



Newsletter

This Week

This week I held an assembly to launch the celebration of Chinese New Year. On Wednesday the Chinese Centre, Colchester visited us and spoke to the children about Chinese New Year and Chinese culture. They presented a Chinese dance routine to the children which the children learnt and performed themselves. All children also took part in various activities within their classes.

Today was Woolly Hat day. It was wonderful to see so many of the children in their hats supporting homelessness. Thank you to everybody who donated to support this worthy cause. We will advise of how much was raised next week. Thank you for your continued support.

The Year 2 children and teachers also received a visit from Chris Blomeley of Community Energy Colchester Ltd today. He spoke to them about ways to improve our planet and covered areas including recycling, reclamation, reducing carbon footprint and ways to lower energy use and bills.

Next Week

Next week Chris Blomeley will also visit Year 1 teachers and children to discuss ways to improve our plant.

Strike Action

As you are aware there is proposed strike action next Wednesday 1st February. We have a number of teachers who belong to the NEU and therefore we need to plan to enable these teachers to attend the strike. With this in mind, on Wednesday 1st February only the following classes will be open as normal:

- All of Year 2
- 3 classes will open for the children of keyworkers

A separate letter will come home to you on Monday, however, if you are a keyworker, please contact the school office to leave your details. If more teachers arrive for work than expected, we will inform you by text message that you may bring your child in to school. The priority will be given to siblings of Year 2 children first. Please ensure the school office has your correct contact details.

This decision has not been taken lightly and I am sorry for any inconvenience this may cause you.

Kind regards

Mrs K Maguire-Egan: Head Teacher

KEY DATES	
February	
3rd	Better Planet Teaching Year 1
7th	Reception Year Valentine's Disco 3-4pm
8th	Year 1 Valentine's Disco 3-4pm
9th	Year 2 Valentine's Disco 3-4pm
10th	Last day of school
13th-17th	Half Term
Menu	W/C January 30th Week 1

Attendance

Year	Last Week	This Week
Reception	93.2%	88.4%
Year 1	90.5%	88.5%
Year 2	91.2%	91.6%

Please be advised we will ask you for medical evidence if your child is absent for 3 or more days. This follows our School Policy. Should you wish to see the policy, it can be viewed on our website.

Lost Property

We have 2 pairs of glasses that have not been claimed. A black Dalmatian pair and a blue Star Wars pair. If these belong to your child, please collect from the school office.



Lunch boxes



In order to avoid a choking hazard, please ensure that you cut grapes up before putting them in your child's lunchbox.

Please also ensure that sugary snacks are kept to an absolute minimum. Thank you for your co-operation.

Menu Change



As of Wednesday 1st February, chicken pie will be replaced with gammon slices and sage and onion stuffing. The vegetarian option will be Quorn fillet and stuffing.

Valentine's Disco Dates

Each year group will have the opportunity to attend a Valentine's Disco. Dates are:

Reception Disco: Tuesday 7th February 3pm-4pm

Year 1 Disco: Wednesday 8th February 3pm-4pm

Year 2 Disco: Thursday 9th February 3pm-4pm

Tickets are now on sale and can be purchased for £1 from the school office.



Parent Lunch Dates

Over the coming couple of months, we will be inviting parents into school to enjoy eating lunch with their child. Unfortunately, we can only accommodate 1 parent per child. The first year group taking part will be Year 2 on the following dates: **Kingfishers—February 24th, Nightingales—March 3rd, Robins—March 10th**

A letter giving more information will be sent out shortly.



Toys

Children are still bringing toys from home into school. Outside toys are not permitted in school so please make every effort to take them off your child before coming in. Your support is appreciated.

Last Day of Term Friday 10th February. Half Term 13th-17th February. Back to School Monday 20th February.

Head Lice

I have been made aware of some instances of head lice within the school. Can you please check your child's hair regularly and ensure to treat accordingly. If you require a free lice comb, please visit the school office to collect one. Thank you for your support.



Mobility Scooters

If you ride a mobility scooter, please can you ensure that you ride it slowly when on the school grounds. Thank you.

Water Bottles

Please ensure your child does not bring a hot drink into school. Only water is permitted in water bottles. Thank you for your support.



Safety When Walking to School

Please make sure you keep your child with you whilst walking to school. Today, 2 children were running ahead of their adult and ran into the road, causing a driver to undertake an emergency stop. Thankfully, nobody was hurt.

Reducing our Carbon Footprint

Below are this week's tips on how to save money and reduce our carbon footprint.



THIS WEEK'S ENERGY SAVING TIPS



Don't oversize your appliances—a massive American style fridge is (normally!) unnecessary for a small household.



Recharge batteries instead of buying throw away ones.



Charge things at night if you are on an Economy 7 tariff. The night time tariff tends to be half the price of the day time tariff.