



THE TIPTREE HEATH TELEGRAPH

Issue No. 1 Spring Term
9th January 2026



If you have Safeguarding concerns please speak to Mrs King, Designated Safeguarding Lead, or Miss Harker/Mrs Sutton, Deputy Safeguarding Leads. Information will be treated in confidence.

Diary Dates

Tuesday 13th January - Year 6 Class Assembly at 9am.
Wednesday 14th January - Year 5 and 6 Dodgeball Finals.
Thursday 15th January - Year 6 and EYFS height and weight checks.
Tuesday 20th January - Year 6 SATs meeting for parents -3.30pm.
Wednesday 21st January - Year 5 Class Assembly at 9am.
Wednesday 21st January - Year 3 and 4 Cross County Event.
Thursday 22nd January - SEND drop in session at 9am.
Friday 23rd January - MiniMe Mindfulness sessions for all children.
Friday 23rd January - MiniMe Mindfulness sessions for parents - 2.30 - 3pm. Please email the office to book a place.
Wednesday 28th January - Year 4 Class Assembly at 9am.
Monday 9th-Thursday 12th February - Year 6 Bikeability sessions.
Wednesday 4th February - Year 3 Class Assembly at 9am.
Thursday 5th February - Year 5 and 6 Sportshall Athletics.
Wednesday 11th February - Year 2 Class Assembly at 9am.
Friday 13th February - PTFA Snack Shack after school.
Friday 13th February - Last day of term before half-term break.
Monday 23rd February - All children return to school.
Monday 23rd - Thursday 26th February - Year 6 Mock SATs week.
Wednesday 4th March - Year 3 and 4 Football Competition.
Thursday 5th March - World Book Day.
Tuesday 10th March - Year 1 Class Assembly at 9am - NEW DATE.
Tuesday 10th March - PTFA Go Bananas Event.
Friday 13th March - PTFA Mother's Day Gifting Room
Friday 13th March - MiniMe Mindfulness sessions for all children.
Tuesday 17th March - Little Scarlet Class Assembly at 9am.
Thursday 19th March - Year 4 Celtic Harmony visit.
Friday 27th March - Last day of Spring term.
Monday 13th April - First day of Summer term.
Thursday 16th April - PTFA disco.
Thursday 7th May - Non-pupil day - school closed to all children.
Friday 22nd May - Last day of term before half-term break.
Monday 1st June - All children return to school.
Friday 19th June - PTFA Father's Day/Someone Special Gifting Room.

This Week's Super Star Awards

Maggie - Little Scarlet Class
 Harry - Raspberry Class
 Mustafa - Damson Class
 Skyla - Apricot Class
 Rosie - Cherry Class
 Bella - Blueberry Class
 Daisy - Mulberry Class

This Week's Headteacher Super Star Awards

Casper - Little Scarlet Class
 Alfie - Raspberry Class
 Lily - Damson Class
 Freddie - Apricot Class
 Eva - Cherry Class
 Hollie - Blueberry Class
 Danny - Mulberry Class

Survey

The Essex Healthy Schools team is conducting research to further understand children and young people's drinking habits. They aim to identify the challenges schools and parents face in encouraging water consumption.

If you would like to complete a short survey, please find the link here: [Hydration survey for Parents - Fill in form](#)



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OPAL

We are launching an exciting new project to make our playtimes even better, in conjunction with Outdoor Play and Learning (OPAL) CIC. In 2018, OPAL won the best active schools' programme in Europe award and has been cited in two parliamentary reports as delivering outstanding practice. OPAL is working closely with Sport England to promote more active childhoods, which is one of the many reasons we are improving our playtime, as well as to improve opportunities for socialisation, cooperation, coordination, resilience, creativity, imagination and enjoyment for your child.

We believe that: **"Play is freely chosen, personally directed, intrinsically motivated behaviour that actively engages the child. Play can be fun or serious. Through play, children explore social, material and imaginary worlds and their relationship with them, elaborating all the while a flexible range of responses to the challenges they encounter. By playing, children learn and develop as individuals, and as members of the community."** (Children's Play Council 2001).

The project will start on Monday and our hopes are that it will change the way we think and how we play together. To facilitate this project, we will need to buy some new resources, move some things around on the playground and require some loose parts. Loose parts are any materials that can be easily moved, combined, and incorporated into children's free play. The items we are looking for will enable us to enjoy a wider range of play experiences during playtime:

- * Suitcases of any size and type
- * Anything on wheels/casters
- * Plastic milk crates/supermarket delivery crates/bread trays
- * Briefcases, especially hard cased ones
- * Road signs and cones
- * Kitchen pots, pans, baking trays, work tables, wooden spoons, chopping boards
- * Tools like small spades/shovels, trowels and brooms
- * Tubes of various sizes and various materials
- * Buckets, nets and thick ropes
- * Keyboards/torches/laptops/calculators/mobile phones/desk phones/webcams/cameras that are no longer working
- * Fabric (large sheets/brightly coloured fabric)
- * Foam sheets/bodyboards/camping roll mats/yoga mats
- * Wooden pallets, metal frames, cable drums, guttering
- * Hats, scarves, jazzy shirts/elasticated skirts, waistcoats, character costumes
- * Pegs (to help to set up dens)

There will be more information to follow at a parent's session when you will be invited to come and play with your children. We are really excited about this project and hope that you will support us in our efforts to improve playtime for all children.

Attendance

As we start the new term, we wanted to send a reminder about the importance of good attendance in school. Regular attendance is important as it supports learning and the development of social skills, building habits that are essential for adult life.

Our aim is that most children will achieve 96% attendance or above. If a child's absence falls below 90%, they are deemed to be 'persistently absent' and parents will be receiving a letter from the school following Essex guidance. Please note the letters are written by the local authority and not the school.

While we appreciate that holidays outside of school time are cheaper, please book these trips within school holiday periods to ensure that your child has regular attendance. Any holidays impact attendance and will be unauthorised by the school.

Our whole school attendance for the autumn term was below the national average. As always, we are keen to work closely with our families to ensure clear communication and support is offered on this key issue, so please come and talk to us.

Children should be attending school every day. Your child can only miss school if they are too ill to attend or school have given advance permission.

Just a reminder that our school doors open at 8.35am and all children need to be in school by 8.45am, when learning begins.

Letters sent home this week

- * Online support group information - You are not alone - via email to all children.
- * Cross Country letter to selected Year 3 and 4 children - paper copy.
- * Link to Parent OPAL survey - via email to all children.