



Newsletter 3 – 25th September 2026

Headteacher: Mrs Tina Bourne Deputy Headteacher: Mrs Helen Ford

A big thank you to parents and carers that supported our first Coffee Morning on Friday!

Whether you came in person or dropped a donation through the QR code on your way to work, every single pound has already reached Macmillan Cancer Support. The total so far from contributions is £193, I will leave the JustGiving fundraising page open for another week should you wish to contribute. I plan to hold one coffee morning each half term, so look out for the next date in November.

IMPORTANT: You may be aware that Benedict's Law came into force on 1st September 2026. The measures were developed following the death of five-year-old Benedict Blythe, who died from anaphylaxis at school in 2021. We have already put new measures in place regarding allergen identification, staff training, ordering meals on the app and food service. Our Governing Board met on Tuesday and considered further measures to keep children with allergies and intolerances safe in school – therefore from Monday 28th September, we will not permit birthday sweets, treats or cakes from home to be given out on the school premises to pupils. We do have pupils that have prescribed auto-injector pens and considerable food intolerances – here is a link to the Benedict Blythe Foundation <https://benedictblythe.com/benedicts-law/> if you would like to learn more about this very important legislation.

Wishing you a happy and positive weekend.

Tina Bourne

AUTUMN TERM DATES

Autumn Term 1

03/09/26 – 23/10/26

Half Term: 26-30 October

Autumn Term 2

03/11/26 – 18/12/26

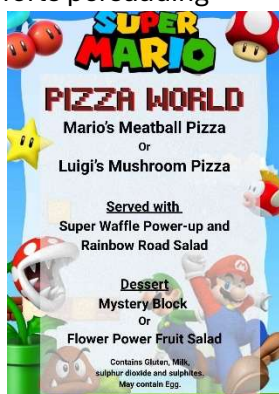
Non-Pupil Days for the year:

2nd Nov, 4th Jan, 21st July

- Tue 29 Sept, 10.45 – 11.30am
Harvest Festival @ St Barnabas, parents welcome
- Thu 1 Oct, Super Mario Lunch !
- Wed 14 & Thu 15 Oct, Parents' Evening, 3.30-6.30pm
- Thu 15 Oct, Individual pupil photo
- Tue 20 Oct, OHSA AGM in school
- Fri 23 Oct, OHSA Halloween Disco

CENSUS DAY THEMED MENU

For Thursday 1st October we have now added a Jacket Potato option. Many thanks to parents who have gone to great efforts persuading their children to take a school lunch on this day. It really helps us with our funding !



Please bring a tin for Harvest Festival on Tuesday 29th October 10.45am

St Barnabas Church and Father Erwin are kindly hosting our school Harvest Festival assembly. Pupils and staff will use the back gate access to church thus avoiding a walk on the narrow pavement. Parents please enter the church from Abbots Road. With 7 classes and staff, there is limited standing room for parents so please leave buggies at home.

Children should bring in a contribution on Monday if possible, all donations will be collected by Colchester Foodbank. See the poster below for items needed.



**TELL THE TRUTH & SHOW RESPECT
THINK OF OTHERS AND TRY OUR BEST**



The fundraising page is open for another week, please use QR code or this website to donate <https://shorturl.at/lGKO3>

No nuts, peanut butter or Nutella for snacks or in lunchboxes please

**We are a
NUT AWARE SCHOOL**



School Council Meeting

Ideas wanted!

Miss Pudney was delighted this week with our new School Councillors. After the first meeting, the councillors went back to class to get ideas about:

- Winter menu options
- Reward for class with the best attendance

Children are working on these thoughts now and reporting back to councillors.

Reminders ...

- **Allergies** – please ensure when ordering school lunches that you order the appropriate allergen free lunch if your child has an allergy.
- **Pre-order school lunches** on the app. We cannot order for your child, due to allergen control plus we don't want to generate a negative balance. Even if your child receives Free School Meals you must pre-order a meal
- **Absences** - please notify the office of appointments in advance and provide evidence, eg hospital letter, screenshot of appointment
- **Halal/Kosher** – the school does not follow halal or kosher cooking/kitchen storage

Lunchtime Recital

Another partnership we have recently been pleased to be part of is highlighting the fine sound of The Moot Hall organ. Three pupils enjoyed a lunchtime recital at the Town Hall. The Colchester Organist showed the girls how to play Mission Impossible and learn more about the construction of this magnificent instrument.



2027 SECONDARY SCHOOL PLACES OPEN NOW !

If you have a child in Y6, you will need to apply for a Y7 place **before 31 October 2026.**

Use this link to read about priority admissions areas and find the link for the application form <https://www.essex.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/schools/admissions/secondary-school-places>
Don't leave it until the last minute. If you need any help, then please ask in the school office.

Individual Healthcare Plans

Mrs Bourne is meeting with parents of children with **diagnosed allergies or medical conditions**, to review existing Individual Healthcare Plans or initiate a new one. These meetings can take place in person, or via Teams. Mrs Bourne will send an invite and all meetings will take place this half term. This will ensure school records are up to date and any necessary adjustments put in place for your child.

Lego® For Schools

We have registered Old Heath for this competition. Collect tokens in xxx newspapers from Monday 28th September and we may win some Lego® prizes for our school! Hand tokens to the school office.



BEST ATTENDANCE

Week ending 18 Sept

EARLY YEARS

99.5%



WEEKLY AWARDS

Week ending 18 Sept

GOLDEN AWARDS

EY – Josie
Year 1 – Elsie R
Year 2 – Aurora
Year 3 – Leo
Year 4 – Emmie
Year 5 – William
Year 6 – Fox

OLD HEATH HEART AWARD

EY & KS1 – Arlo EY
KS2 – Renae Y6