



## Happy New Year!

Happy New Year and welcome back!

It's already the end of the first week back and the children have settled back in really well. Year 6 children have had their first swimming lesson and Year 5 have had their first drama session of a project being delivered by Ignition Arts.

This term, there are lots of events already in the calendar. 😊

Finally, we can share with you that the BSA has confirmed that £3211 was raised across both schools at The Christmas Fayre. We wish to thank all of the volunteers from the BSA as well as the staff at both schools and external stall holders. And thank you all for your support.

## 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	96.1%
Class 2	95.9%
Class 3	94.9%
Class 4	94.7%
Class 5	94.5%
Class 6	95.8%
Class 7	95.1%
Class 8	91.0%
<b>Whole school</b>	<b>94.7%</b>

## KEY DATES

\* Thursday 23rd Jan: Sportshall Athletics at The Colne Community School

\* Monday 3rd - Friday 7th Feb: Children's Mental Health Week

\* Monday 17th - Friday 21st Feb: Half term holidays

\* Monday 24th Feb: Non-Pupil Day (Staff training)

\* Wednesday 26th Feb: Class Photos

\* Monday 3rd March: National Offer Day for Secondary Schools

\* Thursday 6th March: World Book Day

\* Monday 10th - Friday 14th March: British Science Week

\* Friday 21st March: Red Nose Day

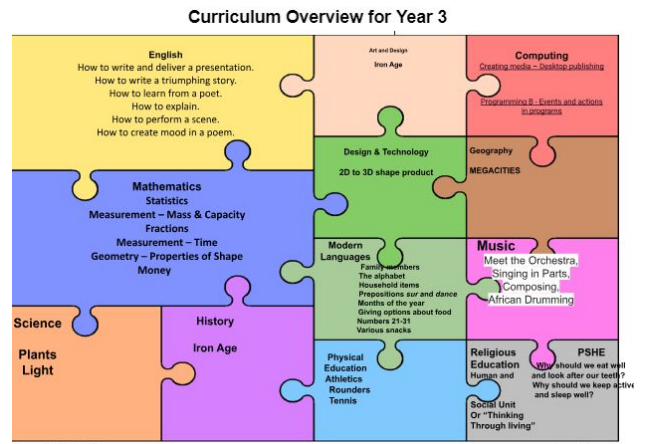
\* Tuesday 25th March: Parents' Evening

\* Thursday 27th March: Parents' Evening

## Curriculum Overviews

All teachers will be sharing this term's curriculum overviews (jigsaws) by today on the class pages on Class Dojo.

We share this information at the start of every term to inform you what your child will be learning across all 13 subjects of the National Curriculum.



## Additional information, updates and reminders ...

**ROAD SAFETY:** We have been made aware that a couple of children in Y6 have had “near misses” with vehicles this morning. Today, I have reminded all children in the school about the importance of road safety and those children have been spoken to. We would be very grateful if you could also remind your children about the importance of road safety.



**WET WEATHER GEAR:** As you know, part of our uniform policy is that all children have wellington boots, waterproof over-trousers and a waterproof jacket available **every day** in school (not just on Forest School days.) This is because all classes have outdoor learning (where any of their daily lessons for any subject is taught outside.) Also, it is so children can enjoy time outside at lunchtimes when it is raining or is muddy. Once we appoint a new site manager, the welly racks and clothes rails (for hanging the wet weather gear) will be erected and in use. Please ensure your child has these items available every day.

## Shine Bright Like a Diamond!

As you know, we recently launched our “Accumulator” (tubes with coloured balls) to represent the winning house team each week when all Dojos are accumulated.

At the end of last term, DIAMOND was the winning house team. All members of that house team will soon be receiving an extra breaktime and we also propose to have hot chocolate for them.

# NHS Pharmacy First

Did you know that the NHS Pharmacy First Service enables children and adults to get convenient access to healthcare advice and treatment where appropriate, for seven common conditions without the potential delay of having to wait for a GP appointment? Accessing the service may mean that we can help children feel better and get back to school as quickly as possible, as well as supporting parents/carers to also get better if they are unwell with one of the conditions covered under the service.

There is no need to make an appointment; parents or carers can pop into their local Boots pharmacy with their child and ask for help under the service.

Support for the following conditions can be accessed under the service, free of charge (unless NHS prescription charges apply):

<b>Common condition</b>	<b>Patient eligibility</b>
Earache	1 to 17 years
Impetigo	1 year and over
Infected insect bites and stings	1 year and over
Sore throats	5 years and over
Sinusitis	12 years and over
Uncomplicated urinary tract	Women 16 to 64 years
Shingles	18 years and over

A summary of the service is available as an [animation](#) and more information can also be found at [nhs.uk/thinkpharmacyfirst](https://www.nhs.uk/thinkpharmacyfirst) as well as at <https://www.boots.com/healthhub/a-z-services/pharmacy-first>.

## 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

<b>Infant School:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● School Website – scrolling on the homepage</li><li>● Tapestry</li><li>● Microsoft Teams</li></ul>	<b>Junior School:</b> <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>● <a href="#">Parentmail</a></li></ul>
<b>BOTH SCHOOLS</b> 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 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'.