



# HEADLINES

By Dan Smith  
Associate Assistant Headteacher

## WHERE WILL YOUR BOOK TAKE YOU? THE ESSEX YEAR OF READING

I am currently in a constant battle with my 5-year-old son to get him reading every day, so I can empathise with all parents and carers trying to wrestle a reluctant reader to pick up a book. My son will listen to me read all night long about marine life or history, but getting him to engage in reading himself has been a real struggle. He is summer born and behind his peers, so I think that much of his reluctance comes from a lack of confidence that he feels in his own reading ability.

Reading is such an essential skill in school because it provides the gateway to our curriculum, but the importance of reading far outreaches the classroom. We all know that being able to read confidently is key to being a successful learner in all other areas of life. The statistics around the impact of low literacy skills are shocking. For example, those with low literacy skills are more than twice as likely to be unemployed than those who can read beyond the most basic of levels. Sadly, as many as 1 in 6 adults in England have 'very poor literacy skills', and so schools can never do enough to promote reading to ensure this statistic doesn't continue into the next generation.

This year, schools across Essex are taking part in the Essex Year of Reading, and as a school we are looking into ways we can further promote reading. This week I led assemblies on the importance of reading. I started by asking "if you could have any super power, what would it be?" No one provided Bill Gates' response to this - "being able to read super fast!" But reading really is like a super power. The National Literacy Trust found that children who are the most engaged with literacy are three times more likely to have higher levels of mental wellbeing than children who are the least engaged. Reading on your own or as part of a group has become a valuable resource for many people with symptoms of depression. Reading is also a highly effective workout for our brains, increasing blood flow across the entire brain and there is even evidence that it can help us

live longer. It's fascinating to think that reading - even as a solitary activity - could strengthen social bonds. People who have more lifelong exposure to fiction are better able to infer what other people are thinking. Very superpower-esque!

I asked learners to reflect on their own reading habits. When asking learners for a hands up to show who has read anything from my four favourite literary worlds (Dune, the Lord of the Rings, Harry Potter and His Dark Materials), I was pleasantly surprised by how well read our youngsters are. However, as we moved into the older cohorts, it became clear that they are generally reading much less than their younger peers, a real shame! So how are we promoting reading at Honywood further this year?

Firstly, we are looking to rebuild and restock our tired library. If anyone has any books they would like to donate, it would be greatly appreciated. In addition, Cohorts 7, 8 and 9 will be undergoing reading assessments this term so that we can identify those learners who may need further support. We are going to be promoting reading across the curriculum, and we are bringing in a new initiative - asking everyone to 'drop everything and read' once a week (DEAR). Please ensure your young person has a book for 'DEAR' time which begins next week. Finally, can I ask that we all continue to do our best to get our reluctant readers to pick up a book at home.

Best wishes for the weekend.

Mr D Smith

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## PARENTS' TIME

Monday	08.30 - 09.30
Tuesday	15.30 - 16.30
Wednesday	11.45 - 12.45
Thursday	16.30 - 17.30
Friday	07.30 - 08.30

You are always welcome to come into school to see a member of the Leadership Team during Parents' Time and do not need to make an appointment. You can arrange to meet any other member of staff by making an appointment at a mutually convenient time.



# STEM



Science • Technology • Engineering • Math

# Faraday



On Thursday 15th September, six of our C8 learners took part in the STEM Faraday Challenge. They competed against other C8 teams from the members of the Trust at Saffron Walden County High School. They had a brilliant day, developing their own lift mechanism, and whilst they did not win overall, their design was commended for its ambition and

ingenuity. With a little bit more time, they may well of perfected the design! Well done to all of the learners involved and thankyou to Mr Gribben and Mrs Khoshkhou for supporting the trip.



# Girls Football



HONYWOOD 8 V HEDINGHAM 0  
TEAM:

Bonnie Bunch, Sophia Cooper, Scarlet Evans, Lily-Mae Gilden, Izzy Harvey, Phoebe Hazell-Young, Lois Heath, Emma Jullien, Faye Longstaff, Estelle Scherer, Anya Scott, Julietta Swain, Poppy Tilyard, Evie Vaughan, Olivia Walby

This was an excellent performance by the team in their first game of the season. They made a quick energetic start and were rewarded with a goal by striker Emma Jullien. Honeywood dominated possession with the midfield of Scherer, Swain and Gilden. They created a number of chances which resulted in a further 4 goals before half time. The defence of Evans, Longstaff, Tilyard and Heath were very solid and allowed only one shot at goal which was well dealt with by goalkeeper Evie Vaughan. There were a number of changes in the second half and Honeywood continued to dominate. Phoebe Hazell-Young, Olivia Walby, Izzy Harvey and Anya Scott all blended in to ensure a final score of 8-0 to Honeywood, The goal scorers were Bonnie Bunch 1, Emma Jullien 3, Estelle Scherer 2, Lily-Mae Gilden 1 and Poppy Tilyard 1. A very impressive win!, Well done girls.

Training is every Tuesday after school and all girls are welcome to come along.



TRUST RESPECT EQUITY EXCELLENCE

# HONYWOOD



A traditional and progressive education: building character for an exceptional future



"Pupils are articulate and confident"



"Without exception, pupils feel safe at school"

Come along to our **Open Evening** on the 6th October from 5:30pm

Visit us on one of our tours at 9:00am or 10:30am  
w/c 26th September to 14th October

Email [schooloffice@honywoodschool.com](mailto:schooloffice@honywoodschool.com) or call 01376 561231 to book a tour

Booking for our Open Evening is via Eventbrite with limited places.  
Book early to avoid disappointment:  
<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/honywood-school-open-evening-tickets-396435187317>

## THURS 6TH OCT EARLY CLOSURE

Timings of the Day

08:45	AM Registration
08:55	LS1
09:50	LS2
10:45	Break
11:00	LS3
11:55	LS4
12:45	LS5 / PM registration
12:55	Learners depart

Buses have been arranged to collect learners.

## NON LEARNER DAY

### MON 10 OCTOBER 2022

## SAFEGUARDING AT HONYWOOD SCHOOL

### OUR **NEW** MONTHLY SAFEGUARDING NEWSLETTER

Welcome to the latest edition of our monthly safeguarding newsletter. We plan to provide an update at the end of each month containing reminders about how we approach safeguarding at Honywood as well as useful links to support families out of school.

To view the Newsletter - [click here](#)



Visit the safeguarding section on our website at [www.honywoodschool.com](http://www.honywoodschool.com)

### Dates for the Diary

Mon 26th September	Geography Residential Parents Meeting 6.30pm
Thurs 6th October	Open Evening (early closure)
Mon 10th October	Non Learner Day (staff only)
Fri 14th October - Mon 17th October	Geography Residential
24th October - 28th October	Half Term

# NEXT WEEK IS WEEK B