

## BE READY, RESPECTFUL, SAFE and KIND

### HEADTEACHER

Are you interested in training to teach? If you would like to hear more please come along to our open evening. This is being held on behalf of all of the local schools at Dunmow Primary.



**DUNMOW EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION PARTNERSHIP**  
**TRAIN TO TEACH**

- THINKING ABOUT A CAREER IN PRIMARY TEACHING?
- WANT TO TRAIN AND WORK IN LOCAL PRIMARY SCHOOLS?
- KEEN TO EXPLORE ROUTES INTO TEACHING?

Join leaders and teachers of local schools to find out more about training and teaching opportunities in our settings.

- ✓ Find out about our Primary Initial Teacher Training courses for 2025
- ✓ Speak to leaders, teachers and trainees from our schools about their journey into teaching
- ✓ Arrange opportunities to visit our schools and get valuable experience

Teaching  Every Lesson Counts 4 life

| Key information |  |
|-----------------|--|
| Date            | 27th November 2024                                       |
| Time            | 5pm to 7pm   |
| Location        | Great Dunmow Primary School, CM6 1ZR                     |
| Register        | Click Here: <a href="#">DEEP Get into Teaching Event</a> |

Dunmow Excellence in Education Partnership Get into Teaching Event



WEST Essex CITY



### IMPORTANT NOTICES

#### Reception admissions for academic year starting in September 2025

As you may be aware, the primary school (Reception) admission round opened on **Monday 4 November 2024**, for parents of children to apply for a Reception school place for the academic year that starts in September 2025. The statutory national closing date for applications is **15 January 2025**. Applications can be made online via [www.essex.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.essex.gov.uk/admissions). 99% of parents in Essex applied online last year. All of the application information is available on the website above. **Stebbing Primary would love to welcome you to one of our open days with tours led by our year 6 pupils.**

**Thursday 21st November 5.30pm**

**Thursday 5th December 9.45am or 10.45am**

Please book a slot by using the contact details below. **01371 856260**

### SPORT @ STEBBING

The past two weeks has seen children from across KS2 attend a range of sporting fixtures and events starting with the Sports Hall Athletics event for our year 4 and 6 children. In the morning of Friday 8th November, Kestrels class competed superbly in their first indoor athletics event taking part in throws, jumps and a range of sprinting events. The afternoon then saw our year 6 team take part in the same events finishing first out of the small schools competing earning a place in the next round. Both squads demonstrated wonderful teamwork and togetherness throughout the event cheering each other on to perform to the best of their ability. Today saw our year 3/4 boys football team take part in the Dunmow family football tournament competing against 9 schools from the local area. After 8 tough matches, our team remained undefeated throughout bringing home the silver medal along the way! This week also saw our year 5 boys football squad take part in the Essex Small Schools finals competing against the best in Essex at Billericay Town Football Club. Competing against tough opposition, Stebbing won twice, lost once, scored 5, conceded once on their way to a second place finish in their group missing out on a place in the semi-final by goal difference.

### AFSS

Firstly, the AFSS would love to thank all the volunteers who made the Stebbing 10 another very successful event. We had many compliments on delicious cakes, having so many bananas available, and most of all, what a great community feel Stebbing carries. So thank you for everyone for their contributions whether it was just standing on the sidelines, taking part in the running, or helping us to cater for hundreds of people! We are yet to confirm our profits of the day but it was a great way to start fundraising this academic year.

As the time rushes toward, we have to start getting ready for Christmas mayhem. This means that we are again in need of donations for the Children's Christmas Market. These can be dropped off in the office starting from Monday 18th November. We would also love to decorate Stebbing all ready for Christmas but are running low on decorations and such. If you have anything spare that is no longer needed, please consider donating them to the school.

The AFSS also wants to remind you that we are part of easyfundraising and just in the last few weeks, we have been donated over £200! We'd like to encourage you to sign up and if you do online shopping, easyfundraising automatically donates a certain % of your shopping to Stebbing Primary School. It's amazingly easy and costs you nothing extra!

Lastly, please remember to order your children's Christmas art work purchases online. You can use 10% discount code Stebbing11x24 until end of Monday 18th. We receive a substantial donation back from all the purchases which will all go towards the pool fund.



## HEADTEACHER AWARDS

|             | Friday 8th November | Friday 15th November |
|-------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| Wrens       | Carter & Oscar J    | Gracie D & Brooke    |
| Robins      | Finley & Gunnar     | Toby & Matias        |
| Kingfishers | Daisy & Teddy       | Mabel & Charlie. B   |
| Woodpeckers | Freddie. E & Harry  | Jenna & Freddy. S    |
| Kestrels    | Albert & Indie      | Raf & Elijah         |
| Ospreys     | Freddie & Louis     | Lina & Albie         |
| Owls        | Zack & Elly         | Lucia & Kayden       |



## HOT CHOCOLATE WITH THE HEADTEACHER



|             | Friday 8th November | Friday 15th November |
|-------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| Wrens       | Mia                 | Matilda              |
| Robins      | Devon               | Rhys                 |
| Kingfishers | Dolly               | Charlie. K           |
| Woodpeckers | Ethan               | Harvey               |
| Kestrels    | Dolcie              | Poppy                |
| Ospreys     | Nathaniel           | Neve                 |
| Owls        | Ava N               | Kaelyn               |

## READING CHAMPIONS & PRESENTATION AWARDS

|             | Friday 8th November                              | Friday 15th November                         |
|-------------|--|--|
| Wrens       | Teddy  | Stebbing Reading Champion:<br>Rose (Ospreys) |
| Robins      | Sully  |  |
| Kingfishers | Henley   |  |
| Woodpeckers | Stebbing Reading Champion:<br>Fifi (Woodpeckers) | Fletcher                                     |
| Kestrels    |  |  |
| Ospreys     |  | Isla   |
| Owls        |  | Mia  |

| DATE     | YEAR 6 AWARD     | ATTENDANCE AWARD | LUNCHTIME AWARD | KEEP IT CLEAN AWARD   |
|----------|------------------|------------------|-----------------|---|
| 08.11.24 | Wrens            | Woodpeckers      | Mia             |   |
| 15.11.24 | Isabelle & Lucia | Woodpeckers      | Carter          | Thank you to all who helped tidy and re-organise the reading den. |

|          |  |   |   |  |   |   |
|----------|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Date     |  |  |  |   |  |  |
| 08.11.24 | Kingfishers   | Owls  | Kestrels  | Owls  | Ospreys   | Kingfishers   |
| 15.11.24 | Kestrels  | Woodpeckers   | Robins  | Owls  | Ospreys   | Woodpeckers   |



# WRENS



# ROBINS



Our Wrens have flown the nest and they are enjoying the wide open space that the big playground provide with all its positive playtime activities. It has been a delight to hear about breaktime stories, meeting up with friends or siblings. Forest School has been a celebration of activities themed around Fireworks and Bonfires. Wrens helped to build habitats for hedgehogs and know more about fire safety. Miss Summers started off our new topic that stems from the beautiful book *Lost & Found*. Wrens enthusiastically told me the story on Thursday and earned a sticker for completing a penguin activity during choosing time. In Maths we have been introduced to different shapes and the Wrens identified different shapes in their surroundings. They were very enthusiastic and we hope you enjoy playing this game at home too. We have started to use our Doh Disco sessions to warm our hands up for writing and the Wrens have been benefiting from the hand strengthening activities in this fun way. Thank you for continuing to read with your Wren at home. We ask that books are in school each day for us to have the opportunity to read with the Wrens during the day. It is our school trip next week! We will be creating wish lists to take with us to post in the post box to the North Pole.

We have started our new topic 'Terrific Toys' and are very excited to be creating a toy museum in our class. The children had a wonderful time exploring their toys and completed a labelling activity to focus on their features. Robins have begun to create fact files to describe their toys in more detail.

In Science we have been thinking more about materials. Naming materials, describing materials and looking at objects in the room that are made out of those materials.

In maths we are beginning to learning about bond within 10 and bonds to 10. We have been looking at how we can swap the numbers in a number sentence and they will still equal the same amount. We have also learnt about systematic bonds and are beginning to recognise some patterns.

We are very excited for our school trip to Audley End next week. We will be writing letters to Santa at the beginning of the week to post into their special post box.



# KINGFISHERS



# WOODPECKERS

In Science we have started to learn about influential people. We opened this topic by learning about Charles Darwin and his Theory of Evolution. We learnt that this theory entails the smartest, strongest, quickest and most attractive animal within a species is more likely to pass on these positive genetic traits to their offspring. We will begin to explore the importance of adaptations for survival and look at how various animals, including humans, have adapted to their environment.

Our rocks topic has been a hoot! Who knew? Doesn't the idea of learning about 'rocks' sound dull to start with? Well, not at all - Woodpeckers have been so fascinated by it, so much so that it's cascaded into other elements of their days. At lunchtimes it is often the case that an unusual rock has been found outside. We have collected these on the top of our book shelf for safe keeping & further observation. So many Woodpeckers have also brought in vast collections of rocks, fossils, shells and crystals that they have at home. We learned about caves in our Guided Reading sessions, different rock types, how they are formed, what soil is comprised of, animals that live among rocks and soil & jobs they do. It was that which led us to the concept of 'filtration', leading to our investigations. We had a special visitor this week, who brought with them lots of crystals, explaining to us the powers & comforts that many people believe they have. Even if we aren't believers it was very fun to touch them & look closely at their details, and how they look in the light, with the magnifying glasses. This has inspired some detailed writing & to follow on we will be using our chromebooks to determine which of the 3 rock types each crystal belongs to (if any). Our next Scientific Enquiry involving rocks will be a growing one - we will see which natural bases provide the best growing conditions and we will see if we can make soil ourselves, using rocks! Our Guided Reading text next week will introduce our Geography focus; 'Settlements'. Comparing dwellings from the Stone Age, we'll see how homes have changed throughout history & across the globe.

In Geography we have been learning about countries that make the United Kingdom. We explored the flags and why the Union Jack flag came to be. Kingfishers then designed their own flag based on the colours, original design and important features of these 4 countries. We also explored the features of a capital city and used an atlas to locate them accurately on our own blank maps.

In English we have been designing our own characters which will feature in our story. We have been writing descriptive sentences, focusing on their appearance and personality.

In Maths we have been adding two 2-digit numbers with exchange. We now know we must exchange 10 ones for 1 stick of ten. We started with concrete resources and are now drawing out the method.



I can't believe the first two weeks of the Christmas term have finished already. We have thrown the children straight back into school life by reading George's Marvellous Medicine. Through this the children have been learning about the features of an instructional text and practising their language to create their own version of a marvellous medicine next week. In maths, we have finally finished looking at all of the different times tables. We will continue to teach these throughout the school year but any practise that you can do of these at home would be hugely appreciated.

In sound, we have continued to look at how we hear sound, comparing sound waves to a mexican wave and experimenting with this in the classroom. The children have also been on two fantastic sporting events where they represented the school brilliantly. Finally, we have started all things Christmas. Get read to hear a lot of the Camel funk at home, which is a personal favourite of theirs.



It has been really lovely to spend the last two weeks with Owls. They have worked incredibly hard and continue to show such a good attitude for learning as well as having such a positive impact around the wider school. In maths, we have explored the multiplication and division of fractions as well as finding fractions of an amount. We have become real experts in the Battle of Hastings and have produced the most amazing historical explanation texts using some superb historical vocabulary and higher level sentences types. We have delved into our new science topic too which focuses around evolution and inheritance. We understand what evolution is and how clues around us can help us to determine how species have changed over time to adapt to their environments. Finally, we have had the opportunity to begin practising some of the songs for our Christmas production of 'Matilda'. We will start rehearsals for this next week, so please ensure that your child is confident with their lines ready to bring their part to life! Have a lovely weekend Owls and I will see you again on Wednesday!



Ospreys have had a great couple of weeks learning all about Space! Our new topic has been explored in our Science, Geography and English lessons and it has been fantastic to see the children so engaged. We enjoyed a wonderful session in the Planetarium, which helped make the learning real and was great fun!

In Maths, the children have been getting their heads around fractions and converting between improper and mixed fractions as well as finding equivalent fractions. Please ask them to show you this at home or have a look on BBC Bitesize so that they can keep practising this their newly learnt skills.

Our English unit is based on the first ever human mission to Mars going wrong and the children (as astronauts) being stranded and sending a transmission home. We are focussing on oracy skills and the children have worked hard to articulate their thoughts and ideas and discuss them with their peers before putting pen to paper.

The children have also been practising prosody and fluency in reading and have delivered wonderful performances!

## GUEST SPOT

### News from Governors

This is a busy half term for governors and one that brings lots of joy as we spend more time in school. In addition to our regular board and committee meetings, we are visiting the school to complete our termly monitoring visits in assigned areas with our main contact.

The objective of monitoring is to ensure that things are on track against statutory requirements (eg Health & Safety) and/or against the School Improvement Plan (eg Maths, Behaviour) – ie they are evidence-based. We learn a lot from walking around classes and talking to staff and pupils in addition to speaking in detail with our main contacts.

In the run up to Christmas parents are invited to many lovely events in school and on 19<sup>th</sup> December we would like to invite you to coffee after the class 'craft visits' – 9.30-10.00. See you then!

# EVENTS CALENDAR

| DATE     | EVENT  |
|----------|--|
| 15.11.24 | Children in Need day   |
| 15.11.24 | Reception 2025 open morning 09.45 & 10.45                                  |
| 20.11.24 | Pantomime for the whole school   |
| 21.11.24 | Reception 2025 open evening 5.30pm   |
| 05.12.24 | Reception 2025 open morning 09.45 & 10.45                                  |
| 05.12.24 | AFSS movie night 3.10-5pm  |
| 06.12.24 | AFSS Children's Christmas Market   |
| 09.12.24 | Christmas play week  |
| 18.12.24 | Christmas lunch day  |
| 19.12.24 | Christmas craft market 9-9.30am (children to sell their crafts to parents) |
| 20.12.24 | End of term  |



To view our annual calendar of events, please click here: <https://stebbingprimary.co.uk/calendar/>