Broomgrove Infant School

Newsletter Number 4 (7 pages) Autumn Term **16th October 2026**

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we come to the end of the half term, I want to thank you all for your support and for the warm welcome you have given our children and staff. It has been a busy and happy few weeks at Broomgrove, and I am proud of the effort and enthusiasm our children continue to show.

School clubs have now finished for this half term. Please note that **Colchester United** continues next week, so children attending that club should carry on as normal.

I would also like to say a big thank you to **Mrs Sam Johnson**, who visited Year 1 to give a wonderful talk on dental hygiene. Learning about how to look after our teeth is so important, and the children came away with valuable knowledge they can share at home. Thank you, Sam, for giving your time to our school.

We are really looking forward to welcoming parents and carers to our **Parents' Evening** next week, on **Tuesday 20th** and **Thursday 22nd October**. These meetings are a valuable opportunity to talk with your child's class teacher about their progress, achievements and next steps. Please sign up for an appointment with your child's class teacher as soon as possible, as slots are limited.

Our next event is **Boomgrove** on **Tuesday 3rd November**, as we return to school following the half term break. We look forward to seeing everyone back and to sharing the activities planned for the day.

As the weather changes, please make sure your child has a coat in school every day. We do sometimes play outside in the rain, as we believe it is important for children to have time out of the classroom and in the fresh air. A waterproof coat will help keep them warm, dry and comfortable during these times.

Please also be aware that the **flu immunisation** session will take place on **Wednesday 4th November** in the afternoon. We will share further details with you as the date approaches, so please keep an eye out for communications from school.

Thank you, as always, for your continued partnership. Together, we are helping every child at Broomgrove to learn, grow and feel proud of what they achieve.

Have a relaxing and enjoyable weekend and a happy half term (when it finally arrives).

Alison Grigg

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY Please add the dates to your diary or family calendar	
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

Betsy	**Bibi**
Ruben	**Ottilie**
Nujud	**Heston**
Forrest	**Ollie**

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.

What school is doing

We have procedures in place to:

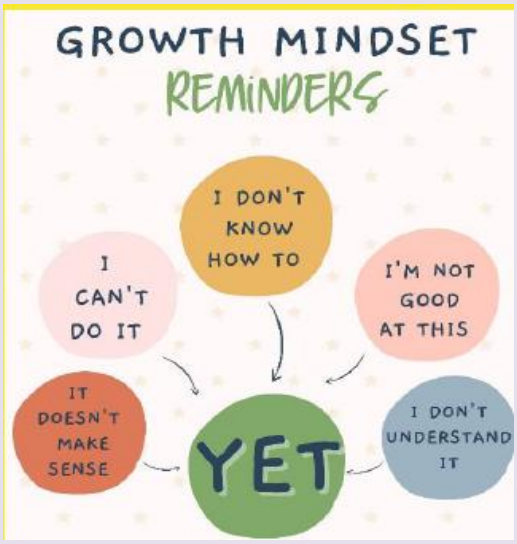
- Identify and support pupils with allergies through Individual Healthcare Plans.
- Provide allergy awareness training for staff.
- Maintain clear systems for recognising and responding to allergic reactions.
- Promote good hygiene practices, including handwashing before and after eating.
- Learn from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

A shared responsibility

- **We can no longer accept or give out sweets, cakes etc for birthdays and celebrations due to the changes in legislation. This also aligns us with the Junior school.**

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	93.89%
Mrs Besant	93.71%
Mrs Hunt	97.55%
Mrs Rout and Mrs Hawkridge	94.42%
Mrs Mahmood	99.14%
Whole School	95.61%

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

Optimistic October 2026

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
			1 Write down three things you can look forward to this month	2 Find something to be optimistic about (even if it's a difficult time)	3 Take a small step towards a goal that really matters to you	4 Start your day with the most important thing on your to-do list
5 Be a realistic optimist. See life as it is, but focus on what's good	6 Remind yourself that things can change for the better	7 Look for the good in people around you today	8 Make some progress on a project or task you have been avoiding	9 Share an important goal with someone you trust	10 Take time to reflect on what you have accomplished recently	11 Avoid blaming yourself or others. Find a helpful way forward
12 Look out for positive news and reasons to be cheerful today	13 Ask for help to overcome an obstacle you are facing	14 Do something constructive to improve a difficult situation	15 Thank yourself for achieving the things you often take for granted	16 Put down your to-do list and do something fun or uplifting	17 Take a small step towards a positive change you want to see in society	18 Set hopeful but realistic goals for the days ahead
19 Identify one of your positive qualities that will be helpful in the future	20 Find joy in tackling a task you've put off for some time	21 Let go of the expectations of others and focus on what matters to you	22 Share a hopeful quote, picture or video with a friend or colleague	23 Recognise that you have a choice about what to prioritise	24 Write down three specific things that have gone well recently	25 You can't do everything! What are your three priorities right now?
26 Find a new perspective on a problem you face	27 Be kind to yourself today. Remember, progress takes time	28 Ask yourself, will this still matter a year from now?	29 Plan a fun or exciting activity to look forward to	30 Identify three things that give you hope for the future	31 Set a goal that brings a sense of purpose for the coming month	





ACTION FOR HAPPINESS Happier · Kinder · Together

Is My Child too Ill for School?

For more information:

https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/?es_c=8BCAF2042B7AEB3470171FEBCE49290C&es_cl=4752CB2B6311FF3A3ECB3F4B0BD0D00B&es_id=ph7%c2%a301

Is my child too ill for school?

UK Government NHS

Does your child have a high temperature (38°C or more)? YES Keep them off school until it goes away. NO Follow the guidance below.

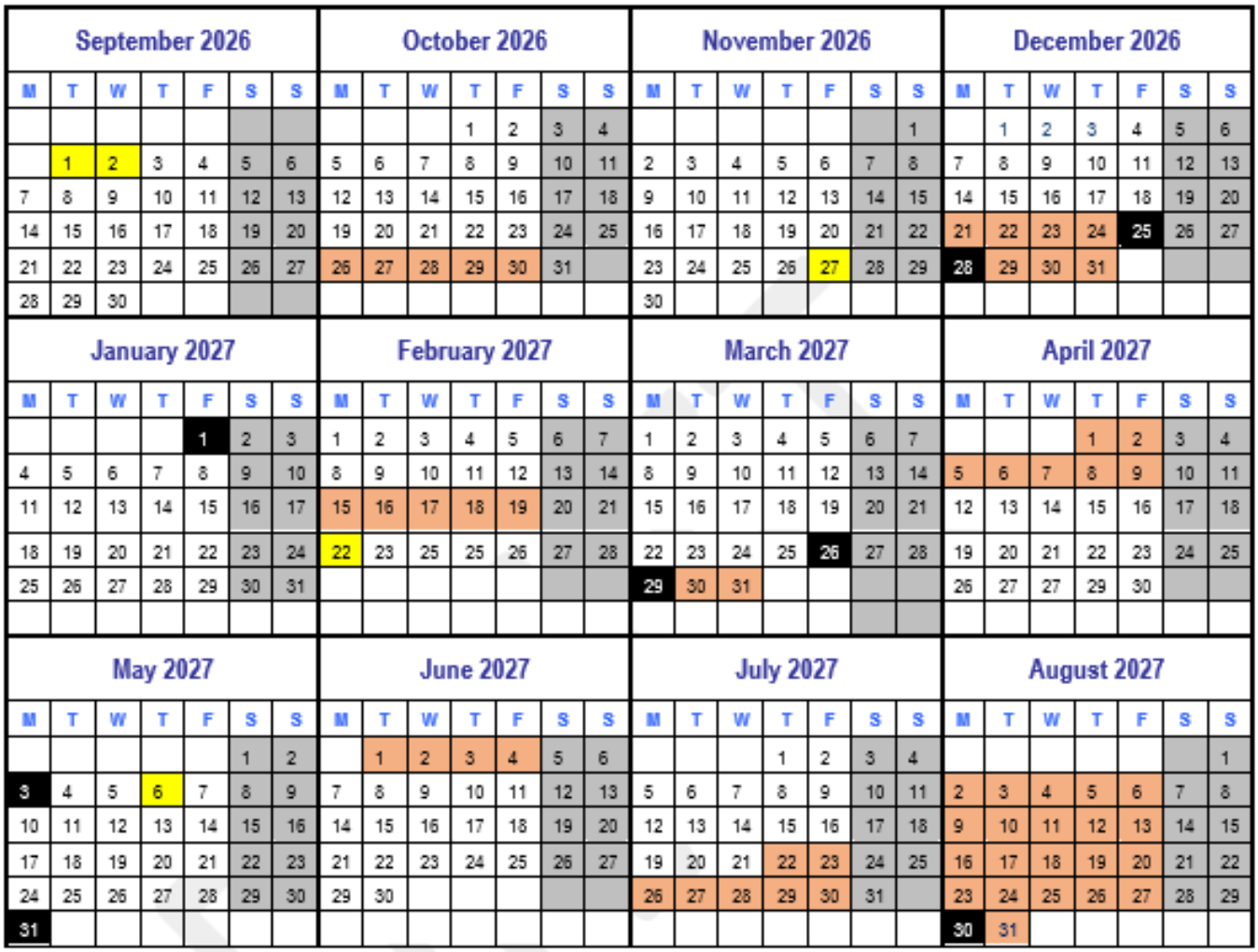
Your child can usually go to school with a mild cough or cold if they are otherwise well. If you do keep your child at home, it's important to phone the school or nursery on the first day and give them the reason.

Should go in	Should go in (let the school know)	Seek treatment before returning to school	Keep them off (at first)
A cough, cold or sore throat Fine with slight cough or common cold symptoms, such as a runny nose, sore throat or headache, as long as they're otherwise well and do not have a high temperature.	**Cold sores** Encourage them not to touch the blister or kiss anyone while they have the cold sore, or to share things like cups and towels.	**Impetigo** They'll need treatment from a pharmacist or GP, often with antibiotics. Keep them off school until all the sores have crusted over and healed, or for 48 hours after they start antibiotic treatment. Encourage your child to wash their hands regularly and not to share things like towels and cups with other children at school.	**Ear infection** If your child has an ear infection and a high temperature or severe earache, keep them off school until they're feeling better or their high temperature goes away.
Threadworms Speak to your pharmacist, who can recommend a treatment.	**Conjunctivitis** Fine unless they are feeling very unwell. Seek advice from your pharmacist. Encourage your child not to rub their eyes and to wash their hands regularly.	**Ringworm** See your pharmacist unless it's on their scalp, in which case you should see a GP. It's fine for your child to go to school once they have started treatment.	**Measles** They'll need to see a GP. Call the GP surgery before you go in, as measles can spread to others easily. Keep your child off school for at least 4 days from when the rash first appears. They should also avoid close contact with babies and anyone who is pregnant or has a weakened immune system.
	Head lice & nits You can treat head lice and nits without seeing a GP.	**Scarlet fever** They'll need treatment with antibiotics from a GP. Otherwise they'll be infectious for 2 to 3 weeks. Your child can go back to school 24 hours after starting antibiotics.	**Vomiting & diarrhoea** Stay away from school until they have not been sick or had diarrhoea due to illness for at least 2 days (48 hours).
	Hand, foot & mouth disease If they seem well enough to go to school, there's no need to keep them off. Encourage your child to throw away any used tissues straight away and to wash their hands regularly.	**Chickenpox** Keep them off school until all the spots have crusted over. This is usually about 5 days after the spots first appeared.	
	Slapped cheek syndrome Once the rash appears, they're no longer infectious. Let the school or teacher know if you think your child has slapped cheek syndrome.		

Feeling worried or anxious: It's normal for any of us to feel worried sometimes. We may get a tummy ache or headache, or have problems eating or sleeping. Avoiding school can sometimes make a child's worries about going to school worse. If your child is struggling, please speak to school as soon as possible to explore available help. If your child is still struggling and it's affecting their everyday life, you should contact GP or school nurse.

To find out more, search www.NHS.uk for the specific illness or infection, or 'Is my child too ill for school?'

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



= 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 *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'.