



HELPING EVERYONE SHINE THEIR LIGHT

Dear Families

I hope that you all had a really lovely half-term. It has been great to see the children return and pick up where they all left off from at the end of last half-term.

We have a packed newsletter for you, with important updates and dates for our Easter Service and Sports Day. I am trying to provide as much useful information in once place as manageable.

INSET DAY

On our recent Inset day at the end of half-term we spent the day looking at our expectations and revisiting and re-establishing some of our core behaviour and learning expectations. We then looked at some core principles of the science of teaching and learning, and also explored some upcoming opportunities to collaborate with other local schools...more details to follow! Miss Wiggins and Mr Hassard delivered a session on the teaching approaches we will be using across the school, to ensure children feel supported and challenged in Maths lessons. This was followed by Mr Turver delivering a session on effective RE teaching. In the afternoon I introduced a new assessment system, which from next year will give us more opportunities to share information more regularly around progress and attainment with you - ensuring you feel you know how your child is doing academically. It was a really productive day and lots of exciting things are in the pipeline.

OUTSIDE AREAS

Mrs Chipperfield and I have been busy looking at opportunities to develop our outside provision.

- Trim Trail - We have made progress in sorting a repair and have someone attending site, with a proposal that this will fixed and operational by the end of this half-term.
- Peaceful Paradise - we have applied for grants, and are continuing to do so, to get this important space operational again.
- Playgrounds - One consistent message has been the need for additional resources for break time and lunchtime. I have meetings scheduled over the next week so that we can develop provision and introduce new activities at break and lunch times.

I will keep you updated as things progress.

ROOF AND FIRE ALARM - GOOD NEWS!


I wrote to you at the start of the week with an update on the deterioration of the leak in the school hall roof and with an update to a repair to our fire alarm. Since then I have been in regular contact with the necessary people and am delighted to share some positive news.

Plans are being developed in order to replace the school hall roof. Tests will be undertaken next week to determine the extent of the replacement needed and the timeframe required. Also, a significant repair to the fire alarm is due to start on Monday. This will take a couple of weeks to complete and works will take place in a manner which means there will be no impact on the teaching and learning taking place in the school. Following my conversations, I am hopeful that the works undertaken will finally solve the ongoing issues with the roof and fire alarm. Again, I will keep you updated.

I hope you and your families have a lovely weekend and I look forward to seeing you on Monday.

Mr Crawley

SPRING TERM KEY DATES



04.03.25 - Parent Consultations
06.03.25 - Parent Consultations
06.03.25 - World Book Day
12.03.25 - Science Event (BT Ipswich)
15.03.25 - Red Nose Day
20.03.25 - Parent Forum (morning)
20.03.25 - Virtual Parent Forum (evening)
25.03.25 - Y1 Zoo trip
27.03.25 - Choir at Charter Hall
01.04.25 - Easter Services

11.06.25 - Sports Day

LATEST NEWS & UPDATES

MISS PHILPOTT'S HALF-MARATHON



On Sunday 16th March Miss Philpott will be running in the Colchester half-marathon, a fantastic achievement on its own, but excitingly she has decided to use this an opportunity to raise money to buy more, lovely books for the school. Reading for pleasure is a passion of Miss Philpott's and she is taking part in a school project to promote this.

If you are able to make a donation then please click the link below.

[Just Giving Link](#) >

MISS HOLOHAN-YATES

Very sadly Miss Holohan-Yates will be leaving us next week to seek new adventures. We would all like to thank her for work at Heathlands and wish her well in the future. We will miss you!

NEW WEBSITE

One common message from my recent parent survey was around 'communication'. We have begun a review, in school, of our current methods of communication, the consistency of messaging and quality.

One of the first things I am doing is overhauling our website, alongside a new design. With the intention to ensure that you can find the information that you need as easily as possible. Also, this will allow us to share key dates easier and, ideally, earlier.

Additionally, we will be clarifying clear methods for communication to ensure you are not inundated with messages, on different platforms.

We will provide more information around both the website and other changes with communication in due course.

PARENT CONSULTATIONS

We are looking forward to welcoming you to our parent consultations next week. As usual they will take place in the school hall.

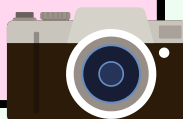
PARENT FORUM

The next forum will be held by Mr Crawley and will covering updates on the parent survey and long-term plans. The session will be held at two different times so that it is more convenient for parents who want to attend.

20th March - 10am - school hall
20th March - 7:30pm - MS Teams (virtual)

PHOTOGRAPHER NEEDED

We are looking for some expert photographers who would be willing to take high-quality photographs around the school for the website and some school publications. If you, or if you know of anyone who can help then please get in touch with Mr Crawley.



KS2 SWIMMING LESSONS

We are all very excited as the temporary swimming pool will arrive on Saturday—including Mr Crawley, who will be here at 7 am when it arrives and installation begins!

As swimming is part of the Physical Education National Curriculum, lessons are compulsory unless there is a medical or physical need. Children will not miss out on learning in core subjects as the swimming is part of PE lessons.

This approach to swimming lessons is new to us this year, but we are hopeful it will result in reduced disruption while significantly reducing the cost for everyone.

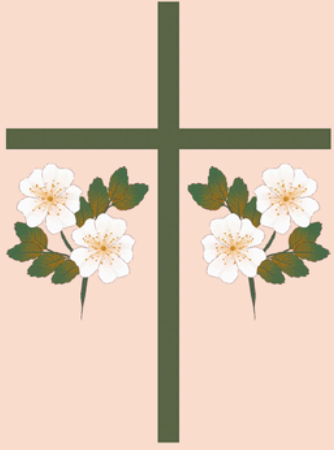

WHAT WE LOVE ABOUT



I wanted to share some of the really positive comments from the recent Parent Survey. Unfortunately I could not include them all but here are a few. Thank you for sharing your thoughts - it's been really appreciated.

- Friendly staff, problems always listened to, nice Community feel
- The EYFS staff have done an excellent job to transition the children into school life. The school is very active with events for both the children and their families. It has a lovely feel to the school so far, very welcoming to all and the office staff are always happy to help and assist.
- Heathland's provision for sport, music, science and other activities is excellent. There is more to learning in life than adding up and spelling. It is great that Heathlands pursues a balanced curriculum and sees the benefit in these more broader activities
- Caring, inclusive environment where staff know my children well and act in their best interest.
- I love how caring Heathland's is. My child has a wonderful teacher who I know cares for them.
- Heathlands has a family atmosphere, both my children have thrived at the school
- The school community as a whole is what drew me to Heathlands primary school. All staff are approachable and care a great for the children and families they support and teach.
- The staff seem to really care and give 100% to the school
- Teachers engagement with the children.
- That children are happy and feel safe.
- Teachers show passion.
- The village school feel
- I love how happy the childrens happiness is held in such high importance. I feel it's a fun environment for them and my children look forward to school.
- Inclusive nature of the school, the SEN support & how well staff know my child (strength and areas to support), the overall ethos of the school.
- Heathlands is a lovely little school, my kids have been there for a number of years now and feel very at home, safe and comfortable. The teachers are excellent and there is a strong community spirit.
- I love how happy the children are there and the opportunities the school gives them.
- How happy my children are there, the values of the school, how much my children learn daily
- Great PTA team.
- Lovely approachable staff. Great sports day every year. Wonderful shows ie Christmas. Fantastic PTA and events.
- The wide range of activities for children other than pure academia, sense of community and belonging they teach, the outstanding care of teaching staff particularly SLT
- The staff - very approachable and empathetic. The opportunities for clubs and for competing at a wider level. The high expectations that the school has for the children across the board
- The staff are very open to communicating with parents and warm and caring. The school has a creative approach to lessons and subject matter. The club/sporting provision offered is exceptionally high quality. The parents evening appointments shows the teachers know the children well. The trips offered are varied and frequent. Staff retention is exceptionally good.
- Heart of community.

CHURCH SCHOOL



*We invite you to join us at our
Easter Services at St Mary's Church*

**TUESDAY
1ST APRIL**

*1.35 - 2.05 pm : Orpen, Argent, Firmins
2.20 - 2.50 pm : Daniell, Mumford, Sackville*



We are pleased to have begun work with the Christian Youth Outreach team and St Mary's Church developing an in school Chaplaincy mentoring scheme, to work alongside our current Mentoring provision. In the Summer term, we will also welcome Playground Pastors to the team.

"Being listened to is so close to being loved that most people cannot tell the difference."

SPORTS DAY 2025



11th June 2025

Key Stage Two - morning
Picnic Lunch
EYFS/Key Stage One - afternoon

Key Stage Two children will begin their sports day at 9:30am. The picnic lunch will begin at approximately 11:45. EYFS and Key Stage One children will begin their sports day at approximately 1pm.

Key Stage Two sports day will take place in the same way as last year as this proved to be popular with children and parents. Children will first take part in one of four different activities, in their year groups, as part of a carousel. These activities include a sprint race, obstacle race, throwing challenges and sack race/skipping challenge. The sprint races will continue to be organised by the times children have run during PE lessons in school, to try and give every child a competitive race to enjoy. After completing all four activities, we will ask parents to move to the side of the athletics track so that those children that wish to take part in the 400m or 600m race can do so, with the house relay to finish the Key Stage Two events.

EYFS and Key Stage One sports day will also continue to run as a carousel. Children will take part in sprint race, obstacle race and throwing challenge/sack race. After completing all of the activities, we will ask parents to move to the side of the athletics track so that Year Two children can take part in the 200m races, with the house relay to finish the events.

If there is time, we will also include toddler races and adult races as part of the morning and afternoon sports day events.

During the Key Stage Two and Key Stage One carousel of activities, parents will be able to move around the outside to watch their child(ren) take part in each event. We would ask that you stay behind the line marked to separate parents spectating from children taking part. We understand that some parents will have more than one child taking part across the year groups taking part and that will make it more challenging to watch them take part in every event, however, we are keen to support the children in their desire to do more themselves during sports day, especially given how keen we are to ensure children are as active as possible throughout every day at school.

We hope this gives you more information on when sports day is and how the day will run. We look forward to welcoming you on 11th June.



WHAT'S BEEN GOING ON



Jessica O, Joshua M and Ellie G recently appeared in the Orpen Players pantomime 'Dick Whittington', alongside a number of our ex-pupils. They all did a fantastic job and we are very proud of them.



Year 2 have been getting creative with different medias this half term in Art. The children explored how to manipulate and mould clay into the form of penguins, whilst also looking closely at their features and textures.

PARENT WORKSHOP

Multiply Maths



for parents of children 5 to 11 years
(Key Stages 1 and 2)

Want to support your child with their maths homework and increase your confidence in maths?

Learn how to quickly and easily help your child with their maths homework. Increase your confidence in maths. Lots of tips, activity ideas and resources!

Claim a **£10 celebration voucher** on completion of the course!

Heathlands Primary School

New Church Road, Colchester, CO6 3JF

The course consists of three sessions:

28th February, 7th & 14th March - 9am to 11am



Book your FREE place today! [Click here](#) to book online

Contact the school office or email: info@tiegr.org



COMING SOON TO A SCHOOL NEAR
YOU THE WEEK OF 3RD MARCH!

WONDERLICIOUS BARS



WILL YOU WIN A PRIZE?

Golden Ticket

YOU'VE WON A PRIZE!



*BARS WILL BE AVAILABLE TO PURCHASE VIA
GILL FOR CHILDREN IN HOPSCOTCH AFTER
SCHOOL*

WEST BERGHOLT
ORPEN HALL

CHARITY BINGO NIGHT



BOOK YOUR
SPACE HERE!



FACEBOOK
FUNDRAISING PAGE

MARCH 29TH, 2025
7PM DOORS OPEN
7:30PM GAMES BEGIN

WE'RE ONCE AGAIN HOSTING OUR ANNUAL
CHARITY EVENT FOR OUR AMAZING 2 YEAR OLD
DAUGHTER PHOEBE WHO HAS CYSTIC FIBROSIS.

- BINGO WITH VARIOUS PRIZES
- MINI GAMES*
- RAFFLE*
- CAKE SALE*
- TEAS, COFFEE AND SOFT DRINKS*
- FOOD VAN AND REFRESHMENTS*

£10 PER
PERSON

CONTACT BECCA FOR INFO ON 07378 156734
OR FIND OUR EVENT ON FACEBOOK



**Cystic
Fibrosis Trust**

*AT AN ADDITIONAL COST

open days

SPRING 2025

SENIOR SCHOOL

LEXDEN RD, COLCHESTER, CO3 3RB

07 MAR Friday 07 March
9.30 - 11.30am

08 MAR Saturday 08 March
9.30 - 11.30am

RESERVE AN OPEN DAY PLACE TODAY

stmaryscolchester.org.uk

registrar@stmaryscolchester.org.uk

01206 594 256



St Mary's
Colchester



ATTEND AN OPEN DAY

Find out more about our:

- expertise in educating girls
- top rating of 'Excellent' in ISI Inspection
- all-round education and exceptional pastoral care
- strong GCSE success in subjects from STEM to the Arts
- ranking of top performing in Essex of independent secondary schools without a sixth form (Sunday Times Parent Power league table)
- enhanced Senior School Scholarships programme
- increased pupil leadership opportunities
- small class sizes
- expanding bus routes



Heathlands School
Invitation

MINI SWIMMING

Learn to swim the Mini Swimming Way

We would like to invite you to a free trial swimming class with us

CLASSES FROM 6 WEEKS TO 10 YEARS OLD

RSVP to book our space: 01206 483933

www.miniswimming.co.uk



COMMUNITY ENERGY EVENT



Come along to our Showcase Event at the Orpen Memorial Hall on Wednesday 12th March 2025 at 7.00pm.

Guest speaker presentations will include:

- The Essex Pay As You Go Energy Scheme.
- Information on local government grants & initiatives available.
- Home energy assessments – what might you qualify for?
- Installing solar PV on your roof with a Pay As You Go scheme.



Empowering communities through solar energy schemes, and Council grants and initiatives



Admission is FREE, and a variety of light refreshments will be available

Come along & see if you can save some money on your energy costs!

