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## Message from the Head

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have come to the end of a very busy half term, and I hope you are looking forward to next week as an opportunity to relax with your families.

Last week we welcomed OFSTED at our school, I am very grateful to everyone who took the time to speak to the inspectors and I look forward to sharing the report with you when I receive it.

You may have seen in the news that the Department of Education has announced that our school is one of the schools that will be having building work undertaken as part of the 'School Rebuilding Programme'. I would like to reassure the school community that mitigation work was undertaken at the beginning of the school year and any immediate risk has been mitigated. However, the government has stated that all RAAC now needs to be removed, we await the visit from the department and I will update you as soon as I am able to.

Two weeks ago, we also had a Peer Review of our school conducted by three local Headteachers. The process was positive one in which they provided useful feedback, and as a credit to our school, also commented on how well our children engaged in their learning.

Unfortunately, over the last week I have been contacted by numerous parents, carers and our local community regarding the antisocial behaviour of a minority of our pupils. This behaviour is unacceptable and I would like to remind Parents and Carers that the gates do not open until 8.35am. A few of our pupils are congregating before 8am and behaving in an unsafe and abusive manner. Please may I ask that you are aware of where your children are and what they are doing, particularly before school starts.

After half term we will be moving to our new school menu, a copy of which is attached to this newsletter. The children contributed to the menu choices through our School Parliament and we hope there will be some new and old favourites for your children to enjoy.

We are pleased to announce the launch of our new online payment system 'Schoolcomms'. This system will go live on Monday 19th February and an invitation has been scheduled for you via e-mail on Monday 19th February at 9.00am. Please access the email and click on school gateway link to complete your information, request a pin and activate your account. Please keep a note of your pin number for future reference. (If you wish to change your pin number, once registered, please access settings to change). After registering, we encourage you to download the School Gateway App from the App store for easier access.

From Monday 4th March, this system will be used to book your child/children on to breakfast and after-school club. Please book your children's place via the app from from this time, as the current booking through the wraparound link will no longer be available. **Booking through the new system is essential and can be made up to midday on the day of the session required.** This is to ensure there is space available and to ensure staffing numbers are within ratio.

**For the first week after half term only – please email any wraparound bookings to;**  
[wraparound@whitehallacademy.essex.sch.uk](mailto:wraparound@whitehallacademy.essex.sch.uk)

A local Charity 'Lads Need Dads' are currently recruiting Reading Mentors, I have attached further details to this newsletter for anyone who is interested.

Our Next Termly Learning Conferences are being held on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> March, you will be able to book a time with your child's class teacher via ClassDojo after half term. We hope to run a number of parent workshops on this day as well, please do let me know if there is anything in particular you would like to see. I hope to see you all there.

Kind regards

Mrs Eames  
Headteacher

### Remaining Non Pupil Days for 2023-2024

- **Wednesday 13th March 2024**
- **Friday 7th June 2024**

### School Dinners

Please see our school website for the New School Dinner Menu.

**w/c 26th February 2024**  
**Week 1**

## LATE CLUB/WRAPAROUND

If you would like to access the Wraparound Provision, please book a place, via the link:

[wraparound@whitehallacademy.essex.sch.uk](mailto:wraparound@whitehallacademy.essex.sch.uk) –**For the last week of February only.**

**For the week commencing 4th March you are able to book your sessions via the School Gateway App. Please ensure you have registered for this service.**

If you have already booked a place and you no longer require this, please ensure that you inform Wraparound by emailing, [Wraparound@whitehallacademy.essex.sch.uk](mailto:Wraparound@whitehallacademy.essex.sch.uk).

## ATTENDANCE

**The school gates open at 8:35am and registration takes place at 8:45am.**

We have noticed an increasing number of pupils arriving late for school; Please note that all children are required to be in class for 8.45am ready for registration, after this time your child will need to register at the school office and will be marked as late.

We will be introducing an electronic sign in system shortly and hope this will speed up late registration.

Please note that if your child is absent from school, it is your responsibility to contact the school by telephoning the office, in accordance with our Attendance Policy and Absence Procedures, by 9am. We thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

# WEEK 1



MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Freshly Prepared Minced Beef Pasta Bolognese <b>(G)</b> Served with Garlic Bread <b>(G)(D)</b> & a Mixed Leaf Salad	Sticky Chicken Served with Savoury rice and Corn on the Cob	Roast Beef, Yorkshire Pudding <b>(G)(D)(E)</b> served with Roast Potatoes, Broccoli, Carrots and Gravy <b>(G)(C)</b>	Pork & Carrot Meatballs <b>(Y)</b> served with Penne Pasta <b>(G)</b> and Green Beans	Fish Fillet <b>(G)(F)</b> served with Crispy Chips, Baked Beans and Garden Peas
Freshly Prepared Minced Quorn Pasta Bolognese <b>(G) (E)</b> Served with Garlic Bread <b>(G)(D)</b> & a Mixed Leaf Salad	Thai Vegetable Noodles <b>(G)</b> (Peppers, spring onions, green beans, peas, tofu all served with a Thai sauce entwined with Noodles)	Macaroni Cheese <b>(G)(D)</b> Served with Garlic Bread Slice <b>(G)(D)</b> , Carrot & Cucumber Sticks	Smoky Sausage and Mushroom Goulash Served with Penne Pasta <b>(G)</b>	Cheese and Tomato Whirl <b>(G)(D)</b> served with Crispy Chips and a Side Salad
Jacket potato with Cheese <b>(D)</b> and Beans with a side salad garnish	Jacket potato with Tuna <b>(F)</b> Mayonnaise <b>(E)</b> and Sweetcorn with a side salad garnish	Jacket Potato with Chicken Mayonnaise <b>(E)</b> and Sweetcorn with a side salad garnish	Jacket potato with Tuna <b>(F)</b> Mayonnaise <b>(E)</b> and sweetcorn with a side salad garnish	Jacket potato with Cheese and Beans served with a side salad garnish
Yoghurt <b>(D)</b> or Fresh Fruit Selection (Orange Wedges, Apple Wedges & Grapes)	Apple Crumble <b>(G) (D) (E)</b> served with Custard <b>(D)</b>	Yoghurt <b>(D)</b> or Fresh Fruit Selection	Iced Sponge <b>(G)(D)(S)(E)</b> topped with Sprinkles	Fresh Fruit Selection (Watermelon, Pineapple, Grapes, Orange Wedges, Apple Wedges)

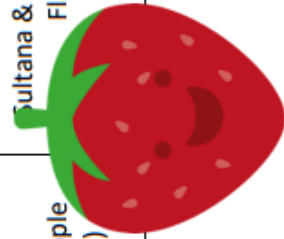
This menu shows the allergens contained in each dish, as listed below. These are a guideline only as production occurs in an open plan kitchen. If your child has any severe allergies, or intolerances please contact the school office.

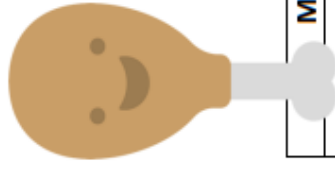
Key: Gluten (G) Crustaceans (R), Soyabean (S) Mustard (M) Sesame (A) Sulphite/Sulphur Dioxide (Y), Milk/Dairy (D) Fish (F) Egg (E), Peanuts (P) Molluscs (O) Celeriac/Celery (C), Nuts (N) Lupins (L)

# WEEK 2



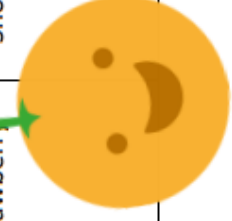
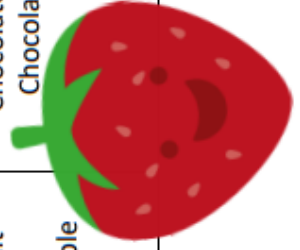
MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Cheese, Tomato and Pepperoni Pizza served with Fresh Potato Wedges and Side salad	Chicken and Sweet Potato Curry served with fluffy Mixed Rice and a Slice of Naan Bread	Roast Gammon with Crushed Roasted New Potatoes	Tangy Minced Beef Lasagne served with a Mixed Salad	Fish Fingers served with Crispy Chips, Peas or Baked Beans
Cheese and Tomato Pizza served with Fresh Potato Wedges and Side salad	Sweet Potato and Chickpea Curry served with fluffy Mixed Rice and a Slice of Naan Bread	Quorn Pattie in a Bun with Shredded Lettuce and Mayonnaise (v)	Lentil Lasagne served with a Mixed Salad	Veggie Finger Wrap Served with Crispy Chips and Side Salad
Jacket potato with Cheese and Beans with a side salad garnish	Jacket Potato with Tuna Mayonnaise with a side salad garnish	Jacket Potato with Chicken Mayonnaise with a side salad garnish	Jacket Potato with Cheese and Beans with a side salad garnish	Jacket Potato with Tuna Mayonnaise, Cheese or Beans with a side salad garnish
Yoghurt or Fresh fruit Selection (Orange Wedges, Apple Wedges & Grapes)	Sultana & Pumpkin Seed Flapjack	Strawberry Angel Delight	American Pancakes served with Mixed Summer Fruits or Syrup	Fresh Fruit Selection (Watermelon, Pineapple, Grapes, Orange Wedges, Apple Wedges)





**WEEK 3**

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Beef Burger in a Bun served with Jacket Potato Wedges and Mixed Salad	Tangy Burrito's served with traffic light couscous	Freshly Roasted Chicken served with Roast Potatoes, Carrots, Garden Peas, and Gravy.	Cottage Pie served with Steamed Broccoli and Gravy.	Chunky Fish Cake served with Crispy Chips, Garden Peas or Baked Beans
Veggie Burger in a Bun served with Jacket Potato Wedges and Mixed Salad	Feta Cheese and Sweet Potato Enchilada served with traffic light couscous	Quorn Roast served with Roast Potatoes, Carrots, Garden Peas, and Gravy.	Roasted Vegetable Tart with Cheese Topping, Fresh Jacket Potato Wedges & a Side Salad	Quorn Dippers served with Crispy Chips, Garden Peas or baked Beans
Jacket Potato with Cheese and Beans with a side salad garnish	Jacket Potato with Tuna Mayonnaise with a side salad garnish	Jacket Potato with Chicken Mayonnaise with a side salad garnish	Jacket Potato with Tuna Mayonnaise and Sweetcorn salad garnish	Jacket Potato with Tuna Mayonnaise, Cheese or Beans with a side salad garnish
Yoghurt or Fresh Fruit Selection (Orange Wedges, Apple Wedges & Grapes)	Chocolate Pudding & Chocolate Custard	Artic Roll with Strawberry Sauce	Shortbread with an Apple Wedge	Fresh Fruit Selection (Watermelon, Pineapple, Grapes, Orange Wedges, Apple Wedges)





# MEN, COULD YOU DONATE TIME TO BE A Reading mentor?

## WHY WE NEED YOU

- 1.1 Million children in the UK are growing up with little or no contact with their father (CSJ 2018)
- 2.9 Million children are raised in lone parent families (ONS 2019)
- Boys fall considerably behind girls in reading abilities throughout their school life
- Boys are a 1/3 less likely to go to University than girls
- Boys have been falling behind girls in GCSE's for three decades
- Boys who see their father read for 30 mins a day read more than boys who never see their father read
- Boys from homes where a father is absent are at a greater risk of under achieving in school



"He loves reading, he loves his mentor, he looks forward to their sessions, he appreciates the time he is given by his mentor who volunteers. Thank you for everything - it has been life changing for my son". - Mother.

"Since reading with x weekly, I have noticed the profound impact it has had on his behaviour during sessions, and from the feedback I receive from teachers. x has disclosed his new ability to manage his anger and not react on impulse to situations. x is now able to talk about how he feels to diffuse situations at school and at home.". - Mentor

"Mum talked about the importance of her son having a male role model especially as she mentions that the school has only one male teacher, and she worries that he is in a very female 'world'. Knowing he has engaged well with a male mentor has been a relief for her". - Family Worker.

"The volunteers don't quite realise the impact they are having on these boys. They really have been strong role models. I know it's not just about the reading BUT to have a male read to them shows them that it's not a 'geeky' thing to do. Thank you". - Teacher.

Are you male, over 18 and live, study or work in the Tendring District? Could you commit two hours a week for three months, to read to a boy in a local school? If so, Lads Need Dads would love to hear from you.

Applicants will be subject to a DBS check.



Tel: 07834 402017

✉ info@ladsneeddads.org follow us  /ladsneeddads.org

[www.ladsneeddads.org](http://www.ladsneeddads.org)

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Colchester Road, Elmstead Market, Essex CO7 7EE

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# School Communication Flowchart

As a school, we value the communication that we have with our parents and carers—the following flowchart will help signpost the most appropriate person. It is a tiered approach which aims to support both parents and staff and support open and honest communication. We will endeavour to deal with any queries or concerns as quickly and effectively as possible, however there are occasions where staff roles determine how quickly that response may be, for example a Class Teacher may not be available until after the School day. Please be reassured that all staff will get back to you within a realistic timeframe.

Class Teacher	Office Staff
<p><b>Tier One</b></p> <p>Tier 1 should always be used as the first point of contact between families and school. The table below clarifies whether the communication requires the attention of your child's class teacher or the school office.</p> <p><b>The following queries are to be raised with your child's class teacher in the first instance.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Class events information, such as trips, PE etc—please check ClassDojo first.</li> <li>• Learning queries/concerns</li> <li>• Behaviour concerns/issues</li> <li>• Home / pastoral / friendship concerns</li> </ul>	<p><b>The following queries can be dealt with directly through the office (either by email, phone or in person.)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reporting a child's absence.</li> <li>• Requesting a leave of absence</li> <li>• Payment enquiries</li> <li>• Medication / injuries (You will be passed through to the Medical Room)</li> <li>• Appointments</li> <li>• School events—please check the school story on ClassDojo first.</li> </ul>

Teachers are available most days after school. You can also message via ClassDojo.

If the matter is urgent, please contact the office and they will get a message to the teacher.

We appreciate these lists are not exhaustive. If you are unsure of who to contact the office will be able to help you.





## Tier Two

If further support is required, the following members of staff are available to support in their specific areas as detailed below. You can contact the following members of staff through the school office, via email or via ClassDojo.

Phase Leaders	Miss Watts Pastoral Lead	Mrs Pearce Lead SENCO	Mr Emms Assistant Headteacher
Escalated teaching and learning concerns. Initial complaints regarding teaching and learning. EYFS—Mrs Cole; Years 3 & 4—Mrs Grandtnerova; Years 1 & 2— Miss Leach; Years 5 & 6—Miss Harvey;	Escalated Pastoral Concerns, or referral from Class teacher.	Escalated SEND Concerns. Initial complaints regarding SEND. Ongoing SEND correspondence	Escalated concerns regarding behaviour.



## Tier Three

Having followed this flow chart through Tier one and two, if a matter needs further attention, it can be brought to the Headteacher or Deputy Headteacher. This can be organised through the school office or directly via ClassDojo.

### Mrs Eames(Head teacher) or Mrs MacNaughtan (Deputy Headteacher)

In addition to concerns escalated through Tier One & Two, the following queries can be raised directly with the Headteacher or Deputy Headteacher.

- Issues relating to Safeguarding
- Issues regarding significant poor behaviour outside of school



## Tier Four

Whilst we hope to resolve any matters through tiers One to Three, if the unfortunate situation arises where you are still not satisfied—our Chair of Governors is available for further support.

### Mr Davenport (Chair of Governors)

To contact Mr Davenport, please write a letter, care of the office marked as private & confidential. Please refer to the school complaints policy.