



Wonderful October!

October is and has been an exciting month at our school.

Our choir performed at St Mary's church, we have celebrated: Harvest, European Day of Languages, World Mental Health Day, and Black History Month with various activities across the school. Also, Year 4 have been out on a walk around Wivenhoe to learn about our local area and other year groups are planning trips and visitors.

Whilst the weather has been mild, we wish to remind you that we expect children to have a jacket or coat with them every day at this time of year - as well as their wellies, waterproof trousers and waterproof jacket in school every day.

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	96.7%
Class 2	97.4%
Class 3	98.2%
Class 4	96.5%
Class 5	96.5%
Class 6	95.4%
Class 7	96.7%
Class 8	96.4%
Whole school	96.7%

KEY DATES

- * Tuesday 21st Oct: **Parents' Evening** (3:45 - 6:45pm)
- * Thursday 23rd Oct: **Parents' Evening** (3:45 - 5:45pm)
- * Friday 24th Oct: Last day of half term
- " Monday 27th - Friday 31st Oct: Half term holidays
- * Monday 3rd Nov - First day back at school
- * Tuesday 4th Nov: **BOOMGROVE!** Fireworks display
- * Friday 7th Nov: Year 3 Prehistoric Day
- * Monday 10th - Friday 14th Oct: Anti-Bullying Week
- * Friday 14th Nov: Children In Need Day
- * Friday 14th - Tuesday 18th Nov: Book Fair after school
- * Wednesday 26th Nov: No Pens Day Wednesday!
- * Wednesday 26th Nov: Y4 trip to Colchester Castle
- * Friday 28th Nov: **Non-Pupil Day**

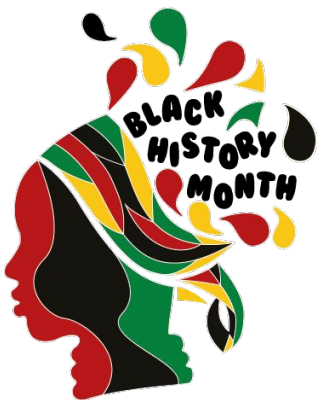
Show Racism The Red Card

'Show Racism the Red Card' was established in January 1996, thanks in part to a donation by then Newcastle United goalkeeper Shaka Hislop. This is now the UK's leading anti-racism educational charity. Today is "Wear Red Day 2025" and our pupils were invited to wear an item of red, should they wish to participate and support this charity's powerful message.



Black History Month

October is Black History Month, a wonderful opportunity for our school community to celebrate Black history, heritage and culture. This year's theme is 'Standing Firm in Power and Pride', looking at empowerment and the stories of Black leaders, activists and pioneers around the globe. Throughout this month, we have had assemblies, lessons and activities celebrating the achievements and acknowledging the challenges many people have faced. Each class is working on a poster about a different famous person and the classes are learning their heritage, whether they were part of the Windrush generation, their profession, contribution to the Black Rights movement and what they are known for.



These include: Dame Floella Benjamin, Walter Tull, Marcus Rashford, Mary Seacole, Sir William Arthur Lewis, Malorie Blackman, Paul Stephenson and Joan Armatrading.

While Black History Month is a great opportunity to explore Black history, heritage, culture and achievements, and spark discussion about equality and inclusion, we're committed to ensuring that Black history is integrated into our curriculum all year round, and not just in October.

BOOMgrove!

Get ready for BOOMgrove 2025 - the ultimate BSA firework celebration!

Enjoy dazzling fire dancers, thrilling fairground rides, mouth-watering pizza and doughnuts, authentic treats from Norwegian Bakers, tasty hot dogs, a licensed bar and a glow stall to light up your night!

Don't miss out on the most spectacular night of the year! All welcome!

<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/broomgrove-schools-association>

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
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
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
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
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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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	29	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	
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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	
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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.

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'.