



# NEWS & VIEWS

Achievement & Enjoyment

Headteacher Mr S Bowsher



## Mr Bowsher's Headteacher Comment:

Welcome back and a slightly belated Happy New Year. I hope everyone had a good break. It has been great to be back and see everyone looking so smart and ready to learn this week.

Staff were all back in school on Friday 3 January and the time was used to discuss priorities for this year and prepare resources for the new spelling and reading teaching we will be doing. As you will know if you have a child in Year 2 to 5, we will be sending spellings home next week on Monday. These are to be done daily on the sheet and won't take more than a couple of minutes at a time. Because they relate to spelling patterns and rules, it will mean that they are more straightforward to learn and by knowing them, children will become more confident and fluent writers.

It was good to see attendance improve this week with 3 classes getting a certificate. There was quite a bit of illness around just before Christmas and I know a number of people were ill over the break. That being said, a quarter of the school (105 children) received 100% attendance certificates for last term, which I think is probably a record.

Clubs start next week and text messages should have gone out about which club your child has. Thank you to the office ladies and Miss Chambers for organising and for all the staff who are giving up their time for free to run a club. We have 29 clubs taking place this term which is amazing.

There are many events happening this term, some of which are listed in Diary Dates below. I had a good meeting with Pabulum our caterers on Tuesday following the parent survey they conducted. Having had roast dinner on Wednesday with some Year 2 children, I can tell you the food remains excellent. We have arranged provisional dates for after half term for some 'come dine with me' days. This is where parents will be able to come in and eat a school dinner with their children for a small cost. More details to follow.

### TTRS Battle of the Bands

The Spring term brings back our annual TTRS 'Battle of the Bands' competition for classes from Year 3 to 6! Each week (beginning 13 January), your child's class will go head-to-head against another KS2 class, earning points by using our online times table platform, TTRS. At the end of the week, the winner will be announced and will earn 3 points, whilst the losing class earns one.

There have been a few tweaks to the game since last year which now means the maximum amount of time that can count to a class score is 45 minutes a day per pupil. The competition will also close at 08.00 every Friday. We expect it to be another closely fought competition. Just a reminder that TTRS is only available from 06.45 until 21.00 each day.

After seven weeks of battles, the top four teams will go into the TTRS semi-finals (1st versus 4th, 2<sup>nd</sup> versus 3rd). After the final, the winning team will earn themselves the exclusive TTRS trophy (to keep for the rest of the year) AND an extra 30-minute break time! The reigning champions are currently 6H - can any classes take them on and become our new TTRS Champions?

Have a great weekend – stay warm and enjoy a good book!



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## Local Event

St Georges Church on Ongar Road, which runs the food hub that we have supported with donations, has a Lego Exhibition on Saturday from 11.00 – 14.00 at the church. As a fan of Lego (I built a mini New York over Christmas) I'm sure it will be a great event and refreshments are available. See details on X [here](#)

## Word of the Week

Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Author	Link	Photographer	Enable	Evolve	Presume	Undertake



## Mr Bowsher's Superstar Award

Samuel in 6H for demonstrating the value of responsibility, especially for his reading.



## Stars of the Week

RA	RT	1B	1G	2W	2P	3C
Jade	Rameen	Jude	Scarlett	Violet	Tommy-Lei	Mackenzie
3M	4B	4T	5L	5P	6H	6R
Zachary	Archie	Obadiah	Mackenzie	Isla	Millie	Alfie



## Reading at Home

Well done to the 3 winning classes who all have 5 minutes extra play. 26 children had 3 reads – 4 is the expected minimum.

Class	Table shows numbers of children and percentages who read from Monday 6 January to Friday 10 January			Percentage Read 4 & 5 times %
	Less than 4	4	5	
RA	4 (14%)	8 (28%)	16 (57%)	24 (85%)
RT	8 (29%)	6 (20%)	15 (51%)	21 (71%)
1B	4 (16%)	10 (38%)	12 (46%)	22 (84%)
1G	4 (16%)	4 (14%)	20 (71%)	24 (85%)
2P	0 (0%)	9 (31%)	20 (69%)	29 (100%)
2W	5 (17%)	10 (36%)	13 (47%)	23 (83%)
3C	4 (12%)	7 (23%)	20 (65%)	27 (88%)
3M	2 (7%)	4 (13%)	24 (80%)	23 (93%)
4B	1 (4%)	5 (16%)	25 (80%)	30 (96%)
4T	0 (0%)	21 (78%)	6 (22%)	27 (100%)
5L	3 (12%)	0 (0%)	25 (88%)	25 (88%)
5P	0 (0%)	4 (15%)	22 (85%)	26 (100%)
6H	1 (3%)	3 (11%)	24 (86%)	27 (97%)
6R	1 (4%)	9 (35%)	16 (62%)	25 (97%)
Total				91%



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## Diary Dates

Below are some of the of the important dates coming up next week and after Christmas.

Wednesday 15 January	Deadline for applications to Reception 2025
Monday 20 January	Chinese students visiting school for the morning
Wednesday 22 January	Young Voices at the 02
Thursday 30 January	Don Rae in with Year 1 and 2
Wednesday 12 February	Parent Consultation 15.30-18.00
Thursday 13 February	Parent Consultations 17.30-20.00
Friday 14 February	Break up for half term
Monday 24 February	Return to school
Thursday 6 March	LPPA quiz night
Friday 7 March	Larchwood World Book Day
Friday 14 March	LPPA non-uniform day
Wednesday 19 March	Done Rae with Year 3
Friday 21 March	LPPA Easter pop-up shop
Tuesday 1 April	Reports go home
Thursday 3 April	Easter discos
Friday 4 April	Break up



## Weekly Attendance

### Weekly Attendance – week commencing Monday 6 January 2025

Class	RA	RT	1B	1G	2W	2P	3C	Whole school
Attendance	96.7%	93.3%	93.2%	98.3%	96.9%	97.2%	96.6%	
Class	3M	4B	4T	5L	5P	6H	6R	
Attendance	99.7%	99.4%	96.3%	97.5%	90.7%	90.3%	96.0%	

1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>
3M	4B	1G



## Yearly Attendance

### Yearly Attendance – from 3 September 2024

Class	RA	RT	1B	1G	2W	2P	3C	Whole school
Attendance	95.7%	94.4%	93.5%	97.8%	96.7%	96.0%	94.5%	
Class	3M	4B	4T	5L	5P	6H	6R	
Attendance	96.2%	96.0%	96.3%	97.7%	94.7%	94.3%	95.9%	

1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>
1G	5L	2W



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