



Marvellous March!

We have started this half term and the month of March with some exciting activities!

We have had an assembly and classroom visits from a team of scientists from Essex University about their clean air project and yesterday we celebrated World Book Day.

As always, I made an effort with my costume – all for the benefit of the children! However, they all knew it was me inside the inflatable dinosaur outfit as soon as they spotted it from the far gates.

The children all looked fabulous in a wide range of outfits and they enjoyed a variety of activities linked to reading and books throughout the day.

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	92.4%
Class 2	93.2%
Class 3	99.0%
Class 4	92.8%
Class 5	89.1%
Class 6	93.7%
Class 7	96.6%
Class 8	93.4%
Whole school	93.8%

KEY DATES

- * Fri 8th March: World Maths Day
- * Fri 8th March: Non-uniform Day for BSA Easter Fayre
- * Mon 11th – Fri 15th March: Science Week
- * Thurs 14th April: BSA Easter Fayre (after school)
- * Fri 15th March: **Red Nose Day**
- * Mon 18th – Fri 22nd March: Neurodiversity Week
- * Tues 19th March: World Sleep Day
- * Tues 19th March (3:45pm till 6:45pm)
- * Thurs 21st March (3:45pm till 5:45pm)
- * 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

Charity Concert fundraiser

Quattro Amici Classical Quartet Charity Concert took place last Friday evening to raise money for Tending Families First (see newsletter of 12/1/24 about the support this organisation provides.)

The event raised approximately £360, which is great and will virtually support the cost of two children to access eight weeks of 1:1 counselling support.



Scientists visit Broomgrove! by Mrs Gruender, Science Lead

This week, we have had the pleasure of having 3 scientists visit every classroom. The first, Drew Henderson (a former pupil of Broomgrove Junior School) and two of his colleagues visiting from a partner University in Portugal. This visit followed on from an assembly last month introducing a collaborative year-long European study on Air Pollution in Schools.



The children learnt about airborne microbes and were involved in this exciting study by collecting swab samples from around their classrooms, these were then carefully collected onto petri dishes and taken back to the laboratory. We will hear back soon about what, if any, bacteria or fungi grows from our samples. Each session ended with a Q and A session - 'What would you like to ask a Scientist?' - the children asked some interesting and thoughtful questions.

The staff also took World Book Day seriously...



Wivenhoe celebrates all mothers and caring people



**Sunday 10 March
at 10.30am**

**St Mary's church
Wivenhoe**

All are welcome!

www.stmaryswivenhoe.org

Mindful March 2024

MONDAY



4 Notice how you speak to yourself and choose to use kind words

11 Stay fully present while drinking your cup of tea or coffee

18 Have a 'no plans' day and notice how that feels

25 Focus your attention on the good things you take for granted

TUESDAY



5 Bring to mind people you care about and send love to them

12 Listen deeply to someone and really hear what they are saying

19 Cultivate a feeling of loving-kindness towards others today

26 Choose to spend less time looking at screens today

WEDNESDAY



6 If you find yourself rushing, make an effort to slow down

13 Pause to watch the sky or clouds for a few minutes today

20 Focus on what makes you and others happy today
dayofhappiness.net

27 Appreciate nature around you, wherever you are

THURSDAY



7 Take three calm breaths at regular intervals during your day

14 Find ways to enjoy any chores or tasks that you do

21 Listen to a piece of music without doing anything else

28 Notice when you're tired and take a break as soon as possible

FRIDAY

1 Set an intention to live with awareness and kindness

8 Eat mindfully. Appreciate the taste, texture and smell of your food

15 Stop. Breathe. Notice. Repeat regularly

22 Notice something that is going well, even if today feels difficult

29 Choose a different route today and see what you notice

SATURDAY

2 Notice three things you find beautiful in the outside world

9 Take a full breath in and out before you reply to others

16 Get really absorbed with an interesting or creative activity

23 Tune into your feelings, without judging or trying to change them

30 Mentally scan your body and notice what it is feeling

SUNDAY

3 Start today by appreciating your body and that you're alive

10 Get outside and notice how the weather feels on your face

17 Look around and spot three things you find unusual or pleasant

24 Appreciate your hands and all the things they enable you to do

31 Discover the joy in the simple things of life



ACTION FOR HAPPINESS

Happier · Kinder · Together



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;

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

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.