

# WHAT'S ON

17<sup>th</sup> November 2017

## DIARY DATES 20<sup>th</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
3.15 – 4.10pm Mini Tennis club	9.10 – 9.45am <b>Sharks class assembly</b>  3.15 – 4.15pm Rugby club	8 – 8.45am Dodgeball club  3.15 - 4pm Young Artists club – <b>last one!</b> Puzzle club - <b>last one!</b> Fun Fitness club – <b>last one!</b>	8 – 8.45am Yoga club	8 – 8.45am Running club  3.15 - 4pm Dance Club  3.15 – 4.15pm Football Club

### SHOOTING STARS!

-  **George & James** for their enthusiasm, effort & interest in our polar adventure topic!
-  **Alfie** for being a great role model to other children in Maths!  
**Bob** for showing excellent hockey skills!
-  **Erin** for creating an excellent story map!  
**Toby** for fabulous dancing in PE!
-  **Joseph** for writing at length & trying to include punctuation!  
**Cezar** for working hard in phonics lessons to learn & to read the Phase 3 & 5 phonemes!
-  **Demmi** for always being helpful & willing to learn new things!  
**Natalia** for fabulous reading & working hard with her handwriting!
-  **William** for wanting to challenge himself in Maths by taking a ruler outside & measuring leaves in centimetres!
-  **Demi** for beautiful handwriting this week!  
**Tiana** for creating an excellent 'teachers role-play' with her friends & pretending to teach all the sounds from the week!

### BEST ATTENDANCE



WHOLE SCHOOL		97.1%
TARGET 2017-18		97%
	98.7%	
	99.3%	
	96.9%	

### LETTERS HOME

- The latest Chelmsford City Sports "Get In" brochure is available in reception. To book activities please visit [www.chelmsford.gov.uk/getin](http://www.chelmsford.gov.uk/getin).

### BEST BEHAVIOUR

Unfortunately all the classes were very noisy at lunchtime this week! We are working with the children to reduce noise levels and create a calm atmosphere in the hall at lunchtime.

### FAB FOUR!

-  **Sam & Simba**
-  **Patrick & Anne-Marie**
-  **Frances & Iris**
-  **Flora & Holly**
-  **Nellie & Natalia**
-  **Samuel & Max**



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## MESSAGE FROM MRS CASTELL

Today we have marked Children in Need Day with lots of wonderful spotty and stripy accessories. Thank you very much for your donations, we raised a fantastic £170.13. It was lovely to see Reverend Jo Jones in assembly this morning, when we gave her some presents to say goodbye. She has promised to keep in touch. Just to remind you, she is leading the service at All Saints Church for the last time on 26th November.

Another busy week and preparation for Christmas has begun in earnest. As ever, the children did us all proud with their observation of a two minute's silence on Monday for Remembrance Day. Year Two went to the village memorial.

Dolphins had the first class assembly of the academic year and it was wonderful. They told us all about the Arctic and the Antarctic and their acting and singing put a smile on all our faces. Our thanks go to the whole Dolphins team for their superb preparation.

Our teachers met with colleagues from our school partnership to discuss various subjects. I attended the termly safeguarding forums and meetings with other headteachers.

Thank you for the questionnaire responses so far, I will give you a full summary in due course. The comments are very welcome and we consider every suggestion. A couple of things which I can already clarify:

1. There have been queries about how we inform you of your child's progress. We send home a written report every term, which is over and above what some other schools do, but you are very welcome to make an appointment, e-mail [parents@writtle-inf.essex.sch.uk](mailto:parents@writtle-inf.essex.sch.uk), or call to speak to the class teacher, so feedback can be given throughout the term.
2. We aim to answer emails within the school day, but the office normally receives over 100 in a day. In order to prioritise emails from parents, we will now encourage you to use an alternative email address: [parents@writtle-inf.essex.sch.uk](mailto:parents@writtle-inf.essex.sch.uk). However, if we receive a number of emails about the same issue, for example a poorly parked vehicle, we may not respond individually if it is clear how we have dealt with it via ParentMail or other communication.
3. One comment suggested that there were too many emails/communications from the school. Unfortunately we would much rather over-communicate and give parents all the information they have asked for, rather than leave something out. We notify you about key events on a number of occasions so that you are fully aware of dates, arrangements and times.



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4. We were asked whether we can provide a place for parents to sit and wait while their children are at after school clubs. Unfortunately this is not possible, as almost every classroom is used for a club and we cannot expect other parents to run this when they have their own children to care for. All teachers on site are involved in running a club, except one or two who are available for emergencies and to supervise the office.

I met with the WISPA committee on Thursday and we are planning some more events for the academic year, such as a Valentine's disco on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> February. If you have any fundraising ideas please let me or one of the committee know – we are particularly keen to run an evening for parents such as a quiz/race/bingo night and suggestions will be very welcome. We are waiting for Gift Aid to be set up before asking for any further parent donations and also looking at other ways of raising money.

Enjoy your weekend.

Regards  
Helen Castell

## READING/SPELLINGS

We often have queries about teachers hearing children read more often and I thought it would be useful to clarify our position. Teachers unfortunately do not have the time to hear all children read as they are constantly working on the lesson in hand with individuals or groups of children. If they took time out to hear 30 children read they would not be able to support children properly across the curriculum. However reading is used across the curriculum, so teachers are reading alongside children for example in the maths text books, when using the overhead projector, reading joint texts in English lessons etc. Our Learning Support Assistants are all very experienced and fully trained in hearing children read and making judgements, so this is just as beneficial to the children's learning as having the teacher hear them read.

Regarding spelling journals, we do mark the tests but not the practice. Feedback on spellings is given in children's written work which you are welcome to at Parents' Evening and Family Learning Time.

I hope this clarifies our policy.

## NOTICES & REMINDERS

**Next week is the last week for Wednesday afternoon staff clubs (Wednesday afternoon).** Piano lessons also finish on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> November. There is no Gardening club next week but children are invited to attend Puzzle club with Mrs Wilson instead. All other clubs finish in the week ending 1<sup>st</sup> December.

## WISPA UPDATE

THANK YOU for your donations for the Mini Marathon. The amount raised from this event currently stands at £1800, which is incredible, so please keep your donations coming! Our next event is one of the biggest in our calendar, the Christmas Fayre at 2.30pm on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December. Please contact WISPA or the school office to offer help to set up, run a stall or clear away on the day. Even half an hour of your time would be so helpful. The Year 1 and 2 Christmas production is on the morning of 8<sup>th</sup> December, so if any parents can stay on to help afterwards we would be really grateful. Thank you for your support.

## COMMUNITY LINKS

Rugbytots' sessions on Sunday run in the Chelmsford Sports & Athletics Centre, Salerno Way, Chelmsford, CM1 2EH at the following times:

9am & 11.15 am for 2 - 3 1/2 year olds

9.35am for 3 1/2 - 5 years old

10.20am for 5 - 7 year olds

Writtle Road Nursery is holding a Sherry & Mince Pie weekend on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> – Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> December. The nursery will have a huge selection of Christmas trees, table decoration, door wreaths, fabulous gifts & lots more. There are vouchers in reception offering a 10% discount from 1<sup>st</sup>- 24<sup>th</sup> December.



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