

Summer issue 3 - 08/06/2026



We're thrilled to announce that our annual Sports Day is just around the corner! The atmosphere around school is buzzing with anticipation as our pupils prepare to showcase their athletic talents, teamwork and determination. From sprint races to jumping and throwing challenges, it promises to be a fantastic day filled with cheering, laughter and memorable moments. We can't wait to see our children demonstrate the resilience and sportsmanship that make Broomgrove Junior School so special. Please mark your calendars and join us in celebrating our young athletes – your support means the world to them!

On a bittersweet note, we're saying goodbye to Miss Davies, who has been an invaluable member of our school community. Her dedication, warmth and commitment to our pupils have left a lasting impact on everyone at Broomgrove. Whether it was leading dance sessions or supporting pupils through the gate and simply being the amazing person she is, to name just a few, Miss Davies has touched countless lives during her time with us. Whilst we're sad to see Miss Davies go, we wish her every success in her next adventure. Thank you for everything!

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	94.5%
Class 2	96.2%
Class 3	95.9%
Class 4	95.1%
Class 5	95.8%
Class 6	95.5%
Class 7	97.0%
Class 8	94.8%
Whole school	95.6%

KEY DATES

- *Monday 1st June - Friday 19th: Year 4 Multiplication Check
- *Friday 12th June: RSE Parent Evening
- *Tuesday 16th June: Sports Day Y3/4 AM & Y5/6 PM
- *Friday 19th June: Year 5 trip to Birch Hall
- *Monday 22nd June - Friday 26th June: Transition week for secondary schools
- *Thursday 25th June: Transition Day
- *Friday 26th June: Reserve Sports Day
- *Tuesday 7th July: Year 6 SATs results published
- *Friday 10th July: Reports sent home
- *Tuesday 14th July: Year 6 Performance afternoon and evening
- *Friday 17th July: Last day of the academic year
- *Friday 17th July: Year 6 Leavers Assembly

Year 3 trip to Walton-on-the-Naze by Mr Hawkins

On Thursday 4th June, the Year 3s went on a school trip to Walton-on-the-Naze to enhance their learning about soils and fossils in science. The children enjoyed excavating for sharks teeth, fossilised wood and fossilised shells on the seafront. They also enjoyed learning about the different layers of the Naze and testing the soils to discover its type. Many of the children commented about the excitement of the day and staff all agreed on how well the children represented our school.



Year 4 Children are Anglo-Saxons for the day! by Ms van der Wolf

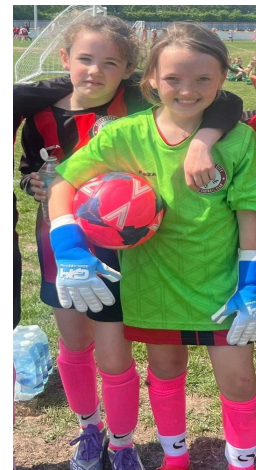
On Thursday 4th June, the Year 4 children of Class 3 and 4 came in to school dressed up as true Anglo-Saxons. They were greeted in the Great Hall by the Jarl of the village, a stern and very knowledgeable Anglo-Saxon leader and warrior, and stepped back in time to Dark-Age Britain.

It was a day full of Anglo-Saxon activities, ranging from pottery to penannular brooch making, from archaeology to field marches carrying shields and spears, and the children learned about the cause and outcome of the Viking invasion and early-medieval life. It was an experience they will all remember. What children thought of the day: "I liked finding pottery stuff and being archaeologists." "We learned how to march and attack using shields and spears." "I learned more about Anglo-Saxon traditions and I liked making Anglo-Saxon bracelets." "We all came to school in Anglo-Saxon clothing, which was great."



Girls' Football by Tony Hunter

On Saturday 9th May 2026, Callie and Millie played in the annual Witham football tournament. They both play for Colchester City Under 8s Ladies, and after a tough loss to Witham Purples, they made it through the group stages by winning three matches: 0-1, 3-0 and 5-0. They then progressed to the final against Witham Purples, but sadly they lost by a single goal. The girls all showed great skill and proved through their training over the last year that they can achieve anything. Well done, Callie and Millie!



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: Ambition & Responsibility.

Talk to your child:

- "What goal are you working towards at school? What did you do this week to get closer to it?"
- "Tell me about a time when you had to make an honest choice this week, even if it was hard. Why was that choice important?"
- "What's something you're responsible for at school? How do you make sure you do it well?"

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
		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.

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
										1	2	3	4							1		1	2	3	4	5	6
1	2	3	4	5	6		5	6	7	8	9	10	11	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
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
				1	2	3	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	1	2	3	4	5	6	7				1	2	3	4
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
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'.