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WITHAM OAKS ACADEMY

NEWSLETTER



Part of the Inspires MAT
Inspires
MAT

ISSUE 5

w/C 15th December 2025



Messages from Mr. Sheehan and Mrs. Harrington

As we reach the end of another busy and successful term, we would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support throughout the autumn term. It has been a pleasure to see the children grow in confidence, enthusiasm and independence over the past few months.

One of the highlights of this term was our visit from the Dick Whittington pantomime. The children were thoroughly engaged, laughing along and joining in with great excitement. It was wonderful to see such joy and shared enjoyment across the school, and our thanks go to everyone involved in making this experience so memorable for the children.

We are also very much looking forward to the Year 3 Winter Performance, which promises to be a special occasion. Parents are warmly invited to attend on Tuesday 16th December, with performances taking place at 2.30pm and 5.30pm. The children have been working incredibly hard to prepare, and we are proud of the confidence and teamwork they are showing.

On the last day of term, children are welcome to bring in non-electronic board games to enjoy with their classmates. This is always a lovely, calm way to end the term together and supports social interaction and cooperation.

We would also like to commend our Year 4 pupils for the fantastic effort they have put into their biome home learning projects. The creativity, research and presentation skills on display have been impressive, and it has been a pleasure to see the children so engaged and proud of their learning.

Finally, a big thank you to our catering team for a wonderful Christmas lunch and Jumper Day on Wednesday 10th December. The festive atmosphere was enjoyed by all, and we are very grateful for the care and effort that went into making the day so special for the children.

On behalf of all the staff, we would like to wish you and your families a restful and joyful Christmas break. We look forward to welcoming everyone back in the new year on **Tuesday 6th January**.

KEY DATES

16/12/25	Year 3 Christmas Assembly – 2.30pm & 5.30pm
18/12/25	PTA Christmas Character Dress Up Day - £1 donation
22/12/25 – 02/01/26	CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS
05/01/26	NON PUPIL DAY
12/01/26	Year 3 Barleylands Trip
13/01/26	4 Kenya Class Lunch
21/01/26	Young Voices at the O2
27/01/26	4 Zimbabwe class Lunch



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This Week's Attendance



Attendance Cake

5 Japan

4 Kenya

4 Argentina



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	
1	6 China	77	7 5 Thailand
2	5 Korea	48	8 5 Japan
3	4 Peru	53	9 5 Singapore
4	4 Kenya	44	10 4 Argentina
5	6 India	42	11 4 Brazil
6	4 Zimbabwe	35	12 3 Egypt

House Team Competition/Update

	Attenborough	3382		THUNBERG	3629
	RASHFORD	3309		Yousafzai	2998

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

TEAMWORK & FRIENDSHIP

- Seth – 5K
- Leonard – 5S
- Tilly – 4Z
- Janell – 3P
- Jamie – 5S
- Katie-Louise – 5K

EXPLORING & LEARNING

- Aria – 4E
- Wynter – 4K
- Layla-Rose 5T
- Christopher – 6I
- Daniel Junior – 3A
- TJ – 6J
- Teddy – 4Z
- Arabella – 5T
- Freddie – 6C
- Kaylen – 6I
- Benjamin – 4K
- Mason – 6J
- Albert – 6I
- Charlie – 6J
- Abel – 3P
- Rosa – 3B
- Arabella – 6C
- Jeslyn – 5S
- Delilah – 3A
- Cassius – 4E
- Peyton – 4Z
- Andrew – 4Z
- Leah – 4K
- Florence – 4E
- Violet – 4K
- Samuel – 4Z
- Harvey – 5K
- Harry – 4E
- Skye – 3A
- Daniel – 5T
- Violet – 6I
- Freddie – 3P
- Charlie – 6I
- Skyla – 4K
- Sienna – 5k

BRAVERY & HONESTY

- David – 6C
- Ruby – 6C
- Thea – 3B
- Elsie – 3A
- Harmony – 5S

LOVE & KINDNESS

- Pippa – 3B
- Alisa- May 4K
- Indie-Mai – 3P
- Holly – 5T
- Lillia – 6I
- Travis – 6J
- Ruby – 6J
- Freddie B – 6C
- Gracie – 3B
- Elsie – 4E

LOVE OF LIFE AND OUR WORLD

- Aria – 5S
- Isabelle – 5T
- Nevaeh-Rae – 3A



Week 2
w/b 05/01/2026

Sports Personality of the Week

Benjamin K
TJ
Florence



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	5 Korea 	Monday & Friday
3 Brazil 	Tuesday & Wednesday	5 Singapore 	Monday & Friday
3 Peru 	Tuesday & Wednesday	5 Thailand 	Monday & Friday
4 Egypt 	Tuesday & Wednesday	6 China 	Thursday & Friday
4 Kenya 	Wednesday & Thursday	6 India 	Thursday & Friday
4 Zimbabwe 	Wednesday & Thursday	6 Japan 	Tuesday & Thursday



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

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.



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:

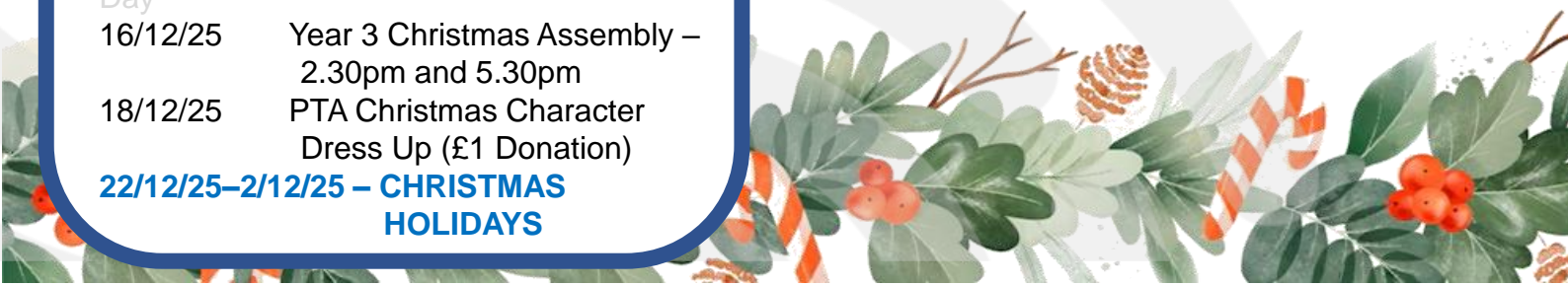
Please see term dates for the remainder of the school year listed below. Ensure any holidays are booked during the period of times highlighted in red:

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
13/1/26	4 Kenya Class Lunch
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 2 to 3 admissions

Applications for Year 3 children starting in September 2026 opens on Monday 10th November. To apply for a place please visit www.essex.gov.uk/admissions
The closing date for applications is Thursday 15th January 2026.