



Happy New Year!

Having missed the end of the autumn term due to ill health, it has been wonderful returning to school at the start of this year.

The children have returned with positive attitudes and they have settled into their routines smoothly.

Last term, we sadly said goodbye to Mrs Crockett who has left to focus on her health business and this term, we have welcomed Mrs Freeman, who is teaching class 3 on Wednesdays and Thursdays.

We have a variety of trips and visitors booked for year groups across the school as well as events like World Book Day to look forward to.

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:

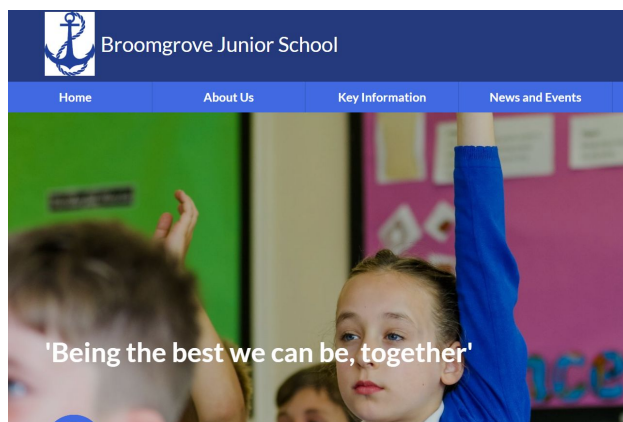
| | |
|---------------------|--------------|
| Class 1 | 92.3% |
| Class 2 | 89.4% |
| Class 3 | 94.0% |
| Class 4 | 95.4% |
| Class 5 | 85.1% |
| Class 6 | 96.6% |
| Class 7 | 98.8% |
| Class 8 | 91.1% |
| Whole school | 92.8% |

KEY DATES

- * Thurs 18th Jan: Y3 Prehistoric Day
- * Fri 2nd Feb: NSPCC Number Day
- * Tues 6th Feb: Safer Internet Day
- * Thurs 8th Feb: Y4 trip to Natural History Museum
- * Tues 13th Feb; Y6 Bawdsey parent meeting (3:45pm)
- * 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

Our new website!

As you know, I have been working on building a new website for our school. It has taken longer than expected (and I needed help from Miss Bonner and Mr Hawkins for some parts) but we are hopeful that it will be going live today or on Monday. We will notify you on Dojo as soon as it becomes live.



Tending Families First



Tending Families First is a local charity that provides early intervention and holistic support for children and families. Their support helps hundreds of families struggling with multiple complex issues including: poverty, family breakdown, isolation, mental health and behavioural challenges. The aims of this charity are: strengthening parental capacity, improving family relationships, improving emotional wellbeing and mental health, improved school attendance and attainment and improved self esteem and confidence. They provide a wealth of different services:

- Parenting & Family Support
- Specialist Support for Parents & Families of Children with Additional Needs
- Theraplay – Therapist & Dyadic Development Psychotherapist to offer Attachment focused therapy for children who have suffered 'Trauma'
- Play Therapy
- Art Therapy
- Counselling & Psychotherapy for Children
- Psychologist – Offering Brief Solution Focused Therapy
- Parenting Programmes – to include Parenting Together & Triple P Fearless – Anxiety
- Therapeutic 1:1 Support for Identified Children.
- Bespoke Training

We subscribe to receive the services of Tending Families First and some of our pupils and their families have received a variety of these. The charity is holding a fundraising event on 1st March - please see the flyer on final page of this newsletter.

Clubs at Broomgrove Junior school 2023- 2024 Spring Term 1

| | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday |
|--|--|-------------------|---|--|---|
| Morning Club 8:00 – 8:45am | | | Cheerleading (CC Allstars, infants) (17th, 24 and 31st Jan, 7th and 14th Feb) | | |
| Lunchtime Club | Colchester United | Colchester United | Colchester United | Colchester United | Colchester United |
| Afterschool Club 3:30 – 4:15pm | Computer Explorers (Neil Howard) in C4 classroom (08/01/24 - 12/02/24) | | Netball Club (Miss Chisnall and Ms Davies) (ongoing) | Circus skills (Mr Mayne) (11/01/24 - 15/02/24) | Chess Club (Spring Term) (12/01/24 - 09/02/24 and 1/3/24 - 22/3/24) |
| | | | Film Club Year 3 (Mrs Gruender) | Football Year 3 and 4 boys and girls (Colchester United) (11/01/24 - 15/02/24) | |

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.

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.



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 ADULT PRICE £12.00 TICKETS
PERFORMANCE STARTS AVAILABLE FROM
7PM - 9PM [WWW.TENDINGFAMILIESFIRST.ORG/
DONATE](http://WWW.TENDINGFAMILIESFIRST.ORG/DONATE)

Happier January 2024

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|---|--|--|---|--|---|---|
|  7 Learn something new and share it with others | 1 Find three things to look forward to this year | 2 Make time today to do something kind for yourself | 3 Do a kind act for someone else to help brighten their day | 4 Write a list of things you feel grateful for and why | 5 Look for the good in others and notice their strengths | 6 Take five minutes to sit still and just breathe |
| 14 Eat healthy food which really nourishes you today | 8 Say positive things to the people you meet today | 9 Get moving. Do something active (ideally outdoors) | 10 Thank someone you're grateful to and tell them why | 11 Switch off all your tech at least an hour before bedtime | 12 Connect with someone near you - share a smile or chat | 13 Take a different route today and see what you notice |
| 21 Try out something new to get out of your comfort zone | 15 Get outside and notice five things that are beautiful | 16 Contribute positively to your local community | 17 Be gentle with yourself when you make mistakes | 18 Get back in contact with an old friend | 19 Focus on what's good, even if today feels tough | 20 Go to bed in good time and allow yourself to recharge |
| 28 Ask other people about things they've enjoyed recently | 22 Plan something fun and invite others to join you | 23 Put away digital devices and focus on being in the moment | 24 Take a small step towards an important goal | 25 Decide to lift people up rather than put them down | 26 Choose one of your strengths and find a way to use it today | 27 Challenge your negative thoughts and look for the upside |
| | 29 Say hello to a neighbour and get to know them better | 30 See how many people you can smile at today | 31 Write down your hopes or plans for the future |  |  |  |

ACTION FOR HAPPINESS

Happier · Kinder · Together