

The Chorus Schools Federation

Executive Headteacher: Mrs J Nichols, BEd Hons, NPQH, NASENCO, NPQEL



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This week...



What a busy festive week! On Wednesday we had our Christmas Service, the children performed all the carols and readings beautifully. Thank you to everyone who joined us, we hope you enjoyed it. All the

children then took part in the Christingle service, where we reflected on the meaning of Christmas and particularly enjoyed eating the sweets! Many thanks to Reverend Claire for leading both these services.



We also had our whole school Christmas dinner, with music, crackers and lots of festive fun all round! Thank you Mrs Park for the lovely food, what a fabulous way to end the term.

The children had a fabulous time at the Christmas disco on Thursday. It was fun packed with games and dancing, they loved the conga! Thank you to the PTA for organising this fantastic end of term event.



Forest School Spring Term

Forest school with Holly Hilder will continue each Tuesday for the spring term as follows:



Owl Class	AM 6 th January - 24 th March
Fox Class	PM 6 th January - 10 th February
Robin Class	PM 24 th February - 24 th March

Otter class will continue to have their session with Mrs Morton on a Friday afternoon.

Please ensure children come to school with their forest school kit, with plenty of warm layers and their waterproofs and wellies.



- Mon 5th Jan 2026
First Day of Spring Term
- Thurs 8th Jan
Swimming Lessons Start – Year 5
- Thurs 15th Jan
Closing date for Reception Year Applications 2026
- 18th – 25th Feb
Half Term
- Tues 24th Feb
Yr 6 Cyber Safety
- Tues 24th Feb
Forest School Starts for Robin Class
- 17th – 20th March
Owl Class PGL Residential Trip
- Weds 18th Mar
Yr R Boydell's Farm
- Weds 25th Mar
Palm Celebration Assembly
- 30th March – 10th April
Easter Holidays
- Mon 13th April
Spring Term Starts

Praise from the Diocese

On Wednesday 26th November, we had a planned Governors visit, looking at the schools' Christian vision, with particular focus on the impact of outdoor learning on spiritual development for pupils. Richard Hopkins, School Adviser to the Board of Education for the Dioceses of Chelmsford was in attendance. In summary, his report concluded that:

- Governors know the Christian vision well, and are diligent in looking for examples of it during monitoring visits to school
- Outdoor learning supports the personal development of pupils as they learn responsibility and wise risk taking when using or making fires
- Governors learn about the impact of environmental science and forest school on pupils' engagement with courageous advocacy and their understanding of environmental justice and injustice
- Governors reflected on the visibility of the Christian vision and values in forest school, thinking particularly about the value of trust as children are trusted to develop their own ideas and to engage in tool use and fire making with wisdom and autonomy

epc **MULTISKILLS**
AFTER-SCHOOL CLUB
For all children in Years 3 - 6

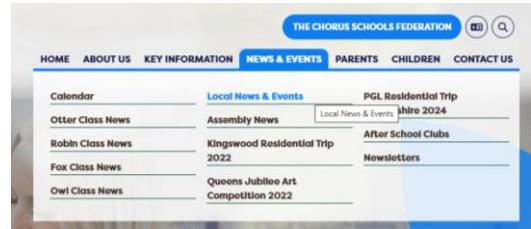
FOR FURTHER INFO OR TO BOOK THE CLUB
SCAN THE QR CODE OR CLICK [HERE](#)

Spaces are limited to provide the very best experience for your children...



EPC Wednesday After School Sports Club

EPC will be running their popular Wednesday after school sports clubs for Key Stage 2 (Years 3-6) in the Spring Term. For more information and to book scan the QR code, or they can be contacted via email: admin@epcoaching.co.uk or telephone: 01206 670237



The screenshot shows the top navigation bar of the website. It includes the logo 'THE CHORUS SCHOOLS FEDERATION' and icons for social media (Facebook, Twitter, YouTube) and a search bar. The menu items are: HOME, ABOUT US, KEY INFORMATION, NEWS & EVENTS, PARENTS, CHILDREN, and CONTACT US. Below the menu, there are several news links: Calendar, Otter Class News, Robin Class News, Fox Class News, Owl Class News, Local News & Events, Assembly News, Kingswood Residential Trip 2022, Queens Jubilee Art Competition 2022, PGL Residential Trip, Local News & Events, After School Clubs, and Newsletters.

Local Holiday Activities

A reminder that local events and holiday activities can be found on our website: <https://www.chorusschools.uk/st-andrews-c-of-e-primary-school/news-and-events/local-news-and-events>

Swimming for Year 5 – Starting Thursday 8th January

Swimming lessons for Year 5 will start on Thursday 8th January, and will run every Thursday until the 12th March. A reminder that children are expected to swim each week and their swimming kit must be in school, including a swim hat. Please make payment through your Compass Wallet.

Essex Libraries Winter Reading Challenge

Children across Essex are being challenged to read and get creative at their local library this winter! Children can choose from twelve fun activities to complete. For each one, they will get a sticker. Complete six, and they'll receive a certificate and enter their prize draw for the chance to win some incredible goodies! Find out more about how to take part in this free activity at: <https://libraries.essex.gov.uk/>

We wish all our families a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. We look forward to seeing children back at school on Monday 5th January.

Coming up...

- Monday 5th January - First Day of Spring Term
- Thursday 8th January - Swimming Lessons Start – Year 5

Yours faithfully,



Mrs Jinnie Nichols
Executive Headteacher



Miss Gilbranch
Senior Leader