



Newsletter 4 – 2nd October 2026

Headteacher: Mrs Tina Bourne Deputy Headteacher: Mrs Helen Ford

Dear Parents and Carers

This has been a joyous week in and outside of school. We took our harvest offerings over to St Barnabas on Tuesday morning and listened carefully to the words spoken by Father Erwin. The church community have given us such a warm welcome and it was delightful to see all the pews full of children clutching their tins, boxes and packets of food. Every child brought their own gifts onto the altar, which made an impressive display at the end. The season of Harvest is a time of plenty and it is good to remember where our food comes from and to be thankful. Our assembly theme this week has been 'Think of Others', children have explored the meaning of compassion and empathy. Then we had Super Mario day, see the Report and photos below!

Overleaf you can read a report on our recent Governing Board Meeting, which will keep you up to date on school improvement.

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

- Wed 14 & Thu 15 Oct, Parents' Evening, 3.30-6.00pm
- Thu 15 Oct, Individual pupil photos
- Tue 20 Oct, OHSA AGM in school
- Fri 23 Oct, OHSA Pumpkin Carving competition
- Fri 23 Oct, OHSA Halloween Disco



Super Mario Themed Lunch

Children enjoyed delicious Mario Meatball and Luigi Mushroom Pizzas on Thursday. There was much excitement in the dinner hall! Thank you to Ms Creed for decorating the hall and making the day really special.

Our next themed menu will be for Chinese New Year, until then our catering team will be busy with the new Winter Menu options and preparing for Christmas dinner day (who mentioned Christmas already?)

Harvest Festival Assembly



We filled St Barnabas church on Tuesday with standing room only for parents at the back at our Harvest Festival Assembly. Father Erwin talked about compassion and thinking of others at this time of year. Pupils were respectful and sang two cheery harvest songs. Our boxes of harvest donations will be collected by Colchester Foodbank next week. Thanks to your generosity many Colchester families will be able to enjoy extra food in the coming weeks.

GOOD
NEIGHBOUR

**PLEASE PARK
CONSIDERATELY**

**DO NOT BLOCK
FOOTPATHS
& DRIVEWAYS**

THANK YOU

As a community school we want to build good relationships with our neighbours. Please do park with consideration so our neighbours can access their driveways.

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

**We are a
NUT AWARE SCHOOL**



News In Brief

- **School Councillors** received their new school council badges in assembly
- **Early Years parents** can purchase the Colchester Gazette newspaper this Tuesday 6th to see a photo our Early Years class
- Parents please **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 for you. **Even if your child receives Free School Meals you must pre-order a meal**



The recent Coffee Morning raised £213 for charity. Thank you.

On this day in History ...

3rd October 1940, the Old Heath Laundry Raid was recorded as the moment Colchester suffered its first civilian losses of the war. Three people died in the bombs dropped on the Distillery Lane laundry and two people on Scarlett's Road.

Tragically, the same plane bombed Northampton earlier in the day and a former pupil of Old Heath School was killed. The pupil was an evacuee in Northampton and her name is commemorated in St Barnabas Church next door.

Coming Soon ...



All KS2 pupils will receive a login for Times Tables Rock Stars soon.

Let the battle commence !

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

An Update from Your Governing Board

Dear Parents and Carers,

The school's Governing Board met on Tuesday 22nd September 2026 to:

- Elect the Governing Board for the new academic year.
- Review the first few weeks of the school year and ensure that pupils and staff have settled in well.

We began the meeting by electing our new Chair and Vice Chair of Governors and welcoming two new Parent Governors to the Board.

Your Governing Board:

- Mrs E Askew – Chair of Governors
- Mrs C Corbett – Vice Chair of Governors
- Mrs H Ford
- Mrs T Bourne
- Mrs K Fitzgibbon
- Mrs L Herbert
- Mr B Wills
- Mrs E Todd

The Board would like to say a huge thank you to all our families and staff for welcoming Mrs Bourne to our school community so warmly and for embracing the new academic year with your usual enthusiasm and support.

During the meeting, our main discussions focused on the School Development Plan (SDP). The Headteacher presented the new SDP and talked the Board through its five key priorities, including the actions that will be taken to achieve them.

The Board also discussed the important role governors play in supporting and monitoring the School Development Plan. A clear plan was agreed to ensure that governors can effectively challenge, support and monitor progress, helping to ensure that our pupils continue to receive the best possible support, care and education.

We look forward to working closely with our staff, pupils and families throughout the year and will continue to keep you updated on the work of the Governing Board.

With best wishes,
Your Governing Board

Parents' Evening – 14 & 15 Oct

This year appointments will be made online and you will receive a link to click on early next week. You need to know the date of birth of your child to access the app. Appointments are 10 minute slots.

We are holding parents evening in the school hall for all classes, where there will new school lunch choices for you to sample at the same time.

**BEST
ATTENDANCE**

*Week ending 25
Sept*

EARLY YEARS

100%

WEEKLY AWARDS

Week ending 25 Sept

GOLDEN AWARDS

EY – Rory
Year 1 – Jesse
Year 2 – Ada
Year 3 – Tommy
Year 4 – Bryn
Year 5 – Cerys
Year 6 – Arabella

OLD HEATH HEART AWARD

EY & KS1 – Georgie – Y1
KS2 – Ephphatha – Y5