



**20<sup>th</sup> December 2023**

**Dear Essendon Families,**

On behalf of the Governing Body, I would like to wish staff, children, parents and carers, a very Happy Christmas and New Year. I am sure you will join me in thanking Ms Canham and all the staff for their continued hard work and commitment to ensure that your children at Essendon school experience the joy of learning as well as the pleasure of building their knowledge and developing their skills.

We have seen many events this term where the children have been thinking of others such as, collecting produce to give to the Essendon Food Bank during our Harvest celebrations, selling cakes for Children in Need and of course our Remembrance assembly.

October was Black History month and we saw the children learning about key black figures, reading stories and poems by black writers and celebrating black voices in the UK and world history. During our Anti-bullying week in November, we were reminded to be kind, respectful, tolerant and forgiving and that we are all different and all valued.

As governors we continue to be very involved in the life of the school. We regularly visit the school and at a recent Governor afternoon, we observed Design and Technology being taught in all the classes. It was a very enjoyable afternoon and interesting to see how different techniques are taught to children at different levels of development.

This month we have been treated to a lovely Nativity play and I thoroughly enjoyed the Christmas Carol and Readings service this week.

I would like to say a special thanks to the Friends of Essendon. Tippy and her team have been doing a fantastic job to raise extra funds for the school as well as giving parents and friends the opportunity to get together and socialise. The Quiz and wine tasting evening was great fun and it was lovely to see so many of you supporting the Winter Fair. I know from my own experience the hard work that goes into being part of a PTA and I look forward to future events and really hope that everyone continues to support them.

Finally, I would like to thank you for your ongoing support and I hope this Christmas will be a time for joy, celebration and good wishes for the New Year to come.

With love and best wishes

**Pauline Alleyne**  
**Chair of Governors**



## Essendon C of E (VC) Primary School

**Term Dates: 2023/2024**

*All learning is sequential and builds over time, therefore every lesson counts. Please do not book days out or holidays in term time because your child will miss teaching and when they return they will have big gaps in their understanding and may not be able to catch-up.*

### **Spring Term - 2024**

Thursday 4th January – **Occasional Day**

Friday 5th January – **INSET Day**

Monday 8th January – Start of term for pupils

Monday 19th to Friday 23rd February - Half Term

Thursday 28th March - End of Term – 1:15pm

### **Summer Term - 2024**

Monday 15th April – **INSET Day**

Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> April – Start of term for pupils

Monday 6th May – Bank Holiday

Monday 27th to Friday 31st May – Half Term

Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> July – Year 6 Secondary School Transition Day

Friday 19th July – End of term - 1:15pm

Monday 22nd and Tuesday 23rd July – **INSET Days**