



Myland Primary School



Headteacher: Miss D. Griggs

Tel: 01206 852109

www.myland.essex.sch.uk

Newsletter No. 13 2025-26 – Friday 19th December 2025

Star of the Week

Well done to our final 'Stars' for 2025 who all received their certificates in assembly today



BIRCH CLASS: Finley Haig

WILLOW CLASS: Lewis Walker

SYCAMORE CLASS: Abdul Opale

LARCH CLASS: Dexter Sykes

CEDAR CLASS: Ethan Hillman

BEECH CLASS: Ellie Stephen

OAK CLASS: Aarvi Kandula

REDWOOD CLASS: Cody Searle-Kemp

CHESTNUT CLASS: Jiwoo Im

ROWAN CLASS: Elijah Bamforth-Pender

MAPLE CLASS: Holly Rigby



Merry Christmas!

We have come to the end of a very long and busy term, with lots going on in school over the past few months. The children have all worked extremely hard and we are all delighted to see just how well our children in Reception have settled into school.

Earlier this week, Years 3 and 4 entertained families with two performances of their carol concert, which certainly got everyone into the Christmas spirit. Their version of poor Mr. Hewitt's Christmas mishap can be viewed on the Beech, Oak and Redwood class pages on our website.

I am sure you would wish to join me in sending our thanks and very best wishes to Miss Barten, who has decided not to return to her classteacher position following her maternity leave. We will miss her contribution to our school, but wish her and her family every success for the future.

On behalf of the staff, very many thanks for your cards, generous gifts and good wishes – we hope that everyone has a very happy, healthy and peaceful Christmas and New Year and we look forward to welcoming children back to school on **Monday 5th January 2026**. Merry Christmas!

Miss Griggs

REMINDERS

When we return in January, the MENU will be

WEEK 1

Please pre-order by **06/01/26** for **WEEK 2**

Attendance this **TERM**

(up to & including Thursday)

Birch Class	97.8%	★
Willow Class	95.6%	
Sycamore Class	93.4%	
Larch Class	95.9%	
Cedar Class	96.7%	
Beech Class	97.1%	
Oak Class	97.2%	
Redwood Class	96.4%	
Chestnut Class	95.2%	
Rowan Class	93.9%	
Maple Class	94.4%	
WHOLE SCHOOL	95.8%	

Check Email and Bookbags for...

* Year 5 – Residential Visit



Thank you!

Huge thanks to Miss Barton, Mrs. Gibson and Mrs. Goodey in our school kitchen who prepared and served a fantastic Christmas lunch to everyone on Wednesday. Thanks also go to Mr. Griffin (dad of Floss in Oak Class) who very kindly donated the turkey for our lunch, too. It was delicious – thank you! Our team of MDAs also came in extra early to help set up and stayed to clear away, so a big thank you goes to the MDA team too.

THANK YOU!

Reception – September 2026

Do you have a child due to start school in Reception in September 2026?

The Reception admission round is now open. Please be aware that all applications must be made by **15th January 2026**.

If you already have a sibling at school, you must still make an application by the closing date.

Further details can be found at www.essex.gov.uk/admissions

There will be no 'At Home' evenings in the first week of term in January. 'At Home' will restart in the week beginning January 12th 2026.

Thank you.

'FREE TUCK FRIDAY'

WELL DONE to **BIRCH CLASS** who will have **Free Tuck** on **Friday 9th January**



ROCKER OF THE WEEK

Each week, Mrs. Carter chooses our 'Rocker of the Week' – this is a pupil who has made significant improvement over the course of the week in any aspect of their times tables knowledge. Well done to **THERESA** in **OAK CLASS**.



VIP Table



Each week, one child from each class is chosen by Miss Griggs for their kindness, good manners and sensible

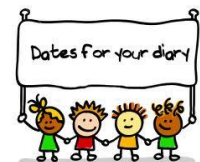
attitude. Well done this week to:

Birch Class	Ashvik
Willow Class	Leo
Sycamore Class	Alima
Larch Class	Aisha
Cedar Class	Harrison
Beech Class	Hope
Oak Class	Flora
Redwood Class	Kareem
Chestnut Class	Abdullah
Rowan Class	Victoria
Maple Class	Millie
Windmills	Reuben

Diary Dates

Fri 19th Dec – LAST DAY OF TERM

Mon 5th January 2026 – Children return to school



What Parents & Carers Need to Know about SETTING UP NEW DEVICES FOR CHILDREN

At Christmas, millions of lucky children will be excitedly ripping the wrapping off new phones, tablets, computers or consoles. However, in the rush to let young ones enjoy their shiny gadgets, many parents neglect to set these devices up safely – increasing the chances of children going online and stumbling across adult content, making expensive downloads or installing unsuitable apps. A little time configuring the device properly can save a lot of anguish later. Here are our top tips to ensure that a dream gift on Christmas morning doesn't turn into a nightmare by New Year.

PASSCODES FOR IPHONE/IPAD

If your child's getting their own iPhone or iPad, you can set parental controls that make it difficult for them to access inappropriate content or download expensive apps. Once the device is set up, go to the Settings app and tap Screen Time, then select Use Screen Time Passcode and enter a passcode. Keep it to yourself so your child can't switch the protection off.

SCREEN TIME SETTINGS ON IPHONE/IPAD

Once you've set a Screen Time Passcode, you can adjust various safety settings. You could, for example, only allow communication with people from the Contacts app, place restrictions on App Store purchases and apply age limits to movies, music and web content. There are many more protective options available within the Screen Time settings section.

FAMILY LINK FOR ANDROID

Parents can manage Android phones and tablets, as well as Google Chromebooks, through Google's Family Link app. This gives your child some independence (and their own Google account!) but lets parents monitor which apps are being used, set limits on content and ensure that parental permission is required to install apps. Look for Family Link in the Google Play Store.

ADD A CHILD TO FAMILY LINK

The easiest way to add a child's device to Family Link is to set it up with its own Google account. It's a good idea to create this before they use their new phone, tablet or Chromebook. Once they're logged in, open the Family Link app on your phone, press '+' in the top right and add a new family member using their Google account details. Then follow the on-screen instructions.

FAMILY SHARING ON A MAC

Families using a Mac get similar screen time options to iPhone and iPad users. Again, if you're setting up a Mac for a child, make yourself the main admin and add them as a user. This is handled through Apple's Family Sharing service, which not only allows you to put controls on child accounts but share apps and other purchases with them too. Search 'family sharing' at <https://support.apple.com>.

PLAYSTATION PARENTAL CONTROLS

With parental controls for the PS5, you'll need a PlayStation Network account (as the 'family manager') and the child will need their own account, which they should sign in with on the console. This all needs to be set up in advance, so you might want to do it before the big day. Go to PlayStation.com and search 'family account' for instructions.

DISCUSS IT WITH YOUR CHILD

If you're planning to implement any kind of restriction or protection settings on your child's new device, we'd recommend having a discussion with your young one first about what these controls do, and what they are for. If you try to impose parental controls surreptitiously or with no advance warning, don't be surprised if your child tries to find a way around them.

SET AN ADMIN ON PCS

On Windows PCs and laptops, it's important not to let your child share a general user account or be the main admin on the device. If you're booting up a new family PC or a child's own device, set it up using your own account details and you'll become the admin by default. Then set up children with their own separate account: Settings > Accounts > Family & Other Users > Add Other User.

SET WINDOWS LIMITS

Once your child's account has been created, a parent admin can go back into the Family & Other Users menu and apply limits to it. These include restricting screen time, the type of games and apps that can be installed, web filters and more. Microsoft also includes reporting tools which, for example, can email you with a weekly summary of your child's activity on the device.

TREAT AN XBOX LIKE A PC

The same control settings you use for a PC can be used to apply parental controls on an Xbox. Again, once your child is signed into the Xbox with their own account, you can then monitor and regulate their activity from a PC or web browser. Microsoft's dashboard allows you to manage voice communication through the console, so you can limit who can contact your child, for example.

INSTALL XBOX FAMILY SETTINGS

If you don't have a PC, but your child does have an Xbox, it might be easier to use the Xbox Family Settings app for iPhone or Android. Here, you can restrict console screen time (particularly handy if the console is in a bedroom), restrict communication and monitor the types of game being played. There's also a feature where you can allocate spending money for games or in-game purchases.

STAY VIGILANT

It's important to remember that none of these methods is 100% foolproof. Nobody will ever invent flawless filters or parental controls – not least because what's unacceptable to some parents is perfectly acceptable to others. So although devices' parental controls will help to keep your child safe online, they work best side by side with good old-fashioned parental vigilance.

Meet Our Expert

Barry Collins has been a technology journalist and editor for more than 20 years, working for titles such as the Sunday Times, Which?, PC Pro and Computeractive. He's appeared regularly as a technology pundit on television and radio, including on Newsnight, Radio 5 Live and ITV News at Ten. He has two children and writes regularly about internet safety issues.



NOS National Online Safety®
#WakeUpWednesday