Newsletter Prettygate Schools

Opening the gate to success

16th October 2026

www.prettygateschools.co.uk

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October	
26th—30th	Half Term
November	
Sunday 1st	FOP Firework Event
Thursday 5th	Year 3 visit to Plume Avenue Church
Thursday 5th	Reception and Year 2 Diwali Workshop
Wednesday 11th	Reception Road Safety
Thursday 12th	Flu Vac Day
Friday 13th	Children in Need
Thursday 19th	Reception Night Walk
Friday 27th	Non Pupil Day





Ambition ◆ Respect ◆ Kindness

Dear families,

It was good to see so many people at our Parents' Consultation Evenings this week. We hope you found your meeting helpful and informative.

On Friday we sent home our parent survey letter. Thank you to those of you have already shared your views. We would be very grateful if you could spare a few minutes to complete the survey. Your feedback is very important to us.

Here are the links for the surveys.

Parent Survey Autumn 2026 Prettygate Infant School – Fill in form

Parent Survey Autumn 2026 Prettygate Junior School – Fill in form

Wear Red and Show Racism the Red Card We had lots of fantastic red outfits in school on Friday. Thank you to everyone who took part and made a donation to this great charity. We will let you know the total raised once it has been counted.



School Meals

Next week we will be eating meals from menu 2. After the half term holiday our menus will be changing. Menus will be available on the school website.



Secondary School Applications for Year 6

As you may be aware, the statutory closing date for applications from parents of Year 6 children (for a secondary school place in Year 7 from September 2027) is **31st October 2026.** Any late applications are dealt with after those made on time and so applying late reduces the chances of being offered a preferred school.

This Week's Appeal

- Buckets and Spades



Individual Photos

You can now order your child's school photo online. Just follow the link and put in the code from the card that your child brought home on photo day. http://www.getphotos.co.uk/

Year 5— Greek Food Tasting

Last week, Year 5 had the opportunity to explore Greek cuisine and sample some of Greece's most popular traditional foods. As you can see, the children fully embraced the experience and enjoyed trying a range of delicious Greek dishes!



Thank you from Colchester Food Bank

Thank you and well done to all of you who took part in our Fill the Van Plan 2026!

Together with other local schools we have raised a massive donation of 1898.2kg!

Reception—Gemma's Farm

On Thursday, our Reception classes enjoyed a visit from Gemma's Farm. The children were able to hold and groom the animals and got to play ball with Pig the dog.



Stone Age Day Extravaganza 2026!

At the beginning of October, Year 3 were lucky enough to travel back in time to the Stone Age Era. Twig and Willow came with a tent painted with cave art, a fire to cook fresh fish, artefacts that had been made from animal bones, skins and antlers by their own hands. The story told captured the imaginations of all our children and has been talked about with lots of enthusiasm in lessons since. Children also participated in cave art, dying material with berries, 'hunting' with our own bows and arrows, using our archery sets and building our own stone age tents at forest school. We'd like to thank Stone Age Experiences and all the staff and volunteers that made the day so memorable for everyone! We shall be uploading photos to the gallery in the near future.








Friends of Prettygate Fireworks Night—Sunday 1st November

We are looking forward to our fireworks event on 1st November. To make this evening a great success, we need your help. Even if you can only help out for a short time, we would be very grateful.

If you can offer some help on the day of the event, please sign up here. Event help

Tickets can be purchased by following this link or scanning the QR code.

friends of prettygate event tickets from TicketSource.

My Future

This week saw the start of our My Future programme for 2026-27. This is an Essex based initiative that looks to support children's future career choices. Our first project centred around jobs within the space technology industry, a large employer within Essex. The unit named '**Over the Moon'** had us meeting, virtually, a space rocket designer, a space exploration camera expert and an engineer specialising in space structures. It was all very exciting and interesting, as we tried to first guess their professions from clues and then watch inspiring videos and hear them talk about how they became employed in this sector.



Alongside this we talked about the essential skill of PLANNING and how important this skill was for them to be able to do their job well.

Below are a few ideas of how you could practise your planning skills at home.

* **Fitness Coach** - Set yourself a personal fitness goal to achieve over the next month, such as improving your running stamina or increasing the number of keep ups you can do in football. Write a structured plan by breaking your goal down into clear, daily steps. Decide when you will train, what equipment or space you will need, and how you will measure your progress each day. You might want to create a visual calendar or tracker for your plan.

***Making a difference** - Set yourself a challenge to make a household routine run more smoothly. For example, you could design a new weekly chore rota, map out a better way of sorting the recycling, or create a plan to make a busy morning or evening routine run faster. Write down a clear plan detailing the exact steps needed, the resources required, and the timeline to make life at home easier.

***Skill Building** - Set yourself a challenge to learn a new skill by following an online tutorial. For example, you might watch a video to create a piece of origami art, or follow a digital recipe to learn a new cooking technique. First, preview the video once through and write down a checklist of everything you need. Then, play it again to master the steps and build your skill.

***Aiming high** - What are your goals for your school year? Talk or write about three things you would like to do or achieve by the end of the academic year. Try to make sure they are challenging but achievable! Think about goals linked to different areas of your life such as school, staying active, learning something new and your hobbies.

Happy Planning!

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	Bonnie P
RL	Harrison W
1S	Ethan B
1M	Zack S
2MB	Sam M
2N	Zaid A
3H	Victoria A
3PJ	Polly M
4G	Violet R-W
4K	Kirthvik K
5D	Abdulazeem M
5RG	Emilie S
6L	Archer L
6MH	Elise S





House Points

Venus – 635	1st
Mars – 511	2nd
Pluto – 506	3rd
Jupiter – 458	4th