



November nights drawing in!

The year seems to be flying by at the moment and before we know it, Christmas will be here!

Thank you all for attending our Parents' Evenings at the end of last half term. I hope you found the meetings useful.

Whilst it is still only the start of this half-term, we have already had our wonderful Broomgrove fireworks extravaganza and Year 3 have had their Prehistoric Day. The whole school has recognised Anti-Bullying Week and many have worn odd socks and today we have raised funds for the BBC Children In Need charity. Many of you have also kindly donated filled shoe boxes for children in Romania.

As always, thank you all for your continued 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	96.8%
Class 2	97.3%
Class 3	97.1%
Class 4	96.6%
Class 5	95.8%
Class 6	95.0%
Class 7	96.4%
Class 8	96.9%
Whole school	96.5%

KEY DATES

- *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
- *Thursday 27th Nov: Non-uniform Day (for BSA)
- *Friday 2nd Nov: **Non-Pupil Day**
- *Friday 5th December: Non-uniform Day (for BSA)
- *Thursday 11th Dec: Christmas Jumper Day
- *Thursday 11th Dec: Christmas Dinner Day
- *Thursday 11th Dec: BSA Christmas Fayre
- *Monday 15th Dec: Rocksteady Concert
- *Wednesday 17th Dec: Winter Wonderland Concerts
- *Friday 19th Dec: Last day of term
- *Monday 5th Jan: Back to school! School term starts

Children In Need 2025

Today is Children In Need Day and in return for your kind donations to this worthy cause, children were invited to wear non-uniform (spotty/yellow/red/Pudsey Items.)

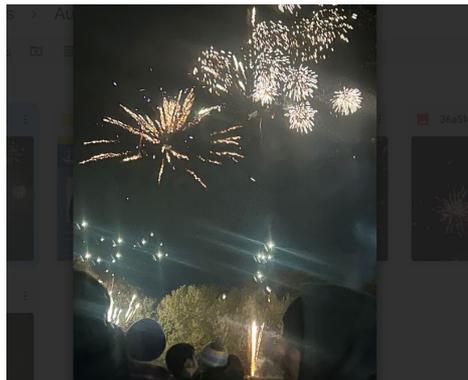
At the time of writing, 52 families have kindly donated a total sum of £271. Thank you all. 😊



BOOMgrove 2025

As always, our BSA organised yet another wonderful fireworks event for both schools and the local community. We are so incredibly grateful to all the parents and guardians and other family members who volunteered their time to organise and deliver this event. We are also grateful to all of the stall holders and entertainment and their contributions. I would also like to thank our staff for volunteering their time too.

Without everyone's kindness, time and generosity, such events could not take place and not only are they wonderful fun, they also raise much-needed funds for both schools. Thank you all for buying tickets and attending too! **£3409 was raised!**



Considerate Parking

I am sorry to have to share this message yet again. We are still being contacted by local residents about inconsiderate parking by families at the start and end of the school day. Not all road markings, signage and parking restrictions are being adhered to. Some people have parked in a position that blocks driveways or restricts access to residents' driveways and also one resident opposite the school gates has had numerous occasions of people actually parking on his driveway without permission! Could we please kindly request that everyone parks considerately and follows the road markings and Highway Code. We have been advised that red lines will be painted along the road in February 2026.

A Message from ESSEX REBELS!



We are giving out free tickets to our upcoming Essex Rebels volleyball game at the Arena and would like to invite you and your students to join us at the Essex Sport Arena on **Saturday 15th November** for a special **Essex Rebels Volleyball Doubleheader vs Durham Palatinates**, as we aim to **break the UK attendance record for volleyball!**

The day promises to be an incredible celebration of sport, energy, and community – and we'd love for your school to be part of it.

What to expect:

- Two back-to-back Rebels volleyball matches (Women's & Men's)
- Live DJ and match host bringing the energy
- Games, giveaways, and entertainment throughout the day
- Appearances from our mascot, Queen B
- A buzzing, record-breaking atmosphere
- Colchester Zoo tickets giveaway

Key times:

- Doors open: 1:00pm
- Women's first serve: 2:00pm
- Men's first serve: 4:00pm



We are inviting local schools, colleges, and clubs to be part of this exciting day. Tickets are **free** when booked using the code **15NOV** at the link below:

Book your tickets here: <https://app.fanbaseclub.com/Fan/Tickets/SelectType?fixtureId=14167>

Please be part of a record-breaking day for the Essex Rebels and the University of Essex.



Beth Chatto Christmas Fair

Saturday 22nd Nov

£6 PRE BOOKED
£5 FOR FRIENDS
CHILDREN UNDER 16 FREE

Celebrate the festive season with us!

Explore over 40 unique craft stalls, each offering beautifully crafted gifts, decorations and seasonal treasures.

You can also look forward to live music, choirs, storytelling and access to the garden.



Book online
www.bethchatto.co.uk/courses

 Beth
Chatto
Education Trust

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



Essex County Council

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'.