





Dear Parents, Carers and all Friends of Colfox Academy,

Welcome to our Spring Term News, which is full of brilliant things that your children have achieved and enjoyed. We wanted to share some of the fantastic opportunities, activities and events they have taken part in - thank you to all staff who have made this possible.

I have been pleased with the way our students have been working this term in each year group, especially our Year 11 and Year 13 students, who have been busy preparing for their exams next term. Keep going Year 11 and Year 13 There is a [useful blog here about supporting children with exams](#).

Science Week was amazing this term, with exciting experiments happening everywhere, thanks to our new lead Practitioner for STEM, Ms David. I'm delighted that Ms David has been selected for the prestigious role of 'Space to Learn Space Advocate' with the **National Space Academy**. This is a fantastic opportunity for our whole school community. As a Space Advocate, she will undergo intensive training and receive a fantastic resource kit to deliver free, interactive space-themed masterclasses. These sessions will delve into physics concepts and showcase the exciting possibilities of careers within the thriving UK space sector. This is a chance to ignite a passion for space exploration and related STEM fields in our students, inspiring the next generation of astronauts, physicists, and space engineers to walk among the stars.

Well done to everyone involved in our amazing school show **'We Will Rock You'** it was fantastic! Thank you to Mrs Holder and all staff involved.

The successful book launch of **'Speak-Up'** was the exciting culmination of our Campaign Poetry workshops with the 'Bank of Dreams and Nightmares'. Well done to all our published poets!

There have been lots of trips this term, our Latin and Ancient History students enjoyed the first **Classics Hub Trip** to the Ancient Technology Centre to explore how people lived in the past. A cultural trip to Italy was also enjoyed by our Sixth Form and our Ski Trip are getting ready to set off. Thank you to all staff who give their time and energy to make these adventures happen.

It was fantastic to hear praise from so many employers about Year 10 during their **work experience** placements, many of them have been offered apprenticeship opportunities. They were a credit to our school - well done Year 10! Thank you to everyone who provided work experience opportunities the range was amazing, demonstrating again Bridport's wonderful community spirit.

Years 7, 8 and 9 have enjoyed House Activities this term, we also celebrated student achievements at our House Assembly, where certificates for achieving House Points were awarded. We also enjoyed **Book Day** and giving out hundreds of free books to students.

Please encourage your child to join a club and try something new, joining in and getting involved is great for their wellbeing and it's free and fun. Please encourage them to explore **SORA** our brilliant free online bookshop, it is a great way to save money as it has 2,000+ free bestsellers, 500+ top selling magazines, audio books and graphic novels. Research shows reading for 10 minutes a day improves wellbeing and leads to success in life, and it is fun! Every student has a SORA subscription, they can log in using their usual school username and password. We hope that you all have a Happy Easter and we look forward to welcoming everyone back on Monday 15th April.

**Yours sincerely,
Adam Shelley
Headteacher**



SCIENCE WEEK!

11-15 March @Lunch A203



MON - Ice Cream making



TUE - Slime & Custard Balls



WED - Dry Ice



THU - Dissection
*Pluck, brains & eyes



FRI - Fire Writing

Science Week! A Week full of Discovery and Delight!

School transformed into a haven for budding scientists during our exhilarating Science Week, 11-18 March. Classrooms buzzed with activity, hallways echoed with excited chatter, and the very spirit of scientific inquiry permeated the air. It was a week designed to ignite curiosity, inspire exploration, and demonstrate the wonder and fun of science.

Falconry Show!

The week kicked off with a feathered bang! Students from all year groups were treated to a captivating presentation by Martin from Xtreme Falconry. Majestic birds of prey, from the powerful American Golden Eagles to the elegant Barn Owl, captivated the audience. The expert falconers provided fascinating insights into these incredible creatures, their adaptations, and their ecological importance. Witnessing these feathered marvels up close was an unforgettable experience, leaving students filled with awe and appreciation for the natural world.



Science Week!

Ice Cream making (and eating!)

Moving from the skies to the kitchen, students donned their aprons for a delightful culinary exploration. During Monday lunchtime Year 7, 8 and 9 students embarked on a mission to create their own ice cream! Laughter filled the air as they experimented with different flavours and mixing techniques. The triumphant shouts of "It worked!" echoed through the corridors as students proudly displayed and ate their frozen masterpieces!

Slime or colloids!

On Tuesday, they delved into the fascinating world of colloids. The creation of vibrant slime provided endless entertainment, while the meticulous preparation of perfectly formed custard balls instilled a sense of accomplishment and appreciation for the Science.

Organ Dissection

Science Week wasn't just about fun and games. It was also a chance to delve deeper into the intricate workings of the human body. Students were able to participate in a pig dissection, a cornerstone of biological understanding. Guided by experienced teachers, students carefully examined the various organs and systems, gaining a profound appreciation for the complex machinery that keeps us alive. While some might feel apprehensive about such an activity, the experience ultimately fostered a deeper respect for life and its intricate processes.



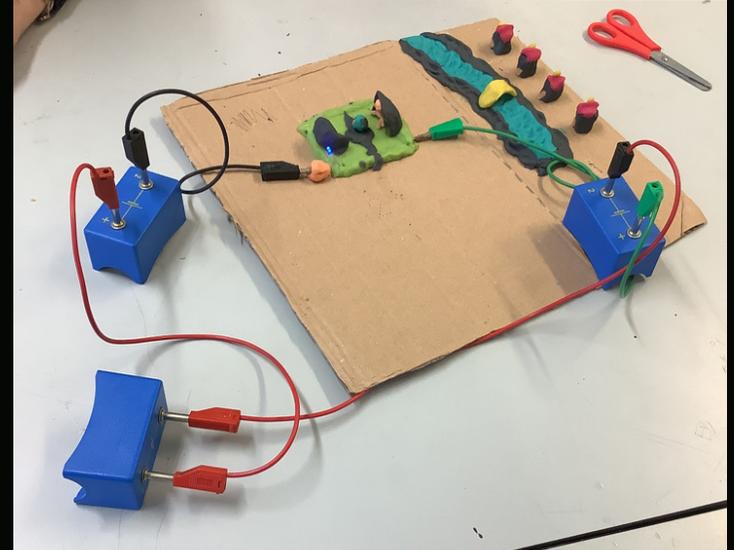
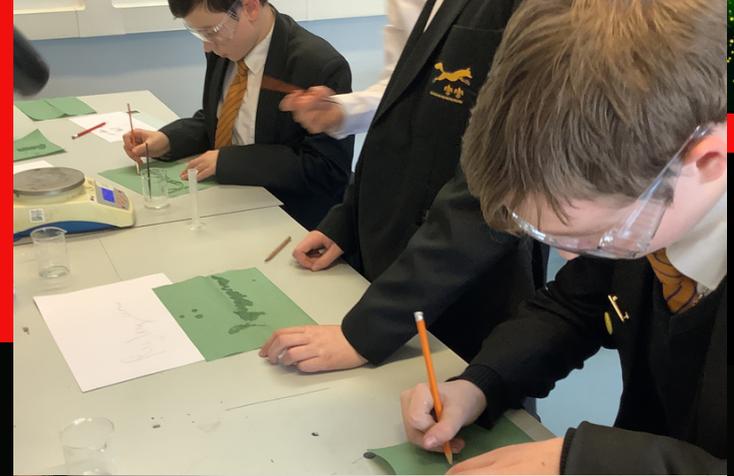
Science Week!

Eyeball Encounter!

For those with a stronger stomach, the "Eyeball Encounter" was a truly unique experience. Students from Years 7 to 11 had the opportunity to examine real pig eyeballs. The intricate structure of this vital organ, with its lens, cornea, and retina, came into sharp focus, providing a first hand glimpse into the amazing world of sight. The activity sparked numerous questions and discussions, highlighting the marvels of human anatomy and the delicate balance that allows us to perceive our world.

Dry ice, weather, & the Leidenfrost effect!

Science Week wasn't confined to biology though! Wednesday saw students explore the fascinating properties of dry ice. Witnessing the dramatic transformation of solid carbon dioxide into a cloud of gaseous mist captivated their attention. They conducted experiments to observe the Leidenfrost effect, where water dances on a supercooled surface, and explored the principles of sublimation. The hands-on experiments solidified their understanding of the states of matter and the Science behind everyday phenomena like fog and frost.



Science Week!

Year Group Highlights!

Year 7 got their engineering chops going by designing and constructing their very own egg protection devices. The challenge? To see whose egg could survive a dramatic drop from the fire escape! Creativity and critical thinking were on full display as students employed a variety of materials to create their miniature marvels. The suspense was palpable as each device was launched, and the cheers erupted for the team whose egg design emerged victorious, unscathed from its high-rise adventure.

Year 8 showcased their resourcefulness and ingenuity with their lollipop stick slingshot cars. Armed with just these basic materials, bottle lids, and a healthy dose of imagination, students meticulously constructed miniature vehicles. The competition wasn't just about speed; it was about design efficiency. Testing their creations on a designated track, students analysed the performance of their slingshot cars, making adjustments and refinements to propel them further. The winning car not only crossed the finish line first but also displayed impressive design elements, showcasing the students' understanding of force and motion.

Year 9 turned their attention to the skies with their water rocket project. The challenge involved constructing rockets from recycled materials, with the goal of achieving the longest airborne duration. Students delved into the principles of propulsion and aerodynamics, experimenting with different fin designs. The launch day was a spectacle of pressurized water, soaring rockets, and cheers of encouragement. The winning team's creation not only achieved an impressive flight time but also displayed a clear understanding of the scientific principles at play.

Science Week at Sir John Colfox Academy was a resounding success. It ignited curiosity, fostered a love for learning, and demonstrated the practical applications of science in our everyday lives. The students weren't just passive observers; they were active participants, conducting experiments, asking questions, and drawing their own conclusions. This immersive experience undoubtedly sparked a passion for science in many young minds, leaving a lasting impact that will continue to fuel their curiosity and inspire them on their scientific journeys. We look forward to an even better Science Week in 2025!



Science Week

What our students said!

SCIENCE WEEK!

11-15 March @Lunch A203

- MON - Ice Cream making
- TUE - Slime & Custard Balls
- WED - Dry Ice
- THU - Dissection
*Lungs, brains & eyes
- FRI - Fire Writing

YR 7/8/9 - Don't Miss Out!
Sign-Up A203 Fri 8 March

“Thank you for going through all the effort of organising science week for us. I really enjoyed the birds of prey show and dropping eggs off the balcony.”

“Thank you so much for organising science week it was so much fun. I really enjoyed dry ice in maths it was so much fun and i had never seen anything like it before! I also really loved slime during lunch it was really cool and fun!”

“Thank you for science week. I really enjoyed the dry ice and the fire writing - it was really fun!”

“Thank you very much for science week. I really enjoyed making the egg protector and dropping it on Friday last week! I also really enjoyed dissecting the pig's organs on Thursday and making the ice cream on Monday! 😊”



And after Science Week!

Cambridge University Workshops!

Our Year 11 biologists and chemists were thoroughly enthused by the recent workshops delivered by Oxford University. The sessions delved deep into the pressing issues of plastics pollution and antibiotic resistance, offering a fascinating glimpse into cutting-edge research at the forefront of these fields. It was an added privilege to welcome Dr. Martin Galpin, an ex-Colfox alumni, back to his alma mater. Now the Associate Head of Department (Teaching) and Director of Studies at Oxford University, Dr. Galpin's passion and expertise truly ignited a spark in our students, inspiring them to consider careers tackling these critical global challenges.

STEM Workshops!

This past Friday, March 22nd, Year 7 and 8 students were buzzing with excitement as they participated in a series of STEM workshops led by Matt Bagley of Camouflaged Learning. The interactive and hands-on nature of the workshops kept students fully engaged as they explored various scientific and technological concepts. These sessions are crucial for sparking early interest in STEM fields, allowing students to see the practical applications of what they learn in the classroom. Through these engaging activities, Year 7 and 8 students gained valuable exposure to STEM, potentially igniting a passion for future careers in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

Lowri David, Lead Practitioner Science & STEM

School Show!

'WE WILL ROCK YOU!'



Students 'rocked' in a brilliant production of hit musical 'We Will Rock You', showcasing their acting, musical and dancing talents!

'WE WILL ROCK YOU!'

A large cast from across the school were involved from Year 7 to the Sixth Form, not forgetting the great student backstage and technical crew. A talented student band provided live music featuring lots of hits by Queen brilliantly performed throughout the show.

Adam Shelley, Headteacher, said: “It was a wonderful show, full of brilliant performances. The musical, acting, comedy and dancing talent on show was fantastic – well done to all students involved including the technical crew.

“I’d also like to say a huge thank you to all staff who made such a fantastic event possible, especially Mrs Emma Holder, Head of Drama, Ms Kimberly Langdon, Drama Teacher, Mr Brian Hocking, Head of Music and Mr Brendan Jackson, Forest School Teacher who supported the band.”

Emma Holder, Head of Drama, said: “I was incredibly proud of everyone’s performances and our technical team. The show was full of energy, great musical performances, acting, dancing and comedy talent and was huge fun to watch – well done to everyone involved, particularly our lead stars Lily, Sherwin, Iris, Mathew, Toby, Tallulah and Jacob. Proceeds from the ticket sales will be used for equipment for our drama department. Thank you also to all Parents and Carers who supported the production.

Ancient History & Latin Students

Enjoy a Trip Back in Time!

Latin and Ancient History students enjoyed a trip back in time when they visited the Ancient Technology Centre.

Around 30 students from Year 9 explored ancient buildings at the centre near Cranborne, before trying their hand at historic crafts, lighting fires and building from willow.

They built a fire in the Iron Age Earth House, before exploring the Viking Long House, a Stone Age Round House and a Roman Forge and Water Lifting Machine.

The trip follows the launch of the school's new Classics Hub, which offers students more opportunities to study Latin, Greek, Ancient History and the Classical World.

Dr Neil Allies, Head of Languages and Cultures led the trip. He said: "Going inside the ancient buildings and exploring items from the past, like cooking pots, beds and weapons, gave students a fascinating sense of what it might have been like to live thousands of years ago."



Cambridge University Speaker Encourages Students to Apply



A speaker from Cambridge University was invited this term in a bid to encourage more of our students to apply for top universities.

Rosie Gough, School and College Liaison Officer (pictured above with Abi and Una) visited in February and met a group of students who are interested in applying for Cambridge, Oxford and other top universities at a special session.

Rosie gave a fascinating presentation, exploding myths about applying to 'Oxbridge', before answering students' questions and emphasising that top universities are for everyone, not just the privileged few.

She said: "It was great to come to Bridport and meet so many students who are enthusiastic about applying and to be able to give them practical help and advice. As a recent graduate from Cambridge University who went to a state school, it is good to be able to encourage others and break down common myths. In January 2022 for example, more than 72 percent of offers from Cambridge went to state school students."

The session was organised by Lucy Wright, Head of English, she said: "We want our students to aim high and believe in themselves, which is why we arranged this session with Cambridge University. Rosie was very approachable and gave her time generously after the session circulating among students and answering all their queries face-to-face which everyone found helpful. Our students got a lot out of the session, and I believe many were encouraged to apply to Cambridge, Oxford and other top-ranking Universities. Thank you to Rosie for visiting Colfox."

One Year 10 Student who attended said: "It was a very interesting session, we found out lots of practical things about applying and how University works and it was good to be able to ask Rosie what it is like, I will definitely be considering applying in the future."

Rosie's talk and slide show explored how universities are ranked, what lectures and seminars are, how student finance works and how different universities are organised, either on campus, across cities or in a college system. She also discussed what top universities are looking for and explained the applications process.



Italy Trip



A group of around 30 students from Colfox and Beaminster Joint Sixth Form enjoyed a trip to Rome and Pompei.

Students visited the Vatican, the Colosseum, St Peter's Basilica and Pompei during the half term trip, which was led by Mr William Lewis, Head of Sociology at Colfox.

Mr Lewis said: "We packed in a huge amount of history, art and culture, as well as lots of delicious Italian food. Our Sixth Form really enjoyed the trip and they were all brilliant as usual."



Italy Trip



Stan Bowden, in Year 13, who went on the trip, said: “It was the best school trip I have ever been on. We had a brief agenda each day, so we could enjoy the trip at our own pace, but we also had the option of being guided. We also had time to explore Rome, visiting niche cafes and eating delicious and authentic Italian cuisine.

“The trip gave us the opportunity to explore the rich and vast culture of Italy’s past. We visited places of key cultural influence like the Vatican, Colosseum, St Peter’s Basilica and Pompei. These places provided useful background knowledge and inspiration to complement our course subjects. The Vatican especially was my favourite as it contained stunning architecture, divine works of art and a complex ancient history behind each exhibit.

“The only downside of the trip was the weather with rain on some days, but we cannot control the weather! I would highly recommend it for upcoming year 10 and 11 students at Colfox or Beaminster who are thinking of attending the sixth form! Overall, the trip was incredibly insightful, great value for money and along with a shorter travel time, was very well organised and enjoyable, thank you to Mr Lewis and all the teachers who made it happen.”

Another group of Colfox students in Years 9 and 10 are preparing to go back to Italy at the end of March for a ski trip and a trip to Iceland is also being planned for later in the year.



Maths Feast!

We love Maths - so we had a Maths Feast!

What is a Maths Feast? It is a fun challenge for Year 10 students that tests problem-solving and teamwork skills. Teams of students worked together to test their maths skills during the all-you-can-eat feast of maths challenges!

It was great to be able to invite other schools, such as Sherborne Boys School, Westfield Academy (Yeovil) Beaminster and Wells Cathedral School to join us in our hall for our celebration of Maths. Congratulations to Westfield Academy who came first and second.

Mrs Jo Carpenter - Teacher of Maths



Youth Speaks Success!

Students shine in Public Speaking Contest

Congratulations to our Debating Teams who performed brilliantly at the 'Rotary Youth Speaks' Competition.

The first round saw the Senior Debating Team Arturo, Poppy and Oliver from Year 11 and the Junior Debating Team Eliza, Iris and Poppy from Year 8 give bold and eloquent speeches before a packed audience at Bridport Town Hall.

The Senior Team tackled the motion 'The UK is no longer a developed country'. Arturo was in the chair, Poppy proposed the motion and Oliver opposed it. The Junior Team debated the motion 'Technology has gone too far' with Poppy in the Chair, Eliza proposing the motion and Iris opposing it.

Mrs Ward, English Teacher and Challenge Co-ordinator, said: "They were all incredible - bold and brave and eloquent. It was a great event and lovely to see our students in the audience supporting our teams. They were all fantastic, a real credit to Colfox and Bridport."

The teams competed again in February, congratulations to the Senior Team who won their final against strong opposition, they progressed to the 'Cluster Finals' in Cardiff where they did brilliantly, securing second place. Well done to them and thank you to the Rotary Club.



Pictured from left: Mrs Ward, Poppy, Arturo and Oliver.

GREAT SHOW!

Congratulations to everyone who took part in our National Theatre Connections show at Bridport Arts Centre!

The production of 'Shout' in March involved students from Years 10 to 13. It was a thought provoking performance, analysing the thoughts and feelings of a young woman with selective mutism and how she interacts in the world.

The performance was in front of a National Theatre Mentor, who came along to give feedback. The groups' next performance will be at the Poole Lighthouse Theatre in April and tickets are available on their website: lighthousepoole.co.uk/event/nt-connections/

Connections is a youth theatre festival hosted by National Theatre. Each year, 10 new plays are commissioned and performed by youth groups and schools across the country.

National Theatre
CONNECTIONS
2024
BACstage Youth Theatre Company
&
The Sir John Colfox Academy

SHOUT

by Alexis Zegerman

by Yasmeen Khon

by Alexis Zegerman

50TH BRIDPORT ARTSCENTRE
Thu 21 March | 6:30pm
Tickets: £10 Adult, £5 Child (Under 16)
Bridport-Arts.com | 01308 424 204 | Bridport TIC

Dorset Council | ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND

Mrs Holder Head of Drama

Work Experience

Well done Year 10!

It was fantastic to hear great reports from a huge range of businesses and other employers. We were impressed to hear that many students have been offered potential apprenticeship opportunities. An impressive range of work experience placements were undertaken, everything from engineering, estate agency, hospitality, arts projects, electricians, law, as well as a huge range of businesses and public sector organisations - Well done everyone and thank you Employers!

Michael Thompson, Head of Careers



Kitt and Freddie at Bridmet!

Work Experience

Well done Year 10!



Ayden gets ready to sell houses at Symonds and Sampson!



Kieran helping install a light with PNW Electrics!

Lovely to read all the positive comments flooding in from Employers, well done everyone, just one of the many comments:

“ I would just like to say what an absolute pleasure it has been to have them on work experience. He was keen to learn and ask questions, able to converse well with staff and customers alike. If he later decides he wants to train, we would definitely consider him for an apprenticeship. ”

We Sport!

All our Sports Clubs are free and great fun for everyone, even if you don't think you are sporty, come along & have some fun! Well done to everyone who took part this term!



Giving out hundreds of free books!



We enjoyed giving out hundreds of free books on World Book Day!

Thank you to Kitty in Year 12, who did a brilliant job running our free book stall. If any student missed out and would like a free book, come to the Library as we have a few copies left over.

Students in Years 7, 8 and 9 were also given a voucher to exchange for a free book in any book shop in town.

Thank you to Bridport Book Shop who supported us.

Library News

Book Donations near £3,000! Thank you!

Manga, Football, Marvel, Magazines- anything students want we will get!

**Please Buy a Book for
Our School Library!**



**Our Students have a wish
list at Bridport Book Shop!**

Student Librarian Kitty said: "Some young people don't have a lot of books at home, so making sure our library has the very latest interesting and enticing books is more important than ever. We do have a budget for new books, but we are always keen to get as many more as possible. Thank you to everyone who has bought us a lovely book!"



Thank you to everyone who has given us books, either via our 'Buy a Book for our Library Appeal' at Bridport Book Shop or by donating books they no longer want to the Library. Donations remain very welcome, and our Students still have their wish list at Bridport Book Shop!

Your generosity has helped more students find something they enjoy and nearly 60 per cent are now using the Library.

Our Library is full of Manga, Football, Marvel and anything students ask for! Reading about what you love is fun, and research shows all reading boosts wellbeing as well as achievement. If your child isn't using the Library and hasn't found something they enjoy reading please ask them to share their interests with Mrs Shelley and we will try and find a book or a magazine especially for them!

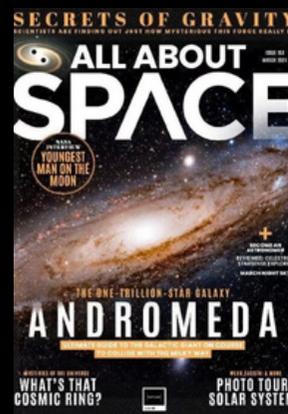
Library News

FREE Magazines now available on SORA!

Save cash, 500+ almost everything available!

Save £100s, Students can now get bestselling magazines - New Scientist, Lego, Fortnite, Coding for Kids, Vanity Fair, Vogue, the New Yorker, Good Housekeeping, House and Garden, Textiles, Music, National Geographic, Film, Chess, Cookery, Sport, the list is endless and all amazing titles!

We have paid for all students to have access to them via our online reading platform SORA, just use your usual school log in, it's easy! A 'how to use SORA' guide is below. Downloading the free app avoids the log-in process. Take a look, there is lots for Parents to enjoy too!



Library News

SORA is our easy-to-use reading platform, as well as magazines, you can get bestsellers, audio books, graphic novels and books in other languages like Ukranian or Spanish (under filters). Here is the 'How to' Guide:

SORA

Get free stuff, free bestsellers, free graphics, free audio books

- Google 'SORA'
- Click 'Find my School'
- Click 'No I'll search for my School'
- In 'Let's find your school' type 'Colfox' and click it when it pops up
- Scroll down list to 'T' and click 'The Sir John Colfox'
- Click 'sign-in using the Sir John Colfox Academy'
- Log in using your full email address 23surnameinitial@colfox.dorset.sch.uk and your usual password

EXPLORE!

Sport / Manga / Graphics/ Thrillers / Horror/ Football / Horses / Anything!

Help with uniform

Some free second hand school uniform is available

Some free second hand uniform is available to pick-up from school. No forms, no fuss, just get what you need. The uniform available has been donated to us, so availability of items will sometimes vary.

How do I pick-up uniform?

Just drop in during the school day and ask at reception. Students can ask for items too. Or you can email us a request: office@colfox.dorset.sch.uk

Please donate unwanted school uniform – Thank you!

Please donate school uniform, ties, PE kit (without names on the back) and sports equipment that you no longer need. Please donate uniform that is in good condition, we are grateful if you could wash it first. Please drop it off to reception. Thank you, your generosity will help others.

Thank you to everyone who has donated to the Colfox Fund

We have launched an appeal to help students, because some are coming to school hungry. The 'Colfox Fund' provides free breakfast and other much needed items, like new shoes. If you can afford it please donate to the Colfox Fund via 'My Child at School' Thank you!



Thank you for reading!



**NEWS FROM COLFOX
SPRING 2024**

We wish you all a very Happy Easter!