



Important Dates:

Mon 9th Feb

Y3 Egyptian Day;
Ladybirds FS Writing
Workshop 2.15-2.45pm

Tues 10th Feb

Safer Internet Day;
Swimming Gala;
Ladybirds Parent/Carer
Lunch;
Bumblebees FS Writing
Workshop 2.15-2.45pm

Wed 11th Feb

Y1 Parent/Carer Assembly
9am;
Cross Country Competition;
Kurling Finals

Thurs 12th Feb

Valentine's Discos

Fri 13th Feb

Essex Family Forum
Cuppa & Chat 2pm;
Valentine's Special Lunch

Mon 16th—Fri 20th Feb

Half Term

Please click [here](#) for other
dates.



**Please remember that phones
& photography are not
permitted at school events.**

Clubs

Street Dance Club will be moving to a Tuesday after half-term, from **Tuesday 24th February**. If your child would like to sign up for Street Dance please see the letter [here](#).

Tuesday Running Club will be back after half term and open to all Year 1 - 6 pupils. This is available to book now via school money. Places will be confirmed by text on Friday 13th February. The cost will be £4 (£1 per week with no club on Tuesday 24th March due to Parent/Carer consultations.)

If you would like to sign up for **Cheerleading Club on Wednesdays**, please see the information [here](#).

Thursday 12th February - due to the Valentine's discos, Dodgeball & Tennis will take place outside on the playground. Please send children in with warm clothing. If we need to cancel due to weather conditions, a text message will be sent.

World Book Day

Wednesday 5th March 2026

Children are being invited to dress up as a word. Click [here](#) for ideas.

Winners will be chosen from each year group to win a golden book token.



Safer Internet Day

Tuesday 10th February is Safer Internet day and the focus this year is AI (Artificial Intelligence); computers which have been designed to do some of the things a human brain can do. We will be considering this in school throughout the week to help children learn to make informed, responsible, and safe choices when using AI.

There are so many ways that AI makes positive impacts on our lives such as: voice assistants, information searching, creating images, music and written reports, language translation, accessibility.



But we also need to be aware of the potential risks: fake friends, inaccurate information, scams.

Please click [here](#) for advice on how to talk to your child about this at home.

M Clothing Uniform Shop 10% off Discount Code

Save 10% on school uniform at [my clothing.com](#). Just use code MYCQ110 at checkout. Valid until 31.03.2026



What Parents & Educators Need to Know about GENERATIVE AI SAFETY

Generative AI tools – such as ChatGPT – are now commonly used by children. In fact, 3 in 4 pupils in the 2024 Annual Literacy Survey reported using generative AI, up from just 2 in 5 the previous year. While these tools can boost learning and creativity, they also raise concerns around misinformation, privacy and overuse. This guide explores the key risks and how to support safe use.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

MISINFORMATION AND ACCURACY



Generative AI can sometimes produce false or misleading content. Children – and even adults – may assume the information is accurate and trustworthy. This can affect learning and understanding of important topics. It's vital to teach children to critically assess all information, even when it comes from AI.

EXPOSURE TO INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Because generative AI is trained on vast datasets from across the internet, there is a chance it may occasionally generate harmful or inappropriate content. Without supervision, children could encounter disturbing or unsuitable material. Active monitoring and clear usage boundaries can help reduce this risk.

PRIVACY AND DATA SECURITY

Some AI tools ask for personal details or store users' interactions. If privacy settings are not correctly configured, children's personal data could be exposed or misused. Teaching good digital hygiene and setting strong privacy controls is essential for protecting children online.

REDUCED CRITICAL THINKING



Relying too heavily on AI-generated responses may reduce children's willingness to think independently. If they consistently use AI to solve problems or complete tasks, it could impact their ability to reason, analyse and form their own ideas. Encouraging thoughtful reflection is key.

DIGITAL DEPENDENCY

Regular use of generative AI can contribute to increased screen time and less real-world interaction. If left unmanaged, it may affect physical activity levels, sleep, and social development. Striking a healthy balance between online and offline activities is important for wellbeing.

UNCLEAR ETHICAL BOUNDARIES

Children may not fully understand the ethical implications of using AI to complete homework or creative tasks. This can lead to unintentional plagiarism or dishonest academic practices. Conversations around responsible use and academic honesty are crucial.

Advice for Parents & Educators

ESTABLISH CLEAR GUIDELINES

Set clear, age-appropriate rules for when and how generative AI can be used. Reinforce these regularly to help children develop a healthy, respectful and informed relationship with the technology.

PROMOTE ACTIVE SUPERVISION

Keep an eye on how the children in your care use AI tools. Check in regularly to ensure they're using them appropriately and be ready to step in if something doesn't feel right.

ENCOURAGE CRITICAL EVALUATION

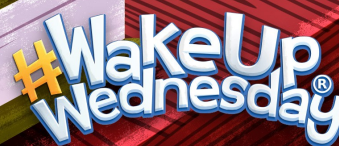
Help children to question the accuracy of AI-generated information and seek out additional trusted sources. This builds essential digital literacy skills and supports better decision-making.

ENHANCE PRIVACY AWARENESS

Talk to children about the importance of keeping personal information private. Make sure privacy settings are in place and explain how data shared with AI tools could be used.

Meet Our Expert

Brendan O'Keeffe, Deputy Headmaster and Director of Digital Strategy at Eaton House Schools, has extensive expertise in digital safety, safeguarding, and generative AI in education. As an author and speaker on digital literacy and online safety for institutions such as The National College, Brendan guides parents and educators in creating safe digital learning environments.



The National College

Y5 Victorian Day

Year 5 had a fantastic day yesterday exploring Braintree museum and experiencing a Victorian classroom. Mr Baker reports that they thoroughly immersed themselves in the experience, modelling our school values.



Calling all SEND parents and carers - Your school needs your voice!

Help make your school more inclusive for **all** children

Your school has signed up to a pilot project aimed at increasing inclusivity in school and building relationships and communication with parents/carers. The name of this project is Partnership for Inclusion of Neurodiversity in Schools (PINS).

You may remember a survey being sent out about this project recently. We would now like to gather your views in person through a parent/carer '**cuppa and chat**' event that will be run by a representative from Essex Family Forum (EFF). The event will be very informal and a real opportunity for you to share your views on what is working within your school and what you would like to see improved. You can find out about the work EFF do here www.essexfamilyforum.org.

The group is open to all parents/carers of children at the school who have EHCP's are supported by One Planning, or who have children that may have currently unrecognised/undiagnosed SEND. Come along for a chat, to support one another and an opportunity to work with your school and to improve the outcomes for your child.

Date: 13/02/2026

Time: 2pm

Location: Wickford Primary

**Come to the Breakfast Club door
@ Lower School.**



Our lovely PTA have donated glue sticks and coloured pencils which children (and teachers) are delighted with.

We also received a generous Freebay donation of different patterned edging scissors.



Fundraising

School received this message following our November Rainbow Friday non-uniform day:

My name is Josh and I'm the local Fundraising Manager for British Heart Foundation. I have just been made aware of the generosity that Wickford Primary School has shown British Heart Foundation in donating £171. Thank you ever so much for enabling us to fund more lifesaving heart research.



Let's Celebrate!



Bikeability

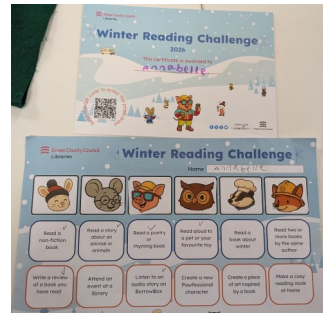
Congratulations to the next groups of children who successfully achieved their Bikeability awards last week.

Outside School Achievements

Annabelle Burdiss, 1RJ has completed the winter reading challenge with Wickford Library.

Francesca Venables, 5AB moved from purple hat to silver hat last week in her swimming lesson.

Rory Fenn, 6LG passed his stage 6 swimming. He now moves on to stage 7 - purple hat class.



Well done to this week's winners:

FS: Blake Ingram, Darcie Gooding

Year 1: Emily Leonard, Millie Robinson, Oliver Mason

Year 2: Jacob Ayres, Sienna Smart, Rosie Stow, George Bradshaw-Varney

Year 3: Katrina Le Vu, George Chaplin

Year 4: Harry Meade, Daisy Fordham, Beatrice Crossman

Year 5: Isaac Wherry, Kiera Went, Olly Pearce

Year 6: Savannah Hanlon-King, Lenna Berry, Joseph Keauffling



Golden Token Winners

This week's lucky winners are:

FS: Keano Shepherd

Year 1: Davina Mwesige

Year 2: Hunter Barker

Year 3: Lily Spencer

Year 4: Harry Heather

Year 5: Sofia Vintu

Year 6: Jessica Swain



School Dinners

The dinner menu next week will be:

MONDAY

- Pork & Carrot Meatballs in a Rich Tomato Sauce
- Plant Based Meatballs in a Rich Tomato Sauce
- Jacket Potato with Cheese or Beans
- Penne Pasta
- Garlic Bread
- Milkshake & Yoghurt

WEDNESDAY

- Roast Chicken & Yorkshire Pudding
- Roasted Quorn Fillet
- Hot Chicken Roll
- Roast Potatoes
- Green Cabbage
- Carrots
- Healthy Fruit

TUESDAY

- Pepperoni Pizza
- Cheese & Tomato Pizza
- Jacket Potato with Beans or Tuna Mayo
- Baked Beans
- Chocolate & Vanilla Muffin

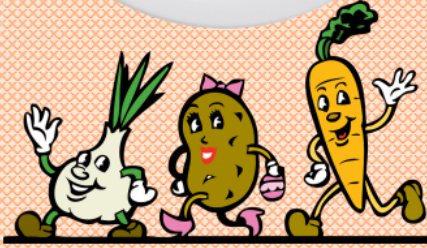
THURSDAY

- BBQ Chicken
- Onion & Pepper Quiche
- Jacket Potato with Cheese & Beans
- Potato Wedges
- Corn on the Cobb
- Apple Crumble & Custard

FRIDAY

- Fish Fillet
- Quorn Burger
- Jacket Potato with Cheese
- Chips
- Peas
- Sweetcorn
- Valentine Cupcake

Week 1
Week Commencing
3/11, 24/11, 15/12, 19/1, 9/2, 9/3



Recent Letters

[SSL Parent/Carer Lunch](#)

[Street Dance Club](#)



Whole School Attendance

93%

Weekly Winning Classes

Bumblebees & 1BT 99%

w/e 30/01/26

Valentine's Day Special Lunch

Friday 13th February

The dessert on Friday lunchtime will be a Valentine themed cupcake.

The rest of the menu will be the usual week 1 menu.





*Price includes
snacks and
refreshments

Valentine Disco



**Thursday 12th
February**

**£3.50 PER
TICKET***

FS & Y1 3:30-4:30

Y2 - Y3 4:45-5:45

Y4, Y5 & Y6 6:00-7:00

**Upper School Hall
Wickford Primary School**



WICKFORD
PRIMARY SCHOOL

SUMMER FETE

SATURDAY

4th July
2026

PTA Summer Fete – Date for Your Diary!

The PTA are already busy behind the scenes organising another Summer Fete after the hugely successful event last year.

We're so excited to be planning a bigger and better fete and would love the support of our school community. If you own a small business and would like to advertise in our fete brochure, or if you're able to donate a prize for the raffle, please get in touch with the PTA — we'd love to hear from you.

More details coming soon... watch this space!