



Friday 18th October 2024

Dear Parents and Care-givers,



October Half Term Headteachers Newsletter

It has been such a very busy but productive start to the school year this half term. With the loss of nearly a week's admin time due to there being internet interruption to the school, we had a huge job to catch up and keep all the systems and procedures going, but we made it, with the children's help!

Events and Activities

Active 8 Half Term activities - Nearly 100 free activity clubs offering exciting Halloween fun, pumpkin carving, sports and games, arts and crafts, food education and a free, tasty meal, will help to support families physical and mental wellbeing, as well as give parents' valuable respite across the week break. Primary, secondary, SEND, mental wellbeing and youth clubs will be available to book.

Find a local club and book on via the [Active Essex](https://www.activeessex.org/) website.

<https://www.activeessex.org/children-young-people/essex-activate/halfterm-club/>

<https://www.activeessex.org/children-young-people/essex-activate/explained/>

Leadership Awards

It gave me great pleasure to announce the leadership awards for this year earlier on this half term:

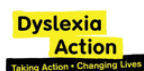
- ◇ Head Boy – Daniel Skitch
- ◇ Librarian – Holly
- ◇ Office Assistant – Lexie Ward
- ◇ Food Technician Lead – Daniel Skitch

Children's Progress

Following the GL assessments, which the children completed in the beginning of October, we have been amazed (as usual!) with the children's progress. We always highly value their progress in areas such as their wellbeing, social learning, character formation, emotional development and mental health, as we know that these are precursors to cognitive learning and without good health in these areas, learning is limited. We measure these things by, for example, how they are meeting their One Plan targets, or how they feel about their time at school and many of you will have seen their results on their PASS questionnaires (Pupil Attitudes towards Self and School) at our recent parents evening. However, we have seen such growth in the children's academic levels too, which can be seen on their Pathway to Success flight-plans. These detail their levels in each subject towards their qualifications, and have been really, really encouraging to see



Approved Assessments for
Disabled Students'
Allowance



Guild Member
Assessment Practising
Certificate Holder



INPP
Practitioner



AMBDA Status

Clarity SEN Consultancy Ltd. Company Number: 11567895 DfE Number: 881/6073. URN: 146 804

Bridge Farm Barn (Opposite Mayes Lane), Woodhill Road, Sandon, CM2 7SG Tel: 01245 408 606

Email: admin@clarity.essex.sch.uk Web: www.clarity.essex.sch.uk



(these were also shared at parents evening). A big 'well-done' to all the children for all your progress, keep working hard, it is paying off!

Attendance

We are doing very well as a whole school now with our attendance!

Our whole school attendance sits at 80.8%, where the National average across all Arbor schools in the UK is 84.3% - **this means that we are catching the mainstream schools up!** This is very pleasing because it proves that by working together, even though our children have had huge obstacles to overcome towards attending school, sometimes after such a long time of being out of school, we have all supported them to be successful in this area. 😊


In addition, another very important statistic (before we move on to less mathematical musings!), is **unauthorised absence**. This is the figure that has risen so greatly after the pandemic and is causing children so much difficulty sustaining their momentum at school. The smaller the figure, the better the school community is doing by working together.....

I am delighted to announce that our unauthorised absence rate at Clarity (4.2%) is now more positive than mainstream Arbor schools (5.1%)!

Thank you so much for continuing to ensure that your child is at school every term time day that they are not too poorly to attend. Well-done all our students who are trying really hard to be brave every morning and come to school anyway, even if they don't feel like it on some of the darker mornings! This is really going a long way to supporting them to develop socially and in their resilience, as well as academically. Thank you also for really considering how you can **take any holidays out of term time** so that your child has the best chance in their education. It is helping us to stand out as a really successful school.

Macmillan Coffee Morning



What a lovely morning we had yesterday morning at the Macmillan Coffee Morning. Thank you again to Mr Dearman for organising this successful event and to all the students and parents for making and donating all the delicious cakes. A special mention must also go out to **Daniel Skitch** for his wonderful serving skills, taking the donations and making drinks. Together, we managed to raise a whopping £84, our highest amount yet! Also, well-done **Boedy** for being the luckiest person to guess the number of Colin the caterpillars on the poster (or was it an educated guess...?) 

Exam and Course Accreditations at Clarity

We have now begun our newest qualification in Art; NCFE Level 2 ACED Art. Some of the older (Key Stage 4 – years 10 and 11) students who have shown potential in art have been selected to take part in this qualification to be completed at the end of year 11. Other students, and those in Key Stage 3, will still have a chance to develop their creative skills using the OCAD Art Course. We look forward to seeing some of your artwork in classes and around the school. Watch this space...

Staff News

We have welcomed in our two new members of staff; Mrs Faulks (English Lead and Horses class teacher) and Miss Howe (Trainee HLTA) in September to complete our staff team. They have settled in well and are such a joy to have in our school community.

New pupils

We said goodbye to Jack (year 11) at the end of September and have welcomed Kartel (year 11) into Tigers. All our places are full again and we now have a long waiting list again from three local



authorities. This is a very favorable position for us to be in and demonstrates how well the children are doing and the impact of all your support from home. Thank you again.

Policy updates (and summary of changes)

Following half term, we will be publishing our updated draft Behaviour Policy in a parent consultation, for you to make any suggestions for any improvements you may like to see. I will announce this following half term.

Next Half -Term

On Thursday 12th December, we will be attending a Christmas Pantomime again as a whole school following us all thoroughly enjoying our time there last year. This year, it will be Snow White (at the Chelmsford Theatre again) and we will be travelling using the Park and Ride again to practice our independent travelling skills; important life skills. More information will follow nearer the time.

We will also be celebrating Christmas Jumper Day on the same day, which supports the charity 'Save the children' – *"...helping kids in UK and abroad face serious issues such as war, hunger and poverty."* We look forward to seeing the students dressed in their Christmas jumpers, or other Christmas-themed accessories, such as Santa hats, Christmas themed scarves, Christmas themed socks



Upcoming dates for your diary (more details to follow):

- Thursday 17th October: Pupils break up for half term
- Friday 18th October: Staff INSET day
- Half-term: Friday 18.10.24 – Friday 1st November (everyone returns on Monday 4th November)
- Thursday 12th December: Whole-school Christmas trip to the Pantomime, Chelmsford Theatre AND Christmas Jumper day.
- Friday 13th December: Half day – pupils break up for Christmas break.
- Monday 16th December and Monday 6th January 2025: Staff INSET days
- Tuesday 7th January 2025: Pupils return to school.

Information from the Local Authority:

Don't forget, more details of everything on offer from Essex County Council can be found on the Essex Local Offer website: <https://send.essex.gov.uk/>. (Click the purple box 'Search for Support Groups and Activities'.)

Have a lovely half term break!



Yours sincerely,

Debbie Hanson, Head Teacher and Director

BSc (Hons), QTS, PG Dip (Dyslexia and Literacy), AMBDA, APC, NPQH

Member of the Dyslexia Guild

Associate Member of SASC (SpLD Assessment Standards Committee)