



Meadgate Mail

Unlocking Learning Together

Dear Parents/Carers,

Feel Good Friday



Big Band Swing music was popular in the 1930s and helped bring people together and provide some important escapism during the tough times of The Great Depression. It's a kind of jazz music played by large groups, usually with trumpets, trombones, saxophones, drums, and sometimes singers. The music has a happy, bouncy rhythm that makes you want to dance! Swing bands, like those led by Duke Ellington and Count Basie, were famous for their exciting tunes and amazing solos. Big Band Swing was important because it gave people joy, inspired new dance styles, and helped shape much of the music we listen to today.

Our tune on the gate today was familiar to a lot of you. It was called Sing, Sing, Sing written in 1935 and performed by Benny Goodman and his orchestra.

Open Afternoons – spread the word!

Our annual open afternoons are taking place on **20th, 21st and 27th November**, from **1:30 – 2:45**, for parents whose children who will be starting school in September 2026. Last year we had an excellent turnout of families keen to see what Meadgate could offer their child and this resulted in a full reception class and a waiting list. We are so pleased that this is a school of choice. Please pass on the details of the event to anyone you know who might be currently making that difficult decision around first school placements. We would love to meet them and show off our wonderful school. The window for primary school applications opens on 10th November 2025. It closes on 15th January 2026 and it is important that applications are received by this date. For more information, and to make an application, visit <https://www.essex.gov.uk/apply-for-a-primary-school-place>

House Captains

This year, for the first time, we have appointed house captains, to lead and inspire the younger children in their school houses. The new captains, all from Year 6, were required to apply for the role and we were pleased that a number of the children were keen to take on a new challenge and responsibility.

Mr Figg and Miss Reynolds were impressed with the applications, from children who have keenly involved themselves in the life of the school in many ways including, class monitors, reading buddies, play leaders reading ambassadors, IT technicians and school councillors, as well as being good role models both in their own class and around the school.

We are delighted to announce that the following children are the inaugural Meadgate Primary School House Captains of 2025/26

Farah	Nana
	Laurie
Peake	Ada
	Matthew
Simmonds	Theia
	Humza
Watson	Fahim
	Dolly



Christmas Activities

As we know, time passes quickly and Christmas will soon be upon us. In school, notable dates for Christmas activities include:

Thursday 11th December	Christmas Jumper Day
Thursday 11th December	Christmas Dinner
Friday 12th December	EYFS Nativity Performance 9:15 – 9:30
Friday 12th December	Christmas Choir Event – 5:15 – 6:00
Wednesday 17th December	Pantomime @ Civic Theatre
Friday 19th December	Last Day – PTA Non-uniform event

Christmas Preparations

It is getting to that time of year again, when we start to think about our Christmas activities. As well as our annual trip to the Pantomime, we are also starting to prepare for our EYFS nativity and our Christmas Choir event.

Christmas Choir

We will shortly be sending out details of the Christmas Choir event. Last year's inaugural Christmas Choir was a really special event, leaving us all feeling very Christmassy. It was lovely to see the children, wrapped up in their warm clothes, singing Christmas songs under the fairy lights – like something from a traditional Christmas card!

Our wonderful PTA added to the atmosphere by selling mulled wine, hot chocolate and mince pies. They do hope to be able to do so again this year, **but rely on volunteers to help**. If you are attending the event, please let us know if you are willing to help them. You will, of course, be able to watch your child/ren when they are singing and, as they say, many hands make light work, so if enough people come forward, the shifts will be short.

Please pop into the office to add your name to the volunteers list.

Cold Weather



We have had some unseasonably, warm weather this week, but temperatures are about to tumble with next week feeling much colder. We anticipate a high number of hats and pairs of gloves coming in, which is sensible, but please make sure that each item is clearly named as these are things which get left around the school, when children forget they brought them in that morning. Named items are more likely to be reunited with their owners than unnamed items.

If you have a coat or jumper that has been previously owned by a former pupil or sibling, please ensure that it is renamed with the name of the child that is currently wearing it.

We will still be doing PE outside if the weather allows and children are able to wear a **plain** hoodie in dark colour and plain tracksuit trousers for an extra layer of warmth. No logos please. Once again, please ensure that these are individually named.

SPACE

SPACE (Support for Parents and Carers in Essex) is an Essex service previously named 'Autism Central'. It is a group which provides support for parents and carers in Essex and is run by 'peer educators' who are all parents and carers with lived experience of supporting children and young people with SEND. The support of SPACE is delivered by their peer educators and their offer is focused around a number of services including 1:1 support, online sessions, specific resources and tailored events. SPACE is now designed to support families of children with a wider range of SEND needs, not just autism.

Please come along to Meadgate Primary School on **Monday 17th November at 9:15 meet for 9:30** start to learn more about how SPACE can support families within our community.

SNAP Charity

SNAP is an Essex charity for families with children and young people who have any additional need or disability. From its Brentwood base, SNAP offers a helping hand to thousands of families who need support variety of ways.



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No formal diagnosis or professional referral is necessary to access SNAP services and it is available to families with children and young people aged 0 to 25 who live under Essex County Council, Thurrock and Southend. Facilities at the centre include a training room, a multi-purpose activity hall, multi-sensory room and specialist IT suite.

SNAP's aims are to inform, encourage and support parents so that they can grow in strength and knowledge and become better equipped to give the best possible help to their children. The SNAP centre offers a vast range of services and is widely recommended by Paediatricians, Family Support Workers and other professionals alike.

Please come along to Meadgate Primary School on **Wednesday 26th November at 9:00 meet for 9:15** start to learn more about how SNAP can support families within our community.

Letters Sent Home

Thursday 13 th November 2025	All Year Groups	SNAP Information Mornings Letter
Friday 14 th November 2025	Reception	Nativity Letter

Dates for your Diary

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	SATS Week
Friday 22 nd May 2026	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

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