

Welcome Back

It has been an exciting first week back in this new year. I've spent a number of hours remembering to write the date correctly and the children seem to be onto it better than I am! We've had some fantastic experiences already this week, from a Viking in Year 4, debates about 'Flat Earth vs Globe' in Year 5 and some geography / notetaking in Year 2 about the Australian Bushfires. All the children have come in to start learning straight off the bat.

I would like to welcome Mrs Khamsin Prior to the school who will be covering Mrs Arnold in Year 5 (Hughes) whilst she takes her maternity leave; she and Mrs Smith will be working closely together to ensure there is as seamless a transition as possible for the class.

Alongside our mid day team, we are pleased to announce that Mrs Proctor and Mrs Hersey who are two of our wonderful Learning Support Assistants, will be leading playground supervisors and play leaders at lunchtimes. Through their work on the playground and field at lunchtime, we will be developing games, equipment and play behaviours in order to develop the fun for pupils when not in class!

Please keep an eye out for our events: our parent forum meetings and other parent-based meetings such as our Online Cyber Safety meetings. We continue to run all of our clubs and the class teachers are running some of their own, so keep a look out for those when they are announced.

As ever, our teachers will be available at the end of the day and contactable through email or by appointment. I am around most days on the gate or in the playground if anyone would like to discuss anything. Have a great term and I look forward to speaking to everyone soon.

Mr R Potter
Headteacher

Viking Struggle

Lear Class have started their Viking Struggle topic with a visit from a mysterious visitor! Connor, who practises Historical European Martial Arts (HEMA), visited us to share his knowledge of the Vikings. He told us about how they lived, what they liked doing, how they dressed and most interestingly - how they fought! Connor brought in a selection of his practice weapons, telling us how and when in time they would have been used - and everyone had a go at lifting his (very heavy) shield as high as they could. You can see the enjoyment of the children in the photos and I would like to thank Connor for giving his time to us so that we could learn from him. Mr. Holton



Keeping your child safe online

Keeping safe online is an issue which we focus on with all year groups in the school. We aim to equip children to make sensible choices and to make the most of the online resources available to them, whilst keeping themselves safe. This approach works most effectively if we can work in partnership with you so that you and your child have the knowledge and skills to keep them safe online outside of school.

On Thursday 30th January, Mr Potter is hosting an information-sharing event for parents, at which we will share some practical advice about managing your child's online activity. You will also have the chance to share ideas and knowledge with other parents. All parents and carers are welcome to attend. Spaces are available to book through your Scopay account—the event is free of charge and refreshments will be provided.

KS2 modern and street dance

Our premises are hired in the evenings and weekends by Elite Dance Works. The Principal, Miss Hayley Palmer is offering a new class in modern and street dance specifically for students at Home Farm Primary School. The class is for students in Years 3 to 6, and will take place on Monday afternoons straight after school from 3:15pm to 4:15pm, starting from Monday 13th January. Pupils attending will be met by Miss Hayley in the hall straight after school.

The first class is free of charge and should your child then wish to continue with the class the fee per lesson is £5.80, which is payable termly. If you are interested in enrolling your son or daughter for this class please contact EDW's principal, Hayley Palmer, hayley@elitedanceworks.co.uk

Please note that this is a private lesson provided by Elite Dance Works and is not an after-school club offered by Home Farm. If your child takes part in the lessons, you will be entering into a private arrangement with Elite and not with Home Farm.

Fruit and Veg

At Home Farm, we pride ourselves on being a healthy school and encouraging great role models in sport, eco living and healthy eating. KS1 and Year R have daily fruit and veg as a snack. KS2 isn't funded by the government for this and so we stick to the requirement of having fruit or veg as a snack. I've seen a few interesting takes on this: fruit pastilles (not fruit), a oreo (not veg) and a galaxy bar (nowhere near its original form of a bean any longer!) Please stick to fruit or veg please as a snack at break time. Thank you!

Meeting with the NE Essex Parking Partnership and Colchester Borough Council

You are invited to attend a meeting which is being convened by Councillor Sue Lissimore to discuss issues relating to parking and vehicles around the school.

The meeting is an opportunity to provide your feedback and any suggestions to Colchester Borough Council and the North East Essex Parking Partnership. Local residents have also been invited by Councillor Lissimore to attend.

The meeting is taking place on Tuesday 28th January at 7:00pm in the school hall—all welcome, just turn-up.

Inclement weather procedures

As we enter the coldest months, this is a reminder of the procedures we follow in cases of inclement weather.

If we experience snow or other inclement weather, we always strive to keep the school open if possible. In reaching a decision on this, we take into account a number of factors including the availability of heating and hot water; the safety of the school site; our ability to maintain appropriate staff to pupil ratios and the safety of pupils and staff in travelling to school.

If a decision was made to close the school, we would let you know as early in the morning as possible, by text message and by posting a message on our website. Please ensure that the school office has your up to date contact details so that we can reach you by text message if necessary.

Diary dates

Tues 14 January	Year 1 visit to Colchester Zoo	Fri 14 February	Parent Forum meeting, 2:15pm
Fri 17 January	Parent Forum meeting, 2:15pm	w/c Mon 17 Feb	Half-term
Mon 27 January	Open Classrooms, 3:15pm	Mon 24 Feb	Return to school
Tues 28 January	Meeting with CBC and NE Essex Parking Partnership, 7:00pm	Fri 13 March	Sport Relief non-uniform day
Thurs 30 January	E-safety info. evening for parents, 6:00pm	Weds 25 March	Progression Assembly, 10am, parents welcome
Fri 31 January	Year 5 Planetarium day (in school)	Fri 27 March	Pupil reports sent home Years 1—6
Weds 5 February	Progression Assembly, 10am, parents welcome	Mon 30 and Tues 31 March	Parents Evening, all year groups, 3:30pm to 6:00pm
Fri 7 February	Year 4 Viking Day (in school)	Fri 3 April	Last day of Spring term
Fri 7 February	HFSA Slumber evening		

Extra-curricular clubs

Thank you for supporting our trial of a new way of booking extra-curricular clubs online through Scopay accounts. A number of clubs are still available to book on Scopay—please see the list attached, and let the school office know if you need any assistance with your booking.

We will assume that children attending a club will be collected by a parent, but if it is someone else collecting or you wish to give permission for your child to walk home alone, please email the school office to let us know.

	Before school	Lunchtime	After school
Monday	<p>Samba drum club (Years 2 to 6)</p> <p>6th January to 30th March. No club on 27th January, 8:00am to 8:45am.</p> <p>£3.00 per session (£15.00 for first half-term and £18.00 for second half-term)</p> <p>PLEASE BOOK AND PAY ON SCOPAY</p>	<p>Recorder Club with Mrs Rudkin</p> <p>Existing members only at the moment</p>	<p>Football with Colchester United (Years 1 to 2)</p> <p>6th January to 30th March, 3:15pm to 4:15pm. £1.50 per session, £18.00 for 12 week block. PLEASE BOOK AND PAY ON SCOPAY.</p> <p>Gardening Club with Mr Setford (Years 2 to 6)</p> <p>From February half-term, 24th February to 30th March. 3:15pm to 4:15pm, £2.00 per session, £12 for half-term. PLEASE BOOK AND PAY ON SCOPAY</p>
Tuesday	<p>Irish Dance with McGahan Lees Irish Dance Academy (All year groups)</p> <p>Tuesday 7th January to Tuesday 31st March, 8:00am to 8:40am. £5.50 per class, payable monthly plus annual membership fee of £30. To book please contact Cecily Brennan cecily4@msn.com</p>	<p>Recorder Club with Mrs Rudkin</p> <p>Existing members only at the moment</p>	<p>Netball club with Mrs Palmer (Year 6 only)</p> <p>7th January to 24th March. 3:20pm to 4:00pm (moving to 4:15pm from February). Please note no club on 30th March. Free of charge.</p> <p>PLEASE BOOK A SPACE ON SCOPAY</p>
Wednesday	<p>Dance Club with Taylors Dance Company</p> <p>Wednesday 8th January to Wednesday 1st April. Currently full and open to existing members only. For further details please contact taylorisdanceco@outlook.com</p>		<p>Tennis club with Making Aces (Years 2 to 6)</p> <p>8th January to 1st April, 3:20pm to 4:10pm. £4.00 for session, £48 for 12 session block. Cheques payable to Mr J R Barnard.</p> <p>Letter sent by email with booking arrangements—please ask if you need another copy</p>
Thursday	<p>Fencing with Little Musketeers (all year groups)</p> <p>Thursday 16th January to Thursday 26th March, 8:00am to 8:45am. £44 for the term.</p> <p>Letter sent by email with booking arrangements—please ask if you need another copy</p>		<p>Football with Colchester United (Years 3 to 6)</p> <p>9th January to 2nd April, 3:15pm to 4:15pm. £1.50 per session, £18.00 for 12 week block.</p> <p>PLEASE BOOK AND PAY ON SCOPAY</p>
Friday			<p>Football with Mr Holton (Year 4 to 6)</p> <p>10th January to 27th March, 3:20pm to 4:00pm. This is for existing members of Mr Holton's club and no further booking is necessary – just turn up.</p>

- Busy Bees and Dynamo Maths begin on 13th January – by invitation only.
- Woodwind tuition is available from Music for Schools – see <https://www.mfsf.org.uk/lessons> - please contact Music for Schools directly to discuss availability
- Guitar and ukulele tuition is available from Mr Skinner – please contact Mr Skinner directly on stu@flatspin1.co.uk to discuss availability
- Elite Dance Works run classes straight after school on Mondays (KS2 modern) and Wednesdays (KS1 ballet). Please note this is a private arrangement and not an after school club. For further details contact hayley@elitedanceworks.co.uk
- Teachers run a range of lunchtime clubs – no payment is necessary for these, and our teaching staff will provide details directly to pupils

-----HFSA Newsletter -----

School Lottery – Have You Got Your Ticket?

Happy New Year everyone! We hope you had a fantastic Christmas break?

We're kicking off the new year with the launch of The Home Farm Primary School Lottery – your chance to win a weekly cash prize!

The first Home Farm Lottery draw will take place on Friday 18th January and you have to be in it to win it!

Buy your ticket now and be in with a chance of winning a weekly cash prize, which will be awarded to someone from the school, as well as being entered into the weekly national draw to win £25,000!

Plus, sign up this half term to be in with the chance of winning a family Fitbit bundle! Best of all, 40% of all the ticket sales go back to the school! Visit

<https://www.yourschoollottery.co.uk/lottery/school/home-farm-primary-school> to sign up!

Some parents have already signed up to the lottery, but not actually bought a ticket, so please log back on and check!



YOUR SCHOOL LOTTERY

SHAPE UP YOUR FAMILY!



Buy A Lottery Ticket This Half Term & WIN A Family FITBIT BUNDLE

- WIN A FITBIT BUNDLE (FITBIT INSPIRE HR + Ace 2 Kid's Fitness Tracker)
- Support your local school
- Play for £1 per week
- Win up to £25,000

Team supporting, visit: [yourschoollottery.co.uk](https://www.yourschoollottery.co.uk) and search for: Home Farm

Search for: Home Farm Primary School Lottery

Unwanted Christmas Gifts?

Received duplicate gifts, or unwanted bath sets this festive season? The HFSA would be very happy to take them off your hands to use for future tombolas and raffles.

Please drop any items (childrens toys, gift sets, bath sets or toiletries) into the office.

Many thanks in advance for your kind donations.

facebook

Sign up to our Facebook page

Search on Facebook for HFSA Events to receive notifications on upcoming events and activities.

We also run competitions for tickets to events, so make sure you follow us.

HFSA Meeting

Our next meeting is on Wednesday 15th January at 7.30pm at the school. Feel free to come along!

Diary Dates

7th February – Slumber Night
28th March – Easter Fun Run
4th July – Summer Fayre 'Circus'