



November News

I can't quite believe that it's already November! Dark mornings and dark evenings seem to have crept up so quickly this year.

This first week of the new half term has flown by too. In today's celebration assembly, our Year 3 children had their first experience of seeing me dance, and they were extremely polite with their feedback! I think some of the older children may have been cringing, and I don't blame them! The staff were laughing so I must have been entertaining. My dance moves are limited but it's better than my singing.

Please note two changes of dates (for both schools) for our joint Christmas Fayre and the non-uniform day. Happy weekend!

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	96.9%
Class 2	89.4%
Class 3	96.8%
Class 4	94.2%
Class 5	91.4%
Class 6	92.2%
Class 7	97.7%
Class 8	94.9%
Whole school	94.2%

KEY DATES

- *Mon 13th - Fri 17th Nov: National Anti-Bullying Week!
- *Fri 17th Nov: BBC Children In Need Day
- *Thurs 23rd Nov: Non-uniform day (for Christmas Fayre)
- *Fri 24th Nov: Non Pupil Day
- *Thurs 30th Nov: Christmas Fayre
- *Thurs 7th Dec: Christmas Jumper Day
- *Weds 13th Dec: Christmas Production
- *Thurs 14th Dec: School Christmas Dinner Day
- *Thurs 14th Dec: Christmas Production
- *Weds 20th Dec: Last day of term
- *Thurs 4th Jan: First day back to school

Children In Need Day

This year, BBC Children In Need day takes place on Friday 17th November.

The challenge is to "Be Spotacular!" Therefore, on this day, in return for donations to this worthy cause, children can come to school wearing spots (or Pudsy - related clothing.)



Message from Wivenhoe Council

I have recently been contacted by one of our local councillors. She has requested that we try to encourage parents to turn off their engines instead of idling them. She kindly shared a powerful Youtube video produced by the council about 1 in 20 deaths in Colchester being directly related respiratory illnesses. Here is the link:

<https://youtu.be/BIDQg2iqkfw?si=qp3HfD2ObxBPeah2>



Residents in Broomgrove have also communicated with councillors about other issues they face around cars and parking before and after school. One of the issues is people parking in front of their drives and completely obstructing their entry or exit from their own home, or so close to their drives that it makes it very difficult to pull out of their drive as their sight lines are restricted. We have therefore been asked to request that everyone parks considerately.

Clubs

This year, we have already been running several clubs and there are now more available to both schools.

We already have: an after-school club run by Colchester United (girls' dodgeball), Circus Skills with Mr Mayne, Netball Club run by Miss Chisnall and Ms Bowen-Davies. We also have cheerleading (delivered at the Infant School) and Computer Explorers. We are investigating having a film club too, to be delivered by Mrs Crockett. Next term, Mrs Eunson will also be delivering a chess club.

BOOMGROVE!

What an outstanding success BOOMGROVE was this week! We had fireworks, entertainers, a phoenix bonfire, light-up gifts, food, drinks and more food.

The team from Dynamic Fireworks delivered a fabulous firework display and the event was attended by many of our families and members of the local community.

We would like to thank members of the BSA for all of their hard work and giving their time, as well as other parent volunteers for all of their help. Without this, the event could not take place. We would also like to thank Chris Mayne, our caretaker, for designing and building the fantastic phoenix bonfire. We would like to thank Mairghread Sharpe, the Chair of the BSA for all she does to support our schools and raise much needed funds. Finally, we would like to thank you for all of your support.





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 MILLFIEL DS PRIMARY & BROOMGROVE JUNIOR SCHOOL CHOIRS

WIVENHOE HOUSE HOTEL

FRIDAY 10TH NOVEMBER 2023
TICKETS ARE LIMITED TO ADULTS
ONLY DUE TO SPACE

BAR OPENS AT 6:30 PM ADULT PRICE £12.00 TICKETS
PERFORMANCE STARTS AVAILABLE FROM
7PM - 9PM [WWW.TENDRINGFAMILIESFIRST.ORG/
DONATE](http://WWW.TENDRINGFAMILIESFIRST.ORG/DONATE)

New Ways November 2023

MONDAY



6 Try out a new way of being physically active

13 Do something playful outdoors – walk, run, explore, relax

20 Make a meal using a recipe or ingredient you've not tried before

27 Join a friend doing their hobby and find out why they love it

TUESDAY



7 Be creative. Cook, draw, write, paint, make or inspire

14 Find a new way to help or support a cause you care about

21 Learn a new skill from a friend or share one of yours with them

28 Discover your artistic side. Design a friendly greeting card

WEDNESDAY

1 Make a list of new things you want to do this month

8 Plan a new activity or idea you want to try out this week

15 Build on new ideas by thinking "Yes, and what if..."

22 Find a new way to tell someone you appreciate them

29 Enjoy new music today. Play, sing, dance or listen

THURSDAY

2 Respond to a difficult situation in a different way

9 When you feel you can't do something, add the word "yet"

16 Look at life through someone else's eyes and see their perspective

23 Set aside a regular time to pursue an activity you love

30 Look for new reasons to be hopeful, even in tough times

FRIDAY

3 Get outside and observe the changes in nature around you

10 Be curious. Learn about a new topic or an inspiring idea

17 Try a new way to practice self-care and be kind to yourself

24 Share with a friend something helpful you learned recently

SATURDAY

4 Sign up to join a new course, activity or online community

11 Choose a different route and see what you notice on the way

18 Connect with someone from a different generation

25 Use one of your strengths in a new or creative way

SUNDAY

5 Change your normal routine today and notice how you feel

12 Find out something new about someone you care about

19 Broaden your perspective: read a different paper, magazine or site

26 Try out a different radio station or new TV show



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>Infant School:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School Website – scrolling on the homepage • Tapestry • Microsoft Teams 	<p>Junior School:</p> <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
<p style="text-align: center;">BOTH SCHOOLS</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Essex website as above</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Approved radio stations – Heart FM & 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.

Essex County Council School Term and Holiday Dates for Community and Voluntary Controlled Schools - Academic Year 2023-2024

September 2023							October 2023							November 2023							December 2023								
M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S		
				1	2	3							1			1	2	3	4	5					1	2	3		
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31		
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31									
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31																
25	26	27	28	29	30		30	31																					
January 2024							February 2024							March 2024							April 2024								
M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7				1	2	3	4					1	2	3	1	2	3	4	5	6	7		
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31						
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22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31																				
29	30	31																											
May 2024							June 2024							July 2024							August 2024								
M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S		
		1	2	3	4	5						1	2	1	2	3	4	5	6	7					1	2	3	4	
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31				
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31											
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31																		
27	28	29	30	31																									

- = Schooldays
 = School holidays
 = Bank holidays
 = Non pupil days/ Weekends

In addition, schools allocate five non-pupil days out of the school days indicated, or the equivalent in disaggregated twilight sessions.

Autumn Term:	Monday 4 September 2023 – Wednesday 20 December 2023 <i>Half Term 23 October – 27 October</i>	73 days
Spring Term:	Thursday 4 January 2024 – Thursday 28 March 2024 <i>Half Term 19 February - 23 February</i>	56 days
Summer Term:	Monday 15 April 2024 – Tuesday 23 July 2024 <i>Half Term 27 May – 31 May, and May Bank Holiday - 6 May</i>	66 days
		195 days

Please note:

The above dates may vary for individual schools, especially Foundation, Voluntary Aided schools and Academies.
You are strongly advised to check with your child's school before making any holiday or other commitments.