

From the Chief Executive Officer

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to the Spring Term edition of the CLP Parent and Carer Newsletter as we celebrate the work that goes on in our schools. This has been an incredibly busy term in all our schools, and you find a lot of information contained in this newsletter about some of the work that has been going on this term. From pupils competing in a range of external PE competitions, to a number of trips including pupils singing at Young Voices at the O2 and lots of celebrations of World Book Day. It is worth noting that the information contained in here is just a fraction of the superb work that happens daily in each school. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the staff that work in our schools for their hard work, dedication and commitment. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all parents and carers for your continued support of your school. We value and truly appreciate the support we receive from parents, carers, families, and the wider community.

I would like to wish everyone an enjoyable and restful Easter holiday.

Paul Banks
Chief Executive Officer

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been a busy but productive spring term in all of our schools. Pupils have enjoyed exciting lessons, and many have been able to go on trips and visits linked to what they are learning in school. Our youngest pupils who would have started with us in September have settled in very well in all of our infant and primary schools. They have not only made friends but are growing in their confidence, behave very well and have made good relationships with both adults and other pupils. Starting school for the first time is never easy but we are proud that when we visit schools our Reception pupils are learning well and enjoying their learning most importantly. After Easter, we will be moving into that time of year

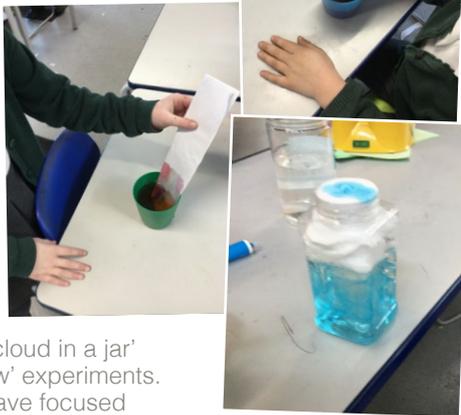
when our Year 2s, Year 6s, Year 11s and Year 13s will be going into exam season. We know that this can be a bit of an anxious time, but all of our staff are mindful of this and making sure that pupils are well-prepared, receive the support they need and can talk to them about any anxiety that they feel. We know that our pupils' wellbeing is as important as their academic performance, so make sure that during this Easter break they get the right balance, ensuring that they have enough opportunities to connect with friends and family, be active and get some rest. Wishing you all a happy and peaceful break.

Karla Martin
Director of Standards and School



British Science Week

During British Science Week, we took the opportunity to celebrate by taking part in lots of different science activities. Year 2 kicked off the week by having a science day. They took part in lots of activities and carried out some simple tests and experiments. Year 1 enjoyed planting radishes and are looking forward to seeing how they grow. They also enjoyed making predictions for what would happen in our 'rain cloud in a jar' and 'walking rainbow' experiments. Finally, Reception have focused on sunflowers this week and have enjoyed planting sunflower seeds and thinking about how plants change as they grow.



Children's Mental Health Week (CMHW)

There were a range of activities planned at BFIS for CMHW. In Reception, we thought about how we can connect with our family and friends by being kind and gentle. We loved adding hearts to our Kindness Tree each time we are kind to our friends or to the grown-ups in school. Together we have created a colourful jigsaw that shows all the different activities that we love to do that help us to connect with our friends and family.

The book for this week in Reception was *The Worrysaurus*. The little dinosaur in this lovely book helps us to remember what to do if we get butterflies in our tummies when we are worried about something. Like the Worrysaurus, we have thought about the special things that can help chase those worry butterflies away, drawing our own Worry Jars.

On Monday, we enjoyed our yoga session - thinking about how our breath is our friend and can help us feel calm if we are feeling worried, excited or sad. We were very excited to meet Harold with Nancy in the LifeSpace tent! Harold, the Happy and Healthy Giraffe, showed us ways that we can look after our physical and mental health. Then, on Thursday, we spent some time meeting the animals from Eden Oasis. We were all so brave about seeing these creatures up close, with many of us stroking or holding them!



Design and Technology Morning

Year 2 had a morning of Design and Technology fun. We were also joined by lots of adults from home who were able to help us create and make some amazing projects linked to the text Year 2 are currently reading, 'The Iron Man'. The children took part in four activities linked to the design and technology curriculum. They were able to make their own models but also collaborate with others to create a huge Iron Man Family. The family will now 'live' in our school hall and they are wonderful examples of Teamwork. One of the children told the kitchen team on the day that it had been, 'the best day ever!'.

We really have created some memorable learning for the year group **#bfismakememories**

Our **Iron Man Family** created by the **Barnes Farm Family**.



Year 2 Music Festival

On Friday 17th March, Year 2 attended the Infant Music Festival at Christchurch. The children worked incredibly hard to rehearse a performance of 'Pirates vs Mermaids' to perform for parent/carers later that afternoon.

The children behaved impeccably, and we were extremely proud of their behaviour, efforts and how they represented the school. Staff who organised the festival commented on how kind, friendly and well behaved the children were and how the children of BFIS were the first children they had had who introduced themselves to children at the other school attending. We were so proud of our 'kind and gentle' Year 2 children and of the amazing performance they gave.





BFJS Are Active!

Barnes Farm Junior school children got active in so many ways during this Spring term as part of our drive to earn the Green Level Award for our Travel Plan.

Year 4 and Year 6 took part in *Bikeability* (supported by Essex County Council) so that they increased their confidence with cycling including road awareness (Level 2).



World Book Day 2nd March

All of our children took part in a wide variety of activities all aimed at inspiring a love of reading. A huge thank you to all the parents and carers who supported this at home too. We saw some amazingly creative costumes and activities included an author masterclass, paired reading with children in a different year group, a live WBD assembly and a Guess the Staff Bookshelf competition.



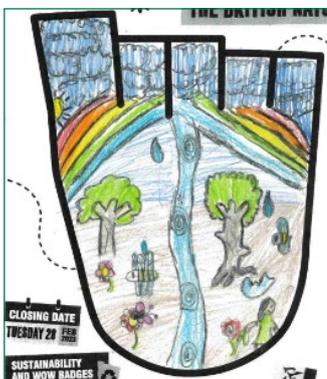
All children took part in the Walk of Fame in February. This involved trying to increase the number of active journeys to school and recording it online. We finished 11th in Essex overall and 92nd in the UK – an excellent achievement. In particular, many children

used the Asda Park and Stride facility which counts as an active journey (and helps minimize traffic outside of school). Our School Council even measured the distance from school to Asda (827 steps if you're interested).

Our children also submitted hundreds of entries to the National Design competition for the next set of WOW badges. We have our fingers crossed that we are successful!

Chelmsford Museum Visit, Year 5

Year 5 were invited to spend a day exploring Chelmsford Museum in order to help them learn more about Marconi and his contribution to the world of wireless communication (as part of a wider project around the Titanic disaster). The staff at the museum provided workshops about radio technology and Marconi's life, which has helped the children with their English work about biographies. The children were also able to take some time to explore the museum independently and learn even more about a range of topics about their local area. The staff were incredibly complimentary of the children's attitudes and behaviour and it was a pleasure to see the children learning in such an enthusiastic and welcoming environment.



The Barnes Farm Junior School Values

BEING POSITIVE

BEING RESPECTFUL

BEING RESPONSIBLE

World Book Day - Bedtime Stories

As part of our World Book Day celebrations, the children in the primary phase were invited back into school in the evening for some 'Bedtime Stories'. The children and staff settled down in their pyjamas with their favourite books. A lovely evening was had by all!



Ski Trip

Another first at Beaulieu and our ski trip to Switzerland. 70 of our children attended our first ski trip. It should not have been then, but Covid prevented our first attempt! From beginners, to others with a bit of experience, a great time was had by all and we look forward to many more international adventures in the coming years.



PTA Topic Workshops

This year, our History and Geography lead, Miss Jarvis has arranged a fantastic experience day for every pupil in the school. These special events are linked to the children's topics and have included a Neil Armstrong day for Year 1 and a Great Fire of London experience day for Year 2. Year 3 have recently taken part in a Roman day, where they enjoyed being a part of the Roman army! Year 4 and Reception are looking forward to their experiences later in the year too. These events have certainly helped to bring these topics to life and we would like to thank our incredible Beaulieu PTA for funding these days. We hope that this will be something that is a regular part of the curriculum year on year.



Medical Mavericks

Over 400 of our children enjoyed a visit from the Medical Mavericks this month. During the day they learned about the almost 500 different job roles available in the NHS, one of the worlds biggest employers. Throughout a number of workshops, students were able to try their hand at taking blood from a simulated arm, work with an ultrasound machine, attempt key hole surgery, use an ECG machine and so much more. It was a great day and a chance for some unique experiences. We will definitely be inviting the Medical Mavericks back next year!





Presentation Evening

Wednesday 11th January saw one of our biggest events of the year, our annual Presentation Evening. As is traditional, this event took place in Chelmsford Cathedral and recognised the outstanding effort and attainment of a significant number of our students. It was a fantastic evening – Well done to all those that received awards and also to those who performed.



Year 7 Pantomime

Our Year 7 Pantomime took place on Wednesday 25th January, which over 50 students took part in. The quality of the performances were excellent and there had clearly been a huge amount of work taking place behind the scenes. Well done to all the students that took part and to Miss Winstone, Miss Jenkins and Mr Hardaker for organising it. It certainly bodes well for future years in the performing arts.



Back to Backnang

On Monday 16th to Friday 20th January we were delighted to welcome in a group of German exchange students from our partner school the Max Born Gymnasium in Backnang. The students attended lessons during the mornings with their partners and in the afternoons took part in local visits to Baddow Hall School which is twinned with the Schiller Schule in Backnang. Then to Chelmsford Community Radio at Moulsham Mill where they contribute each Sunday to the programming with a slot they create in their school radio club called 'Back to Backnang'. It was then onto Chelmsford Museum and of course to Chelmsford City Centre and to London for a bit of retail and sightseeing! We also had a combined Anglo – German bowling trip one evening to Braintree.

It was great to see some different faces around school and students in Year 11 and in the 6th form enjoyed meeting them. Many of them now plan to stay in touch and feel they have made friends to keep! We are looking forward to going over to Backnang in July for our part of the reciprocal visit.



Mock Bar Ipswich – Regional Competition

On Saturday 28th January the Mock Bar team descended on Ipswich Crown Court for the Regional Mock Bar Competition. We arrived



prepped to prosecute and defend our cases that students have been prepping for weeks. The students all performed amazingly well, with the jury ruling in our favour with every case. This demonstrated that the students argued their cases to convince those on the jury from other schools. The students received excellent feedback from the Judges. One described the level as exceptional and our barristers were better than many that had been in her courtroom. Our Court Clerk and Usher were also described as exceptional. The final Judge said that if he shut his eyes, our students sounded like his trainee barrister pupils. It was a great day for all involved – a huge congratulations to all students on the team.



Art Solutions

All of the schools in the Colchester Consortium took part in a joint art day this week. The theme was 'Journeys' in order to raise awareness for Refugee Action. A number of schools in Colchester are hosting Ukrainian and Afghan refugees and working very closely alongside this fantastic charity. The finished pieces of art will be displayed in a 'gallery' setting later in the year.

At Lakelands, we chose to represent this theme through animal migration; we learnt about reasons why animals would migrate such as the need to search for food and shelter. We invited the amazing Art Solutions to come in and host some workshops with our children and we are so proud of the end results. Not only do we have an incredible piece of art to represent journeys, but we have some beautiful end results that represent the Lakelands estate for display in our school.



Football Festival

On what probably seemed like the coldest day of the year, some of our pupils went to a Football Festival as organised by the Colchester and Blackwater School Sports Partnership at Northern Gateway.

The pupils took part in a few skills based games, which ended with a mini 5 a side tournament against other schools.

We are so fortunate to be able to take part in the sports festivals; we have a few more planned over the course of the year.



Music at Lakelands

We have been so fortunate to work with Essex Music Service this half term. Our music teacher has been working hard with the school choir as we will be performing in the Colchester School's Music Festival, alongside other schools next week. As it is the 70th Music Festival, our pupils will be singing songs from each decade since the 50s, including *Waterloo*, *Eye of the Tiger* and *Sing*. We cannot wait to perform in front of a live audience at such a big show for the first time.



We have also had enrichment sessions in our Reception classes, where children explored changing tempo and moving in different ways to respond to the music. Children used a variety of instruments such as shakers, rhythm sticks and glockenspiels.

Design and Technology

In Design and Technology, pupils have been learning about healthy foods including a balanced diet and the different food groups. First they tested different sugary drinks, deciding how much sugar each one had and which one had the most and least. We were amazed by how much sugar a can of Coca Cola had in it!



Then, children taste tested some food combinations to help them decide what they would like to include in a healthy wrap. They were given the instruction that they must include a carbohydrate, a source of protein and vegetables. They used our specialist STEM room, where they enjoyed chopping their ingredients, folding their wraps and most importantly, eating their delicious creations. To finish, children evaluated their

wrap and wrote their own instructions to allow other people to create their recipe.





Perryfields Infant School - 'Be safe, be kind. Listen and think a lot. Be your best!'

World Book Day Fun!

It was fantastic to see everyone taking part in a wide range of activities for World Book Day in school. It was a wonderful way to celebrate the love of books and reading and to encourage everyone to pick up a book all year round. Our day started with an assembly to share the amazing variety of books that are available to children at the moment. The children and staff paraded their World Book costumes/props with confidence.



To celebrate in style at Perryfields Infant School, we had a special author visit from Petr Horáček, the author of several fabulous books. He came into school and provided three workshops to read and illustrate with the children. The children were challenged to recreate some of his book cover illustrations, and as you can see from the photos there are some fantastic examples! Petr Horáček stayed for lunch and was on our Top Table!



School Council News

The School Council continues to meet regularly to discuss aspects of school life. These are issues which are important to the children and therefore important to the school.

The children had been deciding on how to spend the £80 they raised on their children's Christmas stalls at the Christmas Fayre. The School Council have been looking at a variety of charities and researching what their money can buy for third world countries. The School Council selected eight options and asked their classes to vote for their favourite three. This money enables the children to choose a gift to help poorer communities around the world. The most popular ideas will be purchased. The children are aware of how lucky we all are and understand that there are people in the world who are less fortunate than us.

After the class votes, the children decided to buy two pairs of chickens to lay eggs, clean water for a community of people, send a child to school and a pack of five mosquito nets. The School Council children went into the office with Mrs Boon to make the online order through Christian Aid. A great choice, well done everyone. Again, another opportunity that shows how thoughtful and considerate your young children are.

KS1 Chelmsford Cathedral Trips

Both Year 1 and Year 2 cohorts had the opportunity to recently visit our local Cathedral. For the majority of children this was their first time in a Cathedral and was an amazing opportunity to practically learn about Holy Week, The Easter Story and what Christians believe linked to our RE Curriculum. The children took part in cross hunts, the last supper activity, Palm Sunday activities and lots more.



Cheer Champions!

On Tuesday, Mrs Bowen and Mrs Mani took our 10 Year 2 Cheerleading team to Melbourne athletics centre for a school to school competition. It was lovely to hear that their behaviour and attitudes were exemplary and their teamwork was outstanding. I am thrilled to say that all their hard work paid off as they came first! Congratulations Bella, Prisha, Elliot, Shanwik, Alisa, Sri, Grace, Zuhaira, Niralya and Emily. A big thank you to Mrs Bowen for devising the fantastic routine, music and taking the time for extra training. Well done Perryfields!



World Thinking Day

Thank you to Mrs Hodgson (Brown Owl) who came into school to lead an assembly on World Thinking Day. It was lovely to see so many children in their Beavers, Rainbows and Brownie uniforms and was a time when Girl Scouts, Brownies, Beavers, Cubs and Girl Guides across 150 countries celebrated together as a day of international friendship. It was a time to think of others and how we can improve the lives of many around the globe.

X Country Success!

On Monday 13th March, Mrs Bowen accompanied by Mrs Donald and Mrs Pope took 18 children to the Sports and Athletics Stadium for a X country competition. The children all ran a distance race in such windy and muddy conditions! They thoroughly enjoyed every minute and had exceptional behaviour for the whole morning. Year 2 set off first running 350 metres, followed by Year 1 who ran 300 metres and FS 250 metres. They all managed to stay on track (no falls!) and all crossed the finish line where they were given a numbered ticket. A special mention to Beanie, Harry and Evie who took a Gold Medal. Oscar and Robyn both took silver medals in the X Country and Phoebe in Topaz class took bronze. Year 1 boys also won overall team place and both boys and girls in FS also won overall team place. Year 1 girls team came 4th, Year 2 girls team 6th and Year 2 boys team came third. Overall, Perryfields Infant School came 1st Place, fantastic!



New Building

On Monday 6th March, we held a grand opening of our brand new building at RVHS!

The Loughton Mayor, Barbera Cohen, officially opened the building and cut a ribbon to mark the occasion. She also officially announced the name of the building as the 'Forest Building' in recognition of our connections to Epping Forest. The building was named by two of our students in Year 10; Lily Cannell & Bob Melnyk. They made their suggestions via a House Competition; a chance for all our students to come up with a creative name for their new building.

The Forest Building is made up of four, spacious classrooms and will be the second home of the Humanities faculty. History, Government & Politics and Geography lessons will take place there.

It's so exciting to see new developments at our school.

Andorra Trip



During the February half term we went and visited Andorra which was an extremely fun and life changing experience. After a long 18 hour journey we were all raring to go skiing. We enjoyed 5 days of skiing with a well experienced instructor who helped me progress my skiing ability. The food that was supplied throughout the trip was exquisite and the staff were all supportive and friendly. The hotel was very comfortable and convenient for skiing. The activities we took part in were bowling and ice skating which made our evenings much more enjoyable. The game night was a fun experience for everyone, especially the questions on the teachers. It made everyone laugh and think. The restaurant we visited treated us with a large amount of care and the food was really tasteful and enjoyable. The shopping centre we were meandering in was exceedingly entertaining. The restaurant we would spend our lunches rejuvenating supplied us with suitable food and the staff were very welcoming, overall the restaurant was tremendously handy for schools. Altogether the trip was well put together and delightful for everyone involved. It was very kind of all the staff for giving up their free time to take us on this brilliant trip.

Jake - Year 9

Oracy Week

During the week of 6th March, the whole school took part in 'Oracy Week'. This involved all of our subject areas planning a specific oracy task for a targeted year group which took place during a lesson; so that all students could take part.

At RVHS, we really want to drive the importance of speaking confidently so that our students feel prepared for situations later on in life that require higher level speaking skills. It was also a great opportunity for students to express themselves in an alternative way and receive feedback from their teachers on this skill.

An example of one of the tasks that students engaged with was a debate in Religious Studies called- 'Is it ever a good idea to tell a lie?' This controversial question allowed students to delve into some philosophical thinking and our Year 7s certainly expressed their opinions on this topic clearly! We also encouraged our students to discuss using the 'Ouch and Oops rule' Please see the table below:

Respectfully discuss using the Ouch and Oops rule	
ASKer - When someone asks a difficult or controversial question	ASKEE - Responding to questions
A assumptions - What is the person asking the question assuming? Why might they assume that?	A assume good intent - often questions that sound abrupt or rude come from genuine curiosity
Q statement or question - Is the person asking a question, or telling us what they think?	P spectrum of views - include viewpoints from across your religious tradition to show diversity
K ey words - What are the key words that betray incorrect assumption? Are there words we could be understanding differently?	K esp it short and sweet
R ephrase - How does this question need to be rephrased more appropriately before it can be answered?	E xplain jargon/foreign words
	E nd on a positive note - this keeps the tone optimistic, even when discussing thorny issues
Creating a safe space - Rules for Dialogue	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Show respect to the opinions and beliefs of others o Use 'I' statements - try not to generalise o 'Oops/ouch rule' - facilitated "time out" - If someone says something they don't mean, it comes out wrong, or they would like to rephrase it, they say "oops!"; if someone is offended or hurt, they say "ouch!" o Dialogue not debate - can people express personal opinions in the spirit of sharing and listening, without seeking to change other people's minds? 	

Our Head of English, Mrs Routledge, is now busy compiling video clips of some of our excellent students displaying their oracy skills from the tasks that they completed during our oracy week. These will be uploaded to our Roding Valley YouTube channel!

Options Evening

On Tuesday 7th February, we held our Year 9 Pathways Evening. All students in Year 9 and their parents were invited onto school site to meet subject teachers, discuss GCSE options and listen to a GCSE Pathway talk with our Options Team.

It was great to see how excited our students were to talk to subject teachers about subjects that they have the opportunity to study at KS4. Subjects such as Sociology, Media, Business Studies and Sports Studies have not previously been studied in Years 7-9, so our Year 9s were particularly keen to find out more about their curriculum and topics.

Each student is allocated a 'Pathway to Success' based on our progress data. These pathways are tailored for our students to ensure that they are given the best possible opportunity to succeed whilst at RVHS. Our Year 9s will begin studying their choices at the end of the Summer Term, so that when they start in Year 10 they have had a 'flying start' to their GCSE courses.

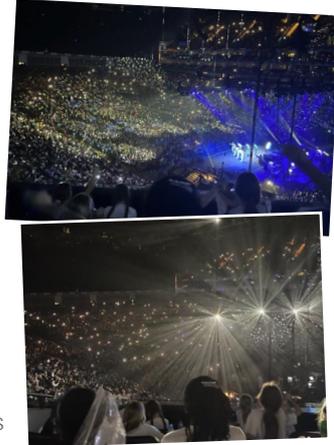
On the run up to this Pathways Evening, our students engaged in taster sessions and workshops that supported them to make their choices. We also held a number of Options clinics for parents and students to attend, if they required any further support.

<https://rodingvalley.net/news/parent-bulletin/>



Young Voices Concert - O2 Arena

On Monday 23rd January, forty five children from our Year 4, 5 & 6 choir sang at the Young Voices concert as part of an 8500 child choir at the O2 Arena. The children worked incredibly hard leading up to the final performance, learning words and harmonies that they would then sing with children from across the country. At the event itself, the children's commitment and behaviour were outstanding and they had a brilliant time. This was a fantastic opportunity for the children and something they will remember for a lifetime!



World Book Day 2023

Back by popular demand, our children celebrated this year's World Book Day on 2nd March 2023 by dressing up as their favourite book character for the day. We were very impressed by the huge range of book characters that were represented which really highlighted the wide range of texts that children are accessing and their overall love of reading! .



Tyrrells 60th Birthday – We Need Your Help!

Tyrrells Primary School first opened its doors in January 1963 and so this term marks the school's 60th Birthday! The children have already taken part in assemblies this term to begin to look at the similarities and differences between life for children now and in 1963 when the school first opened. We plan to learn more about this between now and the summer term when we will hold a celebration event for our children and their families.



Have you or a family member ever been part of the Tyrrells Community as a child or member of staff?

If so, we would like to have copies of any photos that you may have so that we can create a photo gallery from 1963 - 2023 that will be on display at the celebration event at the end of the year. We would also like to track down as many people as we can who have attended Tyrrells over the last 60 years to find out what careers they have gone on to have and what they have achieved since leaving the school. If you have any information or photos that we can display, please email them to admin@tyrrells.essex.sch.uk or drop them off at the school office. *Thank you for your help!*

Bikeability

Nearly all our Year 6 children have now undertaken cycling training from Essex County Council as part of the 'Bikeability' programme. To earn their qualification, the children have completed one 2 hour training session on the playground and then three two hour sessions out on the local roads. They have learned how to ride safely on the road as well as all about how to maintain their bike to ensure that it is roadworthy and safe. Our Year 5 children will begin their training next term so that they are qualified before they begin to ride to school in Year 6.



Safer Internet Day

Monday 6th February marked the beginning of this year's e-safety week with 7th February known as Safer Internet Day, marked in 170 countries across the world. The children in all year groups experienced assemblies and discussions linked to the theme 'Want to Talk About it?' to encourage them to talk about any concerns that they have when playing or socialising online.

As part of e-safety week, links to useful sites for parents/carers were shared including:

