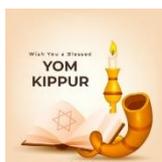




Meadgate Mail

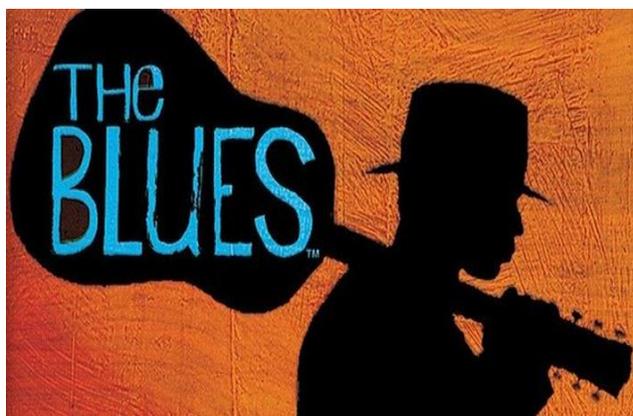
Unlocking Learning Together

Dear Parents/Carers,



We would like to wish Good Yontif to our families celebrating Yom Kippur on 1st and 2nd October.

Feel Good Friday



This week we've been 'Singin' the blues'. We have stayed in the Southern United States where blues music originated in the African American communities of the late 19th century. Evolving from work songs, field hollers, shouts, and chants, the blues laid the foundation for many other popular music genres, including jazz, rock and roll, and R&B.

It is a specific set of notes that give the blues its signature "blue" or soulful sound, with lyrics expressing feelings of sorrow, hardship, love, or resilience, using simple, powerful language and repetition.

We enjoyed listening to the fantastic guitar playing that accompanies many famous blues tracks. The music on the gate this morning was Still Got The Blues For You by Gary Moore, you probably recognised it.

Governing Body News

The governors met on Wednesday for the first time this academic year and roles were defined for the year ahead. Following a wonderful five years as chair of governors, Claire Shuter has decided to step down from the role. We would like to thank her for her calm and steady leadership during that time and the marvellous support she has given governors and staff of Meadgate School.

Also, thanks go to Roz Colledge, who has held the role of vice chair for many years and supported the chair of governors in their role. Fortunately, we won't be losing either of them from the governing body completely, as they will remain as governors, which is great news for us all.

During the meeting, Jo Whiting was voted in as the new chair of governors and Chris Wing will be her new vice chair. Both are experienced members of the governing body and we look forward to working with them in their new roles.

Phonics Meeting for Year R and Year 1 Parents

On Tuesday 14th October at 3:30pm, there will be a Phonics Meeting for Reception and Year One parents. Please come along to find out more information about how your child experiences Phonics at school and how you can help them at home. Phonics is integral to early reading and writing but is a subject parents often ask for support with so this is a great opportunity to learn a bit more about it and ask all your burning questions!

Payments to the LINK

For families that use the LINK, from October, parents will need to pay for their sessions through Arbor instead of by bank transfer. You will find the payment under wraparound care on your Arbor App.

Year 1

This week, Year 1 had some family visitors to come and show us their childhood toys. The children enjoyed asking questions, loved hearing about how old some of the toys were and how many generations had played with them.



Swimming

Swimming is well underway now with many children enjoying a weekly lesson. It takes a little organising to ensure that everyone is in the right place at the right time, so we would like to extend our thanks to Mrs Harvey, Mrs Figg and Mrs Dyer, whose help is invaluable, in ensuring that all the children get to their lessons safely, and at the right time.



Book Buddies

Our Year 6 and Reception children have been enjoying their special “Reading Buddy” sessions this term and are thrilled to continue for the rest of the year! It’s been wonderful to see the older pupils sharing their love of books and supporting our youngest learners as they grow in confidence with their reading. Many of our Year 6 children fondly remember having their own reading buddies when they first started school, and it’s heart-warming to see them now stepping into that role themselves. The sessions are full of smiles, encouragement, and great stories – a fantastic way to build friendships across the school.

How we keep you informed at Meadgate



Meadgate School is a very busy place, with lots of different activities happening, often simultaneously. With this in mind, we try very hard to ensure that the information is as available as possible to our families.

There are 3 main ways that we try and keep you informed and we would ask that, should you have a question regarding an event in school, that you check these places in the first instance, before contacting our office. Hopefully, your question will be answered there. This will ensure our office staff are available for the less commonplace queries and issues that they deal with.

- Our school newsletter. We want our families to be informed about the events in school and indeed help us celebrate achievements. We do try and post little reminders for forthcoming events, but please ensure that you always scroll to the bottom, as Miss Bury tries to keep the forthcoming dates section up to date. It serves well as a little reminder. These dates will also be on the school calendar on our website.
- School email. From time to time we might email you with information, e.g. regarding trips, sports events etc., so it is always worth checking there.
- Our website – lots of useful information around all aspects of our school life, dinner menus and calendar, parent and class specific pages.

If you have checked these places and your question has not been answered then please contact us, but especially for issues relating to our school calendar we ask that you check in the above places before telephoning the office. Thank you.

Harvest - Thursday 2nd October

We would like to invite families to our forthcoming harvest assemblies, so please join us after dropping the children off at school. Our PTA will be selling teas and coffees in the hall, so please join them after drop off if you can.



If KS2 parents could gather outside the office we can ensure that KS1 parents have left the premises before admitting you – we do not have room for all parents in the hall at the same time.

The timings for the assemblies are below and we know that some families will have children in both key stages, so please feel free to stay in the hall between times. Please bear with us if timings are not exact.

Key stage 2 (Year 3-6) 9:00 – 9:20

Key Stage 1 (Year R – 2) 9:30 – 9:45

As usual we will be supporting Chelmsford Food Bank who would be hugely grateful of any donations you can send in, if you are able.

Items that they are currently in most need of are as follows:

Small jars of instant coffee	Male and female toiletries	Breakfast Cereal
Tea bags 40 and 80s	Laundry pods/tabs (only)	Tins of meat meals
UHT Fruit Juice	Nappies sizes 5 to 7	Tinned hot dogs
UHT Milk	Washing up liquid	Tinned fish
Milk - non dairy	Toilet rolls	Tinned potatoes
Fruit Squash	Ketchup and mayo	Tinned tomatoes
Cup soups	Tinned fruit	Tinned vegetables
Tinned soup	Sponge puddings	Instant Mash
Jars of hot chocolate	Tinned rice pudding	Rice
Jams and spreads	Tinned custard	Cooking Oil
Packets of biscuits	Pasta Sauces	

Please do not send pasta as the Foodbank currently have plenty of this.

We know that these events are special milestones in children's school lives and that families will want to take photos and videos. When attending such events, **please ensure that these are only for your own private memories and are not shared on social media.** It is likely that other children will be in them and their families may not want their children on line for a number of reasons, some of which may be for safeguarding purposes.

Secondary School Applications

The new secondary school admission round opens on **Friday 12th September 2025**, for parents of current Year 6 children to apply for a secondary school (Year 7) place for September 2026. **The statutory national closing date for applications is 31st October 2025.**

Applications can be made online via www.essex.gov.uk/admissions.

All the information required is available on the website above. Parents must apply for places as, even with an application, your choice of place is not guaranteed, so please ensure you submit your application within the admission window.

Secondary School Open Evenings

If your child is due to transfer to secondary school in the next year, to help you make a more informed decision, most schools hold an open evening where prospective families can visit, tour the site and speak to staff and pupils. Schools generally advertise these on their website. Some schools also offer tours during the normal school day and families should contact schools directly for more information regarding these.

Open evenings being held at more local secondary schools include:

The Sandon School	Thursday 2nd October 2025 https://www.sandon.essex.sch.uk/
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Families InFocus Essex Understanding special needs

PARENT SUPPORT GROUP
Connect, Share and Support

Are you looking for support, advice or just a place to connect with other SEND Parent/Carers? Join our friendly support group where we share experiences, offer guidance and find encouragement from others who understand.

Whether you're facing specific challenges or just looking for a supportive SEND community, we'd love you to join us!

When
Last Monday of the month
10.30am to 12.30pm

Where
Christ Church
164 New London Road
Chelmsford
CM2 0AW

Letters Sent Home

Tuesday 23 rd September 2025	All Year Groups	Pantomime Letter
Friday 26 th September 2025	All Year Groups	PTA Events

Dates for your Diary

Thursday 2 nd October 2025	Harvest Assembly KS2 - 09:00, KS1 – 09:30
Friday 3 rd October 2025	Non Pupil Day
Monday 27 th – Friday 31 st October 2025	Half Term
Tuesday 4 th , Wednesday 5 th , Thursday 6 th November	Parent Consultations
Wednesday 5 th November 2025	Individual Photos

Monday 10 th November 2025	Flu Immunisations
WB 10 th November 2025	One Planning Meetings
Thursday 20 th November, Friday 21 st November	1:30-2:45 – Open Afternoon for New 2026 Reception Intake
Thursday 11 th December 2025	Christmas Jumper Day
Friday 12 th December 2025	EYFS Nativity 09:15 – 09:30 Christmas Songs Evening 4:30 – 5:30
Wednesday 17 th December 2025	Panto
Friday 19 th December 2025	Last Day of Term
Monday 5 th January 2026	First day of Spring Term
Monday 26 th January 2026	Year 6 – Parents SATS Presentation – 3:30
Tuesday 10 th , Wednesday 11 th , Thursday 12 th February 2026	Parent Consultations
Monday 16 th – Friday 20 th February 2026	Half Term
WB 16 th March 2026	One Planning Meetings
Monday 30 th March – Friday 10 th April 2026	Easter Holidays
WB 27 th April 2026	Mock SATS
WB 11 th May 2026 Friday 22 nd May 2026	SATS Week INSET DAY
Monday 25 th – Friday 29 th May 2026	May Half Term
WB 1 st – 14 th June 2026	Multiplication Tables Check Window
WB 8 th June 2026	Phonics Check Week
Tuesday 23 rd June 2026	TELAT Sports
WB 29 th June 2026	Year 6 Isle of Wight Week
Thursday 9 th July 2026	Sports Day
Wednesday 15 th July 2026	Leavers Assembly to Year 6 Parents
Friday 17 th July 2026	Last Day of Term

2025/2026 – Term & Holiday Dates

Friday 3 rd October 2025	Non Pupil Day
Monday 27 th - Friday 31 st October 2025	Half Term Holiday
Monday 22 nd December 2025 to Friday 2 nd January 2026	Christmas Holiday
Monday 5 th January 2026	First Day of Spring Term
Monday 16 th – Friday 20 th February 2026	Half Term Holiday
Monday 30 th March – Friday 10 th April 2026	Easter Holiday
Monday 13 th April 2026	First Day of Summer Term
Monday 4 th May 2026	May Day Bank Holiday
Friday 22 nd May 2026	Non Pupil Day
Monday 25 th - Friday 29 th May 2026	Half Term Holiday
Monday 20 th July 2026	Non Pupil Day
Tuesday 21 st July 2026	Break up For the Summer Holiday