



## The end of another term...

...and what a busy term it has been!

Our wonderful BSA organised and ran another successful Easter Fair which was enjoyed by many. Once again, events like this would not be possible without your kind and generous donations for which we are extremely grateful. Most of our Year 6 children have been at Bawdsey Manor this week and we look forward to welcoming them back and hearing all about their experiences.

Many classes have been studying Food Technology and this week Year 3 and 5 have impressed us with their "egg-cellent" designing and baking skills. Thank you for providing additional equipment and ingredients and I hope that the children saved enough for you to have a taste.

Finally, I would like to say a huge thank you to all of our staff, governors, BSA members and all of you for your continued support. I hope you all have a wonderful break and look forward to seeing you all when we return on the 15th April.

Miss Bonner

## 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	93.0%
Class 2	91.7%
Class 3	95.3%
Class 4	92.6%
Class 5	92.5%
Class 6	93.9%
Class 7	95.0%
Class 8	93.3%
<b>Whole school</b>	<b>93.3%</b>

## KEY DATES

- \* **Thurs 28th March: Last day of term**
- \* **Fri 29th March - Fri 12th April: Easter holiday**
- \* **Mon 15th April: First day back after Easter**
- \* **Mon 15th April - Tuesday 16th April - Bikeability**
- \* **Thurs 2nd May - Non Pupil Day**
- \* **Mon 13th May - Thurs 16th May - Year 6 SATs week**
- \* **Thurs 16th May - Friday 17th May - Yr 5 Residential**
- \* **Mon 27th May - Fri 31st May - Half term holiday**
- \* **Wed 12th June - Sports Day**
- \* **(Wed 19th June - Contingency Sports Day)**
- \* **Thurs 20th June - Year 4 trip to Colchester Zoo**
- \* **Thurs 27th June - Transition (moving up) morning**
- \* **Mon 15th July - Rock Steady Concert**
- \* **Tues 23rd July - Non Pupil Day**
- \* **Wed 24th July - 2nd September - Summer Holiday**

## Clubs at Broomgrove Junior School 2023- 2024 Summer Term

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<b>Morning Club</b> 8:00 – 8:45am			Cheerleading (CC Allstars, infants)		
<b>Lunchtime Club</b>	Colchester United	Colchester United	Colchester United	Colchester United	Colchester United
<b>Afterschool Club</b> 3:30 – 4:15pm	Computer Explorers (Neil Howard) in C4 classroom (15/04/24 - 20/04/24)		Netball Club (Miss Chisnall and Ms Davies) (ongoing)	Circus skills (Mr Mayne) (18/04/24 - 18/07/24)	Chess Club (Spring Term)
	Football for girls with Mrs Clarke year 3 and 4 GIRLS ONLY			Cricket Year 3 and 4 boys and girls (Colchester United) (18/04/24 - 23/04/24)	

## Young Scientists at the University! by Miss Chapman



On Monday 25th March, Class 3 and Class 5 were super excited to visit the University of Essex for a Science Fun Day. On arrival, the children met the scientists who explained what would be happening and the different types of scientists there are.



First was a visit to the STEM labs - most importantly, wearing a white lab coat to carry out investigations: looking at bacteria under a microscope; collecting a swab of 'dirt' which was spread across a petri dish of agar and left in a refrigerator to develop; learning about the ecology of the local seawater. (The small crabs grabbed attention.)



Finding out about Pebbles, the University cat, also proved popular!

In the afternoon was the Nature Trail - learning about ecology and biodiversity. The children hunted for plant, animal and insect life on campus. Did you know that lichen is more closely related to humans than plants?

The walk there and back proved tiring for some! But Science is awesome and we all enjoyed this trip.

### Polite Reminder

The school has had concerns raised by visitors to the site regarding adults vaping on the school premises. Can I remind all parents, carers and visitors to the school that we are a non smoking environment and this includes the use of vapes.

Thank you for your co-operation.

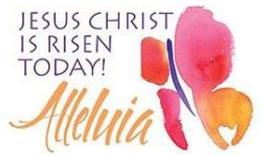


**Easter activities for children at St Mary's Church, Wivenhoe**  
**Saturday 30th March at 2pm**

Easter Garden decorations  
 Easter crafts  
 Easter Café  
 An Easter egg for each child  
 Suitable for children up to age 11  
 Ending at 4pm

**Free fun for all!**

With the support of  
 St Mary's Sunday Club  
[www.stmaryswivenhoe.org](http://www.stmaryswivenhoe.org)  
 01206 822511



**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;

<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>• Class Dojo</li> <li>• Parentmail</li> </ul>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>BOTH SCHOOLS</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Essex website as above</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Approved radio stations – Heart FM &amp; 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.