



Hello February!

Despite the cold, frosty mornings, the children's spirits have not been dampened over the past couple of weeks.

This week, we have acknowledged Children's Mental Health Week in classrooms (with the "Know Yourself, Grow Yourself" rucksack activities) as well as outside with our sponsored Walk and Talk (raising well deserved funds for Tendring Families First.) The children have also celebrated National Storytelling Week and enjoyed the wonders of stories. The BSA has organised two more events for this term: "Love Yourself Day" on Friday 14th February (children can wear non-uniform in return for a £1 donation to the BSA which raises funds for both Broomgrove schools.) Also, they will be holding two discos - one for the infants and one for the

juniors. 

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	95.8%
Class 2	95.4%
Class 3	94.7%
Class 4	95.0%
Class 5	94.2%
Class 6	95.0%
Class 7	94.4%
Class 8	91.4%
Whole school	94.5%

KEY DATES

- *Tuesday 11th Feb: Safer Internet Day
- *Friday 14th Feb: BSA "Love Yourself Day" (non-uniform)
- *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 (3:45 - 6:45pm)
- *Thursday 27th March: Parents' Evening (3.45 - 5:45pm)
- *Monday 31st March: Rocksteady Concert (at 2.15pm)
- *Monday 31st March - Friday 4th April: Y6 residential

Firstsite Holiday Fun!

There is some upcoming February Holiday Fun at Firstsite in Colchester! They are offering free food, sports and art activities for the whole family to enjoy. Holiday Fun is running from the 18th to the 22nd of Feb 2025 (please see the flyer attached to this newsletter or their website for more information.)



Sponsored "Walk and Talk" for Tendring Families First

This week is Children's Mental Health Week and on Thursday 6th February, we held a sponsored Walk and Talk as research confirms that walking and talking outdoors is good for mental health and wellbeing. It can help to reduce levels of stress, depression and anxiety. Many parents and carers attended to join in with this event and everyone seemed to enjoy it. The event was also attended by Stef and Julieann (Family Support Workers) from Tendring Families First.



As TFF is a charity, it relies on donations, fundraising and grants and our school community benefits hugely from the services it provides (including counselling, psychotherapy, play therapy, art therapy and Family Support Workers.) We are still collecting in the sponsorship money you have raised and we hope to be able to share the total with you soon. On behalf of TFF and our school, we would like to thank you for your continued support.

Autism Central



Autism Central is Here to Help all Schools!

Autism Central is a Peer Education and Support Service run by parents, for parents, offering online group sessions and 1:1 support for parents and carers of autistic people of any age.

Visit the Autism Central website to book onto a group session, or request a 1:1 appointment.

<https://www.autismcentral.org.uk/hubs/east-england-delivered-essex-county-council>



LOVE YOURSELF DAY

Friday 14th February

We think you're fantastic just the way you are. So come to school as you!

No uniform - wear whatever makes you feel happy and comfortable!

£1 (suggested) donation to the BSA, collected by class teachers or via link

<https://pay.sumup.com/b2c/QQWC6VAZ>

Firstsite Holiday Fun

February Half-term 2025
Tue 18 Feb - Sat 22 Feb

Colchester


Activities take place at:
Firstsite
Lewis Gardens, High St
Colchester, Essex
CO1 1JH



FREE

Make

Free creative
art activities
10:00am -
2:30pm



Move

Free fun sports
activities
10:45am -11:45am
& 12:00pm -1:00pm



Canteen

Free freshly made
hot meals for
all the family
11:45am &
1:00pm

Our Holiday Fun activities are for families facing economic challenges or who require additional support during the school holidays including those that qualify for benefit-based free school meals.

- Advanced booking is essential
- Activities most suitable for 4-11 years, but all ages welcome
- Caregivers are required to stay on site throughout the activities
- Menus and lists of activities available at www.firstsite.uk

Delivered in partnership with:



How to book

Early bird tickets will be available from 9am Tue 4 Feb.

More tickets will be released three days in advance of each session.

Limited spaces available, offered on a first come first served basis.

If you can no longer attend your booking, please let us know as soon as possible by calling 01206 713700. If you contact us 24 hours before the event your space can be made available for another family.

Thank you!



Book online at
firstsite.uk
or call 01206
713700

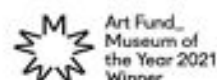
Scan the QR
code to book



How to find us

**Firstsite, Lewis Gardens
High Street, Colchester CO1 1JH**

Registered in England, Company no 2884347.
Registered Charity no 1031800



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
									1	2	3	4	5						1	2	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
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8	9	10	11	12	13	14	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
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22	23	24	25	26	27	28	27	28	29	30	31			24	25	26	27	28	29	29	30	31					
29	30																										

January 2026							February 2026							March 2026							April 2026						
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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5	6	7	8	9	10	11	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
26	27	28	29	30	31	23	24	25	26	27	28	23	24	25	26	27	28	27	28	29	30						
													30	31													

May 2026							June 2026							July 2026							August 2026						
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
				1	2	3	1	2	3	4	5	6	7			1	2	3	4	5						1	2
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25	26	27	28	29	30	31	29	30					27	28	29	30	31	24	25	26	27	28	29	30			
																			31								

- = 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.

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'.