



Almost December!

As we move into the final weeks of the autumn term, it's wonderful to see our pupils continuing to work hard and show such enthusiasm in their learning. With the festive season approaching, we have some exciting events planned while ensuring celebrations remain inclusive and enjoyable for everyone.

Since our last newsletter, we have had No Pens Day Wednesday in school, Year 4 have had a trip to Colchester Castle and today, we have a non-uniform day in return for donations for the 'Rainbow Hampers' raffle prizes at our upcoming Christmas Fair.

As always, thank you 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	Attendance Percentage
Class 1	96.8%
Class 2	97.5%
Class 3	97.2%
Class 4	96.6%
Class 5	95.8%
Class 6	94.7%
Class 7	96.4%
Class 8	96.5%
Whole school	96.5%

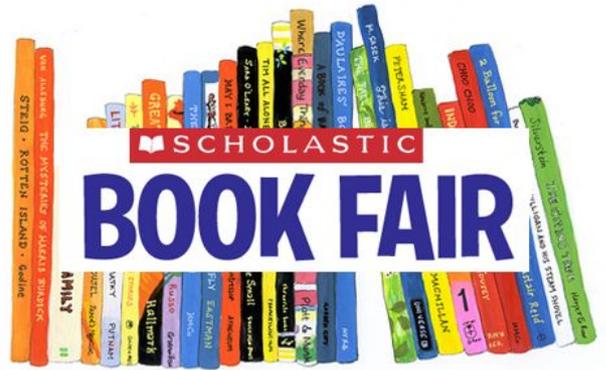
KEY DATES

- *Friday 28th 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

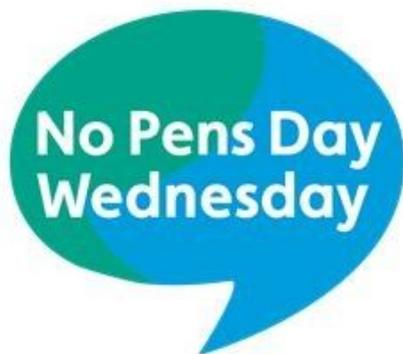
Scholastic Book Fair

Thank you all for purchasing books from our visiting book fair. The book sales raised £441.05 for our school in commission, which our staff will be using to buy books for classrooms. Thank you also to our staff for supervising these events in their own time.



No Pens Day Wednesday!

On Wednesday, our school came alive with voices as we celebrated 'No Pens Day Wednesday' – a special day dedicated to developing our pupils' oracy and speaking and listening skills. Throughout the day, children engaged in a rich variety of activities that put verbal communication at the heart of their learning. From lively classroom debates and collaborative problem-solving discussions to storytelling circles and drama performances, every lesson was transformed into an opportunity for pupils to express their ideas, listen carefully to others, and build their confidence in using spoken language.



The energy and enthusiasm across all year groups was wonderful to see, with children relishing the chance to share their thoughts without reaching for a pen or pencil. The impact of focusing on oracy was remarkable, and we saw first-hand how developing strong speaking and listening skills supports not only academic achievement but also builds self-confidence, resilience and wellbeing.

Children In Need Day 2025

As you know, to support the BBC Children In Need charity, on Friday 14th November, in return for a donation to this charity, children were invited to come into school in non-uniform.

Our school's Just Giving page received donations from 59 families, raising a total of £324 for this worthy cause.

Thank you for your support.

St Mary's church Wivenhoe

with the participation of Broomgrove Infant & Junior Schools
and Millfields Primary School

CHRISTINGLE SERVICE



Sunday 7 December at 4pm

Join the celebration.

All welcome.

Free

Retiring collection for The Children's Society

www.stmaryswivenhoe.org

01206 822511 (Erwin)

What does a Colchester United Community Foundation Camp Look Like?

- Activities within a safe and fun environment
- Book for as little as just £3.16
- High Quality Facilities
- Gifts & Prizes to Be won
- Tailored Football Sessions ff Different Topics
- Small Sided Games & Tournaments Each Day
- Opportunities for CUFC 1st Team Player Appearances
- Opportunities for CUFC Mascot Eddie The Eagle Appearances

Where are camps held?

SHRUB END -

(Mon 22nd December, Tuesday 23rd December, Friday 2nd January 9.30am-4.30pm) + Early Drop Off Available

- Football Camp (School Years 1-6) [Click Here](#)
- Goalkeeper Camp (School Years 1-6) – [Click Here](#)
- Train Like a Pro Camp (School Years 7-11) – [Click Here](#)

ALL SAINTS PRIMARY, MALDON

(Mon 22nd December, Tuesday 23rd December, Friday 2nd January 9.30am-3pm) + Early Drop Off Available

- Football Camp (School Years Y1–6): [Click Here](#)

All camps can be found below - Full Week & Individual days are available to book
www.abler.io/shop/colchesterunited/xmas

**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
			1	2	3	4							1							1			1	2	3	4	5
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
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
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	
																					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
		<u>195 days</u>

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'.