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WITHAM OAKS ACADEMY

# NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 6

w/c: 12<sup>th</sup> January 2026



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## Messages from Mr. Sheehan and Mrs. Harrington

Happy New Year and welcome back to the start of the spring term. We hope you all had a restful and enjoyable break, and we would like to take this opportunity to wish our whole school community a very happy and healthy year ahead.

This term, we are excited to continue providing enriching outdoor learning experiences for all our pupils. As part of this, children will be developing practical skills such as learning how to tie different types of knots and exploring an important survival technique: how to safely light a fire using a fire steel. These activities are carefully planned and support the development of problem-solving, resilience, teamwork, perseverance, fine motor skills, independence and confidence, while also encouraging curiosity and hands-on learning.

To support this work, we kindly ask that parents provide their child with a spare pair of wellington boots, if they have not already done so. These can be kept in school for children to change into when needed. We are keen to encourage learning in all weathers, including during the wetter months, and appropriate footwear helps us ensure children remain comfortable and safe outdoors.

We have already had a fantastic start to the term. Year 6 launched their new English text, *The Firework-Maker's Daughter*, by lighting sparklers, bringing their learning to life in an engaging and memorable way. On Friday, Year 3 took part in an exciting practical dance session in the hall, learning about the history of hip-hop and working together on a short routine. These were choreographed by one of our very own parents, and we are extremely grateful for their time and expertise. The children had a brilliant time and showed great enthusiasm throughout.

For regular updates on what your child's class is learning, please check your child's Class Dojo page. For any new parents, Class Dojo is our main platform for sharing class news, learning updates and important information. If you have not yet received an email invitation to join your child's class feed, please contact your child's class teacher who will be happy to support you.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. We look forward to another busy and exciting term filled with learning, creativity and many memorable experiences for the children.



### KEY DATES

21/01/26	Young Voices at the O2
27/01/26	4 Zimbabwe Class Lunch
05/02/26	6 China Class Lunch
06/02/26	Number Day - £1 Donation
11/02/26	Valentine Disco Yrs 3 & 4 4- 5.30pm Yrs 5&6 6-7.30pm
16/02/26 - 20/02/26	HALF TERM
24/02/26	6 Japan Class Lunch
24/02/26	Parent Consultation Evening 3.30pm-5.30pm
26/02/26	Parent Consultation Evening 3.30pm-7.00pm



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# 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



China Class  
Annabelle - 6I



Marcel – 4E  
Xavier – 4Z  
Benjamin – 4K  
Brooke – 5K  
Layla-Rose – 5T  
Violet – 3B  
Jayden - 6J



Talia- 5S



Mya – 3A  
Zinat - 3P

## Reading

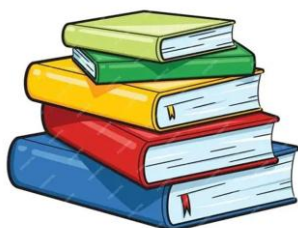
Well done! Great effort in reading.

Alice – 3A, Millie – 3B, Pippa – 3P, Hayden – 4E

Jake – 4K, Jessica – 4Z, Kharys – 5K,

Armanda – 5S, Elliot – 5T, Arabella – 6C,

Freya – 6I, Charlie - 6J



Week 1  
w/b 19/01/2026



## Sports Personality of the Week

Abel



# 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

**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.**

## 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](mailto:adminwoa@inspiresmat.co.uk)

# 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
<b>24/10/25</b>	<b>NON-PUPIL DAY</b>
<b>27/10/25 - 31/10/25</b>	<b>– HALF TERM</b>
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)
<b>22/12/25–2/12/25</b>	<b>– CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS</b>



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

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	<b>NON-PUPIL DAY</b>
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
<b>16/2/26 – 20/2/26</b>	<b>- HALF TERM</b>
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)
<b>30/3/26 – 10/4/26</b>	<b>- EASTER HOLIDAYS</b>



## Summer Dates 2025-26

14/4/26	Non-uniform Day for Cereal
<b>4/5/26</b>	<b>BANK HOLIDAY</b>
19/5/26	5 Korea Class Lunch
<b>25/5/26 – 29/5/26</b>	<b>- HALF TERM</b>
<b>1/6/26</b>	<b>NON-PUPIL DAY</b>
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 10<sup>th</sup> November.  
To apply for a place please visit [www.essex.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.essex.gov.uk/admissions)  
The closing date for applications is  
**Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2026.**