

2nd October 2026

Harvest Festival



What a fantastic Harvest celebration we have enjoyed this week! Our Key Stage 2 children visited St Mary's Church for a wonderful Harvest Festival, celebrating this special time of year together. The children sang beautifully and represented our school brilliantly. I was genuinely proud to be a part of Great Bentley Primary School as the children represented us so well.

A huge thank you to all our families for your incredibly generous food donations. Your contributions will be donated to Colchester Foodbank, helping to support families in our local community. We are extremely grateful for your kindness and generosity. Once we receive the certificate I will share in kilograms what we were able to achieve! Our Key Stage 1 children also enjoyed their own special Harvest assembly at school, led by Mrs Eastbrook, giving them the opportunity to celebrate and reflect on the importance of being thankful and helping others.

Have a wonderful weekend!

Mr Wilkinson

Phonics Information Evening

We are holding a Phonics Information Evening on Thursday 8th October starting at 3:30 in the school hall. Please come through the doors by the hall from the playground and we will be signing parents in. The purpose of the meeting is to inform you of our new phonics scheme: Little Wandle and hopefully answer any questions that you might have about how the scheme works and our intentions around phonics teaching. This is open to parents in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2.

Non Uniform Day

On Friday 16th October the school are taking part in "Show Racism the Red Card" to stand up against racism. Children are invited to wear red if possible. They will have activities in class that will help to understand the importance of standing up against racism. We are asking that children bring donations for the present room. Please see the poster below from the PTA that shares more information about this.

Secondary Application

Make sure you get your secondary school applications in by 31st October 2026 as this is the deadline,.

NSPCC

We will be delivering some NSPCC (National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children) assemblies over the next couple of weeks. We wanted to provide you with some more information about this.

I am pleased to inform you that we are participating in the **NSPCC's *Speak out. Stay safe. Programme*** this half term. This is a programme for children aged 5-11 which aims to help children understand and recognise the signs of the different types of abuse. Children are taught to speak out if they are worried, either to a safe adult or Childline.

This child friendly, age-appropriate programme is fully aligned with the curriculum and consists of a short film and supporting classroom-based activities which we have reviewed. The content is delivered in an engaging and interactive way.

Parent Conduct

We have wonderful and supportive parent body and we know that our strongest outcomes for children come when school and families work together positively. We welcome questions and concerns and will always endeavour to listen and help. In return, we ask that conversations with all members of our school community remain calm, respectful and courteous, even when there may be differences of opinion.

Our Eco Council

2MJ- Tala-Rose and Eliza

2KR- Rupert and Anika

Year 3 – Edward and Isla

Year 4 – Cece and Felix

Year 5 – Elijah and Max G

Year 6 – Poppy and Jessica and Florence

Dates for the Diary

06.10.26 - AJS whole school individual pupil photos
 16.10.26 - Show Racism the Red Card
 21.10.26- EYFS walkaround for Sept 2027/28 (2)
 3.11.26 - Little City visit for Reception
 09.11.26 – Flu Immunisation
 09.11.26 - Parents' Evening (Booking information to follow)
 10.11.26-Year 6 Crucial Crew
 11.11.26 - Parents' Evening (Booking information to follow)
 18.11.26 - Penny Race
 21.11.26-EYFS Sept 27/28 Open Morning
 25.11.26-EYFS walkaround for Sept 27/28 (3)
 27.11.26-Non-pupil day
 10.12.26-School Christmas Lunch
 11.12.26-Carol Service 9.30 Yr5-6, 10.30 Yr 3-4 (further details to follow)
 14.12.26-Flu Immunisation mop-up
 15.12.26-Rec & Yr 6 NHS height & weight (further details to follow)
 17.12.26-iRock concert 2.30pm
 18.12.26-Last day of term

MENU FOR NEXT WEEK

Next week, we will be on week 2 of the current menu. Please remember to discuss the menu with your child so that they know what they will be ordering at register time each day or whether they have a packed lunch. Meals are charged at £2.49 each for all KS2 children (unless eligible for Free School meals) and payable on Arbor.



Menu - Mon 13th April 2026 to Fri 23rd October 2026

WEEK 2

weeks beginning: - 27th Apr, 18th May, 15th Jun 6th Jul, 14th Sept, 5th Oct

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Hot Dinner	Fish fingers & mash	Jacket potato with cheese, beans, tuna	Sausage roll & wedges	Roast gammon with new potatoes & Yorkshire pudding	Chicken nuggets & chips
Vegetarian/Vegan Hot Dinner	Veggie fingers & mash	Jacket potato with cheese, beans	Quorn sausage roll & wedges	Quorn sausage with new potatoes & Yorkshire pudding	Vegetable nuggets & chips
Alternative Option	Jacket potato	Ham or cheese roll	Jacket potato	Gammon or cheese roll	Jacket potato
Served with	Peas, sweetcorn, baked beans, fresh bread & salad bar	Baked beans, spaghetti hoops, sweetcorn & Salad bar	Sweetcorn, baked beans, spaghetti hoops, fresh bread & salad bar	Carrots, peas, sweetcorn, baked beans & salad bar	Sweetcorn, baked beans, spaghetti hoops, fresh bread & salad bar
Dessert	Lemon cake	Fresh fruit	Ice pole	~~Apple~~ roll	Chocolate brownie

All meals are served with apple juice or water

The salad bar is available daily including lettuce, cucumber, tomatoes, carrot sticks, peppers, coleslaw, sweetcorn & cold pasta

Fresh fruit is available daily including orange, banana, apple, kiwi & melon

CELEBRATING WITH YOU

Congratulations to Maximus who last weekend gained his Purple Belt in Kickboxing showing great strength, determination and resilience.



On Sunday Zack Denmead-Martin achieved his purple belt in martial arts after his first ever grading, progressing from his white belt. He started martial arts a few months ago and has been putting in lots of effort and practice and has done so well.

FRIENDS OF GREAT BENTLEY PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS

The PTA are looking for donations of unwanted wrapping paper. If you have any spare, please leave them in the office foyer. Thank you in advance.

PTA AGM Meeting 22nd October 6pm @ school

Our PTA AGM is coming up! If you've ever thought about getting involved, we'd love for you to come along and find out a little more about what we do. There's no commitment to join, just come along, meet the team, hear about our plans and see how you could get involved in whatever way works for you.

- 16th October 'Show racism the red card' own clothes day, wear something red and bring in a gift for the present room (poster attached)
- 3rd November Little City for Reception classes
- 18th November Penny Race – details to follow
- 8th Dec EYFS & KS1 Crafternoon 2-3pm
- 9th Dec KS2 Crafternoon 2-3pm

SHOW RACISM THE RED CARD

FRIDAY 16TH OCTOBER

We are taking part in Show Racism the Red Card to stand up against racism and to celebrate a school community where everyone is valued, respected and included.



Children can come to school in their own clothes on this day, wearing something **red**.



DONATIONS FOR OUR PRESENT ROOM

On the same day, we are also asking for donations of new, unused gifts for our school **Present Room**.

The Present Room is a special PTA event where children can choose a gift for family members at a small cost, helping them experience the joy of giving at Christmas.



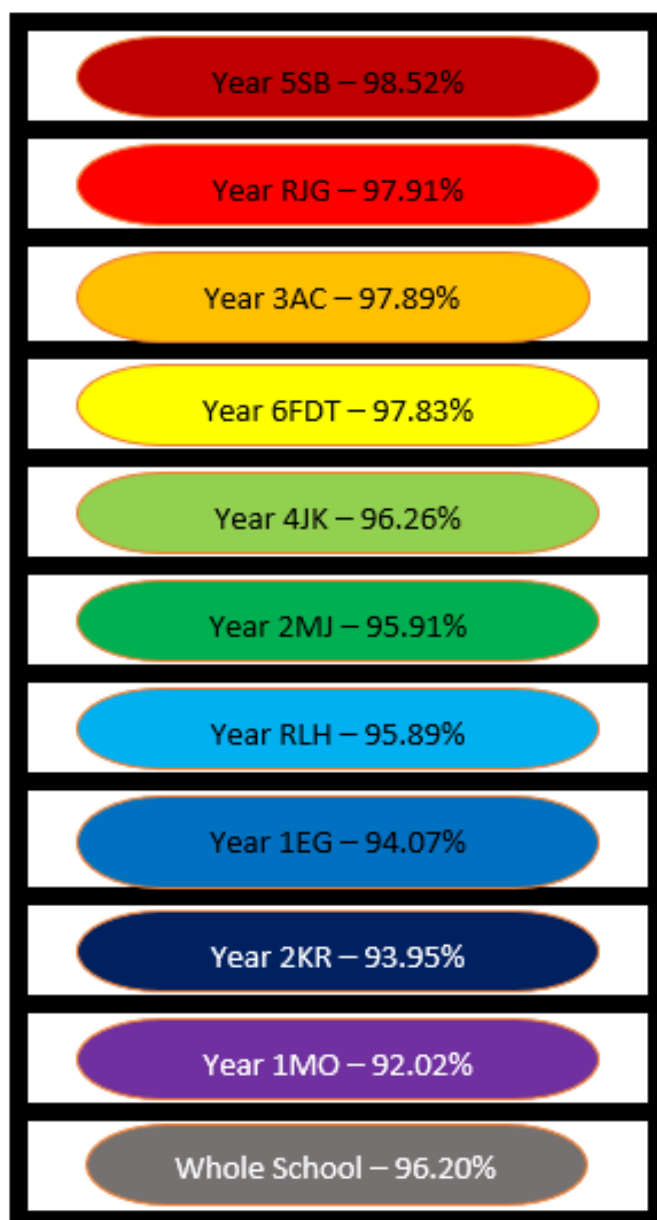
WE ARE LOOKING FOR:

- ♥ New, unused gifts
- ♥ Suitable for adults, teenagers and children
- ♥ Toiletries (e.g. shower sets, hand cream, fragrance)
- ♥ Candles
- ♥ Chocolates and treats
- ♥ Mugs, games, toys
- ♥ Stationery and gift sets

Thank you ♥
for your support!

ATENDANCE MATTERS

This Weeks Attendance Leader Board





SPACE

SPACE offers free support to families of children and young people with SEND.

Delivered by peer educators – all parents and carers with lived experience.

Get support your way:

-  **in person** – meet us at Local Offer roadshows, coffee mornings, and community events
-  **by phone** – talk one-to-one with a peer educator
-  **online** – join webinars on key topics, led by peer educators
-  **on the SPACE website** – find helpful info and guidance anytime



Book your place for an online session, or a phone call today!

parent-send-support.essex.gov.uk



Did you know/Fun Fact for the week?

The UK has a coastline stretching 7,723 miles.