



It is finally the end of a very long and disrupted year. The children had coped magnificently throughout all the changes that have been thrown at them; being in school, then at home for isolation periods and school lockdown, events cancelled, the list goes on and on. The good news is that the restrictions with school will be gone when the children return in September. (Fingers crossed that decision isn't reversed during the holidays.)

Despite continued restrictions, we have tried to pack as much in as possible for the time we are in school. Where possible school trips have been organised. Classes have headed off to Colchester Castle and Barleylands. We have also had visitors into school (all following social distancing guidelines) enabling the children to experience Shakespeare's Hamlet and for a French themed day to be run. One of the



highlights was being able to send the Year 6 for a day at Stubbers. It wasn't quite the week long

residential they were hoping for, but the camp out on the school field afterwards went some way to make up for it. A huge thank you to all the staff that gave up their own time to make that event possible for the children.



We are also really excited to take our Year 5s to Danbury in September – only a year late!

(Year 4s will have their trip in the Spring.)

We were able to run a series of fun swims for all the children. They definitely had a lot of fun and the donations that came in for the upkeep of the pool raised over £5,000, which is a truly magnificent sum of money. A huge THANK



YOU to everyone who contributed, it will all be invested in the pool and new swimming equipment.

Improvements to the school are continuing as usual. Among other things, we have invested in some fantastic new gym equipment for the field to help keep the children occupied and fit and healthy. We have also invested in a new class bank of Chromebooks to strengthen our IT resources.

I'm pleased to say that we have also been successful in our bid to improve our school roof. Work on this will start over the summer and although the children won't see any significant difference, it will make the school a much better place for them to work in.

We are saying a sad farewell to Mrs. Kenrick at the end of this term and we are wishing Mrs. Jeffs well as she starts her maternity leave. Miss Boyce is also leaving us as an LSA but she will be back in September as she starts her teacher training course with us.

I am delighted to say that, we will be welcoming Miss Hems as part of our team, teaching in Cedar Class, as well as Mrs. Eve as an additional SEN LSA. Mrs. Elvin will also be taking on a LSA role, working within Acorn Class.

I wish everyone a lovely summer, I'll see you all in September.

Ms S Warnes – Head teacher

News:

BORIS THE LOCKDOWN LEVERET

Boris is now out and about. He is currently residing in Hare Quarters in the Royals, Southend.

If you are visiting Southend during the summer, please



go and see him and if you fancy something to do you can see how many Hares you can spot all around Southend.

We were invited to a preview of the Hares before they were released. Our Year 5 Eco-councillors and I

went to a secret location near Southend to get a sneak preview. They all looked amazing.

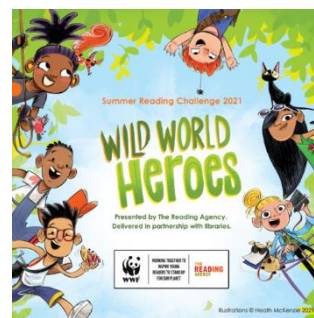
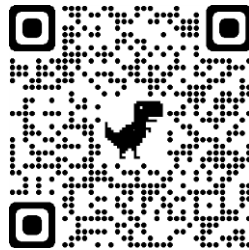
For more information go to <https://www.haresabouttown.co.uk>

Summer Activities:

The Government has launched a campaign to promote leisure activities for children and families this summer. The campaign highlights a range of activities and opportunities for families, children and young people such as exploring a local museum or discovering a National Cycling Network Trail. The guide can be found [here](#).



For information about the Summer reading challenge at your local library, please scan this QR code:



Dates for the diary:

Back to school – Thursday 2nd September

Half term – Monday 25th October – Friday 29th October

Non-pupil Day - Friday 26th November

Last day of term – Friday 17th December

A message from Essex County Council:

Now it's the school holidays, we're strongly encouraging all adults and secondary school children to self-test twice a week.

Testing is a key line of defence against the spread of Covid-19. With other protective measures such as face coverings and social distancing no longer legally required, testing is even more important. It's the only way to know if you have Covid-19 and make sure you don't spread it to friends and family. As many as 1 in 3 people do not show any symptoms so self-testing can detect these hidden cases and keep everyone safe.

You can [collect packs of self-tests from libraries and pharmacies](#). Alternatively, they can [order self-tests online](#).

If someone develops symptoms, they should [order a different type of test \(a PCR test\)](#) or call 111, and self-isolate immediately.

A Message from the Governing Body of Jotmans Hall 2021

As we approach the end of the school year we can all reflect on one of the strangest, most challenging years that many of us have had to deal with in our lives. I'll avoid the obvious commentary about how the pandemic has affected us all in many ways, but clearly it has been very difficult indeed.

When times are tough though, it's easy to slip into a negative spiral and focus on things that have been unpleasant and wearisome. In some way it's the human condition and, after all, we have plenty of good reason to feel that way.

I would rather reflect on the positives that I have observed throughout the pandemic so far and dwell on our collective achievements.

At home, parents have been asked to help educate their own children. I believe that families have risen to the challenge and have joined in with the national effort to take care of our children's futures. I'd like to thank you all for your immense contribution and patience in this undertaking. In some small way I'm sure it has enabled us to appreciate the great work that teachers perform.

Speaking of which, I would also like to recognise the wonderful work the staff at the school have carried out. In the best of times, it's a demanding job to prepare school work, teach, mark, counsel and motivate children. The team has been absolutely committed to facilitating the parents with home schooling and, as things have opened up, to work tirelessly to maintain a safe environment within the school. I'm fortunate enough to see the amount of great work that has gone on and can only applaud the amount of dedication exhibited by the staff, at all levels. Thank you all.

I'd like to also thank parents and families for their general understanding. There have been many disappointments, such as missed school events including Christmas performances, sports day, assemblies, school trips, after school activities and many more. Parents have recognised that the staff have been working under extreme conditions and in line with new rules that have defined our daily lives.

I shouldn't forget the wonderful children within the school. Along with all the children in the country, they have had to learn to adapt, be flexible, creative and make the best of a trying situation. I will continue my quest for positivity and suggest that these are actually wonderful life skills to have and may actually stand them in good stead throughout their lives. Children are remarkably adaptable and, although we wouldn't plan things this way, perhaps this has given them an early experience of dealing with challenges in life.

Having reflected on the past year, we should probably turn our attention to the next stage of the school year. We are now approaching the summer holidays and I hope that you are all able to make the most of the break and enjoy some time together....even if your holidays may not be in line with your original plans.

I'm very hopeful that the worst of the pandemic is behind us and (at the time of writing) all the signs are good. In many of my conversations with fellow governors and the teaching staff, I am focused on getting things right for a clean start in September. With a fair wind, we might be able to resume all the 'normal' things that define school life.



Regards

Mr Paul Hodges

Chair of Governors

Goodbye

.....to all our lovely Year 6s and.....



.....at your new school.

We know you'll be fantastic



Back to school - Thursday 2nd September

