



February	
Monday 16th— Friday 20th	Half Term
Tuesday 24th	Junior Skipping Workshop
Tuesday 24th	Reception and Year 2 Chinese New Year Dance Workshop
Wednesday 25th	Year 3 Geology Day
Wednesday 25th	Year 2 and Year 4 VR workshops
March	
Monday 2nd	Infant Skipping Workshop
Monday 2nd— Friday 6th	Year 6 Residential Trip
Friday 6th	World Book Day
Tuesday 10th	Parents' Consultation Meetings
Thursday 12th	Parents' Consultation Meetings
Friday 20th	Red Nose Day



Dear families

What a busy start to 2026 we have had! A huge well done to the Year 6 classes as they took part in Mock SATs Week. They approached it with maturity and determination and are a real credit to our school. Next week is half term. We wish you all a happy and restful week with your families.

We have lots of exciting things coming up in the second half of the spring term.

Children return to school on Monday 23rd February.

Year 1 Roman Circus Visit

On Monday, Year 1 travelled back in time and visited the Roman Circus. On our travels we visited where the Roman circus was built, travelled the distance charioteers would race and learnt Latin phrases. Year 1 represented the school brilliantly and had a great morning out.



School Meals

Week commencing 23rd February we will be eating meals from menu 1. Please ensure you have ordered your child's meals for the term ahead. We still have a few children with no bookings. You can view the menu on our website. [Lunch Menus | Prettygate Schools](#)

Parent Consultation Evenings

Our parent consultation meetings will take place on Tuesday 10th March and Thursday 12th March. Booking will open after half term on Monday 23rd February at 8.00am and will close on Friday 6th March at 1.30pm. You can access the booking system from our website. From the home page, click on 'useful links' in the circle at the bottom right of the screen and then choose either the infant or junior school. If you need any assistance booking your appointment, please speak to the office staff.



Morning Drop Off

The playgrounds are very busy in the mornings . Please do not allow your child to ride their bikes and scooters or play football on the playgrounds at morning drop off.

Sports Hall Athletics News

On Thursday last week, 18 children represented our school at the Colchester Indoor Athletics competition. The children participated in a variety of field and track events including: speed bounce, javelin, chest push, vertical jump, standing long jump and standing triple jump together with a range of relay races. The day was divided into 2 sessions and I am pleased to say that we comfortably won our morning session. Congratulations to all the children who competed, they really were amazing and they represented our school brilliantly. Thank you to all the parents and grandparents who positively supported our team .



Starting School Roadshow

If you have a child starting school in September 2026 or if you know someone who has, we are hosting a 'Starting School' Roadshow on 4th March from 6.00pm to 7.30pm. For more details, please see the ['Starting School' page on our website](#).

Prettygate Schools Travel Plan

To help ease the parking situation around our schools and also to help the environment and keep us fit and active, we are pleased to share with you the [Prettygate Schools Travel Plan](#). Please take a look and see if you can find different ways to travel to school.

Sporting After School Clubs

There are still spaces at our after school clubs run by Essex Professional Coaching. Please see the details on our website <https://www.prettygateschools.co.uk/school-events>



OPAL bingo

Our OPAL bingo competition has started this week! Working as a class, the challenge is to be the first class to bring in all the items pictured and complete the bingo grid. The winning class will get half an hour of extra play time. You have until **Monday 2nd March**.

Items should be taken to the classrooms so the teachers can tick them off the bingo sheet. However, larger items such as bins and guttering can be left by the pedestrian gate but please label them to show who brought them in and their class. Good luck - may the best class win!

<p>Plastic bin</p> 	<p>Cars</p> 	<p>Action figure</p> 	<p>Guttering</p> 
<p>Children's books</p> 	<p>Dinosaurs</p> 	<p>Buggy or pram</p> 	<p>Tarpaulin</p> 
<p>Scooter</p> 	<p>Beach spade</p> 	<p>Bucket</p> 	<p>Baking tray</p> 
<p>Watering can</p> 	<p>Plastic tube</p> 	<p>Paint brush</p> 	<p>Broom/brush</p> 

Working as a class, your challenge is to be the first class to bring in all the items pictured and complete the bingo grid. The winning class will get 1/2 an hour extra play. You have until Monday 2nd March. Good luck, may the best class win.



World Book Day 2026



At Prettygate this year, we will be celebrating World Book Day in school on **Friday 6th March**

Dressing up

This year, we would like the children to dress up as a **word** of their choice e.g. vibrant, brave, artistic, sporty, etc. The list is endless! You really don't have to go out and buy anything extra (please see some pictures attached for ideas). If your child already had a World Book Day costume in mind, then they could still dress as a character and choose a word associated with them. For example, Harry Potter could be 'courageous' or 'heroic', or The Highway Rat could be 'greedy'! Equally, they could come as 'colourful' and wear some of their own colourful clothes.



Book swap

On this day, we would also like each child to take part in a book swap in their year group. We are asking every child to bring in an age appropriate book in good condition which they no longer read and would be happy to swap with another child in the class to take home.

We hope that this will encourage the love of reading, recommending books to a friend and also being able to reuse books.

Book tokens

At the end of this week, your child will be given a book token – this can be used to purchase one of the £1 World Book Day books available in most supermarkets and book shops. Alternatively, they can use this as money towards a full price book, including the books at our school book fair which will run from 6th-13th March.

Thank you for your support—we're really looking forward to seeing the children's ideas and celebrating World Book Day together.



Friday ARK Assemblies

Each Friday, we hold an assembly to celebrate our school values of ambition, respect and kindness. Class teachers choose one child from their class who has demonstrated all three values consistently. A certificate is presented in the assembly and their parents are invited to come along. See the photo of this week's winners below!

Class	Name of Child
RB	Finley F
RLI	Olivia H
1T	Stanley A
1S	Lottie C
2MB	Sonny S
2N	Lacie D
3FJ	Lily-Mai O
3G	Roman R
4K	Melek O
4M	Ipsa N
5D	Eva H
5RG	Austin K
6L	Grace K
6MH	Lauren S



House Points:

Jupiter – 288 1st
Venus – 281 2nd
Pluto – 276 3rd
Mars – 179 4th