



What an incredible few weeks we've had at Broomgrove Junior School! Our Year 6 pupils have just completed their SATs tests, and we couldn't be prouder – not just of them, but of every single child across our school.

Our Year 6 children approached their tests with maturity, resilience and determination. They've worked tremendously hard throughout the year, and it was wonderful to see them tackle each paper with such confidence and focus. They truly demonstrated the very best of what it means to be a Broomgrove pupil.

But what made this week particularly special was the respect and consideration shown by every other class in our school. From Year 3 through to Year 5, our pupils understood the importance of maintaining a calm and supportive environment during test week. They moved quietly through corridors, kept noise levels down and showed genuine encouragement for their older peers.

This whole-school approach reflects our strong community spirit and the values we hold dear. Every child played their part in creating the perfect conditions for our Year 6 pupils to perform at their best, and that's something we should all celebrate together.

Thank you to everyone – pupils, staff and families – for making this such a positive experience.

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	94.9%
Class 2	96.4%
Class 3	95.9%
Class 4	95.3%
Class 5	95.6%
Class 6	95.8%
Class 7	96.8%
Class 8	95.0%
Whole school	95.7%

KEY DATES

- *Thursday 21st-22nd May: Year 5 Bikeability
- *Monday 25th - Friday 29th May: Half term holiday
- *Monday 1st June: First day back at school
- Monday 1st June - Friday 19th: Year 4 Multiplication Check
- *Thursday 4th June: Year 3 Trip to Walton-on-the-Naze & Year 4 Anglo-Saxon/Viking Day
- *Tuesday 16th June: Sports Day Y3/4 AM & Y5/6 PM
- *Monday 22nd June - Friday 26th June: Transition week for secondary schools
- *Thursday 25th June: Transition Day
- *Friday 26th June: Reserve Sports Day
- *Friday 10th July: Reports sent home
- Friday 17th July: Last day of the academic year

Reading by Mr Hawkins

Reading is at the heart of everything we do at Broomgrove Junior School, and we're committed to nurturing a lifelong love of books in every child.

Building

Strong

Foundations

We know that strong reading skills unlock the entire curriculum and open doors to future opportunities. That's why we prioritise daily reading practice and ensure every child develops fluency, confidence and enjoyment in their reading journey. Our teachers work hard to quickly identify and tackle any gaps in reading attainment, so all pupils can access the full curriculum and make excellent progress.

Reading Across the Curriculum

Reading isn't just for English lessons! We're dedicated to extending our pupils' vocabulary and language skills across all subjects. Through carefully selected texts and high-quality discussions, we help children develop their comprehension skills and learn to articulate their understanding with confidence. This approach prepares them brilliantly for the next stage of their education.

Creating a Reading Culture

We're proud of the strong reading culture we've built at Broomgrove. Our pupils read widely and often, exploring different genres and authors that challenge and inspire them. We encourage children to share their favourite books with friends and discuss what they're reading, building a community of enthusiastic readers.

Reading at Home

Your support at home makes such a difference! We encourage you to:

- Read with your child regularly, even if they're confident independent readers
- Talk about books together and ask questions about characters and plots
- Visit the library to discover new authors and genres
- Let your child see you reading for pleasure

When children see reading valued at home and at school, they develop the confidence and skills to become lifelong readers. Thank you for your continued support in nurturing your child's reading journey.



Character Virtue conversation prompts

At Broomgrove we have Character Virtues that we look for in the children each week. Each newsletter we will look at two of these virtues. The Character Focus in this newsletter: Confidence & Respect.

Talk to your child:

- "Tell me about a time when you believed in yourself, even when something was challenging."
- "How did you show respect for other people's feelings, ideas, or belongings this week?"
- "Was there a moment when someone showed respect to you? What did they do?"

**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
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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29	30																										

January 2026							February 2026							March 2026							April 2026						
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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						
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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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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.

Essex County Council School Term and Holiday Dates for Community and Voluntary Controlled Schools - Academic Year 2026-2027

September 2026							October 2026							November 2026							December 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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21	22	23	24	25	26	27	26	27	28	29	30	31	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	28	29	30	31				
28	29	30											30														
January 2027							February 2027							March 2027							April 2027						
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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11	12	13	14	15	16	17	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
25	26	27	28	29	30	31							29	30	31				26	27	27	29	30				
May 2027							June 2027							July 2027							August 2027						
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		1	2	3	4	5	6				1	2	3	4								1
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	28	29	30				26	27	28	29	30	31	23	24	25	26	27	28	29		
31																			30	31							

- = Schooldays
 = School holidays
 = Bank holidays
 = Weekends

In addition, schools allocate five non-pupil days out of the school days indicated, or the equivalent in disaggregated twilight sessions.

Autumn Term:	Tuesday 1 September 2026 – Friday 18 December 2026 <i>Half Term 26 October – 30 October</i>	74 days
Spring Term:	Monday 4 January 2027 – Thursday 25 March 2027 <i>Half Term 15 February - 19 February</i>	54 days
Summer Term:	Monday 12 April 2027 – Wednesday 21 July 2027 <i>Half Term 31 May – 4 June, and May Bank Holiday - 3 May</i>	67 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'.