



May	
Monday 4th	Bank Holiday
Friday 8th	Class Photos
Monday 18th	Year 2 trip to Colchester Zoo
Wednesday 20th	Reception trip to Highwoods Country Park
Friday 22nd	Year 4 trip to Daws Hall
25th—29th	Half Term

Dear families

This week it has been wonderful to see the children outside enjoying the sunshine. Let's hope it continues! Please ensure your children bring in their water bottles everyday.

Year 3 - Geography Field Trip to Irvine Road Orchard

Over the last two weeks, both year 3 classes have enjoyed their geography fieldtrip to Irvine Road Orchard. Children created their own route from school to the orchard using computer software. They walked, using the map and practising directional language on their way. At the orchard, children explored the ancient orchard which has many fruit trees and wild flowers. In addition, they spotted birds and insects, which they sketched or took photographs of. The children were an absolute credit to the school. We would like to thank all the volunteers who supported the trips. A big thank you to The Irvine Road Trust for allowing us to use this wonderful natural resource, so close to where we are located and at no cost. It is a real treasure!



OPAL Toys and Play Equipment

Please can we ask that at morning drop off and afternoon pick up times that you keep your children and their younger siblings with you and do not allow them to remove toys from our OPAL play areas. These are for use during the school day. Please can we also ask that children do not use any of the play equipment at these times. Thank you for your support.

School Meals

Week commencing 27th April we will be eating meals from menu 3 of our new summer menus. Please ensure you have ordered school meals for the term ahead.



**Prettygate
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24th April 2026

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Scarecrow Design Competition

Don't forget to get your scarecrow designs in. We are going to make and take the winning design to the Food and Farming Day in June. This scarecrow will then be included in a scarecrow competition that lots of schools in Essex will participate in.

We need some ideas for our winning scarecrow.

Please draw and label your design in the box provided (check your email for the form you need) and return the form with your name and class. The Eco-Warriors will then choose the winning design. The scarecrow will be made by members of the Gardening Gang.



Netball news

It's been a busy time for our netball teams at Prettygate with both teams playing in tournaments. On Friday 17th April one of our teams attended a netball tournament at Littlegarth School. Tyler, Gabby, Jack, Oka, Annabelle, Ella-Mae and Eva played between them a total of six matches. This was the first time they had ever played a competitive match and they were utterly amazing. They only lost one match throughout the tournament and were very worthy winners.

On Tuesday 21st April our school league netball team participated in a netball tournament at Thurstable School. Anna, Iris, Amelia, Phoebe, Oka, Harry, Sam, Tyler and Gabby played a total of seven matches between them against the top teams from other schools within the Colchester area. They narrowly missed out on a semi final place because despite drawing 2nd place in our heat, we had previously lost 2 games, one of those being to the team drawn with us, meaning that they went through instead of us. Our team played absolutely brilliantly, finishing 5th out of 13 overall.

A big congratulations to both teams who demonstrated true resilience, determination and great competitiveness!



ACL Free Online Courses

ACL Essex is offering a wide range of FREE online Family Learning courses. Please take a look at their website to browse and book courses. [Home - ACL Essex](#)

Help George reach his target!

One of our Year 6s is aiming to raise a very ambitious £500 for Children with Cancer UK, which we are very proud of him for. See the poster and QR code below for more information.



Help more children
survive cancer

George's fundraiser for Children with Cancer UK

A fundraiser organised by Nicola Smith for Children with Cancer UK

I have decided to skip everyday as a way to raise money for children with cancer. I enjoy skipping as part of my boxing fitness and feel sorry for children who are not well enough to join clubs and skip themselves. I am hoping to skip some happiness their way! Our vision is a world where every child and young person survives cancer. For 35 years, Children with



Scan to donate

Help us reach our £500 target!

Make a donation with **JustGiving**



Friday ARK Assemblies

Each Friday we hold an assembly to celebrate our school values of ambition, respect and kindness. Each week, 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 photos of this week's winners below!

Class	Name of Child
RB	Elliot J
RLI	Kiyan I
1S	Omar A
1T	Gus W
2MB	Oakley H
2T	Rowan F
3FJ	Olivia F
3G	Hailee-Rose M
4K	Azzam A
4M	Thomas P
5D	Brody S
5RG	Emily R
6L	Isla S
6MH	Millie J



House Points

Mars – 240	1st
Jupiter – 209	2nd
Venus – 158	3rd
Pluto – 104	4th