



Autumn issue 4 - 18/10/2024



## Fun Times!

We have had an exciting fortnight since our last newsletter!

The whole school celebrated World Mental Health Day on the 10th of October. Year 4 went out for a local visit, walking around Wivenhoe and seeing and learning about different historical landmarks. Year 3 enjoyed a Prehistoric Day and welcomed a special visitor who enabled the children to experience what life would have been like back then. The BSA has held its annual AGM and they are preparing for BOOMGROVE!

This week, Diamond achieved the most Dojos but Ruby were very close behind. There were only 8 Dojos between them!

## 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	96.8%
Class 2	97.7%
Class 3	97.0%
Class 4	96.6%
Class 5	95.2%
Class 6	97.5%
Class 7	95.1%
Class 8	90.8%
<b>Whole school</b>	<b>95.8%</b>

## KEY DATES

- \*Tuesday 22nd Oct: Bag2School collection
- \*Tuesday 22nd Oct: Parents' Evening (3.45 - 6.45pm)
- \*Thursday 24th Oct: Parents' Evening (3.45 - 5.45pm)
- \*Friday 25th Oct: Last day of half term
- \*Monday 4th Nov: First day back at school
- \*Monday 4th Nov: BOOMGROVE! BSA Fireworks display
- \*Tuesday 5th Nov: Tendring Families First Coffee Morning
- \*Monday 11th - Friday 15th Nov: Anti-Bullying Week
- \*Thursday 14th Nov: TFF Free Law Clinic
- \*Friday 15th Nov: Children In Need Day
- \*Tuesday 19th Nov: Odd Sock Day (Anti-Bullying Alliance)
- \*Wednesday 27th Nov: No Pens Day Wednesday
- \*Friday 29th Nov: Non-pupil day

## Prehistoric Day!

On Tuesday 15th October, our Year 3 pupils enjoyed a Prehistoric Day. Many of them dressed up for this event and from our visitor, they learnt all about life in prehistoric times.

This included learning about the tools which would have been used, watching a fish being cooked over a fire and the children made woolly mammoth models back in class.



## World Mental Health Day At Our School by Ms van der Wolf

World Mental Health Day is celebrated every year on the 10th October and, this year, Broomgrove Junior School decided to celebrate this day with a whole-day programme of wellbeing activities. The children learned about the importance of wellbeing and how positive wellbeing leads to good mental health. We had a morning of 8 round-robin activities, whereby each teacher led an activity that is close to their heart, an activity that they themselves turn to whenever they want to feel happy, calm and relaxed. The activities they shared with the children were: gardening and planting 250 bulbs kindly donated by **Beth Chatto Gardens**; painting seashells; yoga and meditation; being amazed by David Attenborough's nature films; completing different types of puzzles; learning a dance; mindful colouring and the enjoyment of Pixar and Disney animation; noticing nature in a nature walk.

In the afternoon, the children were back in class, where they shared their experiences and enjoyed watching the film 'Inside Out 2', in which the protagonist's emotions (joy, sadness, anxiety) are depicted as characters with conflicting goals, the film's story emphasizing the importance of maintaining good mental health. There was laughter, excitement and joy and both children and adults alike had a wonderful day.



# Secondary School Applications for September 2025 – Reminder for Year 6 Parents

As you may be aware, the statutory closing date for applications from parents of Year 6 children (for a secondary school place in Year 7 from September 2025) is **31 October 2024**.

The Local Authority has requested we include this reminder in our newsletter to remind parents of Year 6 children who have yet to submit an application, that they must do so **by 31 October 2024**. Any applications made late are dealt with after those made on time and so applying late reduces the chances of being offered a preferred school.

Applications can be made via their website [www.essex.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.essex.gov.uk/admissions).



Optimistic October 2024

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
1	 Look for the good in people around you today	1 Write down three things you can look forward to this month	2 Find something to be optimistic about (even if it's a difficult time)	3 Take a small step towards a goal that really matters to you	4 Start your day with the most important thing on your to-do list	5 Be a realistic optimist. See life as it is, but focus on what's good	6 Remind yourself that things can change for the better
7	8 Make some progress on a project or task you have been avoiding	9 Share an important goal with someone you trust	10 Take time to reflect on what you have accomplished recently	11 Avoid blaming yourself or others. Find a helpful way forward	12 Look out for positive news and reasons to be cheerful today	13 Ask for help to overcome an obstacle you are facing	
14	15 Thank yourself for achieving the things you often take for granted	16 Put down your to-do list and do something fun or uplifting	17 Take a small step towards a positive change you want to see in society	18 Set hopeful but realistic goals for the days ahead	19 Identify one of your positive qualities that will be helpful in the future	20 Find joy in tackling a task you've put off for some time	
21	22 Share a hopeful quote, picture or video with a friend or colleague	23 Recognise that you have a choice about what to prioritise	24 Write down three specific things that have gone well recently	25 You can't do everything! What are your three priorities right now?	26 Find a new perspective on a problem you face	27 Be kind to yourself today. Remember, progress takes time	
28	29 Plan a fun or exciting activity to look forward to	30 Identify three things that give you hope for the future	31 Set a goal that brings a sense of purpose for the coming month				

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# FREE CONFIDENTIAL LEGAL ADVICE FOR FAMILIES

**Has your relationship broken down?**

**Issues Concerning Children?**

We are pleased to be working with Essex University Law Clinic to provide a local school based confidential law clinic, to provide legal advice and information on a wide variety of issues affecting families, such as divorce and contact with children.

All advice is given by University of Essex law students in strictest confidence under supervision.

**THURSDAY 14<sup>TH</sup> November 2024 – AM**

**BROOMGROVE JUNIOR SCHOOL  
by appointment only, No drop ins.**

Appointments will be offered following submission of referral form  
please pick up a referral form from the school office or call or email:

[info@tendingfamiliesfirst.org](mailto:info@tendingfamiliesfirst.org) or call - 07944333685

Organised by **Tending Families First** in collaboration with the **Essex Law Clinic**

## 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.



## Helping parents to understand the changes to fines for term time holidays

With the introduction of the new National Framework for Penalty Notices, the following changes will come into force for Penalty Notice Fines issued for unauthorised holidays recorded by schools **after 19<sup>th</sup> August 2024**.

### Who may be fined?

Penalty Notice Fines are issued to each parent who allows their child to be absent from school.

For example: 3 siblings absent for term time leave, would result in each parent who allowed the holiday receiving 3 separate fines.

### First Offence

The first time a Penalty Notice is issued for an unauthorised term time holiday the fine amount will be:

£80 per parent, per child if paid within 21 days.

Increasing to £160 if paid between days 22-28.

### National Threshold

There will be a single consistent national threshold for when a penalty notice must be considered by all schools in England of 10 sessions (usually equivalent to 5 school days) of unauthorised absence within a rolling 10 school week period.

These sessions do not have to be consecutive and can be made up of a combination of any type of unauthorised absence, including the U code (late after registers have closed).

For example: a 5 day holiday would meet the national threshold.

The 10-school week period can span different terms or school years.

### Second Offence

#### (within 3 years)

The Second time a Penalty Notice is issued for unauthorised absence the amount will be:

£160 per parent (who allowed the holiday), per child, payable within 28 days.

### Third Offence and Any Further Offences (within 3 years)

The third time an offence is committed a Penalty Notice will not be issued and local authorities will need to consider other available measures to address the absence concerns. This may mean that cases are presented before a Magistrate's Court. Prosecution can result in criminal records and fines of up to £2,500.

Cases found guilty in the Magistrates' Court can show on the parent's future DBS certificate due to 'failure to safeguard a child's education'.