

Dunmow St Mary's Primary School

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Friday 10 February 2023

Dear Parents

This half term has gone by very quickly with children being engaged in their topics. We have seen great electrical games made by Y4, presentations to parents in class assemblies, great sports results and have raised over £600 for the NSPCC with our Number Day activities. We have lots to look forward to in the next half term including World Book Day, Y5's chocolate sale, Y2's marvellous recipes and Y3 experiencing the Stone Age.

Learners of the Week

Congratulations to our Learners of the Week:

6BH	Isla Maguire	3RB	Raul Iacob
6NR	Tommy Vogel	3BI	Dolly Withers
5LC	Esther Achonwa	2TP	Jack Turner
5LH/HT	Grace Smith	2BR	Tia Baxter-Quye
4AM	Poppy Sinnott	2CC	Sienna Annesley
4LW	Elioenai Matthew-Ekuku	1EW	Ava Siezcko
3SC	Eliana Ioannides	1RF/GM	Katie Saunderson/Grace Stalley

Attendance award

Congratulations to 3RB who won this week's award.

Dress to Express Day - 21st February

As part of our LGBT history month celebrations, we will again be having a Dress to Express Day. This year we invite children to wear something that says something about them, that they feel comfortable in and that celebrates who they are. Staff members will be doing the same and during the day children will complete some research into an important figure from LGBT history as well as complete some work that celebrates who they are, recognising joint interests and celebrating differences.

Teacher's Strikes

If negotiations between unions and the government do not resolve issues around school funding, recruitment and retention and teachers' pay then the next strike day will be Wednesday March 1st. We anticipate that arrangements may be similar to last time. We will let you know nearer the time once we have more information but please do start to make contingency plans for this day in case.

World Book Day

World Book Day this year is on Thursday 2nd March. This week your child will be coming home with their £1 World Book Day voucher. They are valid from 16th February and can be used to purchase the £1 World Book Day books available from all bookshops and most supermarkets. They can also be used towards books at our book fair on 2nd March from 3.15 in the school hall. Books on sale start from £3.99.



We are very excited to announce that the library will be holding a competition to see who can use old book pages in the most exciting and innovative way. There is a box of old books by the office for you to use and the winning entry will receive a £10 voucher to spend on books at our book fair.

Mothers Day gifts

During the week after half term the children will be creating their own designs for Mothers Day gifts and bringing home their template designs. You are able to purchase a variety of items via your child's online account however please note that the deadline for return of the designs and payment of your order is **Tuesday 28th February** and we are unable to extend this date due to printing deadlines.

Thinking Day/Founders Day

On 22nd February members of Girlguiding UK will be celebrating Thinking Day and members of the Scout Association will celebrate Founders Day. It is called Founders Day because it is the birthday of Lord Baden-Powell who started the Scout movement in 1908. He then started the Girl Guides with his sister in 1910. Later his wife, Olave, became Chief Guide and her birthday was 22nd February too. Girlguiding members think about Rainbows, Brownies, Guides, Rangers and leaders around the world on this day whilst Scouts celebrate their Founder's birthday. Children who are current members of Girlguiding or Scouts are able to wear their uniforms to school on this day.

Clubs

School-led clubs will continue after half term with the last week of clubs commencing 20th March. If your child can no longer attend a club please let the office know as soon as possible as many clubs have a waiting list.

Playground

Please note that if you are waiting for your child(ren) to leave an after school club in the playground siblings should not join in any games that the children at Olivers Lodge are playing as this invalidates their insurance should anything happen.

Term Dates 2023-2024

The Governors have now agreed on the non-pupil days for the next academic year. The term dates for September 2023 to August 2024 are attached. The non-pupil days are: Monday 4th September 2023, Friday 16th February 2024, Friday 24th May 2024, Friday 28th June 2024, Monday 1st July 2024.

St Mary's Church - Pancake Party

The Church is hosting a pancake party on Tuesday 21st February from 3.30-5.00 with free pancakes, activities and games for all the family. Flyer is attached at the bottom of the newsletter.

Events

Please find below the event calendar for the first week back after half term:

Week commencing Monday 20 February	
MONDAY	Start of Spring 2
TUESDAY	Dress to Express day
WEDNESDAY	Thinking Day/Founders Day
WEDNESDAY 10.40	6NR Class Assembly - parents please arrive at 10.35 at the front gate

Rotary Club

The Rotary Club has contacted us to say the link they sent us last week was wrong. If you would like to participate in their competitions the correct link is <https://www.rotary-ribi.org/clubs/homepage.php?ClubID=1404>

Have a good half term break.

Yours sincerely
Clare Charter

