



## Reception News

This week we have been learning all about doctors, nurses and ambulances. We were even lucky enough to have a real ambulance visit us! We got to look inside at all of the equipment, sit in the driving seat and see the lights and hear the siren!

We have also been thinking about what we would like to be when we grow up ourselves.

Next week we will be learning all about the police and again we might be lucky enough to have some more visitors!

### Challenges!

**COATS!** Please practise with your child over the weekend as part of their homework doing up their own coats. This is a skill we have been working on in class too.

**Homework folders:** Each Friday your child will come home with some homework sheets to support their learning.

Please return homework folders by Thursday each week.

**Reading:** Please read at home each night and record this in your child's reading record. Your child's reading book will be changed weekly. You can record any story that you read or share together at home.

**Bedtime story:** Please log on to Tapestry this evening and every Friday for a bedtime story read by one of our team for you and your child to enjoy together. This can be recorded as a 'read' in your child's reading record.

**Phonics video:** Each week we will send home a phonics video for your child to watch and join in with at home recorded by our Phase Leader Mrs Templar.

**Tapestry:** Don't forget to add your adventures to Tapestry—the children love sharing their photos on the big board and this really helps to support their speaking and listening skills.

### Weekly Routines

**PE** is now indoor on a Thursday. Children should come to school in their PE kits with all jewellery removed.

**Reading books**—reading books will be changed weekly. Other books can be recorded in you child's reading record.

**Library books**—Our library circle time takes place each Friday. Please make sure your child returns their book each week in order to choose a new one .

**Water bottles**—Please make sure your child has a named water bottle with them in school every day.

**Gloves, scarves and hats**—Please send your child to school with gloves, scarfs as the temperature continues to drop. Please make sure these are labelled.

**Toys**—Please do not bring any toys into school from home as we have had a lot of children very upset lately that they have brought a toy in and it has got lost or damaged. We cannot accept responsibility for toys from home.

### Certificate winner

**School value:** Elena, Arnie, Poppy **Superstar reader:** Marley-Jane, Antonia, Emily **Superstar writer:** Sonny, Arthur, Chloe

### Reading winners

**The winning class this week are ..... RTR with 92 reads!**

Well done for collectively achieving the most reads at home this week. Your class will be caring for our special reading bear this week as a reward :-)

## Nursery news

Nursery has been very cold this week with polar bears roaming the classroom and ice blocks dotted here and there! The children have continued to learn about Winter and experience all the changes that occur when we look outside. Our class story has been 'Polar Bear, Polar Bear, What Do You Hear' and the children have been using their conversational skills to talk about the key features of a polar bear. As well as using their sensory skills when playing with ice and water, the children have created their own polar bear paintings/collage, practised their numbers skills with different card games, as well as practise their name knowledge using their own personal lettered snowflakes.

Next week we shall continue to learn about all of the different animals that like to live in colder climates and enjoy living and playing in the snow.

### Tapestry & Class Charts

Thank you to everyone who has already uploaded photos of their child and their news. It really is appreciated and helps with communication during carpet time. Please keep them coming! If you have yet to access either Tapestry and/or Class Charts, then please let one of the Nursery Team know.

### Dates for the diary

**Tuesday 6th February –Safer Internet Day**

**Friday 1st March—St David's Day**

**Week of 4th March—Book Week**

**Thursday 7th March –World Book Day dress up day**

**Wednesday 6th and Thursday 7th March—Parents' evening**

**Week of 10th March—British Science Week**

### NHS Speech drop in

If your child is under 5 years old and you have any concerns about your child's speech, language, communication or interaction skills please contact NELFT at Great Oaks for an appointment to support your child on the contact details below.

Email: [drop-in@nelft.nhs.uk](mailto:drop-in@nelft.nhs.uk)

Telephone: 0300 300 1544

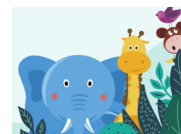


### Talk, Listen, Cuddle—TLC

TLC is an Essex campaign helping parents, carers and families give their young children the best start to life, developing their communication skills through playful learning at home.

On the website there is information about milestones for different age groups, tips, activities and resources to use at home.

For more information visit: [www.tlc-essex.info](http://www.tlc-essex.info)



### Reporting absences

**Please make sure to report your child's absences each day that they are off using PA Connect.**

**This should be reported by 8.30am each day.**

## Additional advice and support available for parents

### GOOD BEGINNINGS COURSE

Good beginnings is a 10 week course run for parents by Essex county council. It is aimed at parents of children who have Autism (ASD) and social communication needs and are aged 5 and under (no diagnosis necessary).

Spring term sessions:

Wickford on Tuesday mornings 9.30 –11.30 am Or

Online Tuesday mornings 9-10am.

For further information and to book a place please visit the Essex SEND website at [www.send.essex.gov.uk](http://www.send.essex.gov.uk)

### BOSP TOTS

BOSP run groups for children and parents with additional needs or disabilities age 4 and under.

They currently run sessions at Wat Tyler country park (by the RSPB building) on a Tuesday from 10am-11am.

For more information check out the web address below:

<https://www.bosp.co.uk/community/bosp-brighter-opportunities-for-special-people-13333/news/new-baby-toddler-group-25543>

### CHILDRENS CENTRES

We have a few children's centres local to us who are able to offer a great deal of support to families. They run lots of sessions and groups for different aged children as well as parents. Please check out time website below—there is a timetable of events available on this page.

<https://essexfamilywellbeing.co.uk/hubs/northlands-park-family-hub/>



**Essex Child and Family Wellbeing Service**

### SNAP

SNAP is a charity based in Brentwood which offers advice and support for families with children with additional needs or disabilities.

They always have a great range of groups and events for children and siblings are welcome.

More information can be found at the web address

below:

<https://www.snapcharity.org/>

### Health visitor and Family wellbeing team contact details (hcrq care group)

For support and advice with a range of issues including toileting, sleep, diet and behaviour please contact 0300 247 0013 and ask for Katy Taylor who is based in Fryerns family hub and has links with our school.

### Who can I speak to at school?

As well as your child's class teacher there are other people in Early Years who can support you with concerns about your child.

**Mrs S Templar**—EYFS Phase leader (curriculum/ behaviour/ class worries)

Contact details: [admin@willows.essex.sch.uk](mailto:admin@willows.essex.sch.uk) (please mark FOA Mrs Templar)

**Mrs K Rumball**—EYFS SENDCO (support and advice for children with any additional needs or disabilities)

Contact details: [sendmailbox@willows.essex.sch.uk](mailto:sendmailbox@willows.essex.sch.uk)

**Mrs T Clay**—Sensory Nurture lead/ Autism Champion

Contact details: [tracey.clay@willows.essex.sch.uk](mailto:tracey.clay@willows.essex.sch.uk)

**Mrs J Smith**— Family support worker/ Parent liaison/ Senior mental health lead/ Antbullying ambassador

Contact details: 01268 470880 Ext.208 Email: [jacqui.smith@willows.essex.sch.uk](mailto:jacqui.smith@willows.essex.sch.uk)

## HOME START SERVICES

January—March

Home start are able to support the family with a range of issues from toileting and sleeping to behaviour and wellbeing.

**Volunteer Support** – Home-Start provides informal, friendly, family support. Volunteers offer regular support, friendship, and practical help to families in their own homes. This is available Monday to Friday, 9.30am to 4.40pm in all areas.

**Family Support Groups** – Our groups are available to Essex families who want to meet other parents, make new friends, and gain peer support from others. The aim of the groups is to provide a non-judgemental, supportive place for families to have fun. We have 10 fun, friendly, groups run weekly (term time only) from 10 to 11.30am, details of days and areas are on our website.

**Special Educational Needs & Disabilities Group (SEND)** - A specialist group for families who have children with a SEND Diagnosis, are on the pathway or general developmental delay. Our Group is for Essex families who want to meet other parents, gain peer support and access guidance and support from trained staff & volunteers. The group will have sensory play and activities for the families to enjoy together.

**Drop-In Groups** - Our groups are open to families from the local communities. The groups offer a safe environment for families to meet and chat, giving the opportunity to extend social networks and reduce isolation. Each session assists parents with areas of child development, and provides an activity tailored to the age of pre-school children. **No need to book, just turn up.**

- **Brentwood Group** – is open to families in the Brentwood area and runs on a Monday Morning at Hutton Community Centre, Harrison Close, Hutton.
- **Carver Barracks Group** – is open to military and non-military families from the local community. This is a new group and will be held Thursday Mornings (Term Time only) starting on 11th January 2024 at, The Community Hall, Carver Barracks in Saffron Walden.

**Wellbeing Programme** – This is focused on parental wellbeing. We have groups online, face to face, and some 1:1 support is available. The programme supports parents' emotional wellbeing and mental health through providing self-care, personal safety, and self-esteem building activities, relaxation, and stress management techniques. Next groups are online and start on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> & Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> January.

**Mothers in Mind Groups** - Mothers in Mind groups support Mums through pregnancy and up to 2 years after birth, who are experiencing extra challenges around emotional wellbeing and mental health. These groups offer some additional support during this time. The Mothers in Mind (MIMs) programme is a 10-week peer support group. The group is FREE to attend, but places must be booked in advance. Next groups will be held in Rayleigh, starts on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> January and Chelmsford & Loughton on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2024.

**Behaviour Support** - Our specialist Behaviour Support Co-ordinator works with parents/carers to support them with managing their children's behaviour and improving family relationships. Group Sessions are delivered via online groups over 6 weekly sessions, Wednesday 10 to 11.30am. We also have some availability for 1:1 sessions.

Further details and information on all our support services can be found on our website

[www.home-startessex.org.uk](http://www.home-startessex.org.uk)