



## Reception News

Dear parents and carers,

It's been a busy week where our focus has been on the Lunar New Year and particularly how it is celebrated by the Chinese community in both China and Great Britain. The year 2025 is the year of the snake and the children have been learning about the traditional tale that explains how the twelve animals were chosen and their order in the Zodiac cycle. They have enjoyed taking on the part of an animal from the story and re-enacting the story with their class mates. A lot of fun was also had performing the traditional dragon dance .

For Science this week, we have seen the effects of oil mixed with water and colour to make our own 'Fireworks' and the power of frictional force using rice and a chopstick! Maybe you could ask your children to explain to you what happened?

For Geography, Children looked at pictures of China's unique landscape and awed at how big the country was compared to the UK !

Please ensure your children come to school daily wearing colours which adhere to the uniform policy, including PE day. Thankyou.

Have a wonderful weekend

The Reception team

### Resource Request

Please send in your recycling. We need kitchen roll tubes, cardboard boxes, clean yoghurt pots and bottle tops, to name just some. As well as ribbon, buttons, wooden dolly pegs, wool, fabric samples etc.

### Challenges!

**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:** New videos will be uploaded featuring our phase 3 sounds!

**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** will be inside on Thursday afternoons, please send your child to school in their PE kit. Please remove earrings unless they have a flat back . No tape is allowed on earrings without a flat back.

**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 as it is thirsty work in Reception!



### Certificate winners

**Reading** — Luna S, Damayanthi , Lilly K-C

**Writing** – Alex A, Theo W, Tommy G

**Value** — Evelyn R, Victoria D, Amy Galisteo



### **Nursery news**

This week in Nursery we have been reading the story 'Winter Is Here'. The children were fantastic at describing the signs of winter outside and made some beautiful winter pictures too.

On Wednesday we focused on the Luna new year, looking at how it is celebrated in China and the UK. The children were very interested to follow the story of the 12 animals and were excited to find out which animal they were born under.

In phonics we have focused on the sounds 'm' and 'd'. The children were all very good at thinking of things that begin with these sounds and using their robot arms to sound the words out. Next weeks sounds are 'g' and 'o'. Please encourage your child to look for items that start with these sounds, don't forget to share a photo to Tapestry!

#### Tapestry

Remember to add photos of your child's home learning or special events to Tapestry, we love to see what the children have been up to and the children love to share their news with their friends.

Hope you all have a wonderful weekend.

### Dates for the diary

#### 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



#### Children's 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://hcr.org> | Essex Child and Family Wellbeing Service

### **YOUR SCHOOL NEEDS YOU**



Would you like the opportunity to speak about how your child's school can improve inclusion for its neurodivergent pupils?

Join us at a 'cuppa and chat' hosted by Essex Family Forum as part of the PINS project.  
(find out more [HERE](#))

Your school is committed to working with EFF to hear your voice and want you to speak openly with EFF about how the school can improve.



The next meeting is-  
**9.30am**  
4th February at ~~10am~~

### 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.