



Dear Parents and Carers,

The warm, sunny weather was perfectly timed for half term - I hope you all enjoyed some time outdoors in the sunshine. Most children have been bringing sun hats to school this week in response to our PE reminder - thank you. The spell of hot weather looks set to continue so please ensure your child has a sun hat (ideally a wide brimmed hat to protect both their face and neck), a water bottle and has sun screen applied before school. This is important on cloudy and overcast days too, to protect against harmful ultraviolet rays. We are lucky to have lots of large, leafy trees close to the school and use the area to the front and side of the school, as well as the forest area, to enable children to play in the shade.

In the week before half term we were very pleased to welcome two police officers. The aim of the visit was to help children understand the many different roles of community police officers and to recognise that police officers are there to help people and keep us all safe. Children in Rabbits and Squirrels classes had the opportunity to see the police officer's uniform and everything they have to carry when on duty. Children loved seeing the marked police car at close range after school. We are very grateful to PC Walker and PC Butler for agreeing to the visit and for answering many questions! We hope they will visit again soon.



Our Pirate Day on 21<sup>st</sup> May was brilliant- the children and staff looked fantastic and had lots of fun. Members of GIPA put a lot of work and time into planning activities for the day, making treasure maps for every class and preparing the little bags that every child took home as a memory of the day. Thank you for your generous sponsorship envelopes - we are still happy to receive these if you needed time to collect money from friends and relatives. (Some Badger pirates making treasure maps!)



The GIPA committee are meeting on Wednesday evening and we hope to discuss plans for the summer and autumn terms so that your children can soon have a fabulous new pirate ship to play on!

This will be a Zoom meeting- let me or the GIPA committee know if you would like a link to join the meeting. Everyone is welcome.



## Farewell

We are sad to say farewell to Rachael Brailsford, who has worked part-time within our office team for more than 3 years. She is moving to a fulltime position with Essex Music Services. We would like to thank Rachael for her many contributions to our school and for her calm and friendly smile no matter what minor emergency she may have been called to deal with! We shall miss her and wish her every success and happiness in her new role.

## Tree planting

On Wednesday volunteers from TEG, The Environmental Group, continued with the huge undertaking of clearing and re-establishing our over-grown pond area. We applied for some tree saplings from the Woodland Trust and children in Yr1 and Foundation Stage were helped by TEG volunteers to plant young trees these along our school boundary fence. With care and regular watering, we will soon have a richer habitat for wildlife as well as better screening between our school field and the flats in Homestead.



## Competitions!

We have loved looking at all the entries to the photography competition- thank you for supporting your children to take part in this. We will send you a link when the photos are ready for display.

If your child has enjoyed learning about bees and is looking forward to our visit to Hyde Hall, you might want to enter a competition launched by Radio 2 to design a bee garden. See link below:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/articles/2qk4dDdJJdsVFmcLhZ7RwmW/how-to-enter>

**The Big Bee Challenge is Radio 2's brand new competition for kids, in partnership with the Royal Horticultural Society.**

It's a fun and creative way to learn more about bees and other insects that help provide much of the food we eat, and are essential for a healthy environment.

If you are between the ages of 6 and 12, we want you to design a bright, buzzy garden that will attract bees and other pollinating insects. The winner's design will be built by the RHS at an NHS Trust site which is used by children and young people with mental health needs. The closing date is Monday 6<sup>th</sup> July.

Good luck!

