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WITHAM OAKS ACADEMY

NEWSLETTER

Part of the Inspires MAT
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ISSUE 7

w/c: 26th January 2026



Messages from Mr. Sheehan and Mrs. Harrington

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



Spa Road ● Witham ● CM8 1NA
Co-Headteachers ● Mrs M Harrington, Mr D Sheehan
Telephone ● 01376 513322
Email ● adminwoa@inspiresmat.co.uk

www.withamoaksacademy.co.uk

This week, we have really enjoyed spending time in classrooms across the school, particularly visiting writing lessons and seeing the high-quality work pupils are producing. In Year 5, pupils have been developing balanced arguments around the topic of homework, carefully considering different viewpoints and using clear reasoning to support their ideas. Meanwhile, Year 3 pupils have been retelling *The Magic Paintbrush*, impressing us with their original ideas and adventurous vocabulary choices, which brought the story to life in imaginative ways.

We are also looking ahead to National Storytelling Week 2026, which runs from Saturday 31st January to Sunday 8th February. To celebrate the joy of stories and reading together, we are opening our classroom doors on Thursday 5th February for a story-sharing session. During this time, class teachers will share one of their favourite stories with their class, helping to inspire a love of storytelling and reading for pleasure.

Beyond the classroom, pupils have been taking part in outdoor learning experiences, including practising how to light a fire using a fire steel. This activity provided a fantastic opportunity for children to demonstrate perseverance, resilience and teamwork as they refined their technique and supported one another. As always, it has been a pleasure to see the enthusiasm, creativity and determination shown by our pupils this week.

Thank you for your continued support.



This Week's Attendance



Attendance Cake

5 Singapore

3 Peru



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	100	
2	5 Korea	80	
3	4 Peru	76	
4	4 Kenya	55	
5	6 India	51	
6	4 Zimbabwe	45	
7	5 Japan	44	
8	5 Singapore	44	
9	5 Thailand	38	
10	4 Argentina	33	
11	4 Brazil	33	
12	3 Egypt	27	

House Team Competition/Update

	Attenborough	4077		THUNBERG	4321
	RASHFORD	4021		Yousafzai	3572

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



Oliver - 6I



Cain – 6C
Evie – 5T
Kayden – 6J
Alisa-May – 4K
Hunter – 3B
Isla – 6I
Alissia – 3A
Freddie – 4Z
Arden – 3P
Hallie – 3A
Jacob – 5K
Alphons – 4Z
Oliver – 4E
Leo - 5S



Ruby – 6C
Stanley – 3P
Hattie – 6C
Alieya - 4K



Maisie – 5K
Faizah – 3B
Holly - 5T



Betsy – 5S
Charlotte – 4E
Ruby - 6J



Please ensure your child has a pair of wellington boots or an old pair of trainers in school for outdoor learning. These can be kept on site for children to change into when needed. We are committed to supporting learning in all weathers, particularly during the wetter months, and having appropriate footwear helps keep children comfortable and safe when outdoors.



Week 2
w/b 26/01/2026



Sports Personality of the Week

Mya B



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

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
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
26/3/26	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.