



Primary School

Friday 2nd October 2026

We've had a fantastic week in school celebrating European Day of Languages. Each class has been exploring a different European country - Italy, France, the Netherlands, Spain and Germany - and the children have thrown themselves into the learning with real enthusiasm.

Throughout the week, they have learnt all about their chosen country:

- its location in Europe
- the flag and what it represents
- the language and key words or phrases
- famous landmarks, places and people
- traditional playground games

The school has been buzzing with curiosity, creativity and conversation in different languages. We finished the week with a whole-school flag hunt on the playground this afternoon, which the children absolutely loved.

A huge thank you to Miss Kappes, our Languages Lead, for organising such a rich and engaging week of activities. Her hard work and passion for languages have made this celebration truly memorable for the children.

Thank you also to all parents who have already completed our school survey. Your feedback is incredibly valuable in helping us shape improvements and drive positive changes forward. If you haven't yet had a chance, please do take a moment to complete it - your voice really matters.

Wishing you all a restful weekend.

Mrs Bower



Raising the bar in everything we do: Because our children deserve the best.

HARVEST FESTIVAL

Next Friday, we will be walking to St Catherine's Church to celebrate our Harvest Festival. The children will be singing a mix of traditional harvest songs alongside some new ones, as well as sharing poems and prayers they have prepared in class. We kindly ask families to send children in with a donation for the local foodbank, as these contributions make a real difference to families in our community. Rev Sue is very excited to welcome us again, and we are looking forward to a meaningful and joyful celebration together.

SPELLINGS

Many parents have asked about spellings, so we wanted to clarify our approach this year. Although we are not sending home weekly spelling lists, spelling remains an important part of our English curriculum. In school, we continue to teach spelling patterns, rules and common exception words explicitly, and children regularly apply these in their writing. Research suggests that traditional weekly spelling tests often lead to short-term memorisation rather than long-term learning, whereas approaches that combine teaching, practice and meaningful application help children retain and use spellings more effectively. If you would like to practise spellings at home, you will find in the middle of your child's reading diary the spelling patterns covered across the year, along with their common exception and high-frequency words for their year group. It is especially helpful to focus on the days of the week and months of the year, as these are frequently misspelled and benefit from regular practice.

WEAR IT YELLOW DAY

Next Friday is also Wear It Yellow Day, supporting *Young Minds* as they mark ten years of standing out, starting conversations and raising funds so no young person feels alone with their mental health. Children are encouraged to wear something yellow to school - it doesn't need to be anything big or new; even a yellow hair band, badge or pair of socks is perfect. If families would like to make a small donation towards Young Minds, it would be greatly appreciated and will help support vital mental health work for young people.

YOU SAID, WE DID

Many families mentioned in the survey that they would love to see even more sporting opportunities, and we're pleased to share that this term is already shaping up to be a busy one. The North West Essex Schools Sports Partnership has released its competition calendar, and we have booked places for cross country, girls' football, boys' football and a pickleball competition. Alongside this, we have arranged additional fixtures with St Peter's School, including another cross-country event and football matches, and we are currently organising netball and a further girls-only football match. To help us continue growing our sports provision, we would warmly welcome a volunteer to support with training our school football teams. If you are able to help, please let us know.

VOLUNTEERS

We want to say a huge thank you to all our wonderful volunteers who give their time to support reading groups in class and who run our lunchtime and after-school clubs. Your commitment, kindness and enthusiasm make such a difference to our children. As a small school, we are incredibly proud of the way everyone pulls together- staff, families, governors and volunteers- to give our children the very best experiences and as many opportunities as possible. Our community spirit is one of Gosfield's greatest strengths, and we are truly grateful for everything you do.

TRIPS

Please keep an eye on Arbor for full details about our trips this term. Kahlo and Attenborough will be visiting Hedingham Castle, Jemison and Hawking are heading to the National Gallery in London, and Luther King Jr Class will be attending Crucial Crew. We are also awaiting final confirmation from the Essex Police Museum. We have already begun booking our trips and visits for the Spring term, and we will share these on Arbor after half term to give families plenty of notice for planning and payments. Unfortunately, we are unable to take part in Young Voices this year due to low numbers, which is disappointing for the children and staff. However, next year we will look

to team up with another local school to share transport and ensure we can participate in this amazing event once again.

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PRIORITIES

Please see the handout provided with this newsletter for the key focus areas of our school improvement plan for this academic year. I have now received the draft Inclusion Review report, and once we have the final version, I will share it with you. We also hope you all received the Curriculum Snapshot outlining this half term's learning.

COMMUNICATION

Parents' Evening will take place the week before half term, with booking available via Arbor from next week. This is a valuable opportunity to share and discuss your child's learning. As always, our door is open - you are welcome to speak to your child's teacher at the end of the day, or you can email via the office or Mrs Bower, and your message will be passed on. We appreciate that not everyone is able to speak at pick-up time, and using email in this way helps us manage communication efficiently, maintain healthy boundaries for staff, and ensure messages are triaged to the right person quickly.

THREADWORM

We wanted to make families aware that we have had a case of threadworm in school. Threadworms are very common in children and spread easily, but they can be treated without needing to see a GP. Pharmacies can provide mebendazole, usually as a chewable tablet or liquid. The most important step is encouraging good hygiene, including regular handwashing and scrubbing under fingernails - especially before eating and after using the toilet. Please remind children to wash their hands frequently at home as well. If your child has threadworms, there is no need for them to stay off school.

Class	RAISE award	Mathematician of the week	Writer of the week
Kahol	Mia	Lacey	Morven
Attenborough	Arthur	Cooper	Oliver
Jemison	Oscar	Anna	Eliza
Hawking	Aubrey	Daisy	Beau-Jaxx
Luther King Jr.	Harriet	Oscar	Thomas C

WEEKLY ATTENDANCE

Kahlo Class	98.6%
Attenborough Class	96.6%
Jemison	98.3%
Hawking Class	99.6%
Luther King Class	98.5%
Whole school	98.3%

WINNING WORD COUNT

	1st	2nd	3rd	Class total
Jemison	Isabel- 74,140	Bella- 29,993	Anna- 16,255	171,979
Hawking	Jude- 257,154	Rosie- 108,342	Éirinn- 102,106	643,014
Luther King Jr.	Emmanuel- 39,080	Thomas F- 22,439	Ayda- 21,382	98,514



Class	Class winner
Jemison Class	Ellie- 13,017 coins
Hawking Class	Daisy- 17,580 coins
Luther King Jr. Class	Ella- 32,348 coins

HOUSE POINTS

	Weekly points
Cowell	489 points
Donaldson	528 points
Morpurgo	450 points
Rosen	520 points

WELL DONE

We are delighted to share some fantastic news about Ava. After attending trials for a girls' football academy with FITC, who compete in the Junior Premier League (JPL), she was successfully accepted and began training on 6th September. In just her first month, Ava has already been awarded Player of the Month, which is an incredible achievement. We are all extremely proud of her dedication, talent and passion for football.



A huge well done to Oliver, Gabe and Thomas for their fantastic effort and determination at football. You represented the school brilliantly and showed great teamwork, resilience and sportsmanship throughout.

A special well done also to Libby for her excellent achievement in swimming. We are very proud of your hard work, commitment and success in the pool. Keep up the great work everyone!



PRIMARY EDUCATION- WRAP AROUND

Primary Education joined us for assembly today to introduce the children to the exciting programme they offer, sharing the range of activities and opportunities available throughout the week. We are delighted that Sarah will be starting on Monday working alongside Jamie. Below, you will find the new timetable of activities for next week, and to make bookings, please click the link provided. If you need any help with booking, just let us know - we're always happy to support families in getting set up. <https://parents.primary-education.co.uk/school/gosfield-primary-school>

05/10/2026	Planned Activity (Until 4.30pm)	Choice 1 (Until 4.30pm)	Choice 2	Choice 3	Areas Of Learning	Food options (4.30-6.00pm)
Monday	<i>Cooking (No bake cheesecake)</i>	<i>Brain teasers</i>	<i>Colouring</i>	<i>Board games</i>	<i>E.A.D L C&L</i>	<i>Ham and cheese wraps</i>
Tuesday	<i>Arts and Crafts</i>	<i>RC cars</i>	<i>Outside play</i>	<i>Puzzles</i>	<i>PD U.T.W L</i>	<i>Mixed veg rice</i>
Wednesday	<i>Forest Explorers</i>	<i>Lego masters</i>	<i>Brain teasers</i>	<i>Mindful maps</i>	<i>U.T.W M L</i>	<i>Tuna and sweetcorn sandwiches</i>
Thursday	<i>Nerf Wars</i>	<i>Mindful maps</i>	<i>Storyboards</i>	<i>STEM</i>	<i>E.A.D PD L</i>	<i>Pitta pizzas</i>
Friday	<i>Gymnastics</i>	<i>STEM</i>	<i>Musical games</i>	<i>Freeplay</i>	<i>PD U.T.W</i>	<i>Bagels and cream cheese</i>

UPCOMING DATES FOR THE TERM

Friday 2nd October- deadline for Cauliflower Christmas cards

Friday 9th October- Harvest Festival at St. Catherine's church- donations to the local area Foodbank

Friday 9th October- Hello Yellow Day for Young Minds

Monday 12th October- Thursday 15th October- Book Fair after school

Tuesday 13th October- Year 5&6 Girls Football competition at Witham

Wednesday 14th October- Cross- Country @ Gosfield School

Friday 16th October- Flu immunisations

Tuesday 20th October- Year 5&6 Boys Football competition at Ramsey, Halstead

Wednesday 21st October- Class 5 Crucial Crew visit

Wednesday 21st October- Cross-Country at St. Peter's, Sible Hedingham

Tuesday 20th October and Thursday 22nd October- Parents Evening

Friday 23rd October- INSET day

Thursday 19th November- Kahol Class and Attenborough Class trip to Hedingham Castle

Wednesday 2nd December- Jemison Class and Hawking Class trip to the National Gallery, London (more details to follow)

