



25th February 2025

Headteachers Newsletter Spring Term



Dear Parents and Care-givers,

It is encouraging to see the early signs of spring, with warmer weather and first shoots finally appearing!

Events and Activities

This half term, we have focused on continuing to provide our weekly offer of onsite and offsite provision. The children have enjoyed trips to Danbury Outdoors to have fun on obstacle courses, low ropes, aerial trekking and Bush Schools, along with their larger-sized sports on the field in Bicknacre village.

In addition, they have worked together to produce some excellent learning around Internet Safety on Safer Internet Day (11th February). They completed a range of activities, such as: AI pupil experience surveys; Information Sessions on how to use AI safely; Cybersecurity and Scams; making posters / newspaper reports and PowerPoints about 'How AI may be used safely.'

Children's Progress

We have seen some very pleasing progress again on the GL Assessments conducted in December and January. These show that all children are making some progress against their Pathways to Success, which is their qualification route. If you are unsure as to what your child's Pathway to Success is, please contact your class teacher, who will be happy to talk you through this. We do this at each termly One Plan Cycle update meeting, so that: it can be easily understood; we can receive your and your child's feedback on their Pathway; it can be updated in line with up-to-date careers advice for them, all in a timely manner as we go through your child's secondary school phase together.

Similarly, the children have made excellent gains in their 'Essex Year of Numbers' (EYON) and 'Every Child a Reader' (ECAR) work, some making as much as a 3-years-gain, and one student rising from 53% score to 100% score, both between June and December 2024. We will continue running these programmes, which are clearly having the desired impact!



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

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Attendance

Another success...together we have beaten the national average of unauthorised absence for the country! Nationally this stands at 5.4%, whereas at Clarity, by working together, we have now decreased this to only being 2.8%. Thank you for your continued support in ensuring that your child is always at school, every term-time day, unless they are genuinely too poorly to be here.

Thank you also for carefully reading the information below about when it is recommended that your child may be too ill for school, and when they could still attend school with some extra support, for example by taking some paracetamol to ease symptoms, so that any absence experienced is at a minimum and can be authorised as genuinely being needed.

When to keep your young person off school, or not, and advice on how to treat at home:

<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

General advice on keeping children and young people healthy this school year:

<https://ukhsa.blog.gov.uk/2024/09/04/a-parents-guide-to-keeping-kids-healthy-this-school-year/>

To reduce the spread of illness, we continue to promote good ventilation, extra cleaning measures and model and teach good hand hygiene at school. Please encourage your child to wash their hands following using the bathroom and at regular intervals throughout the day at home, so we can all join together in this approach.

Exams and Course Accreditations at Clarity

Now we are in the second half of the spring term, attendance at school (and attending every lesson of the day) are increasingly important as we build up towards the children's completion of portfolio work and assessments in the summer term. Thank you for actively encouraging your child to take part in each lesson during the school day, so they are able to maximise their learning experience here and achieve their potential in good preparation for college / apprenticeship or further training / employment.

One suggestion of how you can do this, is by discussing your child's learning with them, using the Curriculum Leaflets sent at the beginning of each term for information about what they are learning in each subject as a useful guide. As a reminder, these can also be found on the school website → Learning → Parent friendly curriculum leaflets by clicking on your child's classroom door. If you have any questions about what these mean or would like to discuss the content further, please speak to your class teacher and they will be happy to explain this further with you.

Staff News

We were sad to say goodbye to Mrs Anjum at half term, especially only a month after joining us full time in January. Unfortunately, Mrs Anjum needed to spend time abroad to care for a very ill close family member and since the length of time that may have been needed was unknown, she felt it best to let us recruit another staff member in order to keep continuity for the children. We do miss her and wish her and her close relative well as soon as possible.



I am delighted to announce that we have recruited a very experienced HLTA already to support the children, although they are not available to start until after Easter, due to their current school's notice period. I will share more details once the essential safer recruitment vetting processes have been completed.

New pupils

It has also been a pleasure to welcome our newest pupil, Alfie, into Stingrays class in January. We are delighted to meet you Alfie and hope that you are happy here, make lots of friends and have a fun, productive learning journey here.

Upcoming dates for your diary (finer details to follow for each):

Monday 3rd March – Friday 7th March 2025: Termly One Plan Cycle meetings – parents and class teachers (*including children's Pathway to Success and their progress on Green Pass Certificates – please ask if you are unsure what these are.*)

Thursday 6th March 2025: Careers Advisor appointments with children

Wednesday 26th March 2025: Occupational Therapist visits with children

Wednesday 2nd April 2025: Speech and Language Therapist visits with children

Friday 4th April: Half day – pupils break up for Easter break.

Wednesday 23rd April 2025: Pupils return to school (staff return Tuesday 22nd April).

Thursday 3rd July 2025: Parents' and Carers' afternoon / evening 1.15pm – 7pm

Wednesday 9th July 2025: Whole-school trip (venue to be decided).

Information from the Local Authority:

1. Youth Vaping Podcast for Parents/Carers and Anyone Working with Young People for All Schools, 21 minutes long. Essex Public Health are working with stakeholders to reduce current usage and prevent uptake of vaping amongst children and young people. The Training Effect, The Children's Society and Essex Child and Family Wellbeing Service have produced a short podcast on Youth Vaping in Essex discussing information on the potential drivers behind Youth Vaping, knowledge and awareness around vaping and how to have supportive conversations with young people.
<https://www.escb.co.uk/safeguarding-topics/substance-misuse-and-youth-vaping/>
2. The Essex Local Offer Roadshows for all Schools The Essex Local Offer Roadshows are back! These are for parents/carers to visit and ask questions about SEND. Dates are:
 - Tuesday 11 March 2025 – Basildon
 - Thursday 13 March 2025 – Harlow
 - Wednesday 19 March 2025 – Colchester
 - Tuesday 25 March 2025 – Chelmsford
 - The morning marketplace is for parents/carers of children with SEND aged 0 to 25. The afternoon marketplace has an early years' focus. No booking is needed, just drop in.
3. Autism Central is Here to Help all Schools



Autism Central is a Peer Education and Support Service run by parents, for parents, offering online group sessions and 1:1 support for parents and carers of autistic people of any age. Visit the Autism Central website to book onto a group session, or request a 1:1 appointment.

4. **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'.)

Thank you for all your help and support, it really matters!



Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Debbie Hanson'.

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)