



Ho Ho Ho! Jingle All The Way!

The Christmas spirit has definitely appeared at our school! We have had Christmas Jumper Day, Christmas Dinner and our joint Christmas Fayre with the Infant School. All were a complete success.

Also, the children are preparing for their Christmas production performances next week.

Despite the changes to our usual routines and timetables, everything has gone smoothly and as always, the children have made us proud.

With only one week left, excitement is in the air for the production and other exciting events.

ATTENDANCE MATTERS!

A polite reminder for all parents/guardians to please call our absence line on 01206 822893 option 1 or email attendance@broomgrovejuniorschool.co.uk for all absences. Please **do not** send the class teacher a message via Dojo. Please ensure that you call in on a daily basis for every day that your child is absent, stating the reason for absence, simply saying unwell is not enough information for us to know whether to authorise the absence or not. Thank you for your support.

Attendance Percentages for this academic year:

Class 1	96.7%
Class 2	96.3%
Class 3	95.5%
Class 4	94.8%
Class 5	94.6%
Class 6	96.3%
Class 7	95.0%
Class 8	91.4%
Whole school	95.1%

KEY DATES

***Monday 16th Dec: Parents' Rocksteady Concert**

***Wednesday 18th Dec: Christmas Production (afternoon and evening)**

***Thursday 19th Dec: Christmas Production**

***Friday 20th Dec: Last day of term**

***Monday 6th Jan: First day back to school**

Fundraising

Thank you all for your generous contributions recently.

We raised £280 raised for Red Nose Day and £412.82 raised for Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal.



Shoebox Appeal

We have received this lovely message from the organisers of the Shoebox Appeal:

"I just wanted to thank you for your support with our shoebox appeal. We had an amazing response and have checked and dispatched 915 shoeboxes this year, which is a record. We couldn't have done it without you and those boxes will give delight to many children. I am attaching some photos, including one of our awesome team of 'checkers' who go through each box and make up extra boxes from the huge amount of items that are donated. Others show our lovely caretaker, Rik, getting all the boxes onto the van and also of them being offloaded in Folkestone prior to departure to the railhead."



Broomgrove Christmas Fayre

What a wonderful success! We hope you enjoyed our joint Christmas Fayre, including the additional stallholders, food vendors and fairground rides.

Feedback received on the night was very positive and none of this would happen without the time and goodwill of everyone. So, we would like to thank the staff at both schools as well as BSA volunteers for all of the organising, planning and staffing on the night.

Once we know how much was raised, we will share this with you. Thank you for your support.

Snow Plan 2024-25

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

Infant School: <ul style="list-style-type: none">● School Website – scrolling on the homepage● Tapestry● Microsoft Teams	Junior School: <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
BOTH SCHOOLS Essex website as above Approved radio stations – Heart FM & BBC Radio Essex Parent Mail	

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 THAT THE 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 ParentMail/call you to collect your child.
- If conditions are bad the following morning and our school remains closed, please check our website for updates and a ParentMail, Tapestry, Teams or Class Dojo 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/Tapestry 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.



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 19th 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'.

Essex County Council School Term and Holiday Dates for Community and Voluntary Controlled Schools - Academic Year 2025-2026

September 2025							October 2025							November 2025							December 2025						
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
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29	30																										
January 2026							February 2026							March 2026							April 2026						
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May 2026							June 2026							July 2026							August 2026						
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☐ = Schooldays	◻ = School holidays	◼ = Bank holidays
◻ = Weekends	◻ = Non-pupil days	

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

Autumn Term:	Monday 1 September 2025 – Friday 19 December 2025 <i>Half Term 27 October – 31 October</i>	75 days
Spring Term:	Monday 5 January 2026 – Friday 27 March 2026 <i>Half Term 16 February - 20 February</i>	55 days
Summer Term:	Monday 13 April 2026 – Monday 20 July 2026 <i>Half Term 25 May – 29 May, and May Bank Holiday - 4 May</i>	65 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.