



Meadgate Mail

Unlocking Learning Together

Dear Parents/Carers,

Feel Good Friday



Folk music has been around for a very long time, starting with simple songs that people passed down by singing them to their children, like nursery rhymes you might know today. As people travelled and worked, they created new kinds of folk songs, such as sea shanties that sailors sang together to keep rhythm while they pulled ropes and sailed across the ocean. Over time, folk music

kept growing and changing, inspiring modern artists who mix old-fashioned storytelling with new sounds. Today, folk musicians help keep folk music alive by blending the past with the present so everyone can enjoy it.

We didn't realise what a wide genre of music the term 'folk' covers. We were also surprised by how many of the songs we already knew, especially some nursery rhymes, Christmas carols and well known children's songs.



Winter PE

Please make sure that children have plain, dark tracksuit trousers and a plain, dark sweatshirt in their PE bags for winter PE lessons. We do try to get outside for PE as much as possible, even when it is chilly, but children need to be dressed accordingly. Once again, please ensure that these are individually named.

Open Afternoons - spread the word!

Our open afternoons have been well attended and it's been lovely to meet families from our community interested in joining our school from September. There is still one more opportunity to attend as our final date for school tours is Thursday 27th November, for those interest in forthcoming school places.

Don't forget, 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>

Christmas Choir Volunteers



Our wonderful PTA are hoping to sell mulled wine, hot chocolate and mince pies at our forthcoming Christmas Choir event, **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.

Teddylympics

Six year 1 children went to Melbourne Sports Centre to compete in the Teddy 'lympics. They had a fantastic time making teddy masks and joining in with all the activities. They came 3rd! Well done! Also, a special shout out to Aeryn who was awarded the Special Ted award.



TTRockstars Maths Week England



In KS2, this week we celebrated Maths Week England by taking part in a friendly timetables competition. The children were very keen to take part and time was given in school to ensure that everyone had the opportunity. Engagement was high and the children at Meadgate certainly have a slightly competitive streak! Our TT Rockstars club is always very popular!

Having a secure knowledge of times tables is so important both for children's everyday maths ability, but also as tables feature in many other areas of maths that they will meet, or develop, as they progress through the school. Don't forget that TTRockstars keeps going once the competition has closed and is a great way to learn and retain those all-important tables facts.

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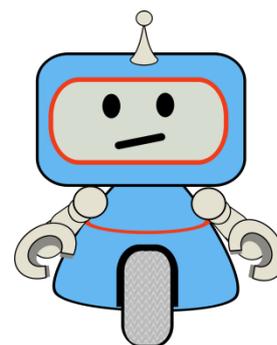
No formal diagnosis or professional referral is necessary to access SNAP services and it is available to families with children and young people aged 0 to 25 who live under Essex County Council, Thurrock and Southend. Facilities at the centre include a training room, a multi-purpose activity hall, multi-sensory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

Be Tech Prepared This Christmas

It is the time of year when we are turning our thoughts to Christmas. Children might be waking up on Christmas morning to a new digital gadget or other types of technology. It can be tricky these days to find toys that do not connect or interact in some way. As well as ensuring that the device is set up correctly before the child unwraps it (parent controls are on, location tagging off etc.) we should also be mindful of the information and preferences that toy and software companies are collecting about us, and our children, before we purchase. It is worth looking at this article from internetmatters.org which has some great tips for parents considering buying a smart toy this year. Click the link above to read it.



We will also be sending out details of another parent's online safety briefing with a festive twist. This webinar focuses on the likelihood of new devices and increased time spent online over the Christmas break. The session will help parents to manage their child's online safety at home and NOT just for Christmas! Further details will follow when we receive them.

Reverse Advent Calendar

Following our involvement with Chelmsford Food Bank, they wondered if any of our families might be interested in taking part in their reverse advent calendar as we run up to Christmas.

A reverse advent calendar is a tradition where you give one item each day to fill a box, instead of receiving a treat. You place a non-perishable food item, toiletries, or other essentials in a box during the advent season, and by Christmas, the box is full and can be donated to a local food bank, shelter, or charity. This activity flips the traditional concept of opening a door to get something, and instead focuses on the spirit of giving by helping those in need.

You can of course add your own items each day, but the chart below might give you some inspiration and ideas, as it includes items that are especially needed, or you might like the challenge as a family of trying to achieve them all in the run up to Christmas.



Chelmsford Foodbank
Together with Trussell

Reverse ADVENT CALENDAR

1st - 24th NOVEMBER 25 Help us help those in need this Christmas! Grab a bag or a box and pop something in it each day for Foodbank. Please get your donations to us in the week beginning 1st December to give us chance to get the goodies out!
Warehouse: 450A Beehive Lane, CM2 8RN, open weekday mornings 9.30-12.30
THANK YOU!

1 Tinned Potatoes	2 Cereals	3 Tinned/instant packet custard	4 Tinned meat meals	5 Iced Christmas Cake	6 Tinned Fruit
7 Instant coffee - small jars	8 Ketchup and mayo	9 Box of Chocolates	10 Tinned Salmon	11 Tinned ham	12 Long Life Fruit Juice
13 Tinned Vegetables	14 Jelly and sponge puddings	15 Savoury biscuits, snacks and crisps	16 Instant coffee - small jars	17 Box of biscuits	18 Packets instant mashed potato
19 Bottles of squash	20 Sweets	21 Instant hot chocolate	22 Cooking Oil	23 UHT milk	24 Tinned Meat Meals

chelmsford.foodbank.org.uk info@chelmsford.foodbank.org.uk 07512 574542

Chelmsford Foodbank is overseen by The River Church Chelmsford Ltd, a company limited by guarantee Registered in England 7685257. Registered Charity number 1144804

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

Letters Sent Home

Wednesday 19 th November 2025	All Year Groups	Christmas Lunch Letter
Friday 21 st November 2025	Year 5	Bikeability Info and sign up letter

Dates for your Diary

Thursday 11 th December 2025	Christmas Jumper Day
Friday 12 th December 2025	EYFS Nativity 09:15 – 09:30 Christmas Songs Evening 5:15 – 6:00
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