

School News

A MESSAGE FROM THE SENIOR LEADERSHIP TEAM

Dear Parents/Carers,

Even with the cold and wet weather, there has been an excited learning atmosphere around the school this week, as children engage with their lessons and have enjoyed their learning.

T100 – Beach of dreams summer festival

The T100 summer festival seems like a long way off but the warmer weather will come round soon! This week Mr Gowland met with Kinetika leaders to plan out the summer walks -which this year will involve walks to Coalhouse Fort and along the sea wall. Watch this space as we approach the summer where there will be a lot more information about how our school community can get involved!



BETT Show 2025

Today our STEM Club had the exciting opportunity to attend the 2025 BETT show in the Excel centre – London. The exhibition was all about technological innovation in education and to inspire young people in the world of Engineering, Science and Maths. We look forward to hearing from the children on their return to school and the exciting technology we may be able to utilise in the future.

Reading

As you know we have been seeking volunteers to read with the children during the school day. Reading regularly helps to promote children's language, writing and social skills along with many other important skills. Sadly, we didn't receive very much interest. If you can offer any amount of time, on any day, to listen to a few children read, please get in touch.

September intake

Is your child or a child you know due to start school in September 2025? Have they registered for a place? Please speak to the school office if you require any further information or need support with the school application process. Places are filling fast, and we do not want anyone missing out.

We wish you and your family a relaxing weekend ahead.
The Leadership Team

Important Information

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...



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 getting colder and children are beginning to wear jumpers/cardigans to school.

We are missing a significant number of reading books. If you have any left at home (whatever condition) from last academic year, please return them.
Thank you

**Please be reminded that pupils should not be wearing jewellery to school. Children with pierced ears may wear small stud earrings but hoops are not permitted.
Thank you for your support**

Year 1 need cereal boxes for their work on sculptures. If you have any that you are happy to donate, please pass them to the Year 1 teachers.
Thank You

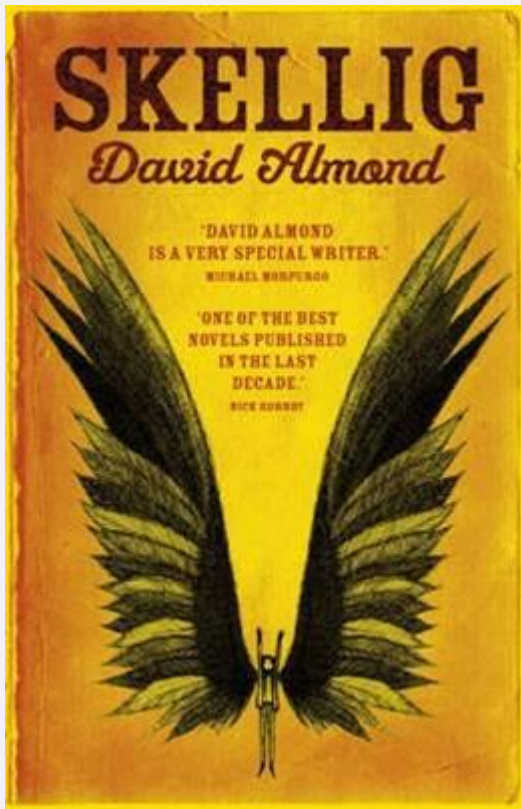
We are continually updating our OPAL resources and would gladly accept donations of:

- Tennis balls
- Footballs
- Bats
- Dressing up clothes
- Colouring books
- Crayons
- Big cars
- Lego



Recommended Reads

Each week we will be recommending great books that you can share with your children.

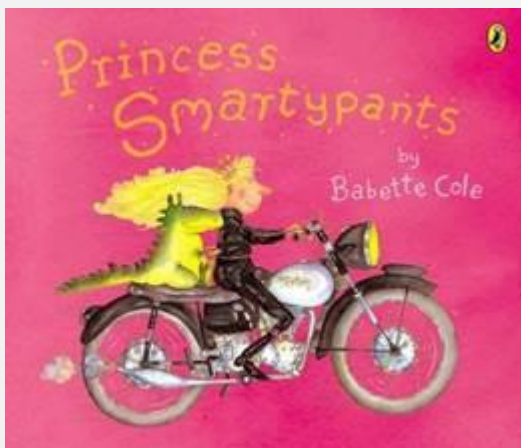


Skellig

Author: David Almond

Publisher: Hodder Children's Books

When a move to a new house coincides with his baby sister's illness, Michael's world seems suddenly lonely and uncertain. Then, exploring a ramshackle garage with new-found friend Mina, he finds something magical. A strange creature - part owl, part angel, a being who needs Michael's help if he is to survive.



Princess Smartypants

Author: Babette Cole

Princess Smartypants is rebellious, fiercely independent and perfectly happy to be single. Clad in dungarees and muddy wellies, she loves caring for her menagerie of unusual pets, including a selection of giant slugs, snails, spiders and dragons.

Frustratingly, suitors are forever turning up to win her hand and she is under constant pressure from her parents to smarten up and settle down.

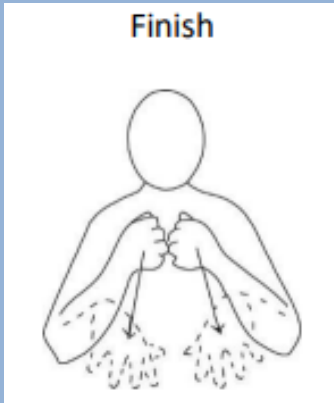


SEND in Focus

Makaton Signs of the week:

Why not speak with your child and see what signs they can remember from what they've already been taught?

Finish



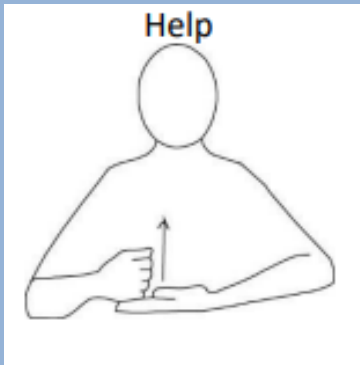
[Bing Videos](#)

More



[Bing Videos](#)

Help



[Bing Videos](#)



SEND in Focus

JANUARY FOCUS

January 4th was World Braille Day, a time to celebrate and raise awareness of the visually impaired community. Let's continue the conversation by joining our informal session, where we'll showcase resources and opportunities available in Essex. This is your chance to share feedback on the services you need in a supportive and inclusive space. Together, we can shine a light on accessibility and inclusion for everyone!



Date&time-29/01/25

10-12pm

Location-Block A

Maple park

St Andrews way

Stanford le hope

SS17 0FL

PARENTAL MENTAL HEALTH



We will also be addressing the critical issues surrounding parental mental health and the unique challenges faced by SEND parents and caregivers. If you'd like to share your thoughts, concerns, or ask any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to us.

hello@thurrocksendfamilyforum.org.

Diary Dates

Tuesday 11th February 2025	Y6 height & weight checks
Friday 14th February 2025	Last day of Term (Non-Uniform day)
Monday 17th February 2025- Friday 21st February 2025	Half Term
Monday 24th February 2025	Pupils back to school (NO clubs this week)
Thursday 3rd April 2024	Last day of Term (Non-Uniform day)
Friday 4th April 2025	Non-Pupil Day
7th April 2025 – 18th April 2025	Easter Holidays
Monday 21st April 2025	Bank Holiday – no school for pupils
Tuesday 22nd April 2025	Pupils back to school (NO clubs this week)
Monday 5th May 2025	Bank Holiday – no school for pupils
Monday 12th May 2025- Thursday 15th May 2025	Year 6 SATS week
Friday 23rd May 2025	Last day of Term (Non-Uniform Day)
Monday 26th May 2025-Friday 30th May 2025	Half Term
Monday 2nd June 2025	Pupils back to school (Clubs are ON this week)
Friday 18th July 2025	Last day of the academic year for pupils (Non-Uniform day)
Monday 21st and Tuesday 22nd July 2025	INSET Days (no school for pupils)

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



Class News

Reception

This week in Reception we have been reading the story of 'Zog' by Julia Donaldson. We have been using our known sounds and the words we have been brought by Grandma Fantastic, to write Zog a guide to help him earn his well-deserved gold stars! We have been working hard on our letter formation and making sure our writing is neat and on the line.

As part of our continuous provision this week we have been giving out star awards to our friends and family and using our known sounds to explain why we think they deserve them. We have also enjoyed creating our own Zog dragons using bubble wrap to print and create patterns.

In Maths this week we have looked further into numbers within 10. We have been looking at more and fewer and looking at grouping numbers within 10.

In our curriculum lesson this week, we have looked at comparing characters within a story and using our knowledge of the story Zog to discuss the similarities and differences.



Year One

This week in Art, we explored folding and rolling paper strips to create 3D shapes. We applied our prior knowledge of patterns to design some paper strips and folded them into 3D shapes. Then we arranged the paper shapes to make a 3D drawing.

In music, we sang a song and enjoyed using the glockenspiels to keep a simple rhythm pattern using long and short notes.

In PSHE, we discussed who cares for us, and why it is important to care for others. We spoke about all the people and others that we care for, such as, our friends, our siblings, and our pets. We also discussed the different ways that we can care for these people or things.

We have had lots of fun in Maths exploring time. This week, we timed ourselves to see how many things we can complete in twenty seconds!

Class News

Year Two

This week in year 2 we have started a new maths topic on Fractions. Children have been learning key vocabulary including 'denominator' and 'numerator' and identifying parts of a whole, looking carefully at the shaded parts of a shape.

In English this week, we have been composing our own independent write based on the story 'Stardust'. We had to think carefully about changing key aspects of the story including the characters, and the setting description. In History, our focus has been on gathering facts about the launch of the first satellite into space: Sputnik 1.



Year Three

This week in history, we took a fascinating journey back in time to explore the formation of the Roman Empire and discover what made it one of the mightiest forces in history! We looked at the Roman's fighting formations. One of the highlights was the famous *tortoise formation*, where soldiers would lock their shields together to create a nearly impenetrable barrier—an incredible strategy that protected them on the battlefield!

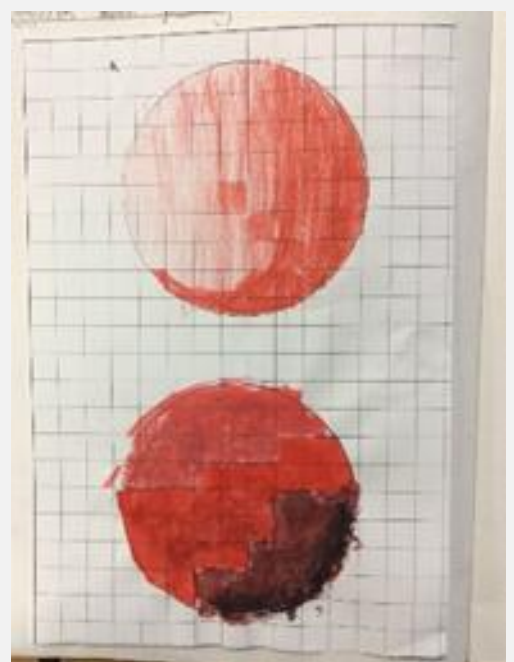
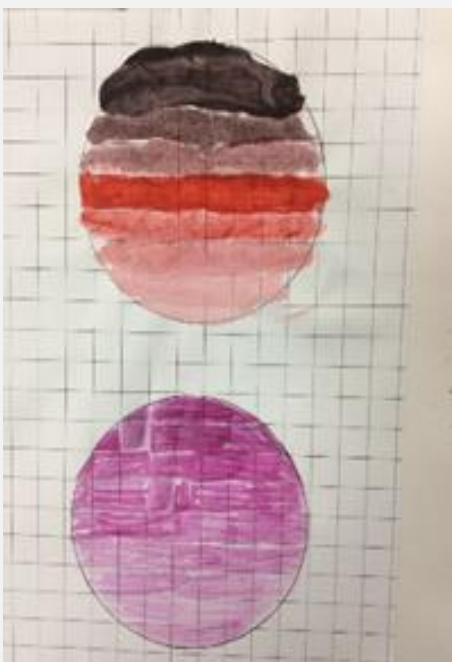
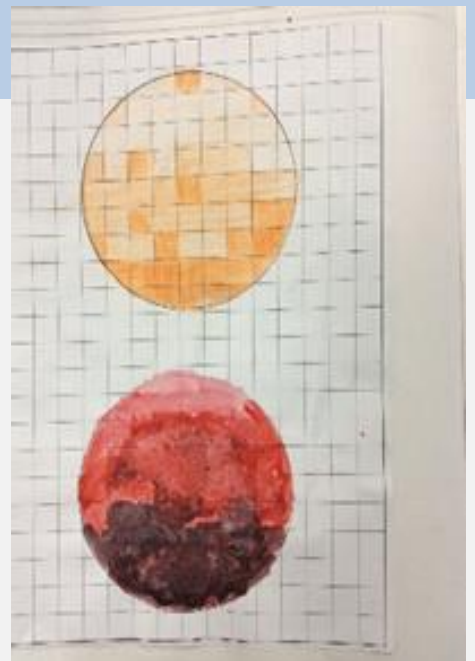
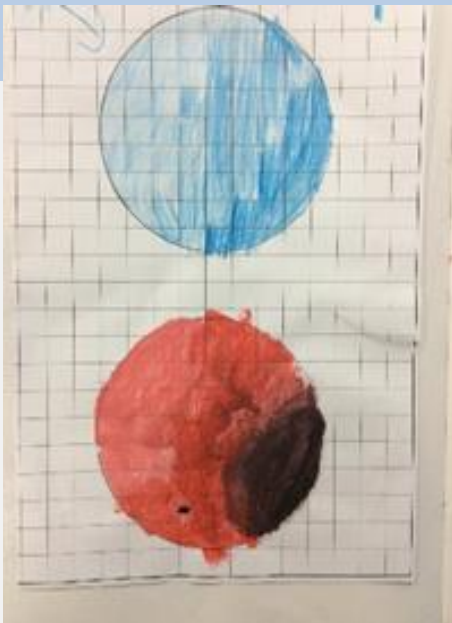
In science, we have been diving into the fascinating world of skeletons. We explored the difference between vertebrates and invertebrates, discovering how their structures help them thrive in different environments.

This week in gymnastics, we have been exploring the exciting world of jumps! We have been practicing star jumps to tuck jumps and straight jumps. They demonstrated fantastic teamwork by linking two jumps with a shape, showcasing their creativity and skill.

Class News

Year Four

Year 4 have been working on their shading and tinting. To progress from last week, we looked at how the angle of light decides where the shaded darker parts are and where the lighter tinted parts should be. Starting with the middle section of a sphere we added a base colour, then slowly mixed it with white to make it brighter and then black to make it darker.

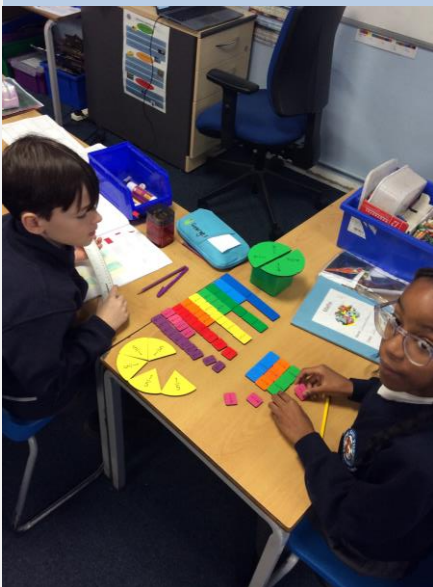


Class News

Year Five

This week in Year 5 , we have continued to immerse ourselves in biographies and the pupils started planning and writing their own. They spent the first part of the week researching their person of interest and then wrote their biographies depicting their achievements. In Maths , we used a range of manipulative to identify , compare and order fractions. They were able to also recognise half and a quarter of in real world contexts. Keeping with the theme of Shakespeare Rocks , the focus this week has been exploring and answering questions on his play script Macbeth. In addition , we are also reading the Shakespeare Rocks play to allow pupils an extra opportunity to familiarise themselves with the play, in preparation for their performance later on in the year. Once again congratulations to all pupils in their allocation of roles and we are looking forward to working and encouraging the pupils to put on a great production. In French , pupils revised healthy and unhealthy foods. Building on their knowledge from last lesson where they were able to identify and form an opinion on the foods, they learnt to use the negative form to say foods and drinks that they ate and didn't eat. They were able to use the negative form to create and share an opinion with their peers. We started to investigate the major cities in History associated with the ancient Maya civilisation. They created a fact file document with included images and interesting facts about their chosen locations.

As always , we encourage pupils to try to access the home learning platforms such as TTRS, MyMaths (when work is set, usually a paper hand copy 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 5 team.



Class News

Year Six

This week in Year 6, our studies have continued. In science (pictured), we looked how the digestive system provides our blood in the circulatory system with the nutrients and water it needs. Here we looked at the processes of osmosis and diffusion by placing gummy bears and skittles in water. We saw how the water absorbed into the gummy bears in the same way it does in our cells and how the skittles colours flow, like how the villi in our small intestines diffuse the nutrients needed in our blood.

Elsewhere, we looked at more complex problems surrounding area and perimeter, which included parallelograms and decomposing more advanced shapes so we could problem solve. We also started to delve into volume of 3D shapes, and how depth includes a third element to multiply (length x width x depth), hence how cube numbers ($2^3 = 2 \times 2 \times 2$) are calculated.

We also started to write up our own versions of the short movie Paperman, which has seen some brilliant creative ideas across the year group, in addition to finding out the origins of potatoes and jaw dropping facts about octopuses. Did you know the smallest octopus species measures just 1.5 centimetres? And the largest has a tentacle span of 8 metres? What incredible creatures.

Next week we are conducting practise SATs, so wish our Year Six a restful weekend and all the best with the papers – they are just another opportunity for them to show some of the brilliant things they can do!





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!

RBG	Isabelle	For showing resilience during phonics.
RES	Stanley	For showing increased confidence when playing with his friends.
RFK	Amiyah-Neave	For showing increased engagement and participation on the carpet during Phonics.
1BA	Dolcey	For her great effort in phonics lesson this week.
1EC	Vinnie	For his effort in maths and telling the time.
1LD	Isabella S	For working hard to manage her emotions.
2RM	Renaesmae	For working hard with her phonics this week.
2CH	Sienna	For her positive attitude towards her writing this week.
2MF	Yahya	For his great effort towards learning specially in maths this week.
2BG	Abie	For settling into his new class.
3ML	Max	For always being a positive role model to others and engaged in his learning.
3RS	Annie	For her positive attitude in all her lessons.
3SG	Daisy C	For her exceptional resilience when creating her 3D sculpture in art.
3VP	Zach	For consistently making the right choices and being ready to learn.
4CP	Dilichi N	For her resilience at swimming.
4KC	Kian G	For an amazing effort to make a positive change to his behaviour and trying his best in all lessons.
4MR	Ryan D	For always being a positive role model and a helpful student, especially to his teacher in maths.
5NM	Lilly	For showing self-responsibility, great organisation skills.
5SA	Oliver P	For engaged participation in class and showing self-responsibility in his learning.
5TH	Bentley	For making positive choices all week.
6AB	Arayah	For her positive attitude towards all lessons.
6LC	Alfie R	For great narrative writing in his version of 'Paperman'.
6NB	George L	For his outstanding improvement in handwriting; for his version of Paperman, which was an excellent read.



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.

20th January - 24 January 2025



1LD

24

1EC

3

1BA

3

1FK

0

20th January - 24 January 2025



2MF

32

2CH

11

2SBG

2

20th January - 24 January 2025



3ML

297

3RS

274

3SG

116

3VP

41

20th January - 24 January 2025



4KC

305

4CP

182

4MR

182

20th January - 24 January 2025



5NM

552

5TH

3

5SA

2

20th January - 24 January 2025



6LC

1244

6AB

905

6NB

750

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about HEALTH & FITNESS APPS

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Physical wellbeing apps are useful tools for monitoring and improving our health. They allow us to balance nutrition, set goals, track our activities and sleep patterns, and motivate us to exercise. Nonetheless, there have been some reported drawbacks; this guide outlines some of these concerns and explains how to use fitness apps safely.

LACK OF PERSONALISATION

Many apps take a one-size-fits-all approach, failing to account for the varying ages and abilities of children: a 16-year-old, for example, will have different physical needs to a child of 10. This can create unrealistic expectations and set exercises which may be too advanced for younger children or too simple for older ones.

NOT DEVELOPED BY EXPERTS

Some fitness and wellbeing apps are developed by experts in the field – but a concerning number of them aren't. As such, these platforms may contain inaccurate information. They may present safety concerns by giving incorrect advice regarding physical activities or might include age-inappropriate content which would clearly cause more harm than good.

REDUCED INTERACTION WITH OTHERS

Physical wellbeing apps can remove the social and interactive elements which physical exercise can offer – for instance, meeting people at fitness classes, at the gym or during any other such activities. Research has found that young people generally dislike this aspect of fitness apps, suggesting that they would rather exercise in the company of friends or other like-minded individuals.

DATA AND PRIVACY CONCERNS

Fitness and wellbeing apps tend to collect a lot of personal information from their users, including name, location, date of birth, details of their physical health and more. It's worth keeping in mind that some of these apps may sell this data to third parties. We'd advise that any apps young people download should have the correct legislation in place to protect their safety and privacy while using the service.

ADDITIONAL COSTS

While many fitness apps are free to download, the initial content is quite basic. Users will only receive more helpful content (such as new workouts, nutrition advice or a personalised plan) by signing up to a subscription or paying for extra features. This can incentivise users to spend money on the service – a cost which can quickly mount up.

DEPENDENCY ON THE APP

While physical wellbeing apps can help motivate young users to manage their fitness, there's a possibility that – without being sent frequent rewards and reminders – children could start to lose their natural drive to be active. Young people may also become obsessed with tracking their exercise, health and eating habits: this can have negative effects on their mental and emotional wellbeing.

Advice for Parents & Educators

EXERCISE AND SOCIALISE

Highlight the importance of children enjoying fitness activities with family and friends, rather than always exercising alone. Emphasise the fun they can have by interacting with others rather than solely relying on an app to maintain their regime. Remind them of the importance of staying active, as well as the benefits of doing so with company.

PROMOTE POSITIVE BODY IMAGE

While we want children to be active and healthy, we must also ensure they don't become fixated on how they look and begin take things too far. During childhood and adolescence, the body is still growing and changing. It's vitally important for young people's wellbeing that we promote a positive body image and a healthy relationship with food, empowering them to make informed decisions about their diet and lifestyle.

Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian Government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



REVIEW THE APP FIRST

Before allowing someone under 18 to install a fitness and wellbeing app, check its age rating, read its reviews and scroll through its data policy, to ensure its suitability for younger users. You could also try it yourself, to see if it's appropriate for the child's particular needs and decide if you're comfortable with them using it. Ensure that any privacy-compromising features – such as location tracking – are disabled.

USE PARENTAL CONTROLS

As with all apps, it's important for parents to familiarise themselves with any controls on the app and to use these on a child's account. The specific settings vary between platforms but – most commonly – these will relate to screen-time limits, disabling or capping in-app purchases, and managing social aspects or features which aren't age appropriate. By utilising these controls, you can help to ensure a child is getting a safe experience.



BE BRIGHT & BE SEEN

this winter



Now that the clocks have gone back and it's getting darker earlier on, it's more important than ever to make sure you can be seen when you're out and about near roads.

There are loads of ways to be seen and stay safer
- so check over the page for some top tips!

5 top tips on how to **BE BRIGHT & BE SEEN**

- 1** Brightly coloured or fluorescent clothing shows up well in daylight and at dusk when you're heading to and from school.
- 2** If you're out and about when it's dark, wear reflective gear to make sure you can be seen in car headlights. Reflective vests, sashes or wristbands work well. Remember, fluorescent clothing doesn't work after dark!
- 3** Don't forget to accessorise! Even small items such as clip-on reflectors, armbands and stickers on your outfit or school bag are a great way to improve your visibility.
- 4** If you like to cycle, remember that it's the law to have clean and working lights at night (white at the front, red at the back), as well as a rear reflector. It's good to fit spoke reflectors too.
- 5** Of course, 'Being Bright' isn't the only way to stay safer. If you're out at night, choose routes and crossing places that are well lit and remember to always use the Green Cross Code.

For more road safety tips, games and videos, visit the Tales of the Road website at www.direct.gov.uk/talesoftheroad

**Be Bright,
Be Seen**

THINK

Keep in Touch



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

Tel: 01375 846181

Email: 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 · NSPCC 0808 800 5000 www.nspcc.org.uk; 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

September 2024							October 2024							November 2024							December 2024						
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	School Holiday
	Additional autumn half term (some Thurrock schools only)
	Inset days, schools closed to students
	Trust conference, schools closed to students
	Bank Holidays