

NEWSLINE

March 2020
Issue 5



North Primary School and Nursery

A Town Centre School with a Strong Community Ethos

Celebrated our 125th anniversary on 12th November. Visit www.northschoolcxxv.com



THANK YOU ESSEX WILDLIFE TRUST

Pictured above are school librarians Zak and Isabel with Diane and Pete Cattermole from Essex Wildlife Trust. They visited the school on the 13th to present a book called *The Lost Words* to the school.

Apparently new children's dictionaries are dropping words from nature and replacing them with "techi" words which provoked the author and illustrator to create a book which celebrated those things with beautiful pictures and poems. The book was shared with the school in assembly on the 16th and will now make its way round the school to be enjoyed by every class.

The book fits perfectly with the KS1 topic and our assembly themes, "What a Wonderful World.!" As Octavia Hill, founder member of the National Trust (celebrating its 125th birthday just like the school), said, nature, beauty and history are for everyone forever. Without them, **"We cannot reach that sense of quiet where whispers of better things come to us gently."** What a lovely thing to say.

COVID-19

We are having to make many decisions every day. Please read the emails carefully. We will also continue to pass on all guidance and directives we receive from the Department of Education, Public Health England and Essex County Council. Please do your best to follow all advice. Thank you.

Governors' Corner with Mubeena Siddiqi

On 3rd March, several governors visited classrooms throughout the school to monitor how reading is being taught and promoted at North. Children were enthusiastically working alongside their teachers and peers to read poems and stories, then using ideas from the reading to create their own writing. The children were being taught a variety of techniques to develop their reading and writing skills. We observed teachers reading poems and stories aloud, followed by the children repeating the passages using fantastic expression. When children came across unfamiliar words, they used their deduction skills to guess what the word may mean in context or substituted another word (synonym) to see if the sentence made sense. Once they made their predictions, children were able to use the dictionary to confirm their guesses. Classrooms were also full of resources to promote reading as an enjoyable past-time rather than just an academic requirement. Classrooms have dedicated reading corners that children can use to read for fun or relaxation. The classes also featured displays with "Authors of the Term" highlighting books by a favourite children's author. We also spoke to children to get their views and feelings about reading. Most children LOVE reading. One pupil said, "I like reading. Sometimes there is a part that blows your mind and you feel you are in the story". The children also valued going to the school library every week and looked forward to time in the reading corner. However, while all the children stated that they read regularly at school, a lot of children said they were not reading at home. Of the children that read at home, most had an established routine of reading after dinner or at bedtime. Some children had a favourite spot at home which was quiet and free from distractions. All of the children who read at home had access to books which they found interesting. On this note, we would like to get your feedback. What do you think would help create a culture of reading at home? What are the barriers or challenges that keep your children from reading outside of school? Do you have a book lover at home? If so, please share your ideas on what your family is doing to promote a love of reading. Essex Libraries is also a wonderful and free resource and we are lucky to have our own branch in Town Centre! Let's hope it can stay open in the weeks ahead. Children are able to check out books which do not incur overdue fees. For more details, you can visit

<https://libraries.essex.gov.uk/>



Heathlands' Science Fair

Three year 6 pupils visited Heathlands School on the 11th to report on their science fair which was set up by some year 6s. There were many projects, each with a different aspect of science from all years 1 to 6. We saw computer science, chemistry, biology, physics and engineering. We were inspired by this project and had the idea that we could also do this. We were fascinated by the extraordinary presentation of the experiments conducted by the pupils. Each had a distinct personality and they were well explained. The science behind each presentation was very interesting.

One of the projects that interested us was the Homopolar motor. It was fascinating to see the copper wire spin around by itself. There were countless other experiments but one really excellent one was the air powered car. It was intriguing to see the car go without anyone pushing it. Any pupils interested in creating exhibitions for our own science fair should talk to Nasi, Isabel and Jacob.

With thanks to Mrs. Carter at Heathlands for inviting us.

Report written by Jacob, Isabel and Nasi.

TERM DATES

Tuesday 17th March	Children's Music Festival—Charter Hall
Thurs 19th March	Mother's Day
Friday 20th March	NSA Spring Fair
Saturday 28th March	Tree planting on Riverside
Sunday 29th March	Colchester Half Marathon
Tuesday 31st March	OPEN AFTERNOON (KS1&KS2)
Friday 3rd April	Easter Parade
Friday 3rd April	End of Spring Term
Monday 20th April	First day of Summer Term
Friday 1st May	NSA Bingo Night
Friday 8th May	Bank Holiday
Friday 22nd May	Penny Race Sponsored Run at Hilly Fields End of half term
Tuesday 2nd June	Return to school
Friday 12th June	NSA Quiz Night
Friday 26th June	NSA Summer Fete
Wednesday 22nd July	End of school year
Mon 7th September	First day of new school year
Mon 7th September	Year 6 Residential to Weymouth

Postponed until further Notice

Postponed until further Notice

