Broomgrove Infant School

Newsletter Number 2 (7 pages) Autumn Term **18th September 2026**

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a wonderful couple of weeks we've had at Broomgrove! It was lovely to see so many of you at our Books and Biscuits event this week, with further events next week. These occasions really do bring our school community together, and it's heartwarming to see families enjoying time with their children and our staff in such a relaxed and welcoming setting.

Thank you to everyone who has provided a manifesto for the School Council, the elections will be held next week and children will be advised next Friday.The School Council will be working closely with Mrs Hunt throughout the year on a range of activities, all focused on helping us celebrate Broomgrove Infant School's 60th anniversary. This is a significant milestone for our school, and we're looking forward to marking this special year with our community.

As we move into the autumn term, I wanted to remind parents and carers that it's important to ensure children have appropriate clothing for the weather. I know many of you are already doing this brilliantly! Just a gentle reminder that we do go outside when it is raining, so waterproof jackets and wellies are essential items to have at school. Our outdoor learning is such a vital part of what we do here at Broomgrove, and we want to make sure every child is comfortable and ready to make the most of these experiences.

On an exciting note, Forest School has started for Mrs Rout and Mrs Hawkridge's class. The children are going to have such wonderful opportunities to learn and develop through outdoor play and exploration. It's a fantastic addition to our curriculum.

I'd also like to inform you of several activities and clubs that are now underway or starting very soon. Rock Steady has started on Mondays and is already proving to be very popular. School Clubs will be starting next week and will run for four weeks, offering children enriching activities to enjoy after school. Additionally, Colchester United are back running a football club on Tuesdays. If you'd like your child to take part, booking is directly with Colchester United.

Thank you all for your continued support of Broomgrove Infant School. Wishing you all a wonderful weekend.

Alison Grigg

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY Please add the dates to your diary or family calendar	
Monday 21st September	Books and Biscuits 2.30pm Mrs Besant's class in the school hall
Tuesday 22nd September	Books and Biscuits 2.30pm Mr Bennett's class in the school hall
Wednesday 23rd September	Forest school – Mrs Rout and Mrs Hawkridge's class
Monday 28th September	Harvest Celebration week
Tuesday 29th September	Individual School Photographs with family groups after school in the Junior school.
Wednesday 30th September	Forest school – Mrs Rout and Mrs Hawkridge's class
Friday 2nd October	*MacMillan Coffee Morning – Year 2 children and parents and carers invited to attend the Junior school*
Wednesday 7th October	Forest school – Mrs Rout and Mrs Hawkridge's class
Wednesday 14th October	Forest school – Mrs Rout and Mrs Hawkridge's class
Tuesday 20th October	Parents Evening 3.20 – 5.50pm
Wednesday 21st October	Forest school – Mrs Rout and Mrs Hawkridge's class
Thursday 22nd October	Parents Evening 3.20 – 5.50pm
Half Term 26th October – 30th October	
Tuesday 3rd November	**Boomgrove Fireworks**
Wednesday 4th November	Forest school – Mrs Mahmood's class
Wednesday 4th November	Flu Immunisations – 1st Session
Wednesday 11th November	Forest school – Mrs Mahmood's class
Friday 13th November	Children in Need
Wednesday 18th November	Forest school – Mrs Mahmood's class
Wednesday 25th November	Forest school – Mrs Mahmood's class
Thursday 26th November	Non-Uniform Day for the Christmas Fair
Friday 27th November	INSET DAY
Wednesday 2nd December	Forest school – Mrs Mahmood's class
Thursday 3rd December	BSA Christmas Fair
Monday 7th December	Reception/ Year 1 Nativity Performance Mrs Besant's class – 2.30pm
Tuesday 8th December	Reception/ Year 1 Nativity Performance Mr Bennett's class – 2.30pm
Wednesday 9th December	Reception/ Year 1 Nativity Performance Mrs Hunt's class – 2.30pm
Wednesday 9th December	Forest school – Mrs Mahmood's class
Thursday 10th December	Christmas Jumper Day
Thursday 10th December	Christmas Dinner Day
Friday 11th December	Year 2 Fabulous Finish. Theatre Production visiting school
Monday 14th December	Rock Steady Concert – 9.30am
Monday 14th December	Flu Immunisation – 2nd Session (if any pupil missed 1st Session)
Christmas Holiday 21st December – 1st January	
Monday 4th January	Return to school

Headteacher's Award

Broomgrove Infant School's Behaviour Policy, focuses on rewarding positive behavior. Children from across the year will be invited to spend time with Mrs Grigg in her office and share their school experience, while drinking a cup of hot chocolate.

#Hot Chocolate Awards

Be amazing

Iggy
Franklin
Effie
Parker

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 handwashing 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.

Growth Mindset



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:

Mr Bennett	96.30%
Mrs Besant	89.95%
Mrs Hunt	96.04%
Mrs Rout and Mrs Hawkridge	95.77%
Mrs Mahmood	94.31%
Whole School	94.75%

Well done to Mr Bennett's class, for achieving the best attendance for the last 2 weeks.

Self-Care September 2026

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
	1 Find time for self-care. It's not selfish, it's essential	2 Notice the things you do well, however small	3 Let go of self-criticism and speak to yourself kindly	4 Plan a fun or relaxing activity and make time for it	5 Forgive yourself when things go wrong. Everyone makes mistakes	6 Focus on the basics: eat well, exercise and go to bed on time
7 Give yourself permission to say 'no'	8 Be willing to share how you feel and ask for help when needed	9 Aim to be good enough, rather than perfect	10 When you find things hard, remember it's ok not to be ok	11 Make time to do something you really enjoy	12 Get active outside and give your mind and body a natural boost	13 Be as kind to yourself as you would to a loved one
14 If you're busy, allow yourself to pause and take a break	15 Find a caring, calming phrase to use when you feel low	16 Leave positive messages for yourself to see regularly	17 No plans day. Make time to slow down and be kind to yourself	18 Ask a trusted friend to tell you what strengths they see in you	19 Notice what you are feeling, without any judgement	20 Enjoy photos from a time with happy memories
21 Don't compare how you feel inside to how others appear outside	22 Take your time. Make space to just breathe and be still	23 Let go of other people's expectations of you	24 Accept yourself and remember that you are worthy of love	25 Avoid saying 'I should' and make time to do nothing	26 Find a new way to use one of your strengths or talents	27 Free up time by cancelling any unnecessary plans
	28 Choose to see your mistakes as steps to help you learn	29 Write down three things you appreciate about yourself	30 Remind yourself that you are enough, just as you are			

ACTION FOR HAPPINESS Happier · Kinder · Together



Harvest Festival Week

From **Monday 21st September until Monday 28th September**, we will be collecting food donations on behalf of **three local charities**:

Wivenhoe Foodbank, Beacon House in Crouch Street Colchester and the Colchester Night Shelter.

If you would like to donate items, please bring them into your child's class or hand them in at reception.



All donations are greatly appreciated.

Tinned meat and fish

Tinned vegetables, potatoes and tomatoes

Tinned pulses, spaghetti and soup

Pasta sauce

Ketchup and mayonnaise

Cooking oil

UHT milk

Long-life fruit juice and squash

Coffee, tea and hot chocolate

Tinned fruit, sponge puddings and custard

Jam and spreads

Biscuits



All toiletries including shower gel, shampoo, conditioner and deodorant

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

September 2026						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

October 2026						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

November 2026						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

December 2026						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

January 2027						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

February 2027						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28

March 2027						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

April 2027						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

May 2027						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

June 2027						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

July 2027						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

August 2027						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

= Schooldays

= School holidays

= Bank holidays

= Weekends

= INSET Days

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 *Half Term 26 October – 30 October*	74 days
Spring Term:	Monday 4 January 2027 – Thursday 25 March 2027 *Half Term 15 February – 19 February*	54 days
Summer Term:	Monday 12 April 2027 – Wednesday 21 July 2027 *Half Term 31 May – 4 June, and May Bank Holiday – 3 May*	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.

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 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'.