



WITHAM OAKS ACADEMY NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 2

w/C 29th September 2025



Messages from Mr. Sheehan and Mrs. Harrington

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been a wonderful start to the new academic year, and we are delighted to share some exciting updates with you.

Last week, we welcomed Ofsted for a pilot inspection, and we were especially proud of how our children conducted themselves and showcased our school so positively throughout the visit.

We are also thrilled to congratulate our newly elected Eco-Committee and Pupil Parliament team for this academic year. Your children will play an important role in shaping our school community, and you can find a full list of names in this edition of our newsletter.

We hope that you are finding our Class Dojo pages useful as a way to stay connected with your child's learning. We regularly post photos and updates that showcase all the incredible learning journeys our students are on. If you have not yet joined your child's class page, please speak to their teacher about signing up – it's a great way to see what your child is learning and celebrating achievements together.

This year, we are placing a strong focus on developing our children's character strengths, guided by our school value: *"Your character is you when no one is watching."* We will be supporting pupils to embody this value in their daily lives and interactions, helping them to grow into kind, resilient, and responsible young people.

KEY DATES

30/9/25	Year 5 Space VR Day
8/10/25	Year 5 Autumn Assembly 2.30pm & 5.30pm
9/10/25	3 Brazil Class Lunch
16/10/25	Non-Uniform Day – Cereal Donation
16/10/25	SEND Coffee Afternoon 2.15pm-3.15pm
20/10/25	PTA Pumpkin Competition – Judging
21/10/25	Parent Consultation Evening – 3.30pm-5.30pm
23/10/25	Parent Consultation Evening – 3.30pm-7.00pm
24/10/25	NON-PUPIL DAY
27/10/25-31/10/25	HALF TERM
4/11/25	3 Peru Class Lunch



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This Week's Attendance



Attendance Cake

6 Japan



Attendance Update

Regular attendance is crucial for academic and social success. Missing school can disrupt learning and make it difficult to catch up. Some children are missing out on part of their education by arriving late to school. The gates are open from 8:35am. Please make sure your child arrives before 8.45am when the gates close. We are monitoring punctuality very closely and may contact you if we have a concern.

Attendance League

WITHAM OAKS ATTENDANCE LEAGUE					
POSITION		Pts	POSITION		Pts
1	5 China	11	7	4 Kenya	7
2	6 India	7	8	4 Egypt	7
3	5 Singapore	9	9	4 Peru	7
4	4 Zimbabwe	9	10	3 Brazil	5
5	5 Thailand	5	11	3 Argentina	5
6	5 Korea	8	12	5 Japan	5

House Team Competition/Update

	Attenborough	1382		THUNBERG	1423
	RASHFORD	1385		Yousafzai	1210

RECENT LETTERS- AVAILABLE ON THE WEBSITE

All communication will be sent through ParentMail. Please ensure that you have given us a current email address.

Issues with ParentMail communication should be emailed to adminwoa@inspiresmat.co.uk

This Week's Awards



Stars of the Week

Each week, children will be celebrated for demonstrating one or more of the five key character strengths



Joseph – 3P
Benjamin - 5K



Louie - 6J
Elaine - 6C
Zack – 4K
Jasmine – 3A
Evie – 5T
6I

Millie - 3B
Elijah - 5S
Kaiden - 4Z
Remi - 4E
Joshua -



Sports Personality of the Week

Woody-Blu



Week 2
w/b 29/09/2025



Celebration Corner

We love to celebrate the amazing things our students accomplish both in and out of school! Please send us photographs and a brief description of their achievement, so we can feature it in here in our **Celebration Corner**. It's a great way to celebrate their hard work and dedication, and to share their success with our school community!

You can email your photos and information to adminwoa@inspiresmat.co.uk

Eco-Committee

Congratulations to the following pupils who have been elected to serve as members of our Eco-Committee for the 2025-26 academic year.

Jasmine & Oscar - 3A, Hunter & Rosa - 3B, Leo & Charlie - 3P, Ollie & Jake – 4E, Olivia & Kaiden – 4K, Max & Alphobns – 4Z, Owen & Beau – 5K, Leo & Talia – 5S, Evie & Elliott – 5T, Scarlett & Elaine – 6C, Josh & Charlie – 6I, Travis & Ruby - 6J

In Other News...



Parent/Carer Survey

In our bid to both highlight the schools success and continually improve, we would like as many of you as possible to complete the attached survey. These questions are ones which would be provided by Ofsted during an inspection and will inform our school development plan.



There is an option for you to add your child's name if you would like to do so.

PE DAYS

Children need to come into school on PE days in their PE kit. Children will need an outdoor PE kit i.e., plain black tracksuit bottoms (or shorts in warmer weather), white T-shirt and a plain black hoodie. No cycling shorts please.

3 Argentina 	Monday & Tuesday
3 Brazil 	Tuesday & Wednesday
3 Peru 	Tuesday & Wednesday
4 Egypt 	Tuesday & Wednesday
4 Kenya 	Wednesday & Thursday
4 Zimbabwe 	Wednesday & Thursday

5 Korea 	Monday & Friday
5 Singapore 	Monday & Friday
5 Thailand 	Monday & Friday
6 China 	Thursday & Friday
6 India 	Thursday & Friday
6 Japan 	Tuesday & Thursday

As part of Essex County Council's Health and Safety policy, all jewellery must be removed for PE, including earrings. Children must not wear earrings or other jewellery during the school day, unless for religious reasons.

- **Sleeper studs must be removed before PE/Games – they can no longer be covered with tape or plasters.**
 - **To help, please ensure earrings are removed before school on PE days.**
- Thank you for supporting us to keep children safe.**

Pupil Parliament

Congratulations to the following pupils who have been elected to serve as members of our Pupil Parliament for the 2025-26 academic year.

Lia & Millie – 3A, Brooke & Joseph – 3P, Aya & Millie – 3B,
Tilly & Samuel – 4Z, Azza & Lucy - 4K, Jacob & Eleise – 4E,
Coraline & Bethany - 5K, Jeslyn & Harry – 5S, Lily-Ava & Holly – 5T,
Liam & Rose – 6C, Annabelle & Kaylen – 6I, Jayden & Lily-Rose - 6J

In Other News...



Autumn Dates 2025-26

17/9/25	Year 6 Live Performance "During the War"
17/9/25	Lift Maltings Open Evening 5.00pm-8.00pm
18/9/25	Year 2 Parent Tour 10am
18/9/25	Lift New Rickstones Open Evening 6.00pm-8.00pm
22/9/25	Individual Photographs
23/9/25	Flu Immunisations
23/9/25	3 Argentina Class Lunch
25/9/25	Year 2 Parent Tour 2.30pm
30/9/25	Year 5 Space VR Day
8/10/25	Year 5 Autumn Assemnbly 2.30pm & 5.30pm
9/10/25	3 Brazil Class Lunch
16/10/25	Non-Uniform Day for Cereal
16/10/25	SEND Coffee Afternoon 2.15pm - 3.15pm
20/10/25	PTA Pumpkin Competition – Judging Day (£1 Donation)
21/10/25	Parent Consultation Evening 3.30pm-5.30pm
23/10/25	Parent Consultation Evening .30pm-7.00pm
24/10/25	NON-PUPIL DAY
27/10/25 - 31/10/25	– HALF TERM
4/11/25	3 Peru Class Lunch
5/11/25	Year 2 Parent Tour – 2.30pm
6/11/25	Yr 4 Trip Museum of Power
14/11/25	Children in Need – Wear Something spotty (£1 Donation)
25/11/25	4 Egypt Class Lunch
27/11/25	Winter Fayre – 3.45pm
9/12/25	Dick Whittington Pantomime
10/12/25	Christmas Lunch & Jumper Day
16/12/25	Year 3 Christmas Assembly – 2.30pm and 5.30pm
18/12/25	PTA Christmas Character Dress Up (£1 Donation)
22/12/25–2/12/25	– CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS



Term Dates:

Please see term dates for the remainder of the school year listed below. Ensure any holidays are booked during the period of times highlighted in red:

Autumn 1	2/9/25	23/10/25
Autumn Half Term	27/10/25	31/10/25
Autumn 2	3/11/25	19/12/25
Christmas Holiday	22/12/26	2/1/26
Spring 1	6/1/26	13/2/26
Spring Half Term	16/2/26	20/2/26
Spring 2	23/2/26	27/3/26
Easter Holiday	30/3/26	10/4/26
Summer 1	13/4/26	22/5/26
Summer Half term	25/5/26	29/5/26
Summer 2	2/6/25	17/7/26

Inset Days

1/9/25 24/10/25 5/1/26 1/6/26
20/7/26

Please may we remind you that we do not authorise any holiday during term time.

In Other News...



Spring Dates 2025-26

5/1/26	NON-PUPIL DAY
12/1/26	Year 3 Barleylands Trip
21/1/26	Young Voices at the O2
27/1/26	4 Zimbabwe Class Lunch
5/2/26	6 China Class Lunch
6/2/26	Number Day - £1 donation
11/2/26	Valentine Disco Years 3 & 4 4-5.30pm Years 5 & 6 6-7.30pm
16/2/26 – 20/2/26	- HALF TERM
24/2/26	6 Japan Class Lunch
24/2/26	Parent Consultation Evening 3.30pm – 5.30pm
26/2/26	Parent Consultation Evening 3.30pm – 7.00pm
3/3/26	6 India Class Lunch
5/3/26	World Book day
16/3/26	Class Photographs
17/3/26	Ladies Day Lunch
24/3/26	Year 4 Easter Assembly
26/6/26	PTA Easter Trail £2 Entry (3.30pm)
30/3/26 – 10/4/26	- EASTER HOLIDAYS



Summer Dates 2025-26

14/4/26	Non-uniform Day for Cereal
4/5/26	BANK HOLIDAY
19/5/26	5 Korea Class Lunch
25/5/26 – 29/5/26	- HALF TERM
1/6/26	NON-PUPIL DAY
1/6/26-12/6/26	- Year 4 Multiplication checks
9/6/26	5 Singapore Class Lunch
16/6/26	Year 3 & 4 Sports Day (AM)
16/6/26	5 Thailand Class Lunch
17/6/26	Year 5 & 6 Sports Day (AM)
18/6/26	Gentleman's Day Lunch
25/6/26	Year 6 Lift Maltings & Lift New Rickstones Academy Induction Day
25/6/26	Year 2 Transition Visit (all day) & Parent Picnic
25/6/26	Year 2 Parent Meetings 1.30pm & 5pm
3/7/26	Summer Fete 2.30pm
6/7/26-8/7/26	Year 6 Residential
9/7/26	End of Year Disco Years 3 & 4 4-5.30pm Years 5 & 6 6-7.30pm
10/7/26	Year 6 Play Dress Rehearsal
15/7/26	Annual Progress Reports sent out
15/7/26	Year 6 Performance to Parents 1.30pm & 5.30pm
16/7/26	Year 6 Leaver's Lunch
17/7/26	Year 6 Leaver's Ceremony (details to be confirmed)

Year 6 to 7 admissions

Applications for Year 7 children starting in September 2026 opened on Friday 12th September.
To apply for a place please visit www.essex.gov.uk/admissions
The closing date for applications is
Friday 31st October 2025.