



Hello October!

As we settle into the autumn term, it's wonderful to see our pupils thriving in their learning. Our teachers have been working hard to ensure every child is supported and challenged appropriately, and we're particularly proud of how our Year 3s have adapted to junior school life. This half-term, we're focusing on building strong reading habits across the school, so please continue to support your child by reading together at home for at least 10 minutes each day – it truly makes a difference to their progress and confidence.

A reminder that our autumn parents' evenings are coming up soon, giving you the opportunity to discuss your child's progress and settle into the year ahead. These conversations are invaluable in helping us work together to support your child's development. Booking details will be sent out shortly. If you have any questions or concerns in the meantime, please don't hesitate to contact your child's class teacher through the school office. Thank you for your continued support in making Broomgrove Junior School such a positive place to learn.

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	93.8%
Class 2	94.6%
Class 3	97.4%
Class 4	94.2%
Class 5	96.8%
Class 6	96.8%
Class 7	96.7%
Class 8	96.0%
Whole school	95.8%

KEY DATES

- *Friday 9th Oct: European Languages Day
- *Tuesday 20th Oct: Parents' Evening (3:45-6.45pm)
- *Thursday 22nd Oct: Parents' Evening (3:45-5.45pm)
- *Friday 23rd Oct: Last day of half term
- *Monday 2nd Nov: Back to school!
- *Tuesday 3rd Nov: BOOMgrove!
- *Wednesday 4th Nov: Flu Clinic
- *Friday 13th Nov: Children in Need
- *Mon 16th Nov-Fri 20th Nov: Anti-bullying week
- *Fri 27th Nov: Non-Pupil Day
- *Tue 1st Dec: Year 4 visit to Colchester Castle
- *Thursday 10th Dec: Christmas Dinner/Jumper day

Year 6 Residential to Bawdsey Manor & Creative Week

Last week some of the Year 6's embarked on an unforgettable residential trip to Bawdsey Manor, creating memories that will last a lifetime as they prepare for their transition to secondary school. Set against the stunning Suffolk coastline, Bawdsey Manor provided the perfect backdrop for our pupils to develop independence, teamwork and resilience. Throughout their stay, children participated in a range of exciting outdoor activities including orienteering, problem-solving challenges and coastal exploration. The highlight for many was the evening activities, where pupils worked together on team-building exercises and enjoyed time with their friends away from home. Staff were incredibly impressed by the maturity and enthusiasm shown by all pupils, who embraced every challenge with determination and positivity. This residential experience formed a valuable part of our Year 6 curriculum, helping children develop crucial life skills whilst strengthening friendships within their year group. The trip provided opportunities for personal growth that simply cannot be replicated in the classroom setting. We're grateful to all the staff who accompanied the trip and to parents for their support in making this experience possible. The residential has given our Year 6 pupils wonderful shared experiences and increased confidence as they approach the next stage of their educational journey.

While some of our Year 6 pupils enjoyed their residential adventure at Bawdsey Manor, those who remained at school had an equally enriching and memorable experience through our specially designed activities programme. While some of our Year 6 pupils enjoyed their residential adventure at Bawdsey Manor, those who remained at school had an equally enriching and memorable experience through our specially designed activities programme. The pupils demonstrated remarkable maturity by helping in classes across the school, acting as role models for younger children and gaining valuable leadership experience. Their enthusiasm and dedication was so impressive that Ms Wright even offered some pupils jobs – a wonderful recognition of their hard work and positive attitude! We're delighted to showcase the pupils' artistic talents in our school hall, where a mini gallery has been created to display their outstanding artwork. This exhibition celebrates their creativity and provides a lasting reminder of their achievements during this special week. This alternative programme ensured that all Year 6 pupils, regardless of whether they attended the residential, had opportunities to develop independence, responsibility and new skills. The variety of activities allowed children to discover hidden talents and build confidence in a supportive environment. We're incredibly proud of all our Year 6 pupils for their enthusiasm and positive approach throughout the week.

Macmillan Coffee Morning

Today we had our annual Macmillan Coffee morning and it was a great success. Thank you for all the donations of cakes, biscuits and treats. The children loved the event and can not wait for the next one. It was also great to welcome the Year 2's to begin their transition to the Junior School. This year, thanks to your generous donations we raised £369! Thank you all so very much, I am sure Macmillan will greatly appreciate this!



Allergy Awareness

Allergy Awareness and Keeping Children Safe

The safety and wellbeing of all our pupils is our highest priority. In line with the Department for Education's new statutory guidance, Allergy Safety in Schools, we continue to strengthen our procedures to support children with allergies and reduce the risk of allergic reactions in school. Allergies can be serious and, in some cases, life-threatening. We ask all families to work with us to create a safe environment for every child.

How parents can help:

- Inform the school immediately of any diagnosed allergies or changes to your child's medical needs.
- Ensure that any prescribed medication, including adrenaline auto-injectors (AAIs), is in date and provided to school as required.
- Keep your child's healthcare information up to date and work with us to review Individual Healthcare Plans where needed.
- Remind children not to share food, drinks, utensils, or lunchbox contents with others.
- Check carefully before sending food into school for celebrations or special events.

What school is doing

We have procedures in place to:

- Identify and support pupils with allergies through Individual Healthcare Plans.
- Provide allergy awareness training for staff.
- Maintain clear systems for recognising and responding to allergic reactions.
- Promote good hygiene practices, including hand washing before and after eating.
- Learn from incidents and near misses to continually improve safety.

A shared responsibility

By working together, we can help ensure that every child is safe, included and able to participate fully in school life. If you have any questions about allergies or your child's medical needs, please contact the school office.

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	28	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
		<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.

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 in September 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'.