

Welcome to the Spring Term edition of our school newsletter. Thank you to everyone that contributed.



Dear Parents and Carers

Well, here we are at the end of the first half of the spring term. We have had a great time in school, despite lots of germs and some horrible weather. The children have, as always, been working hard and fully engaging with school life.

- Packed lunches
There has been some confusion about what we allow in packed lunch boxes. I always try to use common sense, so with that in mind please note that we expect the children to have food in their packed lunches that provides them with a balanced diet. This could include a sandwich/wrap; a piece of fruit; crisp/savoury snack; yoghurt and/or a small chocolate bar/cake. Chocolate spread is allowed. I have spoken to the children in assembly about this and will be talking again to the MDA's to make sure everyone is clear. Of course, please be reminded we are a nut-free zone, so check labelling carefully.
- Scooters
As I stand on KS1 door most mornings, it is lovely to see the children arriving for school. However, I have been worried about the scooters on the playground, as it is a disaster waiting to happen. I have discussed this with the Parent Forum and the Governing Body, who have agreed that when we start back after half-term, please could the children walk their scooters across the playground before and after school. This will make sure everyone keeps safe. Of course, outside of the school boundary it is great for the children to be active.
- Pelican Crossing
We have not heard anything from the local authority about the Pelican Crossing being built along London Road. If you feel this should be built, then please contact our local MP Giles Watling and let him know. He is fully supportive of this project.
- Times-Table Rockstars
Overall, we have had very good feedback from the children about this new on-line resource. I would love to hear from you if the children are enjoying it at home. Please e-mail me on - msirwin@engaines.essex.sch.uk with your feedback.
- Is Josh Woods the next Rick Riordan?
I was absolutely blown away by Josh Woods' piece of writing. Josh is in Year 6 and they had been asked to add an extra chapter to a Percy Jackson book they had been studying. The writing is attached to this newsletter and I think you will agree it is an amazing piece of writing. Why has Josh done so well? This is due to the fact he follows advice; his attendance is high and he reads lots...and of course the amazing teaching he receives from Mrs Curle and the staff. A very, very big well done Josh.
- Spray Drinking Bottles
There are an increasing number of children using the spray bottles in class. Unfortunately, it is taking them longer to have a drink and this is impacting on learning time. In the new term can I ask that only bottles without the spray facility are sent to school.

I wish you all a lovely and hopefully sunny half-term and look forward to welcoming the children back on Monday 25th February.

Ms Jackie Irwin



An excerpt from the extended narrative by Josh Wood.



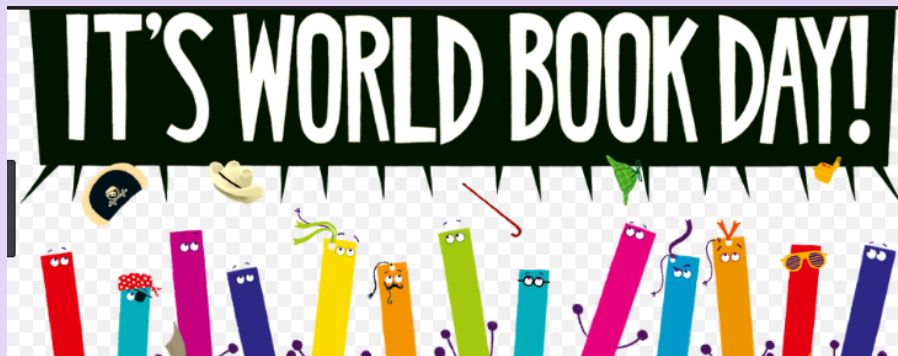
Arriving at the temple ruin buried deeply within the rainforest, the three friends effortlessly stepped out of the small boat that had brought them down the glassy river. Vines gracefully swung in the wind whilst the sun glistened in the blue sky. Anxiously wandering through the corridor of trees, the group entered the mossy temple which embraced many secrets.

Percy led the team searching for the pearl. Confusion flowed through their minds as they struggled to make a decision. Their only choice was to split up. Lurking in the darkness of the shadows, the anonymous creature waited! Percy noticed its hypnotic glowing eyes above the fangs of venom. Blotches of black adorned the dark green skin while a blood red tongue shot in and out of its mouth.



As stealthily as possible, the brave friends began to approach the monstrous animal. Gazing into oblivion, Percy made a decision. Quickly clicking his pen, revealed a sharpened blade. With vines grabbing at the travellers, Grover came sprinting to the rescue. Triggering a trap, darts shot out of the walls; they had been spotted!

Suddenly the rocks burst into life causing the pillars to crumble into fine shards of pure stone.



Engaines will be celebrating World Book Day on Friday 8th March 2019. Children are asked to bring in their favourite book to share and to dress up as a book character if they want to. If children don't want to dress up then they need to come to school in uniform. Thank you

Engaines Fundraising

We will be supporting Comic Relief on 15th March 2019.

We have lots of red noses for sale, they will be £1.25 each and cake sale, which always proves very popular with the children. You will be asked nearer the time to donate some cakes for the children to sell.





Engaines PTA

The PTA have managed to put on two events this half term, we ran a very successful quiz night, which raised £240.00—it was so successful we have been asked to run a Summer Quiz—dates to follow.

We also ran our Valentines Disco which was extremely well attended. The children had lots of fun and the PTA raised £700.00.

Thankyou to all of our parents helps and teachers that make this event possible.

Harry Howard-King (Year 6)

Either side of Christmas, our senior chess club players compete for the Steele Cup (named after our coach Melvin Steele).

The competition takes the format of a Swiss tournament. This style of tournament pairs together players who have similar number of points so each round usually pairs winners with winners.

Harry won all of his seven games, scoring maximum points to become this year's Steele cup champion.

To add to his achievements, he also managed to beat coach John in our termly 'Crush the Coaches' event where our two coaches played against 14 club members and Mr O'Brien simultaneously. He won a ten pounds Amazon voucher for his achievement.

He now has his eye on getting his name on the 'Lambert Ladder' trophy board which is our year long competition. He currently sits on top of that table, closely followed by Matthew and Lincoln who will be hoping to dash Harry's chances of a legendary treble.



Engaines Nursery

In Nursery we have been busy celebrating Chinese New Year and Valentine's Day.

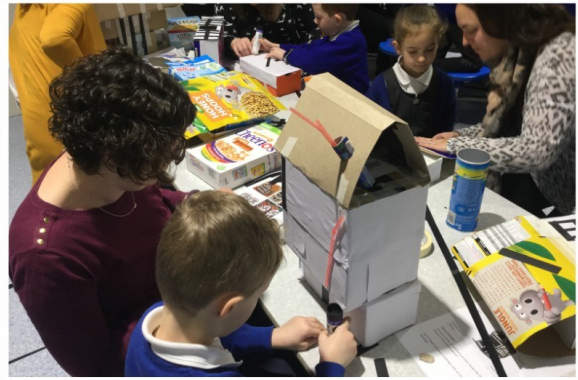
The children are enjoying tasting different food and creating pieces of art that they are very proud of.

The weather is getting warmer and we have lots planned for the Spring, including planting seeds and growing.

A quick ask. If you have any of the CBeebies magazines that came with the number blocks you no longer use I would be very grateful for them. And as you may know, our shed has been destroyed by the wind and we really need a new one. If you have a wooden shed you no longer use, we would love to hear from you! Have a lovely half term break.



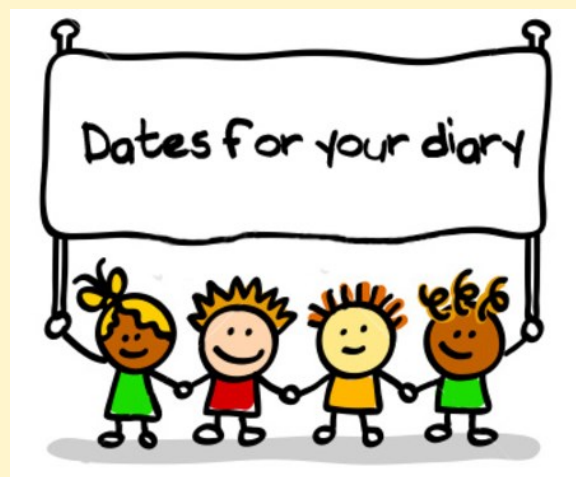
Tudor House Building—D & T



Visit from the Fire Engine (12th February)



25th February 2019 - Back to School
 28th February 2019 - Yr 3&4 Stoneage Day
 5th March 2019 - Dino Dome years 1-6
 7th March 2019 - Bug Man (whole school)
 8th March 2019 - World Book Day
 13th March 2019 - SEN Coffee Morning
 15th March 2019 - Red Nose Day
 19th March 2019 - Yrs 5&6 Portals to the past
 21st March 2019 - Stay and Read 9.15
 27th March 2019 - Mothers Day Lunch
 3rd April 2019 - Mothers Day Lunch
 5th April 2019 - Easter Disco
 2nd May 2019 - Mega Inflatables 3.30-4.30
 13th-16th May 2019 - Year 6 SATS
 17th May 2019 - Rainbow Day/Cancer Research
 12th June 2019 - Fathers Day Lunch
 19th June 2019 - Fathers Day Lunch
 15th June 2019 - Summer Fete



Finance Update

There's lots of exciting things happening next term, can you all please make sure you have made your payments.

- ♦ Years 3&4 - £3.00 for Portals to the Past
- ♦ Years 5&6 - £3.00 for Greek Workshop
- ♦ Years 1-5 - £3.30 for Science week
- ♦ Reception £1.00 for the Bug Man
- ♦ Years 5 - Mersea Payments (next one due 5th April)

All payments to be made via School Comms.

If you cannot pay this way please contact Mrs Hyde on 01255 860210

Voluntary One Way System

Some of you may remember that we used to follow a voluntary one way system to ease congestion around the school. We would like our parents to help us re-introduce this. This involves turning RIGHT into St Osyth Road East, turning RIGHT into Leys Drive and following the road out back onto London Road as shown on the map.

We would also ask parents NOT to perform three point turns outside of the school, and NOT to double park, which we have seen regularly this term. We realise this may take a minute or two longer, but it will increase safety and reduce congestion.

Thank you.



Class Attendance Spring Term

Congratulations to Miss Waltham's class for maintaining the top slot for attendance!!!



Class	Number of pupils with 100% attendance for this term	Number of pupils with 100% attendance for the current year	Class Attendance for the year
Miss Blunden	18	4	95.04%
Mrs Elmer	10	3	94.61%
Mrs Nunn	10	1	95.14%
Mr Lehain	16	6	97.59%
Mrs Ford	11	5	95.82%
Ms Warnes	13	5	95.06%
Miss Waltham	16	10	97.83%
Mr Rossett	11	7	96.23%
Mr O'Brien	13	5	97.01%
Mrs Wainwright	14	9	97.24%

Sports Update

The girls have had a couple of superb wins this term. They have beaten Hamford Primary by 13-1 and Walton Primary 21-0, both games were at home - well done the girls!!

Yesterday the boys also beat Walton Primary. 12-1!! Well done the boys!!

Go Engaines!!!!



Snowy Day in Reception!!!

