



# From The Study

13th May 2022

## Dear Parents

We have been really enjoying more wonderful class assemblies over the last two weeks, I am sure you will agree if you have been able to watch your children perform. Today in assembly Mrs Medcroft spoke to the children about the school library and about her new initiative to encourage Prep school children to read a variety of books—her analogy to choosing food in restaurants was fantastic!

We welcomed Mariia to Form 5 this week: her peers have been so kind and helpful as she spends the afternoons with us. Mariia is from Ukraine and is staying with a local family. Welcome also to Lisa Haynes who joined our kitchen team this week. We have successfully recruited new staff for September: I will update you on these in the next newsletter.

Please read the articles in this newsletter about forthcoming activities to support the Chelmsford Foodbank and Dementia UK. We are also looking forward to a fabulous Jubilee Day on 27th May, being organised by Miss Kenton. Thank you for your donations so far to her appeal for supplies!

Please make sure that you have read the emails about the photos on Wednesday and what the children need to wear and bring, and also about Sports Day and Prize-giving on Saturday 9th July.

I am sure many of you are looking forward to the ball tomorrow, a huge thank you on behalf of the school to the Form 6 parents who have put such a lot of work into organising this, especially Mrs Irons.



I am delighted to share with you a first look at our new Widford Values HEART logo: it is a combination of designs originally by Kinneret Bennett, Heidi Wright and Thomas Blostone, who then worked

together to combine the elements of their entries to produce this wonderful design. I am sure you will agree that it is fantastic and we are looking forward to rolling this out fully soon.

Thank you to the Form 6 parents and pupils for their leaving gift to the school of a Bose speaker and charging stand—more details about this are included later in the newsletter.

It is with sadness that I write about Anne Hornsby passing away last week. Anne was a dedicated and passionate Learning Support Assistant at Widford Lodge from 1995 to 2014 and is remembered fondly by a generation of pupils and staff. We send our love and condolences to her family and friends. Several members of the school staff will be attending her funeral next month and we plan to plant a tree or a bush in her memory this summer.

Wishing you a wonderful weekend.

## Politeness and Courtesy Cup

Congratulations to the following pupils for being awarded the cup:

- Ella Knowelden **5M** (week commencing 2nd May) for always being polite and positive.
- Otto Underwood **RH** (week commencing 9th May) for making our day as he is always polite and helpful, as well as thanking staff for things they do.

## Headteacher Awards

- RH** - Niamh Green & Jacob Sullings for Art, Bow-Yi Ho for Writing
- 1W** - Nafeesah Ali for R.E
- 2LD** - Rupert Fermor for Art, Annabelle Blockley and William Easton for History
- 3K** - Mahika Abeyesuriya, Jonny Heminsley, Henry Hurford, Connor Ke, Georgiana Major & Sebastian Ratnage for English
- 5D** - Katie Taylor and Adriana Wratten for Maths

## Upcoming Menus

Day	Main course	Pudding
Monday 16 <sup>th</sup>	Jacket Potatoes Cheese & Beans (M) Grated carrot & cucumber	Chocolate Cup-cakes (G, M & E)
Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup>	Sausages Vegetarian sausage (G) Mash Potato, cabbage, carrot & gravy	Frozen Yogurt Fruit Bites (M)
Wed 18 <sup>th</sup>	Tarragon Chicken in cream sauce (M) Quorn pieces in tarragon sauce (M & E) Rice & broccoli	Marble Cake (G, M & E)
Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup>	Roast Beef Sweet potato pasty Yorkshire pudding (G,M & E) Roast potato, fine beans, Cauliflower	Apple crumble (G&M)
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup>	Pork & Apple Burger Vegetarian Burger (G) Chips, baked beans & sweetcorn	Smoothie (M)
Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Spinach & Ricotta cannelloni (G & M) Sweetcorn & cucumber	White Chocolate Chip Sponge (G, M & E)
Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup>	Chicken Tikka Masala (M) Quorn Tikka Masala (M & E) Rice & broccoli	Banana Split kebab (M)
Wed 25 <sup>th</sup>	Meatballs in Tomato & Herb Sauce Vegetarian balls in Tomato & Herb Sauce Pasta & broccoli (G)	Carrot Cake (G,M & E)
Thursday 26 <sup>th</sup> May	All Day Breakfast Vegetarian Breakfast (G, M & E)	Chocolate Brownie (G, M & E)
Friday 27 <sup>th</sup>	Cold Meat Selection Cheese & Onion Puff (G & M) New potatoes and salad	Trifle or Union Jack Cupcakes (G, M & E)

**Please note**—menus may change.

**Index:** (G) – contains Gluten, (E) - Contains Eggs,  
(M) – contains milk, (F) contains fish. Alternative versions for meals containing any of these is provided for children with allergies or intolerances.

## Dates for the Diary

Please see the calendar on our school website for full schedule of events.

Day	Date	Event
Sat	14th May	School Ball, Pontlands
Mon	16th May	Forest School for 1W, 2LD, 3C, 3K, 4W
Tues	17th May	Forest School for 6H Form 3 Synagogue Visit
Wed	18th May	Whole School, class & team photos U10 Boys & Girls Cricket v Brentwood (A) 2:30pm Plant sale 3:15pm All plants £1
Fri	20th May	Dementia Day: Purple non-uniform day & cake sale (3:00-4:00pm) U10 Boys & Girls Cricket v New Hall (A) 2.30pm
Sat	21st May	Speech & Drama exams
Mon	23rd May	Chelmsford Foodbank Collection
Tues	24th May	Chelmsford Foodbank Collection Form 2 Music concert for parents 9.00am
Wed	25th May	3K Class assembly 8:45am
Thur	26th May	Form 2 Music Assembly to school 8.50am Year 5 Brentwood taster day 9am-1pm
Fri	27th May	Jubilee Day
Mon Fri	30th May- 3rd June	Half Term
Mon -Fri	6th-10th June	Exam week Forms 3-6
Tues	7th June	Dan Putnam, Commonwealth Athlete visit Forms 3-6
Thur	9th June	U9 Boys & Girls Cricket Vs Brentwood (Home) 2:30pm
Fri	10th June	1T & 1W to Mountfitchet Castle U11 Boys & girls cricket v New Hall (home) 2:00pm
Mon Fri	13th-17th June	Form 6 Activity Week
Mon	13th June	Form 3 Chelmsford local walk

## Pre-School

The children in the Preschool have really enjoyed role playing Opticians in the home corner. They were taking phone calls, making appointments, reading the letters on the charts and choosing their favourite glasses.



Last week the children were very creative making their own pretend milkshakes in the messy room. They talked about



the colours changing as they were mixing and had a go at squeezing the juice from some fruits.



We have been reading the story 'Giraffes can't dance'



and the children have created some lovely animal art work.



children took part in an obstacle course outside in the garden, moving around in lots of different ways.



## Reception

It has been a hive of busy activity in RH over the past few weeks. We enjoyed learning about how clever and im-



portant bees are and did our own mini projects. We learnt how to draw and make a bee and wrote our own fact file. Having learnt about how bees make wax and why



their honeycomb cells are hexagonal in shape, we decided to do our own investigation in the sand to see which shapes tessellate.

We have been learning to recognise coins and use them to pay for jars of honey in our honey shop. Some customers must have



been bears in disguise because they bought every last jar!

We continued our learning about minibeasts this week by setting up a wormery in our classroom. RH are looking forward to seeing the earthworms in action. We read



Superworm and created our own minibeast superhero characters. Such fun turning minibeasts into superheroes!

Some children have enjoyed being superheroes



outside, clearly on missions,

very important whilst others preferred some creative



time making lolly stick superheroes inside.





## Form 1

Form 1 have enjoyed taking part in observational drawing during our science lessons. The children were able to find and identify wild flowers and draw them in situ, so as not to pick them and make sure we left them for the pollinators!



Thank you to the children in Activities, who have helped to plant the new pollinator friendly garden and also start creating a new wildlife pond.



Alex Hibbert came to visit the children. He spoke to them



about his adventures in the Arctic and let the children try

## Dementia Day 20th May



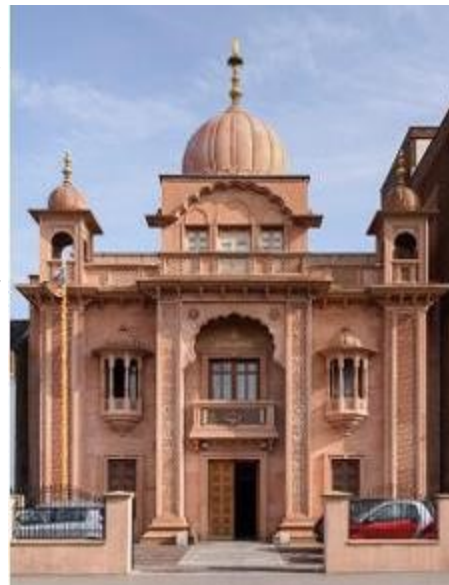
On **Friday 20th May**, we will be marking Dementia Week with a **non school uniform** day. Children will be encouraged to wear purple and bring in a £1 donation. During the morning, we will be working in Family Groups on an activity which has been kindly organised by Amaya Lewis (6H).

There will also be a **cake sale** being held after school to raise money for Dementia UK. If you would like to donate some cakes for the sale please could you bring them in on Friday morning before School.

## Form 4 Visit to the Karamsar Gurdwara

On Wednesday the 11th May, Form 4 visited the Karamsar Gurdwara in Ilford for the day. The children were taught about Sikh practices, Sikh history and the importance of a Gurdwara within a local community.

4W were also lucky enough to enter the prayer hall and to be read the religious tale of 'The Potter's Donkey' by a member of the Karamsar who was their age who also explained the significance of this story.



In the afternoon, Form 4 very much enjoyed a hot vegetarian meal in the Langar whilst they were taught about the importance of a Langar to not only the Gurdwara, but the surrounding community.

A huge thank you to Satvinder and all of the volunteers at the Karamsar for being so welcoming and informative - the children really enjoyed their day and I hope they have developed a new appreciation for such a wonderful culture.

## Forest School details

Forest school sessions are on over the next few days, we have listed the days that each form will be taking part and the clothing they need to be wearing below.

- **Monday 16th May - Reception & 1W & 2LD** - please come to school in uniform and bring old clothes to change into.
- **Monday 16th May - Form 3 & 4** - come to school in old clothes and bring games kit to change into.
- **Tuesday 17th May - 6H** Please come to school in old clothes and bring school uniform to change into.
- (Form 5H and 1T have had Forest School today, 13th May.)

## Alex Hibbert - Polar Explorer

Widford were very keen to welcome Alex back once again and we were fascinated by what he had to share with us.



We learnt about the essential equipment he needs to be able to survive in these adverse conditions and how technology has made exploration so much easier. The



children enjoyed this hands-on experience.

It was interesting to learn more about arctic exploration in the past, including some famous explorers reach the North



who claimed to or South Poles but as we have advanced, it has since been discovered

that these claims weren't true.

Very many thanks to FOWL for helping



## Chelmsford Foodbank Collection

Having been in contact with Chelmsford Foodbank recently, we would very much like to help them again. If you are in a position to help, please could you bring in any food donations to the school on the mornings of either **Monday 23rd or Tuesday 24th May**. Below is a list of their needs.



**Tinned fish**  
**Tinned custard**  
**Tinned potatoes**  
**Tinned tomatoes**  
**Tinned spaghetti**  
**Tinned rice pudding**  
**Tinned meat and meat pies**  
**(excluding corned beef and luncheon meat)**

**Pasta sauce**  
**Sponge puddings**  
**Jam and/or spreads**  
**Coffee - small and medium jars**  
**Instant custard powder (less urgent)**

**Washing capsules**

The Food bank is hugely grateful for your ongoing support.

The Foodbank say that whilst they saw a decline in the numbers of people accessing emergency food through the Chelmsford Foodbank last year (2021-22), they have seen a considerable increase in the last three months in comparison to the same period last year and in 2019. Sadly, they only expect to see a further increase as people struggle with the rising cost of living.

They look forward to a future where there is no need for Foodbanks and where it is not ok for people to struggle to afford the essentials. In the meantime they are grateful that they can be there for people; all because of the generosity of the surrounding community and establishments such as our school.



## Events and trips open in PAY360

We hope the following information will act as an aide memoir of any action that may be due for trips and events planned for your children.

If you are unsure if you have already signed up/paid for an event on PAY360, please go to the 'my Account/my payments' tabs within PAY360 where you can review your transactions.

Please contact the office team if you have any questions.

Year	Trip	Closing Date
3	Synagogue Visit	17/05/22
3 & 4	Choir Fest	21/06/22
5	Summer Revision Club	30/06/22
5	Brentwood Taster Day	25/05/22
6	Skern - Final Instalment	27/05/22
6	Activity Week	13/06/22
2-6	Sport Gumshield	8/06/22



## Monday Mile

It was wonderful to see the Monday Mile back at Widford Lodge. 98 children ran, jogged or walked around the tennis court for 10 minutes during our first post-covid Monday Mile.



to all those who Monday Mile 8.00-day morning before school.



Thank you to the school council for running the event and giving out the stickers took part.

8.40 every Mon-



## Cricket result

On Friday 29<sup>th</sup> April, Form 6 played their first cricket matches of the season against St Cedds. The fixture was at Chelmer Park and we were all very excited. The girls played softball terrier cricket and the boys played hardball terrier cricket. Everyone really enjoyed having a bat and a bowl and we all worked really well as a team. The matches finished in two narrow defeats for Widford but we can't wait for our next fixture this afternoon. By Theo Hance

## Year 6 Presenting the BOSE Speaker

As our leaving gift for the school the Form 6 parents and children decided to buy Widford Lodge a brand-new Bose Speaker to be used in the Hall for Class Assemblies, dance lessons and the School Play. We presented our gift to



Miss Cole last week. We hope that all future Widfordians enjoy using this gift.

From Juliette and Jacob

## School Ball Hamper

Thank you very much to all parents/carers who supported the hamper raffle this week. And a huge thank you to all the amazing Year 6 helpers! We raised a fabulous £380 and the lucky winner was Ella Knowelden. All proceeds will be added to the profits from this year's charity ball which is taking place at Pontlands Park on Saturday 14 May.

Lots of other raffle and auction prizes will be on offer at the ball so please remember to bring some cash for raffle tickets and for our usual heads and tails game! We look forward to seeing you there.

The Year 6 ball committee

## Custom Fit Gumshields for September

Planning ahead for September, a local dentist will be visiting in June to take impressions for custom fit gumshields.



In the Autumn term, gumshields are needed by all Year 4 to 6 pupils. In addition Year 3 girls will require a gumshield for hockey. However, Year 3 boys do not require a gumshield for tag rugby.

Dr Clough and his team at Sharrow Dental Surgery, from Chelmsford, will be visiting on Wednesday 22nd June (am) to create the dental impression required to produce the gumshield. They have been making personalised gumshields for the GB boxing team since 2008 and for the school for the last couple of years.

There are 11 colours to choose from and the cost is £47.95 per gumshield. Pupils currently in Year 6 are likely to require gumshields for sports in Year 7 and are welcome to book a slot for a fitting as well. PAY360 will be available to Year 2—6 children from Monday 16th May and will close on Wednesday 8th June.

Gumshields can be purchased through other suppliers.

## Notice Board

Going forward we shall be making use of the notice board outside the main black gate. We plan to put up a list of events by class for the week. We hope that parents will find this a useful addition to our methods of communicating along with the usual emails.

## Secondary School Information

St Mary's School in Colchester is holding a Senior School Scholarships Information Evening on Tuesday 21st June, 6-7pm for prospective Year 4 & 5 parents. If interested families will need to register online at <https://www.stmaryscolchester.org.uk/admissions/open-days-visits/>.

In addition, they are holding a few experience events for Year 4 & Year 5 pupils as follows:

Monday 16<sup>th</sup> May – ICT, 10.30am-12pm

Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> May – Art, 10.30am-12pm

Any parents of Years 4 & 5 girls that are interested please email St Mary's directly on

[registrar@stmaryscolchester.org.uk](mailto:registrar@stmaryscolchester.org.uk) or telephone 01206 594 180.

## Charm Bracelet found

A Charm bracelet was found on the school drive on Monday 9th May. If you know the owner please contact the office team.



## Plant Sale - Wednesday 18th May

### After School - All Plants £1.00

As part of Earth Day, the children in Forms 1 and 2 have been busy planting, cucumber, tomato, sweet pea, chilli, runner beans.

We are holding a plant sale, to raise money for Operation Ocelot. Steve Backshall is asking for schools help to save areas of rainforest. We can save the same area of rain forest as the size of school, if we raise enough money.

Please support the children of Pre-Prep and help us save an area of rain forest.



Thank you.

Miss Taylor

## FOWL Update

### FOWL FUNDS

Arctic Explorer Alex Hibbert's visit: 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2022

Thanks to your support, FOWL were delighted to contribute to the cost of Alex Hibbert's return to the school where he regaled children across all year groups with



stories from his latest arctic adventures. A fantastic opportunity for the children to hear first-hand about the challenges faced by this polar expedition leader.

### ENTERPRISE DAY & FOWL SUMMER FAYRE

**Friday 24<sup>th</sup> June: 14:00 to 16:00**

FOWL's Summer Fayre will be running in conjunction with the school's Enterprise Day again this year and we are looking forward to another fun event with parents back on site! As always, your generous donations of toys, books, raffle prizes etc. make the event the success so please look out for our e-mail during the course of next week where we will provide you with further details.

### FOWL INFLATABLE AFTERNOON

**Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> July: 12:30 to 16:30**

Plans are in full swing and we're very excited to be holding this fun event again this year! At our last inflatable afternoon back in 2019 parents were kind enough to volunteer their time to help supervise inflatables and co-ordinate parking and we will again be calling on your assistance to ensure that the event runs safely and smoothly. We will be in touch a little nearer the event, but in the meantime please do hold the date in your diaries – a fantastic way to round off the school year!



### PRE-LOVED UNIFORM DONATIONS & APPOINTMENTS

Your kind donations of pre-loved uniform are greatly appreciated. Please leave any donations with the school office who will kindly pass them on to us. Should you wish to visit our shed for a browse please get in touch via our email at

[fowlcontact@aol.com](mailto:fowlcontact@aol.com) to schedule an appointment.

Thanks for your continued support,  
**The FOWL Team ([fowlcontact@aol.com](mailto:fowlcontact@aol.com))**



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**Hamptons  
Sports and Leisure**

**MAY HALF TERM  
TENNIS**

**JUNIOR COACHING COURSES**

These morning courses are for complete beginners / improvers to advanced players aged 4 - 16 years old. Each day we hope to see all participants improve their ball skills and stroke techniques through training, drills and fun games. Players should bring a snack and a water bottle that can be filled up on breaks. They should also bring warm clothes and a waterproof jacket in case of bad weather. Rackets are available if players do not have them.

**DATES AND TIMES**  
Red/Orange/Green/Yellow Ball  
(4 - 16 Years)

- Monday, May 30th  
09:00 - 12:00
- Tuesday, May 31st  
09:00 - 12:00
- Wednesday, June 1st  
09:00 - 12:00

The cost of the course is  
**£40.50 for all 3 days**  
(£16 per individual day).

Places are limited so please  
book early to avoid disappointment.

**Piers Nightingale**,  
ITA Licensed Level 4 Social Club Coach,  
RPT European Pro Coach,  
Head Coach of the Junior Section  
Tel: 07795 384027  
E-Mail: piersnightingale@hotmail.com

**hamptonssl.co.uk**  
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**No places guaranteed until payment received.**



**Hamptons  
Sports and Leisure**

**Course Dates**  
Week 1) July 25th - 29th  
Week 2) August 1st - 5th  
Week 3) August 8th - 12th  
Week 4) August 15th - 19th

**Times Each Day**  
Monday 09:30 - 16:00  
Tuesday - Friday 10:00 - 16:00  
Friday 15:30 - Presentation  
Early drop off is available for up to an hour before each start time. There is an additional fee of \$3 per day.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE  
COURSE, PLEASE CONTACT:**  
Piers Nightingale  
Head Coach  
07795 384027  
E-mail: piersnightingale@hotmail.com  
Hampton Sports & Leisure, Tydemans,  
Chelmsford, Essex, CM2 9FH.

**BRITISH TENNIS** **LTA**

**RPT**  
REGISTERED PROFESSIONAL  
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**SUMMER  
TENNIS  
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2022**

All abilities aged 4-16



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