise; they listen. Many now come with artificial intelligence (AI), allowing them to talk, learn, and even respond to a child's emotions. These toys can be educational and engaging, but they also collect, store, and process information. This guide explains what that means for families and why it matters.

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

### TOYS THAT LISTEN AND LEARN

When a toy uses AI, it collects data such as voice recordings, interactions, and background sounds. This information is sent to remote servers, where it is analysed to improve responses. Your child's voice becomes training data, which may be stored indefinitely or shared with third parties.

### WEAK SECURITY PROTECTIONS

Some AI toys have poor password protection or open network connections. Others may have microphones or cameras that stay on, even when the toy appears to be off. This can lead to recordings being made without your knowledge, including conversations unrelated to play.

### ARTIFICIAL VOICES, REAL INFLUENCE

For very young children, an AI companion may become one of the first voices they interact with regularly. How that voice shows humour, empathy, or authority can shape how a child learns to communicate. If the model is artificial, then part of what is learned is artificial as well.

### PRESSURE TO KEEP ENGAGING

Some toys reward repeated use or track engagement, encouraging children to interact more. When children compare how their toys perform, it creates pressure to play more often. This increases the amount of data collected and can make learning feel like competition.

### MARKETING THROUGH PLAY

Toys that learn a child's preferences may feed that data into future advertising. A toy that knows a child's favourite colour or hobby could help a company design more targeted marketing to that child and their family.

### PLAYTIME AS DATA TRAINING

The information collected from children helps train AI systems. Their voice, emotional responses, and behaviour shape how machines 'understand' people. Play becomes part of a much larger system that influences how future technologies behave.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

### START WITH A CONVERSATION

Talk to young people. Explain that some toys learn from what they say and do. Help them understand that even friendly technology should have boundaries, and to ask questions about it. Curiosity is healthy, blind trust is not.

### SET LIMITS ON USE

Turn off Wi-Fi or Bluetooth when the toy is not in use. Check for updates regularly, as they can change privacy or safety settings. Treat connected toys like any smart device; they should be monitored, updated, and switched off when not in use.

### MODEL DIGITAL AWARENESS

Children learn from adults. If they see you checking privacy settings, reading terms, and talking openly about online safety, they are more likely to do the same. Show them how to question technology in a healthy way.

### RESEARCH BEFORE YOU BUY

Look for toys that work offline or store data locally. Check for a free or demo version so you can test how it behaves. Read privacy policies to understand what data is collected, where it goes, and whether it's shared with others.

### REVIEW PRIVACY SETTINGS

Find out where the data is stored and who has access to it. Some companies sell or share data with advertisers. If the toy connects through an app, check what it requests access to and limit those permissions whenever possible.

### BALANCE AI WITH REAL PLAY

AI toys can be fun and creative, but they are not a replacement for real human interaction. Encourage time away from technology with activities that foster emotional and social development. Use AI toys to support learning, not define it.

## Meet Our Expert

Clara Hawking is Executive Director of Kompass Education. She advises governments, school trusts, and global organisations on AI governance and safeguarding, helping schools and families understand how technology shapes learning, wellbeing, and the digital future of children.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College



Thurrock  
Teacher Training

# Get into Teaching

## St Clare's School

Lead ITT provider in partnership with Tes institute are pleased to announce that trainee places are available for the academic year 2025/2026.

*'Our trainees success rate  
Securing QTS = 100%  
Employed = 100%'*



Our partner schools for  
2025/2026 include:

## Primary

Chadwell St. Mary, Deneholm, East Tilbury, Thameside, Stifford Clays, Horndon-on-the-hill, Stanford-le-Hope, Doddinghurst, Little Thurrock, Arthur Bugler, Warren Primary, Bonnygate Primary, Woodside Academy

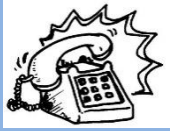
## Secondary

Grays Convent, Marshalls Park, Ormiston Park Academy, St. Clare's School, William Edwards The Gateway Academy, Brentwood County High, Hathaway Academy, Orsett Heath Academy

"The Tes Institute course was brilliant, and I would recommend it to others who are thinking of entering a career in teaching"  
- 2024 Trainee

For all enquiries please contact:  
[thurrockteachertraining@osborne.coop](mailto:thurrockteachertraining@osborne.coop)

# Keep in Touch



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

Tel: 01375 846181

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

East Tilbury Primary School

Princess Margaret Road  
East Tilbury, Essex, RM18 8SB



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 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


Osborne Term Dates for 2025-26 (Approved by Trust Board 24/09/24)


September 2025							October 2025							November 2025							December 2025						
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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8	9	10	11	12	13	14	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
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22	23	24	25	26	27	28	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30						27	28	29	30	31			24	25	26	27	28	29	30	29	30	31				
January 2026							February 2026							March 2026							April 2026						
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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26	27	28	29	30	31		23	24	25	26	27	28		23	24	25	26	27	28	29	27	28	29	30			
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May 2026							June 2026							July 2026							August 2026						
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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25	26	27	28	29	30	31	29	30						27	28	29	30	31			24	25	26	27	28	29	30
																					31						

 = School Days

 = School Holidays

 = Bank Holidays

 = Weekends

 = additional autumn half term

 = Trust training day