



Important Dates:

Mon 21st July

Non-Pupil Day - summer holiday begins!

Tues 2nd Sept

School re-opens

Wishing you all a wonderful summer break. We look forward to seeing you again on Tuesday 2nd September.

The Summer Reading Challenge

Remember to sign up for the Summer Reading Challenge. Children are invited to read books and/or complete reading-related activities to collect rewards. It's completely free to take part. There are many benefits when children take part, including:

- Children will be better prepared to return to school in the autumn.
- It encourages independence and builds confidence.
- It develops children's reading skills and it promotes learning during the long summer break.

You can sign up by going into our local library or online:

<https://summerreadingchallenge.org.uk/>

Art Competition

Essex County Council and Bauer Media Outdoor are launching a Community Art Competition for children and young people. Themes include Community Helpers, Neighbourhood Scenes, School Community, Cultural Diversity, and Community Events. Prizes include £500 of art materials for schools, artwork displayed on bus shelters, and a £100 Amazon voucher. Winners will be announced in Autumn 2025.

For more details, visit [Our Community Artwork competition | Travel Essex](#)



To safeguard our children, please remember that phones are not permitted.

SchoolMoney

Please ensure all outstanding debt is cleared as a matter of urgency. We are currently owed over £279 in dinner arrears and £738 in Breakfast and Twilight Club fees alone.

All outstanding debts have to be subsidised from the school budget. **The value of our current debt could be used to purchase 15 new iPads.**

Goodbye Mrs Carr

Mrs Carr has been a midday assistant for 3 years. During that time she has been a huge support to children at upper school and will be hugely missed.

We thank her for her service to the school and wish her the very best of luck as she changes role to work in a local retail establishment.



Rainbow Friday

Headteacher's Award Winners

All the values—Bella McNulty, Sofia Manea, Joli Elleston, Alice Dedman Vazquez, Ivy Franks, James Gadd, Mia Bird, Evie Polley

Determination and positivity—Oscar Mcilroy, Ethan Farr, Henry Sheridan, Courtney Driver, Rory Dowding, Alfie Ramsey

Respect and rule of law—Elsie-Mae Barker, Jude Vince, Hooria Sohail

Determination—Ezekiel Asamoah

Determination, positivity and respect—Greyson Russell

Individuality—Harry Crawford



Rainbow Table Winners

FS: Davina Mwesige, Beau Hurley, Johnjoe Kerrigan, Sia Boyd

Year 1: Freddie Watkins, Sienna Smart, Hunter Barker, Harrison Bezant

Year 2: Oliver Tween, Rose Williams, Oliver Baronti, Mia Shoesmith

Year 3: Colbey Morgan, Hallie Nugent

Year 4: Florence Worts, Jake Rennie

Year 5: Ruby Bennett, Harry Smith

Year 6: Isla Rose Barrett, Poppy Port Smith, Jake Feasey, Jamal Oyebanji

Rainbow Ambassadors

Thank you to this year's Rainbow Ambassadors for their dedication to the role.

Next year's ambassadors were announced in Rainbow Assembly today: Harper Saunders, Joseph Keauffling, Savannah Hanlon-King, Ollie Swindells, Abigail Matthews and Joshi Barling. They will also be next year's Pupil Councillors for Y6.



Let's Celebrate!

Well done to this week's winners:

FS: Isla Hills, Hameerah Yusuf

Year 1: Connor Rennie, Leo Barrett

Year 2: Scarlett Green, Archie Hammond

Year 3: Zara Hanlon-King, Arthur Gregory, Hunter Collins, Archie Sleet

Year 4: Adeola Idowu, Maryam Oladoye, 4JM Whole class

Year 5: Mariam Shone, Jessica Swain, Charlie Towler

Year 6: Lexi Grove, Sienna Botwright, Rowan Jackman



Golden Token Winners

This week's lucky winners are:

FS: George Williamson

Year 1: Mia King

Year 2: Beau Adams



Year 3: Trey Mills-Wright

Year 4: Erin Spindler

Year 5: Ruby Bennett

Year 6: Poppy Port-Smith

Whole School Attendance

93%

Weekly Winning Classes

3EC 99%

w/e 11/07/25

100% Attendance

Children who have attended school every day this term were awarded certificates this week and recognised in assembly.

The children who have attended school every day all year, were awarded certificates in Rainbow assembly today and received an extra long lunch break.



Recent Letters

[Panto](#)

LOVE TO RIDE
ESSEX





Laila Newman, Ladybirds moved up to Stage 4 Green hats at swimming.

Sofia Manea, Ladybirds achieved a bronze sash at Meridian Kung Fu and earned a dance medal award for dancing at Blackshaw-Clare's Academy.

Megan Feasey, Bumblebees has achieved her level 4 badge in Trampolining.

Annabelle Burdiss, Bumblebees completed her first gymnastics assessments and gained her first three medals.

Isla Hills, Bumblebees has moved up to green hat in swimming and was awarded a certificate for swimming 10 metres.

Archer Dando, Ladybirds achieved his final level of supported swimming and will move to independent swimming .

Evelyn Earle, 1AT completed her first term as a Beaver by going camping and getting awarded 6 badges.

Elissa Budu, 1AT participated in a dance award ceremony and was awarded a medal for her performance in ballet.

Mollie Murrell, 1RJ competed in the Teddy Bear Novice gymnastics competition in Colchester and secured 5th place on floor. She competed against 26 girls from 8 different gymnastics clubs.

Rachel Milchard, 2EL has completed stage 3 and has now moved up to the next stage of swimming. She is now in green hat group.

Isabelle Randall, 4CG and Elliott Randall, 2EL passed their Kung Fu grading. They have now moved to yellow and gold sash
Calla Dando, 3EC achieved her 25 metres at swimming.

Charlie Murrell, 4AB received his yellow belt in martial arts.

Khia Roshdi, 4JM wanted to let you know about a big show coming up, she is dancing next Sunday (20th July) with Diversity for their big show at the Cliffs Pavilion. She has worked so hard and had back to back rehearsals.

Jake Feasey, 6SJ has passed his Kung Fu grading and achieved his yellow and white sash, as well as achieving his Level 6 badge in Trampolining.

Jake Rennie, 4JM played in his first tournament for Wickford Town FC and scored the winning penalty in the final to win the tournament.

George Williamson, Bumblebees achieved football player of the week.

Hollie Gray, Bumblebees achieved Stage 2 in trampolining

Megan Feasey, Bumblebees achieved Stage 4 in trampolining

Millie Robson, Bumblebees achieved 10m in swimming

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

STAYING SAFE AROUND WATER

Enjoying time in, on, and around water plays a vital role in a young person's overall development, offering a healthy and exhilarating way to have fun. This guide outlines essential safety advice, based on the Royal Life Saving Society UK's Water Safety Code, to help ensure children can enjoy swimming and similar activities safely and responsibly.

1 STICK TO LIFEGUARDED AREAS

It's never advisable to enter unsupervised bodies of water, especially alone. Instead, it's considered best practice to accompany children to places with lifeguards, as they will be trained to respond swiftly in emergencies and provide first aid when needed.



2 LEARN SIGNS AND FLAGS

When going to a new environment, it's important to research the local area and make children aware of safety signage before entering the water. If visiting the seaside, make sure children are always supervised by an adult and that they know what different beach flags mean, so they're knowledgeable of where and when they can enter the sea.



3 STOP AND THINK

Young people should be cautious before entering water, as it's difficult to know what hazards could be underneath. Use the Water Safety Code and encourage children to ask themselves questions such as, "Is the water too deep or too shallow? Are there currents, tides, or underwater objects?" Make sure children know never to enter water from a height, as what lurks below could cause serious injuries.



4 CONSIDER WATER TEMPERATURE

Even on hot days, water can be deceptively cold. Tragedies strike when young people experience cold water shock. Never let children enter water quickly; instead, ensure that they enter slowly and carefully to allow their bodies to adjust to the temperature or exit easily if needed.



5 INFLATABLE SAFETY

Although inflatables may seem like a fun idea when visiting locations like the beach, they can float further out from shore and into more dangerous water. It's advisable only to use inflatables in spaces like appropriately managed swimming pools, where they're used in more controlled and supervised environments.



6 SUPERVISION IS KEY



For young children, and particularly those under the age of five, it's important for them to be supervised at home, outside and at the pool at all times. It's essential for parents and educators to understand that young children can drown quickly and silently; therefore, anyone supervising them must maintain constant watch in case they get into difficulty.

7 DON'T GO TOO FAR



When swimming, especially in open water, it's best to teach children to stay within a safe depth. Share advice with them such as only entering water up to a standing depth, and in the case of visiting the beach, swim parallel to shorelines. This will allow a child to stay in control and get out of the water easily.

8 KEEP POOLS AND TUBS DRAINED



For parents of young children, a simple way to protect them at home is to keep outdoor spaces and bathrooms tidy after playtime. This includes removing water from paddling pools after use and turning them over, returning lids to hot tubs and taking toys out of baths, so all water can be fully drained from the tub.

9 FLOAT AND CALL 999



If a child gets into difficulty in the water, they should try to float on their back, stay calm, and call for help. If a young person sees someone else in trouble, they should dial 999 or 112 immediately, then shout to reassure their friend, encouraging them to float on their back, and letting them know that help is on the way. Children should never enter the water to attempt a rescue or retrieve belongings.

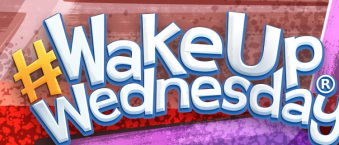
10 TEACH WATER SAFETY



Beyond swimming lessons, children should be educated in school on water safety. Use RLSS UK's accredited programme, 'Water Smart Schools', which offers free lesson plans and resources on how to be safe on, near and around water by following the Water Safety Code.

Meet Our Expert

The Royal Life Saving Society UK (RLSS UK) is a national water safety charity that gives children the chance to enjoy a lifetime of fun in the water, safely. Water safety education provided in schools is vital and, in some instances, could be a child's only opportunity to learn about the water.



The National College

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about AI-ENABLED SCAMS

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Artificial intelligence (AI) is quickly becoming a widely used tool, with lots of positive applications being discussed and developed. Sadly, however, as with most technology tools, there are those who will seek to use it for malicious and dishonest practices, with children and other vulnerable groups particularly at risk.

PHISHING EMAILS: BETTER & QUICKER

Phishing scams – emails designed to trick people into handing over login details or money – are not new, and do not rely on AI; however, AI has made them far more dangerous. Criminals can now generate highly convincing emails at speed, mimicking an organisation's tone, branding and language with ease. This makes phishing attempts harder to spot, especially for young people who may not yet know what to look out for.

ONLINE MARKETPLACE FRAUD

Online marketplaces are now a common way to buy and sell everything, from second-hand clothes to cars. Criminals are exploiting this by using AI to enhance or completely fake product photos and videos, and pressure buyers into paying deposits or full amounts upfront. These tactics are becoming more advanced, making it vital to pause, check, and verify the sale before parting with any money.

VOICE IMPERSONATION

AI can now realistically impersonate a person's voice when given a small sample of someone's speech patterns. This is especially concerning where voice has been enabled as an alternative to password-based logins. One such example was the use of AI deepfake audio as part of a fake kidnapping scam: the criminals used an AI voice clone of a 15-year-old to convince her parents she had been kidnapped and elicit a ransom.

EMPLOYMENT SCAMS

Using AI, criminals can create fake online profiles that seem completely real. These synthetic identities can chat with young people about fake job offers, asking for money to secure a visa or paperwork. In 2025, The Guardian reported a scam targeting young people with promises of quick cash, posing as TikTok staff.

INFLUENCER & INVESTMENT SCAMS

AI tools now make it easy to manipulate video and audio, with technology available that can generate entirely fake content using the likeness of celebrities or influencers. Criminals are using this to create convincing videos of well-known figures promoting fake products or services, which young people can be particularly susceptible to. Cryptocurrency scams are a common tactic, luring people into investing in schemes that do not exist. Once payment is made, the criminal simply disappears with the money.

ROMANCE SCAMS & SEXTORTION

AI chat bots can now mimic real conversations, often accompanied with realistic fake photos and videos, which makes it easier for criminals to build trust with young people – among other things, this can lead to fraud or sextortion. In 2024, the NCA's CEOP Safety Centre received 380 reports of sextortion. Alarmingly, in the first five months alone, police received an average of 117 monthly reports involving under-18s, showing how serious and targeted this threat has become.

Advice for Parents & Educators

THINK CRITICALLY

The key to addressing the increasing growth of AI-enabled scams is to think critically and show caution. Inform children that if something is too good to be true, then it probably is. Encourage them to stop and carefully consider what they are seeing and reading before taking any action. For example, if a social media post expresses urgency, proceed with caution; if content seems unusual, even from a known person, it may be that their account has been hacked.

USE TRUSTWORTHY SITES AND SERVICES

Online marketplaces are useful when buying and selling items; however, where possible, encourage children to use reputable companies and their online shopping sites. These companies are likely to have more sophisticated cyber-security safeguards in place, underpinned by consumer legislation, enabling them to control how products and services are displayed and traded on their sites.

SEEK TO VERIFY

Criminals may breach an influencer's account or spread misinformation and fake content; however, their approach will generally be limited to a single account, site or service. Where possible, show children how to verify information to check its legitimacy before proceeding. Small actions, such as phoning the person who is the subject of a suspicious email, or checking content via an individual or company website or social media sites can make the difference. The greater the risk, the more effort we should expend to confirm whether the information presented is true or false.

REPORT IT

As the sophistication of scams increases, the likelihood of being tricked by them also increases, especially when not paying attention or acting quickly. It is important that young people know how to report incidents as they happen. Show children how to report their concerns to the social media site, Action Fraud, banks, and other individuals or organisations linked or involved. If you are unsure of the most effective reporting channel, contact Action Fraud.

Meet Our Expert

Gary Henderson is the Director of IT at Millfield, a large independent boarding school in Somerset, as well as a member of the Digital Futures Group, Vice Chair of the ISC Digital Advisory Group and an Association of Network Managers in Education (ANME) Ambassador.



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