



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

MONTHLY UPDATE!

Dear parents and carers,

As we draw near to the end of term, I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to our entire school community for a truly wonderful start to the academic year. The energy, commitment, and support shown by pupils, staff, parents, governors, and friends of the school have been remarkable. This collective spirit allows our children to flourish.

This term has been filled with memorable highlights. Our EYFS and KS1 nativities were a joyful occasion, showcasing the talents of our youngest pupils and reminding us all of the true meaning of Christmas. Reception and Nursery children charmed us with their nursery rhymes too.

We were also pleased to welcome our local PCSO, who visited school to talk with pupils about safety, respect, and community responsibility. These visits are invaluable in helping children understand their role in the wider community and encouraging positive values that extend beyond the classroom.

The Christmas service at All Saints Church was another special moment, bringing together staff, pupils, and families in worship and song. Alongside this, our carols on the playground created a festive atmosphere that perfectly captured the spirit of Christmas.

Of course, the success we see around school is only possible through the investment and commitment of all key personnel. Teachers, support staff, governors, parents, and volunteers each contribute in unique and vital ways. It is through this shared effort that we are able to provide opportunities for learning, creativity, and community spirit, ensuring that every child can thrive.

With such a strong foundation of support, we are confident that the remainder of the academic year will be filled with achievement, joy, and togetherness.

Finally, as a school, we extend our huge thanks to Mrs Steele who has worked tirelessly in the two terms she has been Executive Head. Mrs Steele has continued to provide clear direction and impetus for the school.

On behalf the staff at Sexton's Manor, I wish you all a peaceful and blessed festive season, and thank you once again for your continued support.

Mr James Murray

Acting Head of School



Message from Mrs Ratcliffe, Headteacher from January 2026

Dear Families,

Hello and thank you for the warm welcome I have already received. I am delighted to have been appointed as Headteacher of your wonderful school, and I am really looking forward to getting to know you and your children.

During the two days I spent at Sexton's Manor, I was struck by the children's kindness, curiosity and confidence. They are an absolute credit to you and to the staff here. It is clear that this is a community with a strong heart.

As a trained SENDCo, I am looking forward to working closely with Mr Murray, who has already made excellent progress developing provision for children with SEND. Supporting every learner will continue to be a priority for us. This will be my seventh headship since becoming a Headteacher in 2004, and I have had the privilege of working in mainstream, special, church and community schools – even spending some time as an Ofsted inspector. What has never changed is my belief that every child deserves to feel happy, safe and successful at school. I am passionate about ensuring that all children have access to an exciting curriculum and the right support for their individual needs.

I have also been working alongside Mrs Steele to understand what makes Sexton's Manor special and where we can continue to grow. She has made such a positive difference in a short time, and I will be building on the strong foundations she has laid. I know she will miss you all. The children shared some great ideas with me during my visit, and I hope to introduce a few new opportunities inspired by their suggestions. Their voices will always be at the centre of our decisions.

Once I have settled in, I look forward to meeting you properly and hearing your thoughts too. In the meantime, you will see me on the playground most days – please do come and say hello. You are also welcome to get in touch via email or through the school office at any time.

I hope you all enjoy a calm and cosy Christmas break, and I can't wait to begin the new year together.

Warmest wishes Lorraine Ratcliffe Headteacher from January 2026

Think

BELIEVE

ACHIEVE

Year 3 and 4 Colchester Zoo trip



Year 3 and 4 had a thoroughly enjoyable day at Colchester Zoo yesterday. We saw all manner of fantastic animals, with the elephants, giraffes and lions putting on particularly impressive shows.

We also had a lesson in the Khalahari Theatre which consolidated learning on food chains, including the flow of energy through the chain and the roles of different groups of animals, such as producers and consumers.

Many thanks to the parent volunteers who enabled the trip to go ahead, including those who offered to support at short notice.

SUPER SINGING!



We are very proud of Cherry! Cherry, alongside our own Mrs Eustace, has spent many night in December singing for audiences of local people as part of Stagecoach and Mead Singers. On Saturday, she will be singing with G4. Well done, Cherry.

CHRISTMAS SONGS



Many thanks for turning up in such numbers to sing and dance with the children on the playground. It was lovely to see the playground so busy and full of Christmas spirit!

Thanks for also supporting the PTA and Year 6 fundraisers, who again were pleased to receive such generous contributions, all of which goes back into the school and the children.

Think

BELIEVE

ACHIEVE

DECEMBER SPECIAL MENTIONS



Gymnastics Stars



Recently, we shared how well Freya had done with her gymnastics. In a further update, Freya and her brother Caleb recently competed in their first ever competitions. Both children did incredibly well, both taking second place overall.

Times Table Rockstars

Your child will have their TTRS login glued onto the back page of their homework book. Please look out for this and let class teachers know if it is not there.

Little and often is best with TTRS — studies show that just 3 minutes a day can lead to great progress in arithmetic.

Thank you for your support!

Mrs Huyghe



SEXTON'S MANOR

PRIMARY SCHOOL NURSERY



OUR NURSERY WELCOMES CHILDREN FROM THE TERM AFTER THEY ARE 3 YEARS OLD.

OUR SESSIONS ARE FROM 8.40 – 11.40AM.



We offer a unique opportunity to be a part of an Ofsted rated 'Good' school, with the Nursery led by a qualified teacher.

We have opportunities to use the whole schoolsite for exploring and using indoor and outdoor play equipment.

Our Nursery class site has a large outside area for super-fast car races, muddy kitchen recipes, sand for digging and special role play moments!



Our aim is to develop the whole child through moments to take risks, grow confidence and become independent learners through play. Children are nurtured and inspired; laughter is encouraged; friendships and trust are formed.

'OPENING MINDS, IN A CARING, REFLECTIVE ENVIRONMENT'

Think, Believe, Achieve

Think

BELIEVE

ACHIEVE



SAFEGUARDING UPDATE

Safeguarding plays a crucial role in our school community. We remain vigilant and committed to educating all stakeholders, ensuring they are kept informed with the most relevant information. Each month, we will provide important resources to help enhance your understanding of safeguarding.

Adverse Childhood Experiences

Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) are traumatic events that affect children while growing up, such as suffering child maltreatment or living in a household affected by domestic violence, substance misuse or mental illness.

This short animated film has been developed to raise awareness of ACEs, their potential to damage health across the life course and the roles that different agencies can play in preventing ACEs and supporting those affected by them.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XHgLYI9KZ-A&t=12s>

This is one person's story of how adverse childhood experiences affected their life.

If you have a safeguarding concern, please ask to see one of our Designated Safeguarding Leads.



Mr. James Murray



Mrs. Danielle Ballam

KEY DATES

Monday 5th January: PD day (no children in school).

Wednesday 14th January: Year 3 Skills Escalator at West Suffolk College

Friday 16th January: non-uniform day. Please bring in a donation for a tombola for the Winter Fayre.

Friday 30th January: year 6 Winter Fayre in the hall.

Please monitor Class Dojo for the most up to date information.

CLASS REMINDERS

Whole school	Please remember snacks should be fruit or vegetables only, and water not squash in bottles.
Nursery	Please help your child to put on their coat, socks and shoes to encourage independence.
Reception	PE- Monday Wellies to be left in school and come in coats, hats, gloves for outdoor provision If you are able to have a change of clothes in a named bag to be left on a peg, that would be useful (in case of accidents or getting wet).
Year 1	PE- Monday (PE kit will be kept in school for the half term). Spellings- these will be tested each Friday. Reading books- these will be sent home Friday and collected Monday.
Year 2	PE- Tuesday and Friday.
Year 3	Homework and spellings- Friday PE- Tuesday and Friday
Year 4	PE- Wednesday and Friday Homework and spellings- Wednesdays. Forest Schools- Wednesday (please bring Forest School clothes in a named bag on a Wednesday morning).
Year 5	PE- Tuesday and Thursday
Year 6	Year 6 Homework- Fridays, Spellings- Mondays, PE- Wednesday morning for both indoor and outdoor