



Reception News

This week we have been focusing on the fire service and how they help to support people in our community. We learned about the sequence of events that happen when there is a fire and who a responsible person should call. We also discussed how the fire service helps the community not only by putting out fires, but also by rescuing people and animals. We were very lucky to have a special visit from fire service educators, who explained their job in more detail and answered our questions.

In maths, we have been learning about the numbers 9 and 10. We explored different ways to represent these numbers and investigated which numbers add together to make 9 and 10. We had lots of fun using our class "adding machines," carefully counting the correct number of pom-poms and feeding them down the addition tubes.

In Drawing Club this week, we focused on the book "Charlie the Firefighter". We used our imaginations to design our own fire engines and fire stations. We finished the week by thinking creatively about what we could use to put out a fire if all the water had ran out.

Weekly Challenges!

Reading: We are looking for all children to be reading at least 5 times at home. This can be a few pages of their reading book. Please ensure each time your child has read at home, it is recorded in their reading diary.

Bedtime story: Every Friday a recorded bedtime story will be published on Tapestry, 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: Each week we will send home a phonics video for your child to watch and join in with at home recorded by one of the EYFS team. Please complete the activities and share your work on Tapestry.

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 Monday afternoons - Please send your child to school in their PE kit every Monday.

Reading books—Reading books will be changed weekly. Reading books and diaries should be brought into school everyday. Other books can be recorded in you child's reading record.

Library books—Our library slot has now changed to a Monday. Please ensure you have your library book in school on a Monday to be changed.

Water bottles— Please ensure your child has a water bottle, which has been filled each day.

Winter Coats and Accessories— The weather is much colder now, please ensure your child has a named coat in school each day. Could we please ask that all hats, gloves and scarfs are clearly named to ensure they are returned to the correct children.

Certificate Winners

Our certificates this week are awarded to:

RR— Mark, Naiya, Lily P

RC— Dolly, Edward, Delila

RP— Tommy, Presley, Albert



Nursery News

This week at Nursery we have been reading the story "Here Comes Jack Frost" The children were very good at explaining why Jack Frost could only stay for Winter. We looked at the patterns Jack Frost left on the little boys windows, the children used wax candles and water colours to create their own magic icy patterns.

In maths we have been exploring patterns. The children have been fantastic at spotting patterns in the environment on walls, radiators, fences and even on clothes! Please continue to encourage this at home over the weekend and upload any pictures to Tapestry for us to share in Nursery.

Our phonics sounds this week were G and O. The children have been amazing in phonics and are enjoying thinking of words with the sounds in each week. The children are enjoying practising writing the letters in our writing area and are wowing us every day with how well they are doing. Please continue to encourage this at home and share any home learning to Tapestry so we can share this in Nursery.

We have continued encouraging the children to put their coats on by themselves and we are so proud of how well they are doing, please continue to support this at home. Next we will be working on zips!

Reminders

Where possible we would like the children to be reading at home at least 5 times a week. Please record any reading your child completes at home in their reading record. This can include watching the bedtime story on Tapestry. Please can reading books and reading records be in children's bags everyday. Library books will be changed on a Thursday.

P.E is on a Friday, please can children come to Nursery dressed in their P.E kit with earrings removed.

We hope you all have a lovely weekend, The Nursery Team.

Talking At Home Activity

What would you do if you saw something on fire?

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.

If your child has an appointment to attend please add this to the PA Connect app, along with supporting evidence.

Dates for the Diary

9th February– Children's Mental Health Week

13th February– Last day to bring sponsorship money into school

10th February- Safer Internet Day

Friday 13th February– Last Day of Half Term



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

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

Telephone: 0300 300 1544

Winter Reading Challenge

10 January to 22 February

Join at your local library!



10 January
to 22 February
2026

Winter Reading Challenge

Children across Essex are being challenged to read and get creative at their local library this winter!

Explore our Pawfessionals' amazing careers as you progress through the challenge.

Choose from twelve fun activities to complete. For each one, you'll get a sticker! Complete six, and you'll receive a certificate and get to enter our prize draw for the chance to win some incredible goodies!

Plus, you can join in with themed events and activities at the library!



Find out more about how to take part in this free activity on our website: libraries.essex.gov.uk

HERO

Here, every day, ready and on time

Minutes lost per day

5 minutes 10 minutes 15 minutes 20 minutes 25 minutes

equates to a yearly loss of:



Five minutes late per day adds up to three learning days lost in a school year

If 15 minutes late each day you will miss two full weeks of school in one year

Poor timekeeping means less chance of success!

Descriptor	Threshold attendance	Actual attendance	Whole days of absence	Learning Hours Lost
Excellent	100%	190 days	0	0
	99%	188 days	2	10
	98%	186 days	4	20
	97%	184 days	6	30
Good	96%	182.5 days	7.5	37.5
	95%	180.5 days	9.5	47.5
	94%	179 days	11	55
	93%	177 days	13	65
Cause for Concern	92%	175 days	15	75
	91%	173 days	17	85
	90%	171 days	19	95
	89%	169 days	21	105
Unsatisfactory	88%	167 days	23	115
	87%	165 days	25	125
	86%	163 days	27	135
	85%	161.5 days	28.5	142.5
Serious cause for concern	84%	159.5 days	30.5	152.5
	83%	158 days	32	160
	82%	156 days	34	170
	81%	154 days	36	180
	80%	152 days	38	190

Starting Reception Roadshows



Is Your Little One Starting Reception in September 2026?

Come along to our Starting Reception Roadshow!

Get ready for a fun, friendly, and totally **FREE** event designed to help you to support your child feel excited and confident about starting reception.

Essex Early Years has teamed up with local schools plus education, health and care partners to bring you a lively, helpful session packed with top tips and advice.

Want to join in?

Ask your child's childminder, preschool, or nursery for details about your nearest event, or visit the Essex Talk, Listen and Cuddle website to find out more about dates and times across Essex.

Starting Reception Roadshow near you:

Where: Janet Duke Primary School - 105 Markhams Chase, Basildon SS15 5LS

When: Wednesday 18th March - 6pm - 7.30pm



You can find out information about the event by scanning the QR code or visiting www.tlc-essex.info and searching 'Starting reception'



Follow us on social media to join our Starting Reception Campaign



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