



Perryfields Junior School

The Friday Flyer

Week 33 – June 2025

Headteacher's Message

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a fantastic week we've had at Perryfields!

On Monday, our Year 3 pupils set off on their summer school trip to Chatham Green, where they enjoyed a wide range of nature-based activities including den building, pond dipping, and outdoor exploration. The children fully embraced the experience and returned with big smiles and wonderful memories. A huge thank you to our parent volunteers and staff for your time, energy and enthusiasm—it was a brilliant day all round.

Our Year 6 athletes did us proud this week at the interschool field events, showing great determination and team spirit. Many achieved personal bests, and their perseverance and sportsmanship were a joy to witness. Well done to all involved.

More football success! Perryfields clinched a 1-0 victory with a goal scored in the very last minutes of the match! The team fought tirelessly from start to finish, battling both the heat and a strong opposition. It was a brilliantly played game and a thoroughly deserved result. We believe this win secures their place in the county finals – well done, team!

Later in the week, we were pleased to welcome Essex Fire and Rescue into school to deliver Cyber Safety and Knife Crime Awareness workshops to our Year 6 pupils. These important sessions were informative, engaging, and very well received. We are grateful to the team for their time and expertise.

Year 6 have also been giving back to the community by visiting the local pre-school throughout the week to read with younger children. It has been lovely to see their confidence shine as they built connections and shared stories—they've done a wonderful job.

A big thank you goes to Mrs Rooney for organising a hugely enjoyable and meaningful National Festival of Fieldwork Day. As part of this event, Perryfields joined the National Education Nature Park, a scheme that encourages schools to enhance their natural environments. Our pupils spent the day collecting data about the 'view from their window' and used their findings to design improvements to make the space greener and more welcoming for people, plants, insects and animals. It was an inspiring and thoughtful day of learning—well done, everyone!

Finally, I want to say how incredibly proud I am of our School Council. Earlier this year, they wrote to me asking if they could raise funds for an outdoor water fountain. They planned and led a fundraising event back in April and, thanks to their hard work and persistence, we now have a brand-new water dispenser in the upper school playground. What a brilliant achievement! I am also thrilled to announce that we successfully raised £1,253 during our Inflatable Day! This tremendous effort reflects the wonderful support from our school community, and I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to each of you for your contributions and participation. The funds raised will be directed towards the much-anticipated forest renovations scheduled for the next academic year. These improvements will provide our children with an enhanced outdoor learning environment, fostering both creativity and exploration.

Wishing you all a restful and enjoyable weekend.

Samantha Edwards

Pupil of the Week

Cowell: Yuvin
Seuss: Aanya
Walliams: Jude
Lewis: Sophie
Dahl: Grace R
Rowling: Kai
Tolkien: Isabelle
Morpurgo: Aarav
Pullman: Ajay

Award for
Outstanding Manners
Isabella – Dahl Class
Reyansh – Morpurgo Class

PE Award
Football A Team

Spellers Award
Cowell Class

Mrs Siddall's Attendance Award
Cowell & Seuss Class – 100%

ATTENDANCE

The national expectation for attendance is 96%. The government has clarified the position regarding the term 'regular' attendance. It means children must be in school **EVERY DAY**. Every second counts at Perryfields. We **must** work together to improve attendance and punctuality even more.

Year 3	99.5%
Year 4	95.4%
Year 5	96.6%
Year 6	97%



Coming Up This Term So Far!

Tuesday 17 th June	Choir Performing at the Civic Theatre – email sent
Thursday 19 th June	Sports Day – email sent
Tuesday 24 th June	Year 5 Trip Food & Farming. Please make payment through your ScoPay account
Thursday 26 th June	Transition Day plus Exhibition Afternoon – email sent
Monday 30 th June	Parenting with Confidence session in hall @ 3.30pm – email sent. Please complete form to confirm your attendance
Friday 4 th July	Year 6 Bikability starts – email sent
Friday 11 th July	House Charity Fundraising Day – details to follow
Monday 14 th July	Year 6 End of Year Performance – details to follow
Tuesday 15 th July	Year 6 End of Year Performance – details to follow
Thursday 17 th July	Year 6 End of Year BBQ – details to follow
Tuesday 22 nd July	End of Year Performance – details to follow
Tuesday 22 nd July	School Finishes at 1.30pm

Please see below NEW menu for the Summer Term!

Please note that we can also provide a packed lunch if your child would prefer this. This will be either the baguette, wrap or soft roll and also includes a drink, fruit, biscuits or the dessert of the day.

Week: One

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	
Main course	Meat	Cheese & Tomato Baguette Pizza	Tuna,Cheese,Ham & Tuna + Sweetcorn Baguette	Roast Gammon Steak	Chicken Fajitas	Omega 3 Fish Fingers
	Vegetarian	Cheese & Tomato Baguette Pizza	As Above	Garlic and Herb Roast fillet	Mexican Bean Fajitas	Cheese Pinwheels
	Gluten Free	Gluten Free Pizza	Gluten Free Wraps	As Above	Chicken Fajitas	Gluten Free Fish Fingers
	Jacket Potato	Tuna & Cheese	Cheese & Beans	Beans & Tuna	Cheese & Tuna	Tuna,Cheese & Beans
	Side Dish	Coleslaw Potato Salad	Cucumber Raisins	Gravy	Couscous	Chips & Beans
	Vegetables	Sweetcorn Salad Bar	Salad Bar	Potato Slice Shredded cabbage cauliflower	Broccoli	Salad Bar
	Packed Lunch	Baguette (Tuna, Cheese or Ham)	Baguette (Tuna, Cheese or Ham)	Wrap (Tuna, Cheese or Ham)	Wrap (Tuna, Cheese or Ham)	Baguette (Tuna, Cheese or Ham)
	Dessert	Fresh Fruit Yoghurt	Victoria Sponge	Fresh Fruit Yoghurt	Jelly	Oat cookies
	Drinks	Water/Milk	Water/Milk	Water/Milk	Water/Milk	Water/Milk



Are you worried about your child travelling to secondary school on their own in September?
Is your child anxious about travelling to school by bus for the first time on their own?

Being able to travel independently is a key life skill.

Travel Training gives people with SEN or additional needs the confidence and skills to travel on buses and trains independently. We can also help with walking routes.

Anyone can refer using our online referral form, we aim to be in touch within 10 days.

www.travel-training.co.uk

Travel.training@essex.gov.uk

03330322872

Please take a look at our travel training video by clicking here: [Travel Training, The journey to independence - Essex County Council](#)



Children are using smart devices from a much younger age than ever before. It's why it's essential we talk to our children about how to use them safely. There are so many positive benefits to the new technology at our disposal these days - however there are plenty of downsides too. As a parent, it's important you understand these risks and how you can take steps to protect your family against them.

1 PUT YOURSELF IN CONTROL

Make use of the parental control settings available to you. With most devices, you're able to change the settings to control the content your child has access to. This isn't difficult to do, so you'll often find guidance in the instructions that come with the device. By setting a private pin-code on certain devices, you can make sure your child can only access it when you allow it.



2

PROTECTING ANDROID DEVICES



You can set up restricted users on Android tablets through a Google account. Open the settings menu (look for a cog icon) and select the 'Users' option. Here you can add a new restricted user. After setting up a password and username, select which applications you want to restrict access to. On an Android smartphone it's similar, but first select 'Parental Controls' in the play store.

3 PROTECTING APPLE DEVICES

For Apple devices, you can simply visit the preferences/settings menu and within 'General' there is an option for 'Restrictions'. Here you can turn off any applications or features on your child's device that you do not want them to have access to.



3

5

MAKE SEARCHING MUCH SAFER



Most search engines, such as Google, Bing or Yahoo, have a 'safe search' setting. You should activate this. Otherwise, it's extremely easy for a seemingly harmless search on the internet to return unexpected and inappropriate results. Depending on the browser you're using, go to the settings and search for 'safe search'. Make sure you save the change as it defaults each time you open the browser. This will seriously reduce the chances of your child being exposed to something they shouldn't be.

4



THINK ABOUT ALL YOUR SMART DEVICES

As well as tablets and smartphones, you should think about any device in your home connected to the internet: a games console, a media hub, or a personal computer. In each case you can usually find parental controls in the settings. Think carefully about how much access you want to allow your child, especially when it comes to accessing the internet.



**National
Online
Safety**
#WakeUpWednesday

9 Top Tips To Get Smart About children's devices

6

REGULARLY CHECK SOCIAL MEDIA SETTINGS



Before you allow your child to use social media, you should discuss the dangers with them. You should also make sure you're able to access their profile and privacy settings and check them regularly. The companies behind social media platforms often make privacy changes without making it very obvious to the user, such as Facebook's introduction of facial recognition software.

7

DON'T LET PEOPLE SEE WHERE YOU ARE



Location software sounds useful for seeing where your child is, but it also provides the opportunity for others to locate your child too. For safety, it's a good idea to disable location software on all devices or at least turn it off when it's not required. Also, be mindful of specific apps that record running routes or locations where your child might be playing a game. Talk to your child about why these can be dangerous and how to turn the setting on and off as required.

8 WATCH OUT FOR FAKE PROFILES

Sadly, social media presents an enormous opportunity for the likes of paedophiles to set up fake profiles and interact with children. Keep a track of the people your child interacts with on social media and if you do not recognise a user as a friend, consider blocking them.



9 KEEP A CHECK ON SCREEN TIME

Managing how much time we spend on screens is a real challenge for us all. It's critically important when it comes to children, especially younger children who are still developing. It's not just a case of setting arbitrary time limits. Guidelines published by The Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health suggests it's more important to consider the 'content and context' of what the screen is being used for. It is helpful to put limits on devices using 'Guided Access' functions, which you can find in the settings of certain devices.



Meet our expert

Emma Davis was a secondary school Computer Science teacher for more than a decade. Since leaving education, she has been working in a cyber security firm delivering cyber awareness training to businesses and carrying out network testing. She is a mother of a five-year-old, she's had vast experience of controlling and managing how children access online services and use apps.



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Essex County Council

SUPPORTING CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH

10 Conversation Starters for Parents

Talking about mental health to children is sometimes hard. To the point that we can put off raising the subject, not wanting to unearth problems or raise overwhelming subjects that we perceive our child is too young or not ready for. But rather than keeping children in the dark, this guide is designed to help you confidently talk about mental health, so they feel comfortable talking about their own worries and end any stigma before it begins.



1 LISTEN

This sounds obvious, but it is not something we are always great at. Active Listening is where we listen without interrupting or making judgements and shows interest in what is being said. If your child feels listened to in the 'smallest of problems' they will become confident that you will listen when the 'biggest of problems' arise.

2 ASK TWICE

The campaign from time to change is great. <https://www.time-to-change.org.uk/support/ask-twice-campaign>. Be tenacious about your child's wellbeing. Children instinctively know when your questions and support come from a place of wanting to help and care.

Are you sure?

3 THERE IS NO SUCH THING AS A STUPID QUESTION

This advice also relates to the first point. If your child can ask you any questions about the smallest of things and you listen and answer without shaming or belittling, then they will have more confidence to ask the biggest of questions.

4 BE OPEN AND HONEST

Children appreciate honesty, particularly if you are having to share information or talk about a difficult subject. For example, you may be talking about death or loss: 'It's very sad that Nana has died' or 'I feel sad that Nana has died'. How you talk about a subject will differ depending on their age and developmental maturity. Talking about death to a younger child for example will be different to that of an older teen, as their experience and understanding of death is different.

5 KNOW WHEN TO SEEK HELP

Assess the severity of the mental health difficulty you are noticing. Is the difficulty making it hard for your child to function regularly throughout everyday life? How frequently is your child affected, how long does it last and how persistent is it? Are they having problems controlling the difficulty? Talk to your child about your concerns and that it is likely they will need further support beyond family and friends.

6 TALK ABOUT MENTAL HEALTH NATURALLY

Speak about mental health as part of everyday life, so that talking about our feelings and those of others is normalised. If the usual 'are you ok?' is not creating an opportunity for dialogue then say something like 'I know when something like that has happened to me I felt like this... is that how you are feeling or are you feeling something else?'

7 EMPATHISE

'It makes sense that you would feel this way, it is understandable'. Children often worry about things that we, as adults, might see as trivial or silly. However, for them at their age and stage it is a big concern and they need our kindness and care when they show their vulnerability and share their worries.

8 HELP YOUR CHILD FEEL SAFE

Teens particularly feel that by talking about their worries or concerns that this will make things worse. Reassure your child that you will discuss a plan of action together and what may or may not need to happen next. If they are a younger child, it is likely you will need to lead the conversation and explain next steps.

9 MIND YOUR LANGUAGE

Be mindful of the language you use at home to describe and talk about mental health. Stigma often arises from misconceptions and a choice of language which is harmful. Using the word 'mental', 'mess-up' or other such words in a derogatory way won't encourage your child to talk about their mental health for fear of being belittled.

10 IT IS OK TO SAY 'I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO NEXT'

Adults do not have all the answers but often children think they do. It is ok to acknowledge that what your child is experiencing is not something you have come across before or know anything about, but that you will work it out together and seek help together.

Meet our expert

This guide has been written by Anna Bateman. Anna is passionate about placing prevention at the heart of every school, integrating mental wellbeing within the curriculum, school culture and systems. She is also a member of the advisory group for the Department of Education, advising them on their mental health green paper.



Sources of Information and Support

Your GP
Young Minds <https://youngminds.org.uk/>
<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/stress-anxiety-depression/>
<https://www.actionforchildren.org.uk/news-and-blogs/parenting-tips/2016/november/a-simple-guide-to-active-listening-for-parents/>
<https://www.themhc.org.uk/mental-health>

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Autism central is here to help!

Sometimes talking to people who share similar experiences to yours means you're more likely to feel understood and get the support you need.

The Autism Central Peer Education Programme is for parents, carers and Personal Assistants of autistic people of any age. They do not need a diagnosis to access the service. Support is provided by parents and carers of autistic people who are happy to share their knowledge and experience with others.

What we can offer:

- A constantly growing range of information and resources is available on the Autism Central website www.autismcentral.org.uk
- Weekly online groups sessions - drop-ins and themed sessions covering a range of topics
- 1:1 support via a telephone or Teams call. This can be requested via the QR code below

www.autismcentral.org.uk

Scan me



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Summer Timetable

all sessions delivered live online via zoom £24 each 90 minutes long
book online at facefamilyadvice.co.uk Recordings available for 48 hours

Supporting Healthy Sleep	16 June 10am
Decreasing Depression	16 June 7pm
Raising Self-Esteem	17 June 10am
Understanding the Teenage Brain	17 June 7pm
Understanding Addictive Behaviour	23 June 10am
Supporting a Child with ADHD	23 June 7pm
Improving Family Communication	24 June 10am
Autism Improving Communication	24 June 7pm
Facing Defiance	30 June 10am
Anxiety Based School Avoidance	30 June 7pm
Understanding Anger	1 July 10am
Supporting Healthy Screen Use	1 July 7pm
Introduction to OCD	7 July 10am
What is ACT?	7 July 7pm
Cannabis & Ketamine Awareness	8 July 10am