



Clarity Independent School

12th February 2026

Headteachers Newsletter

Dear Parents and Care-givers,

As we approach the end of what has been a truly lovely half term here at Clarity, I wanted to take a moment to reflect on all that we've achieved together.

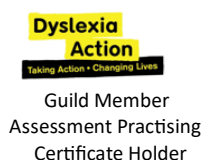
It's been wonderful to see our pupils thriving, whether that's been through their enthusiasm in the classroom, their creativity in their projects, or simply the joy and energy they bring to school each day. The dedication of our staff and the support from you as parents has made this half term particularly special.

Lambing Experience

This half term, our pupils had the most wonderful opportunity to visit our neighbours' farm for an unforgettable lambing experience. We were incredibly fortunate to witness at least three sheep giving birth to beautiful baby lambs, a truly magical moment that left everyone in awe! The pupils got hands-on during interactive sessions, handling the different things needed in the upbringing of lambs, including food, salt rocks and the different types of hay. We also enjoyed a tour of the farm to see the tractors and storage areas, giving everyone a real insight into daily farm life and what it would be like to work on a farm as a career.

The highlight of the day was hearing the pupils' thoughtful and curious questions for farmer Mr Speakman and his family; their enthusiasm and engagement was wonderful to see. Two pupils even won prizes for their excellent questions! We're delighted to share that Mr Speakman was so impressed by our pupils' interest that he's kindly offered to visit Clarity to give a talk about careers in farming. We're really looking forward to welcoming him and continuing this valuable learning experience.

A huge thank you to Mr Speakman and his family for their generosity and for making this such an informative and memorable trip for our pupils.





Children's Progress

We are so proud of every pupil at Clarity this half term, the progress and achievements we've seen have been truly wonderful! Each pupil has grown in their own unique way, showing development on both a personal and academic level.

A special 'well-done' goes to:

- Alfie and his mum Sinead – Alfie achieved the amazing award of 90% attendance on 27th January!
- Tilda, who has started the NCFE art course this half term, she is doing absolutely amazingly!
- Several pupils volunteered to speak with the Essex inclusion partners during our Local Authority monitoring visit. The Local Authority praised the school and stated how polite the children were, how positive they were about the school and teachers, and how much they stated they enjoyed their time here. The Local Authority agreed that the school is meeting the children's needs very effectively.
- Children in years 8 and 9 for bravely having their vaccinations in school
- The children who are working very well with their therapeutic interventions - both our speech and language therapist and our Occupational Therapist have celebrated this. These are designed to support the children's SEND needs and therefore underpin their ability to make progress in academic subjects.
- There are many more things the children have achieved this half term - too many to mention; offering kindness, friendship to newer pupils, compassion, supporting staff with their roles and generally being very responsible and mature.

As we head into the half-term break, please do celebrate your child's achievements with them. We're incredibly proud of how far they've all come.

Attendance - Every hour matters!

I am pleased to report that attendance peaked this half term to its highest percentage this academic year despite the high levels of illness doing the rounds. We recognise the huge supportive role that the whole family plays in the background, facilitating your child to attend, whether it's working around medical appointments and family events to ensure as much school attendance as possible, or by organising your own transport to school at the last minute where the usual Local Authority method has been unavailable on the day, we appreciate it and it all helps to boost your child's school-learning hours because **every hour matters**. Seven pupils recorded an attendance figure above 95% for the past thirty days with four of those recording 100% attendance - a fantastic achievement. A special mention goes out to Martha and her family, who have supported her to achieve 100% attendance for at least the past 90 days! A huge thank you to all our parents, we definitely couldn't do this without you.

Remember:

"Attendance is essential for pupils to get the most out of their school experience, including their attainment, wellbeing, and wider life chances."

(Working together to improve attendance, DfE, 2024)

We are doing so well Clarity community!

Exam Success

This half term, our pupils have worked incredibly hard preparing for and sitting their exams in Speaking and Listening, Entry Level English and Level 1 English. We know how nerve-racking exams can be, but every single pupil who sat an exam showed such bravery and determination, we are so proud of them all! The way they approached their exams was amazing, demonstrating focus, resilience and a real commitment to doing their best despite the nerves. A massive well done to everyone involved, your hard work has truly paid off, and we can't wait to celebrate your results with you. Some results will be received soon and some we will need to wait till the summer to hear. We will continue to roll out our exams timetable across the spring and summer terms to support the children to collect all the necessary parts towards their final qualifications.

As important as exams are, we encourage the children to remember that "...exams are just one measure of your abilities – they don't define who you are or what you're capable of achieving."

New pupils

We've had the pleasure of welcoming a new pupil, Daisy, who has joined Tigers class this half term. We are so impressed at how quickly she has settled in and become part of the Clarity family; it's been wonderful to see! We're very proud of Daisy for handling the change of a new school so brilliantly, and for bringing such a warm, friendly and calm atmosphere to our community. Welcome to Clarity, Daisy – we're delighted to have you with us!

After half term we are expecting two new pupils and will share more details with you through the class groups once these places are fully confirmed.

New staff

Of course, with more pupils coming on board, extra pairs of staff hands are always welcome. With this in mind, we will enjoy welcoming our newest member of staff; Mrs Dianne Spencer. Mrs Spencer joins our support staff team as a Trainee HLTA and brings over 10 years' experience supporting children with SEND in schools, following a 7+ years career in the police force. We are sure Mrs Spencer will bring many new experiences to our staff team and are looking forward to welcoming her. We will be sharing more details soon about Mrs Spencer on our website.

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

Monday 23rd February- pupils and staff return to school

Thursday 12th March- Careers advisor in school

Friday 27th March- Half-day for pupils as we break up for Easter holiday

Monday 13th April – staff return (INSET day)

Tuesday 14th April – pupils return after Easter break



Information from the Local Authority:

1. **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'.)

As always, we would like to extend a huge thank you to you all, we couldn't do this without you!



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)