



## Hello February!

February has finally arrived! After I commented on the length of January in our previous newsletter, I came across this poem by Brian Bilston:

*Thirty days hath September,  
April, June and November.  
Unless a leap year is its fate,  
February hath twenty-eight.  
All the rest hath three days more,  
excepting January,  
which hath six thousand,  
one hundred and eighty-four.*

And now we are in February, no doubt it will fly by and we'll be welcoming March before we know it!

However, we have our half term holiday before then – remember we are closed on Friday 16th February.

**PLEASE SEE PAGE 2 ABOUT PARENTS' EVENINGS.**

## ATTENDANCE MATTERS!

All absence must be reported on the first day. If we do not have a reason for absence your child will receive an unauthorised absence mark. This data is monitored by The Department for Education on a regular basis.

Attendance Percentages for this academic year:

Class 1	92.2%
Class 2	95.4%
Class 3	95.7%
Class 4	92.2%
Class 5	91.2%
Class 6	93.5%
Class 7	97.0%
Class 8	90.9%
<b>Whole school</b>	<b>93.5%</b>

## KEY DATES

- \* Tues 13th Feb: Y6 Bawdsey parent meeting (3:45pm)
- \* **Fri 16th Feb: Non-Pupil Day** (Staff training)
- \* Mon 19th – Fri 23rd Feb: Half term holiday
- \* Fri 1st March: National offer day for secondary schools
- \* Thurs 7th March: World Book Day
- \* Fri 8th March: World Maths Day
- \* Mon 11th – Fri 15th March: Science Week
- \* Fri 15th March: Red Nose Day
- \* Mon 18th – Fri 22nd March: Neurodiversity Week
- \* Tues 19th March: World Sleep Day
- \* Mon 25th – Thurs 28th March: Y6 residential
- \* Thurs 28th March: Last day of half term
- \* Fri 29th March – Fri 12th April: Easter holiday
- \* Mon 15th April: First day back after Easter

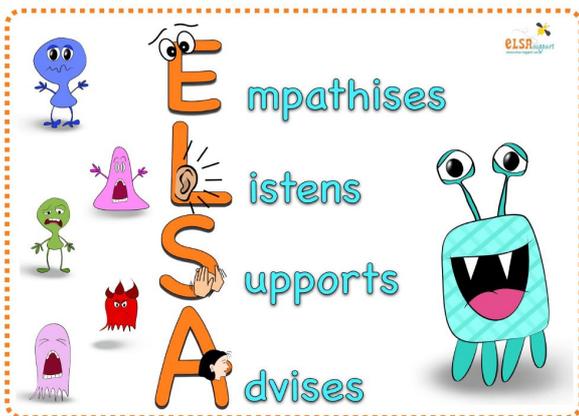
## Woody, our school dog.

As Woody is settled into school life, not only is he welcoming children at the gate daily, helping children regulate their emotions and joining children for movement breaks etc, he is now also enjoying being read to! This supports all the research into the impact of dogs in school. The children adore him!



## ELSA

An ELSA is an Emotional Literacy Support Assistant and Miss Bowen Davies is currently completing the recognised training course for this role. She has a wealth of experience of working with children and receives regular supervision sessions with an Educational Psychologist. The training involves many areas from emotional literacy to active listening. ELSAs are warm, kind and caring people who want to make children feel happy in school and to reach their potential socially, emotionally and academically.



They understand barriers to learning that some children may have and can help them with this. They can support children's emotional development and help them cope with life's challenges. ELSAs will also help children to find solutions to problems they might have. An ELSA is not there to fix problems, but to help children find their own solutions and to offer support to a child. Relationships are key in helping children to feel safe and nurtured. We are very proud to have an ELSA on our team.

## Spring Term Parents' Evenings!

We have set the dates for this term's Parents' Consultation Evenings. They will be held in the school hall and each appointment will be for ten minutes. As previously, I will ring a bell every ten minutes to assist with meetings not over-running. Should you wish to discuss any additional issues with the class teacher that would involve running over your 10 minute appointment, we would request that you make an appointment to see the teacher at another convenient time. This then provides every parent with a full ten minutes and ensures appointments run on time. Thank you for your understanding.

- Tuesday 19th March from 3:45pm till 6:45pm
- Thursday 21st March from 3:45pm till 5:45pm

## Children's Mental Health Week 5th - 9th February.

by Mrs van der Wolf

Once again, our school took part in the annual Children's Mental Health Week. Launched in 2015, the week exists to empower, equip and give a voice to every child in the UK. This year's theme is "My Voice Matters." One in six children and young people now have a diagnosable mental health condition. By taking part in Children's Mental Health Week 2024, we all work to ensure that children and young people across the UK feel listened to, and know that they're not alone.

In Monday's assembly, the focus was on how different young people across the world have been able to speak up and had their voices listened to: Malala Yousafzai (calling for education for girls and women), Jaylen Arnold (advocating for bullying prevention) and Greta Thunberg (challenging world leaders to take immediate action for climate change). As a school, the children voiced their ideas about how to give children a chance to chat, talk and share their opinions, while at the same time carrying out positive activities together: litter picking, chat club, gardening club, having a buddy system. The litter picking club is in full swing already and we're hoping to put these ideas into practice soon.

Apart from doing various activities related to mental health and wellbeing in class, each class went outside to enjoy a bit of 'Walk & Talk'. This entailed walking and chatting with a partner outside in the back field of the school. Here are several quotes from children in Year 6:

'I felt the Walk and Talk activity was quite calming because of the trees and the bird sounds and we got to share our ideas and things we liked.'

'My favourite Walk and Talk question was where I'd go if I could fly, because my partner and I joked and connected. I felt this activity was well-needed because I want to build a good bond with my partner and I felt I did.'

'I liked talking to my partner about our favourite sports. I felt calmer doing this activity because talking to someone helps you and helps your mental health.'



## Is my child too ill for school?

It can be tricky deciding whether or not to keep your child off school, nursery or playgroup when they're unwell. The NHS has provided this guidance for parents and carers:

<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/#:~:text=If%20your%20child%20has%20mild,they%20can%20go%20to%20school>

## Holiday Requests

The school has been receiving an increasing number of holiday requests in term time. I have included the term dates for the academic year for your information within this school newsletter.

Holidays in term time are always taken as an unauthorised leave of absence. Parents who take these periods of absence do so with the full knowledge that the school may issue a penalty notice. There is no entitlement in law for pupils to take time off during the term to go on holiday.

**At** Broomgrove Junior School 'exceptional circumstances' **will be interpreted as:** ... being of unique and significant emotional, educational or spiritual value to the child which outweighs the loss of teaching time (as determined by the headteacher). The fundamental principles for defining 'exceptional' are events that are **"rare, significant, unavoidable and short"**. By **'unavoidable'** we mean an event that could not reasonably be scheduled at another time, outside of school term time.

Examples of 'exceptional' events that are "rare, significant, unavoidable and short" may include but are not limited to: a parent or carer being a member of the armed forces and has been on active duty so could not reasonably schedule the absence for another time, the death of a close family member, the attendance at the funeral and the attendance at the wedding of a close family member.

Furthermore, we will not consider applications for leave during term time:

- at any time in September. This is very important as your child needs to settle into their new class at the start of the academic year as quickly as possible.
- during assessment and test periods in the school's calendar affecting your child.
- when a pupil's attendance record already includes any level of unauthorised absence or they have already been granted authorised leave within that academic year.

## Snow Plan 2023-24

### Guidance for Parents of Broomgrove Infant and Junior Schools

In matters related to adverse weather conditions, we will **keep the school open** whenever possible, provided the safety of children and staff can be maintained. However there may be occasions for where, due to the health and safety of children and staff, we have to close the school. The importance of clear communication is essential and this letter outlines our procedure in such circumstances.

Essex County Council (ECC) has created a new online notification system to keep parents up-to-date about unplanned school closures. The system has been introduced by ECC to allow parents and guardians to access information about school closures faster and more effectively via the internet.

All Essex schools will be able to complete a simple reporting process either on the day of the closure or the day before. A notification will then be added to a live feed on the emergency school closures page on the council's website <http://www.essex.gov.uk/Education-Schools/Schools/Dates/Pages/Emergency-School-Closures.aspx>

This feed will continue to update as notifications of school closures are received. The page will refresh at 6pm each evening and closure lists for the next day will then go live.

Essex radio stations have always been extremely helpful in not only listing school closures online, but also using their airtime to keep people informed. They will continue to support ECC in getting vital school closure messages out in as many ways as possible, including signposting listeners to the school closures page on the council's website.

The decision to stay open or close the school is made by **7.00a.m.** This will be based on;

- the ability of staff to get into school
- the safety /conditions in the building, given the weather
- the likelihood of weather becoming even worse during the day.

As well as the council's new notification system, schools have been asked to provide information to parents about other ways they will communicate closures. We will communicate with you as parents / staff through;

<p><b>Infant School:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• School Website – scrolling on the homepage</li> <li>• Tapestry</li> <li>• Microsoft Teams</li> </ul>	<p><b>Junior School:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• School Website – We will endeavour to update the school website as soon as a decision has been made.</li> <li>• School Twitter Feed.</li> <li>• Class Dojo</li> <li>• Parentmail</li> </ul>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>BOTH SCHOOLS</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Essex website as above</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Approved radio stations – Heart FM &amp; BBC Radio Essex</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Parent Mail</p>	

**Once this decision has been made to close the school it will not be reversed, even** if weather conditions improve. Please accept our apologies in advance if the decision turns out to be the wrong one but we have to decide on the basis of the information we have at the time and with enough notice to allow parents to make childcare arrangements.

#### **Breakfast Club and Out of School Club:**

On any snowy day, there is a strong possibility that we may be unable to open Breakfast Club on time or at all. If we announce a late opening, or complete closure, then it should be assumed that on that day Breakfast Club will not open at all. You should therefore always bring your child to the door to check that there is someone there. Similarly, we cannot guarantee that Out of Hours Club will open on snowy days and if there has been a heavy snowfall during the day, you should expect that Out of Hours Club will not open. **All other clubs will be cancelled in the event of snow.**

#### **Advice to Parents and Carers for extreme weather conditions**

- **IF IT HAS SNOWED PLEASE DO NOT SEND CHILDREN TO SCHOOL BY THEMSELVES AS YOU MAY NEED TO TAKE THEM HOME IF MESSAGES HAVE NOT GOT THROUGH TO YOU IF SCHOOL HAS HAD TO CLOSE.**
- The decision to close the school will be a joint one between the Infant and Juniors Schools.
- If the school has to close because of extreme conditions during school hours, the school will text/call you to collect your child.
- Parents will have been notified of this closure by way of a text message, plus a message posted on the school website.
- If conditions are bad the following morning and our school remains closed, please check our website for updates and a ParentMail message from us.
- The school will provide work for the children at home through our remote learning platforms on every day that the school is closed due to snow. The Infants will upload work to Microsoft Teams and the Junior School through Google Classroom
- No snowballing on the school site. This is in the best interests of health and safety for all pupils, staff and visitors. The children **will** get the chance, if they wish to, to throw snowballs at playtime, if they appropriate outside clothing and footwear for the conditions, subject to school's discretion.



# Tending Families First Charity

PRESENTS

## QUATTRO AMICI



**THE ACCLAIMED QUARTET OF CLASSICAL VOCALISTS ACCOMPANIED BY THE INIMITABLE JOE RICHARDSON ON THE KEYBOARD. BRINGING YOU AN ECLECTIC PROGRAMME OF MUSIC FROM CONTEMPORARY TO CLASSICAL OPERA TO OPERETTA, MUSICAL THEATRE TO FILMS. JOINING QUATTRO AMICI FOR ONE NIGHT ARE THE CHILDREN FROM MILLFIELDS PRIMARY & BROOMGROVE JUNIOR SCHOOL CHOIRS**

### WIVENHOE HOUSE HOTEL

FRIDAY 1ST MARCH 2024

TICKETS ARE LIMITED TO ADULTS  
ONLY DUE TO SPACE

BAR OPENS AT 6:30 PM  
PERFORMANCE STARTS  
7PM - 9PM

ADULT PRICE £12.00 TICKETS  
AVAILABLE FROM

[WWW.TENDINGFAMILIESFIRST.ORG/  
DONATE](http://WWW.TENDINGFAMILIESFIRST.ORG/DONATE)

### Friendly February 2024

MONDAY



5 Make time to have a friendly chat with a neighbour

12 Focus on being kind rather than being right

19 Share something you find inspiring, helpful or amusing

26 Make uninterrupted time for your loved ones

TUESDAY



6 Get back in touch with an old friend you've not seen for a while

13 Smile at the people you see and brighten their day

20 Make a plan to connect with others and do something fun

27 Call a friend to catch up and really listen to them

WEDNESDAY



7 Show an active interest by asking questions when talking to others

14 Tell a loved one or friend why they are special to you

21 Really listen to what people say, without judging them

28 Give positive comments to as many people as possible today

THURSDAY

1 Send a message to let someone know you're thinking of them

8 Share what you're feeling with someone you really trust

15 Support a local business with a positive online review or friendly message

22 Give sincere compliments to people you talk to today

29 Acknowledge someone's problem or pain rather than trying to fix it

FRIDAY

2 Ask a friend how they have been feeling recently

9 Thank someone and tell them how they made a difference for you

16 Check in on someone who may be struggling and offer to help

23 Be gentle with someone who you feel inclined to criticise

SATURDAY

3 Do an act of kindness to make life easier for someone

10 Look for good in others, particularly when you feel frustrated with them

17 Appreciate the good qualities of someone in your life

24 Tell a loved one about the strengths that you see in them

SUNDAY

4 Invite a friend over for a 'tea break' (in person or virtual)

11 Send an encouraging note to someone who needs a boost

18 Respond kindly to everyone you talk to today, including yourself

25 Thank three people you feel grateful to and tell them why



ACTION FOR HAPPINESS

Happier · Kinder · Together