



## Fabulous February!

January is finally over and February is here - and we have been lucky with the weather so far! However, I have attached our snow plan again on page 3 just in case the weather turns.

There is only one week left of this half term, and as it will be Children's Mental Health Week as well as Safer Internet day on Tuesday, there will be additional activities taking place during the school days next week.

Finally, we wish to say a fond farewell to one of our High Needs Support Assistants, Mrs Lloyd, who said goodbye to us last week as she has sadly chosen to leave due to health reasons. We all wish her the very best for the future.

## 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 so far:

Class 1	95.7%
Class 2	93.5%
Class 3	95.8%
Class 4	94.5%
Class 5	93.7%
Class 6	93.2%
Class 7	94.1%
Class 8	94.9%
<b>Whole school</b>	<b>94.5%</b>

## KEY DATES

- \*February 6th-10th: Children's Mental Health Week
- \*Tuesday 7th February: Safer Internet Day
- \*February 13th - 17th: HALF TERM HOLIDAY
- \*Thursday 2nd March: World Book Day
- \*Friday 17th March: Comic Relief Day
- \*Tuesday 21st March: Parents' Evening (3.30-7pm)
- \*Weds 22nd March: World Thinking Day (for Scouts/Beavers/Guides/Brownies)
- \*Thurs 23rd March: Parents' Evening (3.30-5.30pm)
- \*Friday 31st March: Last day of term
- \*April 3rd - 14th: EASTER HOLIDAY

## Crisp Packet Project!

We have asked children to donate used crisp packets (which are cut and washed!) These will be made into thermal blankets which we intend to donate to the homeless. This is a worldwide project and we would like our school to be involved.

<https://crisppacketproject.com/>



## Internet Safety Day

On Tuesday 7th February we will be joining schools and youth organisations across the UK in celebrating Safer Internet Day 2023. Safer Internet Day is a global campaign to promote the safe and responsible use of technology, which calls on children and young people, parents, carers, teachers, and more, to help to create a better internet. Using the internet safely and positively is a key message that we promote in school and celebrating Safer Internet Day is a great opportunity for us to re-emphasise the online safety messages we deliver throughout the year. We would be delighted if you could join us in celebrating the day by continuing the conversation at home.



To help you with this, the UK Safer Internet Centre have created some free activities and information for parents and carers which are available at: [saferinternet.org.uk/SID-parents](https://saferinternet.org.uk/SID-parents). Whether you have 5 minutes to start a conversation or hours to spare, there are top tips, quizzes and films which you can use at home with your child. If you have any concerns or questions about keeping your child safe online, please do get in touch with your child's class teacher or myself. Kind regards, **Mr Hawkins - Computing Subject Lead**

## Clubs at Broomgrove Junior School

Our pupils have the opportunity to attend a wide variety of clubs, including: chess, netball (with Colchester United Community Foundation coaches), circus skills with Mr Mayne, Dodgeball and multi-skills (with Anglia Sports Management) and our Year 6 children can attend booster groups for SATs practice. Also, at lunchtimes, Colchester United F.C. coaches lead activities for different year groups on our MUGA (Multi Use Games Area.)

For further details, please enquire at our office.

**Snow Plan 2022-23**  
**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><b>BOTH SCHOOLS</b></p> <p>Essex website as above</p> <p>Approved radio stations – Heart FM &amp; BBC Radio Essex</p> <p>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.