The Federation of
Fairfield and Colneis



Dear Parent/Carer,

Welcome once again to our half-termly newsletter. I hope that you enjoy reading about all the rich and wide ranging opportunities the children have been experiencing. It has certainly been another busy term so far. We have had visits to Pipers Vale gymnastics centre and Colchester Castle, World War 2 day, lots of outdoor learning opportunities and a huge range of sport events to name just a few. We also enjoyed taking a group of children to perform as part of the Young Voices choir at the O2 in London - what an amazing experience for them! I know from speaking to the children just how much they continue to enjoy all of these activities. My continued thanks to all the staff who work hard to provide such varied opportunities across our schools.

I hope that you all have a good half term break and we shall look forward to seeing the children back in school on Monday 24th February.

Best wishes,

Mr Mark Girling

Headteacher

SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

December 2024

News from Nursery

Children's Mental Health Week

We pride ourselves on providing a range of activities throughout our sessions which support the children's wellbeing and help to promote their physical and emotional development. Mental health and wellbeing starts from birth and we as parents and practitioners have a duty to ensure we provide the best opportunities for children to thrive.







Story Dough

Story Dough is a short activity which puts the children at the centre of their learning. It allows us some quality time exploring stories, manipulating playdough, learning new vocabulary, connecting mark-making with positive emotion and going on an adventure together using imagination and make-believe. The children have embraced this activity and we are all enjoying the joy it brings.



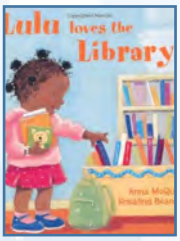








National Storytelling Week



We enjoyed a visit from Amy, who works for Suffolk Libraries. She read us a wonderful story called 'Luna loves the Library'.

We shared our favourite story characters and each received a very special 'Forest of Stories' pack. We will enjoy visiting the library to show Amy and her team how many books we are enjoying!

Remember, early reading develops lifelong skills!











News from Reception

People Who Help Us

This term we have been thinking about the different jobs that people have, who help us! We've been fortunate enough to have many visitors, including a Vet, Firefighter, and Border Force Officer, with more yet to join us in school. The children have really enjoyed learning about the important roles that are within our community and it is clear they have been inspired by their visits.

Highlights have included timing Mr Crump to see how quickly he could get into his firefighting protective clothes and meeting Vet Dr Reszka who told us all about caring for pets. He also told us lots of stories about mischievous pets! Thank you very much to those who have given up their valuable time to talk to our children.









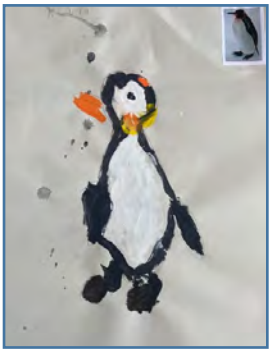
News from Year 1

A trip around the world

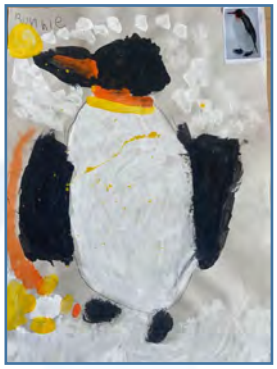
The children have been enjoying a virtual trip around the world in Geography, exploring hot and cold climates. They have compared life in Felixstowe with life in an Inuit community in the Arctic. Children have learnt about Sophie Scott, an Australian school girl who joined her father on a scientific exploration to Antarctica. In art, children have studied observational drawings and paintings of emperor penguins. Children compared wildlife that would be living alongside the penguins in Antarctica, which included many species of seals. Children were excited to talk about their knowledge of seals visiting Felixstowe.











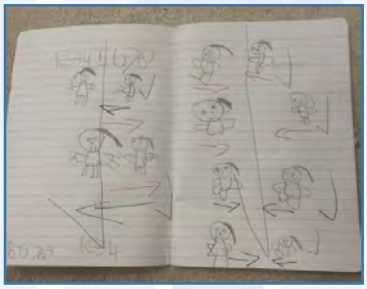


A pirate jig

In PE, children have been learning a dance inspired by pirate movements, including scrubbing the decks, climbing the rigging and even a mutiny on board. Children have been practising the dance moves and counting the sets of eight. Children have worked with a partner to develop their own dance sequence with some great results! They have also enjoyed opportunities to perform their dance in pairs and collaboratively as a class.







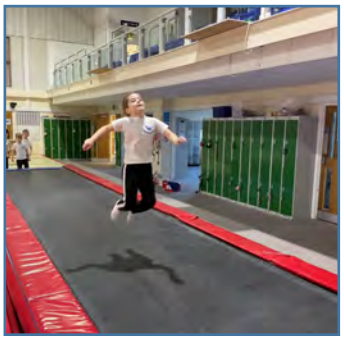
Above picture: Esme's dance routine

News from Year 2

Our Trip To Piper's Vale Gymnastics

The children absolutely loved our trip to Piper's Vale Gymnastics Centre to celebrate the start of our new gymnastics PE lessons. The children showed bravery, resilience and courage when trying things that were new to them and out of their comfort zones. They had some specific work with coaches and then enjoyed time exploring the gymnastics centre with their friends. We had very happy but exhausted children on the buses home!







Australia Day

To celebrate their learning on Australia the children tried Australian food such as Tim Tams, Vegemite and fairy bread. They learned about how to stay safe in the sun, Slip, Slop, Slap, Seek & Slide! They also played some Australian sports and watched some sports clips.





Becoming Scientists!

The children have absolutely loved learning about materials this half term. During this topic, they worked in groups to plan and carry out an experiment. They came up with ideas such as 'Which material is best at holding a heavy object?' and 'Which material is best for flying?'. They loved watching each other's experiments and seeing if their predictions were correct based on what they had learned this half term.



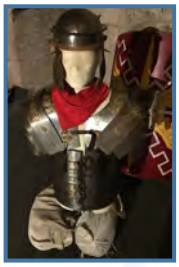


News from Year 3

The children have been working hard to improve their Literacy and Numeracy skills this term. They have continued our Invaders and Settlers topic, learning about how the Romans changed Britain which they all seem to be enjoying. Well done to 3CA for their class assembly. The children were fantastic and showcased some of their learning over the term. Public speaking and singing in front of an audience is tricky and they smashed it!

Please may we ask that you continue to help your children at home with reading, revision of times table facts and spellings homework. Lastly, thank you for your contributions to provide the children with the learning experiences we have recently taken part in. Without your support, we would not be able to provide these opportunities.

Colchester Castle - We had great fun looking around the museum. We had to investigate artefacts and learnt what they were used for. Next, we went down to the foundations of the castle and learnt how it was built on top of a Roman Temple and the story of the Romans and Boudicca. Finally, we took part in an activity where we learnt to build a Roman Villa and a Celtic roundhouse. It took a lot of communication and team work to build these successfully!











Roman Day — We had great fun getting dressed up as Romans. It was a brand new experience and the children enjoyed taking part in a range of activities. Thank you parents / carers for your support with their fabulous costumes.







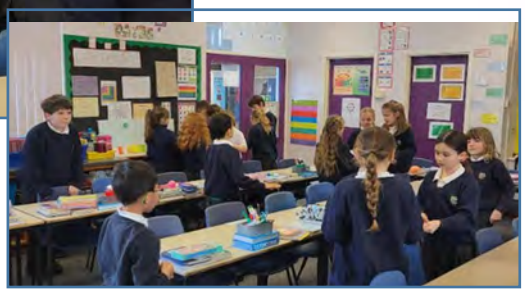



News from Year 4

RE

In Religious Education lessons, we have been learning about Islam and thinking about the key question— 'Why do Muslims call Muhammed the 'Seal of the Prophets?'.











Outdoor Learning

In our outdoor learning sessions we have been working towards getting our Wild Challenge award. We really enjoyed becoming wildlife detectives and animal trackers by leaving out some food and looking for signs that an animal had visited. We also found it really interesting to learn about the diet of birds and where they fit in on the food chain. We even created our own food chains by finding out the facts first!

Art

This half term we have enjoyed learning about contrasting colours and how they are used in the creation of Zaka Masks. We designed our own masks and then made them using cardboard and oil pastels. We also enjoyed applying our knowledge of colour and patterns when we designed our own lizards and frogs.





News from Year 5

We have had a packed half term. Some of the exciting things we have been doing include building nests in Outdoor learning, acting out the Battle of Bosworth in History and separating materials in Science.

To fully understand The Battle of Bosworth in 1485, 5P dramatized the two families who were battling for the right to rule the country: the **Lancastrians** who used the red rose symbol, and the **Yorkists** who used the white rose symbol. As a result, the wars were called **Wars of the Roses**.

Henry's army won the battle and defeated Richard III. Henry claimed the crown and became King Henry



In Science, 5P have been finding different ways of separating different materials, including magnetism, filtering and sieving.





5S were building nests in the wildlife area with Mrs Churchyard.



Year 5 took part in an Open the Book assembly. They acted out the story of Jesus visiting a temple from the Bible, Luke 2:41-52.

News from Year 6

Year 6 are continuing to work hard and enjoying their learning, especially our World War Two Topic.

World War Two Day

The children began their day with a long walk to the train station. On the train journey, they enjoyed chatting to their friends and playing games whilst they gazed out of the window at the beautiful green countryside, and even spotted some funny looking black and white creatures… cows! When they arrived at the village hall, they were warmly welcomed by the local residents and given a drink and biscuit.






The school day included arithmetic, handwriting, dictation and reciting a poem. When an adult entered the room, the children were expected to show respect by standing until told to sit. At the end of the day, the children participated in 'drill' - exercises in lines. Throughout the day, there were a number of air raid warnings sounded.

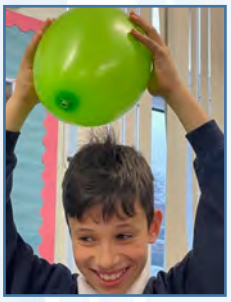


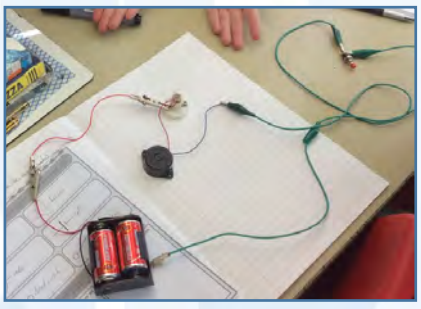




Science—Electricity

In Science this half term, we have been investigating electricity. The children have enjoyed exploring static electricity and learnt about different symbols and drawn their own circuits. We have also used the equipment to create our own circuits with a buzzer and a switch.

Young Voices

On Wednesday 5th February, 44 children from Year 6 attended the Young Voices concert at the O2 in London. A great time was had by all.




Science News







It was National Bird Day on 5th January and this month is the Great Backyard Bird Count. Families all around the world can join the scheme. Mrs Churchyard and a group of pupil volunteers recently completed the Big Garden Birdwatch survey from our school field. Information and links are available at:

https://www.rspb.org.uk/whats-happening/big-garden-birdwatch

https://www.birdcount.org/

Great Backyard Bird Count ~ International Project Goal

Each February, for four days, the world comes together for the love of birds. Over these four days people are invited to spend time in their favourite places watching and counting as many birds as they can find and reporting them. These international observations help scientists better understand global bird populations.

There is a great gallery of photos from the 2024 bird count available at:

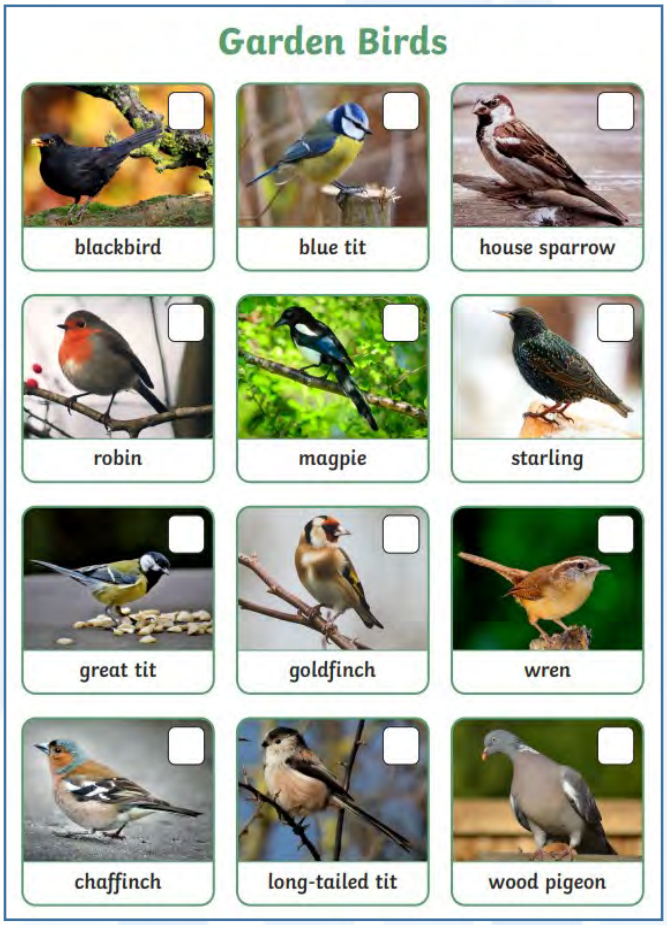
https://www.birdcount.org/bird-and-people-photos-gbbc-2024/


Northern Bald Ibis in Spain by Fernando Portillo de Cea / Macaulay Library.


Southern Double-collared Sunbird in South Africa by Gloria Markiewicz / Macaulay Library.


Adelie Penguins by Steve b / Macaulay Library.


Pied Stilt in Australia by Noam Markus / Macaulay Library.



PE

Event 16 - Suffolk Schools Athletics Association - Cross Country Trial - Woodbridge School



The girls ran fantastically again. This was the second trial for the Anglian Championships and after finishing 44th, 45th and 64th in the first event at Royal Hospital School went into this event with some confidence.

We walked the course on arrival and they were a little put off by the hills at this event. That being said, they put their full effort into it and produced some stunning results again.

Renae finished 39th, Eliza 43rd and Ivy-Rose 44th,



Event 17 - Sportshall Athletics

A truly hectic and chaotic event as always. There is always so much going on at this event and with over 200 children in a hall, competing in lots of different events at the same time, our children managed well and put their total efforts into all their events.

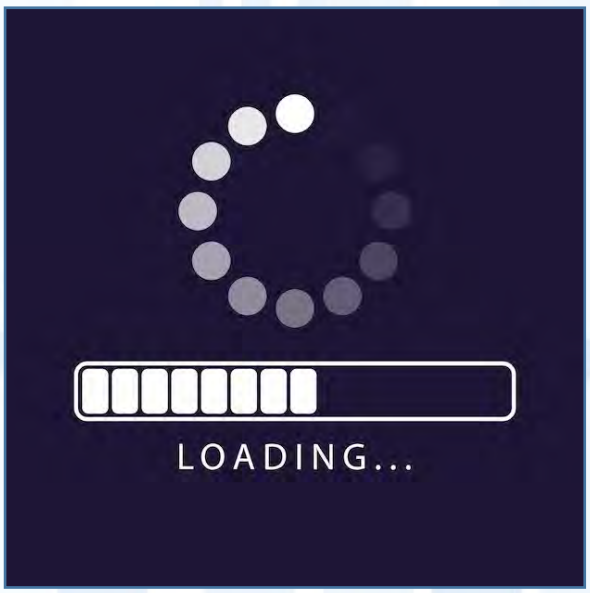
All completed two track events and two field events. They managed to accumulate a total of 564 points, finishing in 12th place out of 24 schools. A fantastic effort!

Event 18 - Felixstowe Cross Country

A cold and blustery afternoon for a run around outside! This event has always traditionally been held in the Autumn Term but we are trying to help the children prepare fully for the big race at Royal Hospital School in April.

Our children were amazing - the course was just over 2km, completing the course around the field at Felixstowe School. We entered an A and B team from both Year 6 and 5 but had a number of children running from Year 3 and 4. They were all amazing. We were able to finish in first place in the A race in all categories, giving us a winning total of 109 total points.

A truly exceptional performance and we regain the trophy back from Kingsfleet this year.



We are still waiting for the trophy! Once received we will celebrate their success all over

PE

Event 19 - U11 Basketball Development @ Inspire



A super event. Even though they are development, they are still incredibly competitive and after a slightly slow start, Team Colneis really got to grips with the game. They worked really hard and demonstrated some excellent teamwork.

They came up against some really tough opposition so it was lovely in the third game when they were able to start scoring some baskets and secure their first win too. They were supportive of each other and always showed great respect to their opponents and the referees.

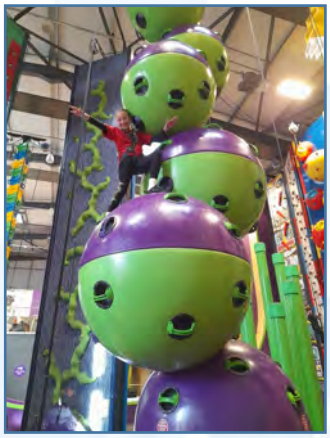
Well done!

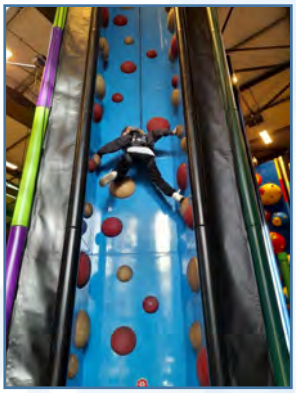




Event 20 - Clip and Climb - enrichment

A SEND focused enrichment event that allows all children to have access to sport and exercise and representing the school. There is always such an element of personal challenge with Clip and Climb and it usually the coming down part that is harder than the going up. I know that they all had a wonderful time and when they returned to school spoke fluently about their achievements and which walls they were able to get to the top of!





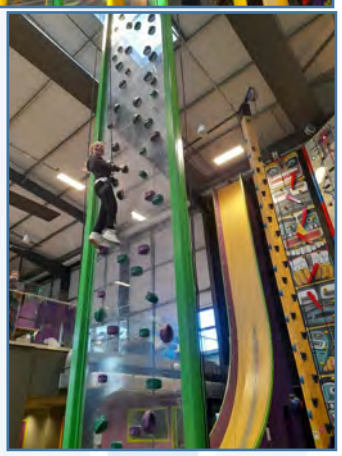












PE

Event 21 - Football enrichment @ Felixstowe School - U9

The children were amazing at this event. A very big thank you to Felixstowe High School for hosting us again. We were able to use their facilities to deliver some small skill based activities and then all of the children got the opportunity to play some matches against the other schools. This was an enrichment event and so no scores were kept - the idea is that the children have the opportunity to represent the school and potentially try something new!

They all battled through some extremely cold weather but thoroughly enjoyed their morning.





Event 22 - Football enrichment @ Felixstowe School - U11

A wonderful afternoon at Felixstowe School - we were there in the morning with some year 4 children and then lucky enough to go back in the afternoon. The leaders supporting the session definitely deserve credit for sticking with us for the whole day!

The cold weather in the morning was replaced with rain so we spent a little time inside the sports hall to begin with but braced ourselves and got out onto the Astro to play some matches. The rain did not dent their commitment and they worked really hard throughout the whole afternoon. They were an absolute pleasure to take to this event.

Event 23 - U11 Competitive basketball @ Inspire

An incredibly fast paced and lively event. We had four games, losing the first two, winning the third and running the fourth team very close indeed. We definitely needed those first two games to get us going and up to speed on the game but when we did, there was some amazing teamwork, passing, dribbling and defence. They worked incredibly hard and definitely left as better basketball players by the end.

We even had a few children that were officially recognised for their talents who were offered the opportunity to take part in some Suffolk trials! Well done to all



Term Dates

Academic Year: Term dates for 2024-2025

Autumn term:

Start of Autumn term:	Wednesday 4th September 2024
Half term:	Monday 28th October to Friday 1st November 2024
End of Autumn term:	Friday 20th December 2024
PD (non school) days:	Monday 2nd September 2024
	Tuesday 3rd September 2024

Spring term:

Start of Spring term:	Tuesday 7th January 2025
Half term:	Monday 17th February to Friday 21st February 2025
End of Spring term:	Friday 4th April 2025
PD (non school) day:	Monday 6th January 2025

Summer term:

Start of Summer term:	Wednesday 23rd April 2025
May Bank Holiday:	Monday 5th May 2025
Half term:	Monday 26th May to Friday 30th May 2025
End of Summer term:	Tuesday 22nd July 2025
PD (non school) days:	Tuesday 22nd April 2025
	Friday 23rd May 2025

Next Academic Year: Term dates for 2025-2026

Autumn term:

Start of Autumn term:	Wednesday 3rd September 2025
Half term:	Monday 27th October to Friday 31st October 2025
End of Autumn term:	Friday 19th December 2025
PD (non school) days:	Monday 1st September 2025
	Tuesday 2nd September 2025

Spring term:

Start of Spring term:	Tuesday 6th January 2026
Half term:	Monday 16th February to Friday 20th February 2026
End of Spring term:	Friday 27th March 2026
PD (non school) day:	Monday 5th January 2026

Summer term:

Start of Summer term:	Monday 13th April 2026
May Bank Holiday:	Monday 4th May 2026
Half term:	Monday 25th May to Friday 29th May 2026
End of Summer term:	Friday 17th July 2026
PD (non school) days:	Friday 22nd May 2026
	Monday 20th July 2026