



Dear Parents,

We do hope you enjoyed hearing how well your children have settled in to this academic year during the recent parent consultations and we trust you had a restful half term break.

We are now looking forward to the remainder of the Autumn term especially the upcoming Christmas festivities and productions. Wishing you all a wonderful weekend.

Kind regards, Sarah Vass, Headteacher

Week starting Monday 6th November:

(New) Autumn Menu - Week 2



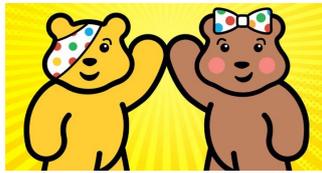
### Children In Need - Be Spotacular!

On Friday, 17<sup>th</sup> November, the children are invited to swap any or all of their uniform for 'Children In Need' style clothes. For example a spotty jumper or a Pudsey bear onesie, or alternatively school uniform accessorised with Pudsey ears!

Please be aware this is not a non-uniform day and unless an item of clothing is spotty, normal uniform should be worn. Eg spotty t-shirt with school trousers/skirt. There is no expectation for anyone to take part if they do not want to.

Buckets will be at the gates to collect any donations you wish to make towards this great cause.

We will also be selling Pudsey ears at the office window.



### Chess Set Donation?



Does anyone have an old chess set they would be willing to donate to The Lodge? We have a number of keen chess players and the current set is missing some pieces and in need of replacing.

### Free Financial Wellbeing Workshops for Parents

Maldon and District Community Voluntary Service are delivering some financial wellbeing workshops in the local area for those who might want to improve their skills.

Please find attached a leaflet with further information if you are interested in utilising this free resource.

### Weekly E-Safety Resources:

#### Voice activated searching

Please read the attached guidance for parents and carers.

Information about risk and reward of apps, games and other technological features are readily found on the internet via sources such as Childnet ([www.childnet.com](http://www.childnet.com)), Common Sense Media ([www.common Sense Media.org](http://www.common Sense Media.org)) and EST Training ('The 2 Johns': [www.esafetytraining.org](http://www.esafetytraining.org)).

If you are concerned about an aspect of your child's online safety, and would like advice, please contact their class teacher in the first instance.



### Diary Dates:

17th November - Children In Need

27th November - Last week for clubs

30th November - Christmas Post Box opens

1st December - Y1 & Y2 Christmas Production to the rest of the school

4th December - Y1 & Y2 Christmas Production to Y2 Parents (PM)

5th December - Y1 & Y2 Christmas Production to Y1 Parents (AM)

7th December - YR Christmas Event

8th December - Author visit - Sam Scott

12th December - Y5 Christmas Production to the rest of the school (AM) and to Parents (Evening)

13th December - Christmas Panto 'Santa Claus' Shoes'

14th December - Christmas Dinner

18th December - Last day for Christmas Post Box

18th December - YR/KS1 Christmas Parties at school

19th December - Y3/Y4/Y5 Christmas Parties at school

19th December - Y6 Christmas Disco (Evening)

20th December - Last day of term / Christmas singing assembly

21st December to 3rd January - Christmas Holidays

4th January - Start of the Spring Term

15th January - 31st October - Deadline for September 2024 New Intake applications *via below link* -

<https://www.essex.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/schools/admissions/primary-school-places>

*(Additional diary dates to be added soon, please check the Newsletter each week for updates)*

### Reception admissions for starting in September 2024

The primary school (Reception) admission round opens on **Monday 6th November 2023**, for parents to apply for a Reception school place for the academic year that starts in September 2023.

The statutory national closing date for applications is **15th January 2024**. Applications can be made online via [www.essex.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.essex.gov.uk/admissions).

All application information is available on the ECC website.



## Girls' Football Taster

On Monday 16<sup>th</sup> October, we hosted a Girls' Football Taster session with other local primary schools, for girls to give football a go. There were over 60 girls all getting a chance to play football.

Beacon Hill provided their sports ground and 8 of their coaches to help us have an exciting afternoon. Each school group played in three sessions including a shooting drill, a passing drill and a dribbling drill plus a mini match at the end of the afternoon.

We also had Lana Gillard, who is the Football Development Officer from Essex County FA, come to see us, she presented us with medals and colourful shoelaces!

Sincere thanks go to Rachel and Stuart Harwood and team at **Beacon Hill Football Club** for organising such a fun packed afternoon. Hopefully, it will have inspired the girls who attended to join a local team.



## Child Safety Warning about Water Beads

*Not relevant for us in school but we thought it may be prudent to highlight this warning to parents. We understand these beads are growing in popularity as toys and are now being used in pellet or water guns.*

The Competition and Consumer Protection Commission (CCPC) has issued a warning regarding the use of water beads, a product used increasingly as a toy. Water beads also known as gel beads, sensory beads, and sold under various brand names, are becoming increasingly popular as a toy. These beads are made from super absorbent polymer and can retain hundreds of times their weight in water.

The use of water beads, especially by babies and toddlers poses serious risks. If swallowed, the beads can continue to expand, growing considerably larger than their original size and causing intestinal blockages requiring medical intervention. Due to their growing popularity, driven by social media exposure, it's critical to be aware of the potential dangers. The CCPC advises that water beads should be kept out of sight and reach of young children to ensure their safety.

More information, and guidance for Parents and caregivers can be found on the [CCPC](https://www.ccpc.gov.uk) website.

