



# NEWS & VIEWS

Explore Discover Learn

Headteacher: Mr R Watson



## Headteacher's Comment:

Dear Parents and Carers,

I wanted to take a moment to share some important messages from a Headteacher conference I attended recently, where we had the opportunity to hear from parents involved in the 'Smartphone Free Childhood' movement. Their experiences and the data shared have opened our eyes to pressing concerns about the impact of unmonitored internet access on our young children.

It is alarming to note that 25% of children aged between 5 and 7 now have their own smartphones, and they are spending an average of 35 hours per week on these devices. What's particularly concerning is how easily children can bypass parental controls, accessing content intended for older audiences. I frequently notice children distracted by their phones while crossing roads, which poses serious safety risks.

While the discussion did not outright condemn phones or the internet, it highlighted the importance of monitored usage. As a collective of headteachers across Brentwood, we are contemplating a movement towards becoming a 'Smartphone Free' group of schools starting in September 2026. In the meantime, I encourage everyone to put their phones away during school pick-up. Let's engage with our children, cherish their smiles, and ask them about their day. Those little moments are precious, and our children grow up so quickly.

Several parents have already signed up for the Smartphone Free Childhood pledge from Hogarth, which you can find at <https://smartphonefreechildhood.co.uk/>. While signing up is not mandatory, I believe, as a parent of two boys myself, that they can often become lost in their devices. I plan to invite representatives from the group to speak to parents after the Easter break to provide further insights.

On a different note, please remember that our school PE kit consists of a white T-shirt and black shorts (or jogging bottoms). I have had to remind a few children regarding wearing football tops, which do not comply with our uniform policy. We have aimed to keep our uniform simple and affordable, so please ensure your children have the correct kit for PE, as they will regrettably be unable to participate without it.

I am thrilled to announce that the final amount raised from our Sponsored Pancake Flip has reached an incredible £1369.40! This fantastic sum will be used for the much-anticipated library refurbishment. I must commend Dolly (1A) for raising a staggering £145, as well as Theodore (1C) and Theo (2Y) for their contributions of £100 each, likely to be match-funded through one parent's workplace. Every contribution, big or small, supports our children's reading engagement. In the Summer term, we plan to hold a sponsored walk event where parents and children can work together to complete laps of the field to further raise funds for our library.

Finally, I would like to wish Mrs King good luck as she prepares for the challenging Brentwood Half Marathon this weekend. You can support her efforts via her Just Giving page: [https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/lauren-king-690?utm\\_term=9Wz4KWONE](https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/lauren-king-690?utm_term=9Wz4KWONE). All donations will contribute to our library fund as well. I hope to join Mrs King in spirit by finding a lovely country pub to cheer her on!

Lastly, well done to our Year 2 class and their teaching team for delivering an inspiring assembly this week. It's always a delight to see our children share their experiences, even if it makes me feel a tad older when they talk about toys that were once familiar to me!



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# Stars of the Week

RKH	RB	1A	1C	2Y
Louis	Liepa	Abishiktha	Theodore	Samaren
3S	4C	5C	6C	6H
Mason	Jessica	Alice N	Eduart	Kyliea



## Mr Watson's Superstar Award –

For the whole of 6H – For incredibly persuasive letter writing.



## Reading at Home

Class	Table shows actual number and rounded percentages of children reading at home						% 3 and more	% 4 & 5	% not reading
	Times Read								
	0	1	2	3	4	5			
RB	4	0	0	7	2	4	76%	35%	24%
RKH	7	1	1	3	1	4	47%	29%	41%
1A	0	2	0	3	4	7	82%	65%	0%
1C	0	0	0	3	2	12	100%	82%	0%
2Y	1	0	0	13	7	7	96%	50%	4%
3S	0	2	2	7	4	12	82%	57%	0%
4C	3	1	0	8	7	8	79%	52%	10%
5C	5	0	0	4	7	14	86%	72%	17%
6C	2	0	0	6	2	9	89%	58%	10%
6H	2	0	2	11	3	4	86%	35%	10%



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# Weekly Attendance

## Weekly Attendance –

Class	RKH	RB	1A	1C	2Y	Whole school
Attendance	86.5%	95.3%	91%	88.9%	82.6%	91.3%
Class	3S	4C	5C	6C		
Attendance	90.7%	97.9%	93.7%	91.3%		

1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>
4C	6H	RB



# Yearly Attendance

## Yearly Attendance

Class	RKH	RB	1A	1C	2Y	Whole school
Attendance	92.8%	94.3%	90%	91.3%	90.3%	93.1%
Class	3S	4C	5C	6C	6H	
Attendance	92.6%	94.9%	94.3%	95.2%	95.9%	

1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>
6H	6C	4C

Literacy Word of the Week	Reception	Year 1	Year 2
	setting	ordered	decorate
Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
infinity	courageous	oppressive	torment

Maths Word of the Week	Reception	Year 1	Year 2
	double	partition	mass
Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
perimeter	integer	integer	quadrilateral



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## Diary Dates

Monday 24 March – Year 3 visit to Mountfitchet Castle

Monday 24 March – Year 6 Height and Weight Checks

Monday 24 March – Joel Weston PSHE talk Year 5&6

Wednesday 26 March – Reception Barleylands Trip

Thursday 27 March – Healthy Schools Award presentation (Brentwood Center)

Thursday 27 March – Thorndon Park Golf Club Trip – Year 6

Friday 28 March – Rocksteady Concert – 14.30 – Parents invited

Monday 31 March – Year 5 visit to Hever Castle

Wednesday 2 April – 1A Class Assembly - 14.30

Friday 4 April – Last day of term

Monday 21 April – Bank Holiday Monday

Tuesday 22 April – Summer Term begins for children

Thursday 24 April – Food Discovery session – Year 3

Tuesday 29 April – Class Photos

Wednesday 30 April – Reception Library visit

Friday 2 May – SEND coffee meeting

Monday 5 May – Bank Holiday



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