



January	
Mon 5th	Non-Pupil Day
Tuesday 6th	Children return to school
Thursday 8th	Year 3 Trip to Layer Marney



Dear families

What a busy last week of term we have had! We were so proud of our Reception classes as they performed their nativities to parents on Monday and Tuesday. On Wednesday, we all enjoyed our Christmas dinner whilst wearing our Christmas jumpers. Thank you to everyone who donated to St Helena Hospice. On Thursday, our winning house team, Mars, were awarded their prize of time on the soft play bus.



Thank you to everyone who donated at our Christmas performances. We raised an amazing £919.26. This will be split between St Helena Hospice and our school fund.

#### **School Meals**

School meals for the spring term are now uploaded to School Comms for you to order. Please ensure you have ordered meals for your child for the term ahead. We will be eating meals from menu 1 when we return after the Christmas break.

#### **Christmas Trees - to reuse at Forest School!**



When you are taking your real Christmas tree down in the new year, please donate it to our Forest Schools. Last year's tree donations were a great success for children to play with, to use as dead wood hedging and the trunks were later sawn up for wooden discs which children made decorations from this Christmas. You can put donations in the junior Forest School area on our return to school. Thank you.

#### **Governor Award**

Two children received this term's Governor Award in our special end of term assembly this week. Congratulations to Drishya and Lily-Mai who received the award from Mrs Beeson, one of our governors.



#### **Clubs for the Spring Term**

Please take a look at the '[school events](#)' page on our website for details of some of the clubs ,taking place in the new term.



### **Making Payments**

In order to provide as efficient a service as possible, we are moving towards being a cashless school. Therefore, from January 2026 we will only accept payment by card or online. If you haven't already downloaded the School Gateway App, then please ensure that you do so in readiness for January. If you have any problems using the App, you can speak to the school office staff, who will be able to help you.

### **Winter Reading Challenge**

Essex Library Service are once again running a Winter Reading Challenge for children in January, and the theme for 2026 is The Pawfessionals! Children will join six friendly animal mascots as they explore their dream jobs around Essex. The Pawfessionals will guide children through the challenge, helping them discover new stories and opportunities. Children aged 0 to 12 will be asked to complete six challenges from a choice of twelve, which include reading and creative activities. They earn a sticker for each challenge they complete, plus a certificate if they manage to complete six! Completers will also have the opportunity to enter a prize draw to win exciting prizes, including Kindles, book tokens, and Pawfessional themed toys! The challenge starts on **10 January** and runs until **22 February**, and children can join at any point during that time.



### **Is my child too ill for school?**

Please see the link below with guidance about when you should keep your child off school with illness.

[Is my child too ill for school?](#)

### **Attendance - Studybugs**

We would like to remind you about our Studybugs app. You can use the app to tell us whenever your child is ill and unable to attend school.

Get the app or register now (<https://studybugs.com/about/parents>)

You can also download the app from your app store on your phone or tablet.

Top 3 reasons to use Studybugs:

1. It's integrated with our systems so we know right away if your child is unaccounted for.
2. It's quick and easy to register and use and automatically reminds you to keep us posted.
3. You'll be helping the NHS and other public health organisations improve children's health. (<https://studybugs.com/about/schools>)

Please be aware that we have Studybugs for each school so you will need to **sign up for either the infant school or the junior school depending which school your child is attending.**

### **End of Term**

We wish you a happy and restful holiday with your families and look forward to seeing you all in the New Year. Monday 5th January is a non-pupil day. Children return to school on Tuesday 6th January.

