



Spring issue 4 - 7/3/2025



## Springtime has finally arrived!

We have all been enjoying the milder weather and it certainly has an impact on everyone when the sun is shining.



The children have enjoyed the BSA's "Love Yourself Day" on Valentine's Day and all of the reading activities and fun on World Book Day.

They have the BSA school discos to look forward to in a couple of weeks time, also.

Parents' Evenings are also happening soon and further information will be communicated to you very soon about this.

## 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	95.6%
Class 2	95.4%
Class 3	94.6%
Class 4	94.9%
Class 5	93.9%
Class 6	95.3%
Class 7	94.4%
Class 8	91.2%
<b>Whole school</b>	<b>94.4%</b>

## KEY DATES

- \*Monday 10th : Friday 14th March: British Science Week
- \*Tuesday 11th March : Y4 trip to Essex University
- \*Thursday 20th March: BSA's Junior School Discos!
- \*Friday 21st March: **Red Nose Day!**
- \*Monday 24th March: Rocksteady Concert (at 2.15pm)
- \*Tuesday 25th March: Parents' Evening (3.45 - 6.45pm)
- \*Thursday 27th March: Parents' Evening (3.45 - 5.45pm)
- \*Monday 31st March - Friday 4th April: Y6 residential
- \*Tuesday 1st April: Y5 Bikeability
- \*Wednesday 2nd April: Y5 Bikeability
- \*Monday 7th April - Monday 21st April: Easter holidays
- \*Tuesday 22nd April: First day back to school

## Love Yourself Day!

On Friday 14th February, the BSA organised "Love Yourself Day" and children were invited to wear non-uniform for a voluntary donation to the BSA.

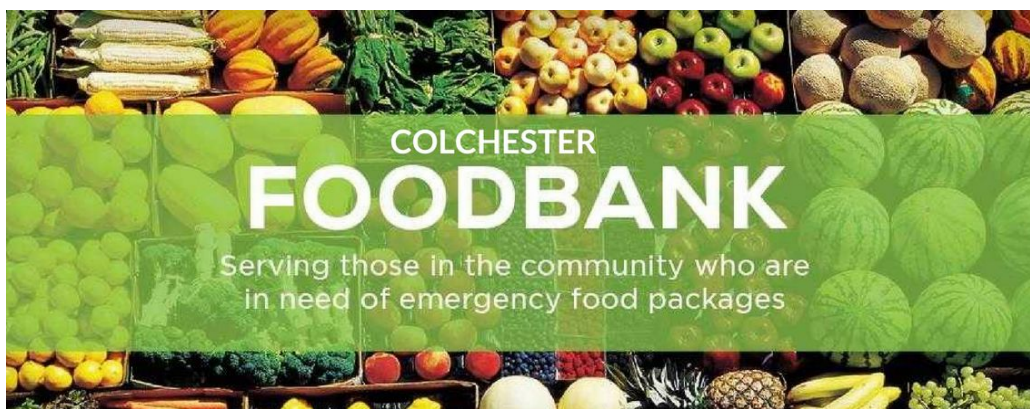
**£250.60** was raised across both schools.

Also, the afterschool sale of dressing up costumes (for World Book Day) and treats for children made **£75.35**.



## Colchester Food Bank - by Ruby and Grace

We went to Colchester Food Bank with Guides and they said, "We are running low on things so do a talk at school or tell your friends to help donate." So, we thought we could do a donation at school. The stuff they are really short of is: tinned meat/fish, tinned potatoes, small boxes of teabags (80s), tinned fruit, small bags of rice, tinned custard/rice pudding, jam, small jars of coffee, vegetable oil, multi packs of snacks, deodorant (male and female), shampoo, shower gel, shaving foam/gel, small washing powder/liquid, nappies sizes 3, 4, 5 and 6, toilet rolls and cereals. We are sure the Food Bank would really appreciate any donations. Thank you, from Ruby and Grace.



**Mindful March 2025**

SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
1 Set an intention to live with awareness and kindness	2 Notice three things you find beautiful in the outside world	3 Start today by appreciating your body and that you're alive	4 Notice how you speak to yourself and choose to use kind words	5 Bring to mind people you care about and send love to them	6 If you find yourself rushing, make an effort to slow down	7 Take three calm breathes at regular intervals during your day
8 Eat mindfully. Appreciate the taste, texture and smell of your food	9 Take a full breath in and out before you reply to others	10 Get outside and notice how the weather feels on your face	11 Stay fully present while drinking your cup of tea or coffee	12 Listen deeply to someone and really hear what they are saying	13 Pause to watch the sky or clouds for a few minutes today	14 Find ways to enjoy any chores or tasks that you do
15 Stop. Breathe. Notice. Repeat regularly	16 Get really absorbed with an interesting or creative activity	17 Look around and spot three things you find unusual or pleasant	18 Have a 'no plans' day and notice how that feels	19 Cultivate a feeling of loving-kindness towards others today	20 Focus on what makes you and others happy today	21 Listen to a piece of music without doing anything else
22 Notice something that is going well, even if today feels difficult	23 Tune into your feelings, without judging or trying to change them	24 Appreciate your hands and all the things they enable you to do	25 Focus your attention on the good things you take for granted	26 Choose to spend less time looking at screens today	27 Appreciate nature around you, wherever you are	28 Notice when you're tired and take a break as soon as possible
29 Choose a different route today and see what you notice	30 Mentally scan your body and notice what it is feeling	31 Discover the joy in the simple things of life				

**ACTION FOR HAPPINESS** Happier · Kinder · Together



## Tendring Families First Sponsored "Walk and Talk"

Thank you for your fundraising and also for coming and joining the children for this event during Children's Mental Health Week. Our school raised **over £240** for this wonderful charity. They provide a variety of services to our pupils and their families.

Here are some quotes about the difference counselling makes for our children:

*"I like coming to counselling, I know I am safe, I can say my worries it helped me calm down"  
"I have got rid of my worries".*

*"I would recommend counselling to my friend, we talked about being mad, happy, loved and sad because they are all the ways I feel"*

*"Counselling helps everyone develop their minds and helps with your worries; it has helped with my worries in the car".*

*"Counselling makes me feel happy and comfortable to be able to talk to someone, it relaxes my mind".*

*"It helped my confidence".*

*"Before Counselling I didn't tell my worries to anyone but now I can tell my family, teacher and counsellor"*

*"I like having someone to talk to because mum gets sad a lot, so it helps to have someone".*

*"It's fun, it helps with bad thoughts and helps you forget bad things".*

*"Counselling has helped me come to school, before I didn't want to and now, I do".*

*"Counselling helped to lift the weight off my shoulders".*

### Overall Counselling evaluations:

97% Found Counselling Helpful

95% Felt Better About Their Situation After Counselling

96% Feel More Confident After Counselling

75 % Felt they saw Counsellor for as Long as they wanted.

100% Felt they could Trust their Counsellor.

100% Would Recommend Counselling for their Friends.

## Donation Appreciation

Awarded to

**BROOMGROVE JUNIOR SCHOOL**

**THANK YOU !**

**Your Support Helps To Make a Difference for  
Vulnerable Children & Families.**



## Professional Feedback On Support from Tendring Families First

"Tendring are so lucky to have you and Tendring First there to support them. You are making such a difference to these families lives and I am honoured to be a part of it".

"You go above with what you do for our families".

"A big thank you from the team here for your support and guidance".

"Many thanks for your support and ideas this morning. I am so pleased we have a clear plan going forward. Thanks".

"Navigating home/school can be tricky and we appreciate your help".

"Pleased the family feels things have and are improving".

## Parent Counselling Evaluations & Impact

100% Found Counselling Helpful for their Child.

100% Believed Their Child Felt Better About Their Situation After Counselling

100% Believed Their Child Felt More Confident After Counselling

100% Felt their Child Was Seen Quickly

100% Felt the Counsellor understood their family's needs

100% Would Recommend Counselling for their Friends if their child needed it

## How your Donation Helps

**£500** Donation would enable two children to receive 8 weeks of Therapeutic Counselling

**£1,000** Donation would allow for one child and family to receive 12 weeks of Theraplay Attachment & Dyadic Developmental Psychotherapy

**£2,000** Donation would provide five children with 12 weeks of 1:1 Play Therapy

**£5,000** Donation enables six families to receive 1:1 intensive Family Support for 12 weeks.

**ACL**

**FREE**

**FAMILY SUPPORT  
SESSIONS FOR PARENT  
& CARERS**

**ONLINE**



**An opportunity for parents/carers, to come along and connect with a community dedicated to positive growth and development. All sessions are online**

**Sibling Rivalry**

11/03/2025 1900 - 2100 Search 'Sibling' via our website

**Sleep For Wellbeing**

13/03/2025 0930 - 1130 Search 'Bitesize Sleep' via our website

**Managing Big Emotions**

25/03/2025 1900 - 2100 or 28/03/2025 1230 - 1430  
Search 'Big Emotions' via our website

**Family Wellbeing**

27/03/2025 0930 - 1130 Search 'Family Wellbeing' via our website

Visit our website [aclessex.com](https://www.aclessex.com) and type the key words above in to the 'Find a course...' box

## 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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1	2	3	4	5	6	7	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
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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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26	27	28	29	30	31		23	24	25	26	27	28	23	24	25	26	27	28	27	28	29	30					
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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	
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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.

<b>Autumn Term:</b>	Monday 1 September 2025 – Friday 19 December 2025 <i>Half Term 27 October – 31 October</i>	75 days
<b>Spring Term:</b>	Monday 5 January 2026 – Friday 27 March 2026 <i>Half Term 16 February - 20 February</i>	55 days
<b>Summer Term:</b>	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

<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'.