



## Preparing for Christmas!

Thank you for your very kind donations for Children In Need today. It's lovely seeing so many children dressed up for the occasion.

Christmas is fast approaching! We are all preparing for the joint Christmas Fayre with the Infant School, taking place on Thursday 30th November. Each school will be having different stalls, entertainment and attractions and families will only need to pay once for entry into both schools. (We have obtained alcohol licence for this event.)

Staff and children are also preparing for the Christmas Production, once more created and led by the talented Mrs Minshull. As always, I try to avoid seeing any rehearsals so I can watch the show at the first performance for the first time. It's very exciting!

## 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	95.6%
Class 2	92.0%
Class 3	96.3%
Class 4	92.6%
Class 5	95.7%
Class 6	94.7%
Class 7	96.4%
Class 8	93.2%
<b>Whole school</b>	<b>94.6%</b>

## KEY DATES

- \*Thurs 23rd Nov: Non-uniform day (*donations for Present Room at Christmas Fayre*)
- \*Fri 24th Nov: Non Pupil Day
- \*Tues 28th November: Non-uniform day (*chocolate donations for tombola at Christmas Fayre*)
- \*Thurs 30th Nov: Christmas Fayre! (3.30-5.30pm; bar closes at 6pm)
- \*Thurs 7th Dec: Christmas Jumper Day (*for Save The Children*)
- \*Weds 13th Dec: Christmas Production 1:30pm and 6.30pm
- \*Thurs 14th Dec: School Christmas Dinner Day
- \*Thurs 14th Dec: Christmas Production 6:30pm
- \*Weds 20th Dec: Last day of term
- \*Thurs 4th Jan: First day back to school

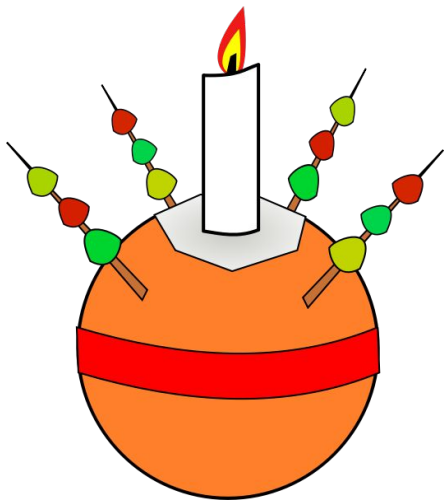
## Charitable causes

Today, we have raised in the region of £195 for Children In Need from your kind donations at the school gate. Mrs van der Wolf has also had all of your shoebox donations collected for the "500 Smiles" Christmas Shoebox project. Earlier this term, we also raised £500 for MacMillan from our coffee morning, and on Thursday 7th December, we will be celebrating 'Save The Children' charity's Christmas Jumper Day, raising funds for another well-deserved cause.



## Christingle Service at St Mary's Church by Rev Erwin Lammens

**Christingle on Sunday 3 December at 4.00pm at St Mary's church Wivenhoe.** It promises to be a special edition this year with all schools participating and the Wivenhoe Youth Choir as well. The collection will go to The Children's Society. Please note those with long hair should bind it together. At the end of the service, the infants will be given a Christingle with a glow stick. The older pupils will have one with a little candle. There will be a large team of volunteers helping.



There is also the **Visit of St Nicholas on 25 November at 10.30am.**

Our school will receive colouring sheets for the children to colour them in by next Thursday and these will be used to decorate the church at the event. Please see posters on the next pages.

## Ever thought of training to become a teacher?

A great teacher changes the future every day. Advance Teacher Training sets you on the path to becoming an excellent teacher, one who will inspire the next generation to succeed. We provide teacher training in Primary and Secondary ages, full-time and part-time courses. We have training bases at our Tendring base in Clacton, in Colchester and in Braintree.

If you would like to find out more, drop in to our event to meet with our Programme Director and explore your steps to a career in teaching.

To attend this event, drop in on Monday 11th December between 12-2pm, please email us at [enquiries@advanceteach.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@advanceteach.org.uk) to receive the zoom link.

## 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.

# **Saint Nicholas visits Wivenhoe**



**Wivenhoe Quay  
Saturday 25 November  
at 10.30am**

followed by Welcome  
Ceremony at St Mary's Church  
with sweets for all children

*This event is free thanks to the support of the Wivenhoe  
Town Council, Wivenhoe Sailing Club, Wivenhoe Ferry trust,  
St Mary's Church and St Mary's Bellringers*

## **St Mary's church Wivenhoe**

with the participation of **Broomgrove Infant & Junior School,**  
**Millfields Primary School and Wivenhoe Youth Choir**

# **CHRISTINGLE SERVICE**



**Sunday 3 December at 4pm**

**Join the celebration. All welcome**

**Free**

*Retiring collection for The Children's Society*

[www.stmaryswivenhoe.org](http://www.stmaryswivenhoe.org)

822511 (Erwin)

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## 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><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.

## 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	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
25	26	27	28	29	30		30	31						6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
														20	21	22	23	24	25	26	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
														27	28	29	30				25	26	27	28	29	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	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
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22	23	24	25	26	27	28	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31					26	27	28	29				25	26	27	28	29	30	31	29	30					

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	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
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27	28	29	30	31			24	25	26	27	28	29	30	29	30	31				26	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.

<b>Autumn Term:</b>	Monday 4 September 2023 – Wednesday 20 December 2023 <i>Half Term 23 October – 27 October</i>	73 days
<b>Spring Term:</b>	Thursday 4 January 2024 – Thursday 28 March 2024 <i>Half Term 19 February - 23 February</i>	56 days
<b>Summer Term:</b>	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.