



HEADTEACHER'S NOTE

Dear Families,

Easter has come and gone and we are already well into the Summer term with SATs next week already. It has been an incredibly short half term and the Year Six children have been working intensely with Mrs Neish to be SATs ready and I have been incredibly impressed with their work ethic and concentration. They are a joy to work with and are ready for the week. I would like to publicly wish them every success and know how hard they have worked.

Our annual reports will this year be sent by email for those who have signed up. We calculated that a huge amount of paper and envelopes will be saved by emailing the reports. It will also mean parents will be able to have instant access to the reports and hope you will support us in this initiative. We would like to take this further and will look for opportunities to save paper and resources and hope to make Eco-Schools a key focus next year.

Already in the past couple of weeks we have hosted the Year Five Maths Challenge and I wanted to commend all the children who took part. We were really unlucky not to get into the top three, missing out by a couple of points. We are proud of the team though – well done all!

Squirrel class went to the Sedgwick Museum to go on a seaside trail and had wonderful time – thank you to the parents who gave up their time to help. Hedgehog class next week are visiting Colchester Castle to learn more about Romans in the East of England and about the eventful life of Boudicca.

We have a few events in the week before the end of the half term—Activity Week. Having the Sports Morning in May is a great idea, it isn't usually too hot and we are again having it in the same week as our Open Morning and picnic lunch. Parents are invited to come in for a sharing celebration assembly at 9.30 then have tea and coffee before going into the classrooms and working with the children. Weather permitting we hope to have a picnic lunch on the field but we have the hall just in case!

This will be followed up by community tidy up which we plan to have on the same afternoon and we have drawn up a long list of jobs people can help us with – so long as the weather is dry! Should it need to be cancelled we will let you know.

In July all children in Years R—6 will be going on trips to celebrate the end of the year. Mrs Crisp has been able to secure a visit to and tour of the Houses of Parliament and (hopefully) Downing Street. This is a fantastic opportunity for children in Hedgehog and Badger classes. Reception to Year two will also be having a trip closer to home, details to follow but it will be on the same day – 22nd July, the last Monday before the summer holidays.

It is not too late to enter some work regarding the science challenge (see overleaf) – it has been extended to the last week of this half term when I shall share some of the excellent work I have received already.

Thank you for your continued support, let's wish the Year Six all the best and that the children have a fun packed Summer Term.

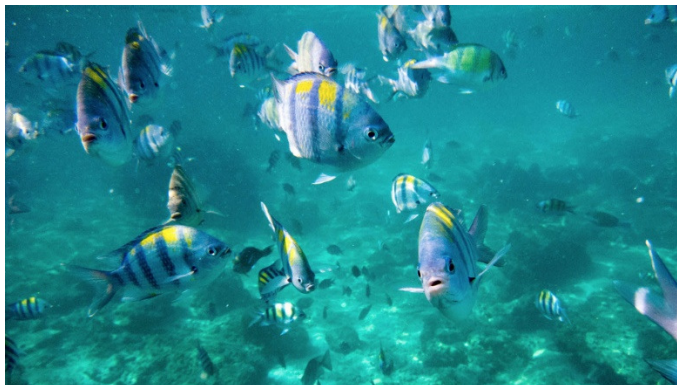
Richard Brown





Highest year group attendance to date: Year 3 with 97.72%

Home science challenge BELOW



Why fish can't live on land?

Discussion over dinner

What do you already know or think you know about the relationship between fish and animals that live on the land?

- Why are fish good at swimming?
- How would fish move on land as they don't have arms or legs?
- Would fish be able to breathe on land, how do they breathe in water?

What would fish eat if they lived on land?

Investigating ideas

Further questions:

- What do you know already about fish?
- What do you need to know?

How would you research and find new information?

Awesome outcomes

Find out about an unusual fish and create a picture/information text/poster.

Design your own fish that could walk on land? How would it adapt?

Create an explanation text about how fish swim or breathe?

Here's the science bit:

Fish cannot live on land because they have features that only allow them to live in water. These features include: gills for breathing underwater, scales and fins for swimming, and camouflage to blend into their surroundings.

Science is full of exceptions however, and you might want to let your class know that there are some fish that can live on land! One such fish is the lungfish, which breaths air like humans.

Take it further

Amphibians, such as frogs, spend time living in both the water and on the land. Challenge the class to think about why frogs can live on land but fish cannot.

There's lots more information about the Lungfish, including a fascinating video, in this [National Geographic article](#). Have a think about some other environments and how animals might be suited to living in them with our [Tricky living](#) or [Terrific tree dweller](#) Odd One Outs.



Proposed Dates 2018 - 2019

Summer Term 2019

Monday 13th –Thursday 16th – KS2 SATS

Tuesday 14th May—Hedgehog Class to Colchester Castle

Monday 20th – Friday 24th May – Activity Week

Tuesday 21st May – Sports Morning—9.15am

Wednesday 22nd May – Y6 Beacon Event—Teversham

School—please see separate letter sent by Parentmail

Thursday 23rd May – Open Morning & Picnic lunch (lunch orders now closed—if you haven't booked a school picnic lunch for your child please provide a home packed lunch)

Thursday 23rd May—Working Party afternoon

Friday 24th May – school closes

Monday 27th – Friday 31st May – half term

Monday 3rd June – staff training day

Tuesday 4th June – school re-opens

Tuesday 4th June—group of pupils to Energy Challenge at Dullingham—pm

Wednesday 5th June—Swimming starts for KS2

Thursday 6th June—Year 5/6 to Quadkids event

Week beginning 10th June - Phonics Screening Checks

Tuesday 11th June—reserve sports morning if required

Tuesday 11th June—Malcolm Baker from BVC to visit Yr 6 pupils

Wednesday 12th June—Introduction to Brass Assembly—Michael Dawson

Friday 14th June – Fathers Day lunch

Monday 17th June—Reception vision screening

Thursday 20th June—Year 3/4 to Sport for All event

Friday 21st June - Squirrel Class Sharing assembly and Book Look

Friday 28th June - Fieldmice Class Sharing assembly and Book Look

Saturday 29th June—Piece of Cake 10k Run & School Fete

Wednesday 3rd July – KS2 play—9.30am dress rehearsal and 6pm performance

Thursday 4th July – KS2 Play—6pm performance

Monday 8th & Tuesday 9th July—Year 6 to BVC Induction Days

Tuesday 9th July—'Move Up' afternoon

Wednesday 10th July—last swimming session for KS2

Friday 12th July – Governor Morning

Monday 22nd July—KS1 trip — More details soon

Monday 22nd July—KS2 trip to the Houses of Parliament— More details soon

Monday 22nd July—No Nursery Provision available on this date

Tuesday 23rd July - Leavers Service 2.15pm

Wednesday 24th July – Leavers Assembly 9.15am

Wednesday 24th July—School closes

2019 - 2020

Autumn Term 2019

Tuesday 3rd September—staff training day

Wednesday 4th September—School Opens for Years R—6

Monday 9th September—School Opens for Nursery

Monday 21st—Friday 25th October—half term

Monday 28th October—staff training day

Friday 8th November—Individual & Family photos

Monday 2nd December—Pantomime to school—pm

Thursday 19th December—School Closes

Friday 20th December—staff training day

Spring Term 2020

Monday 6th January—staff training day

Tuesday 7th January – School Opens

Monday 17th—Friday 21st February—half term

Monday 16th March—Class Photos

Friday 3rd April—School Closes

Summer Term 2020

Monday 20th April—School Opens

Monday 4th May—May Day Holiday

Friday 22nd May—staff training day

Monday 25th—Friday 29th May—half term

Tuesday 21st July—School Closes