



Meadgate Mail

Unlocking Learning Together

HAPPY
New Year

Dear Families,

Happy New Year to all our families and friends. It doesn't seem possible that we are now in 2026. We hope you all had a restful break and are keeping to all those well intended resolutions.

At Meadgate, we don't waste a minute and the staff and children have already thrown themselves into new topics and learning with gusto. We are looking forward to another great term of learning, which includes exploring The Romans, The Great Fire of London, taking part in secret missions and visiting the Amazon, amongst other things. We can't wait! Please make every effort to ensure children are punctual, so they can take part in learning right from the start of the day.

Feel Good Friday



Today we have been exploring Soul music which began in the United States in the 1950s and 1960s. Growing from gospel and rhythm and blues, and it is known for strong emotions and powerful singing. Famous soul artists like Ray Charles, Aretha Franklin, James Brown, and Stevie Wonder helped make the style popular and meaningful. A related style called blue-eyed soul describes soul music sung by white artists, such as Dusty Springfield, Adele and Simply Red, who were inspired by the same sound. Soul music has influenced many types of music and is still enjoyed today. Together, these artists helped make soul music popular around the world. In assembly today, we enjoyed snippets from lots of the performers named above. Our music on the gate this morning was Reach Out (Ill Be There) by The Four Tops.

If your child is unwell...

Just a reminder that if your child is feeling just a little under the weather they can still come into school. Coughs and colds can often linger a while and we know ourselves that we cannot stay at home indefinitely. We often feel brighter once we are up and have got ourselves going. Children can make remarkable recoveries once they are with their friends and distracted. We would encourage children who feel just a little unwell to have a try, we do not keep children in school who genuinely seem poorly, and will call parents if we feel they should be at home.

Sometimes however we are very poorly and have to stay at home. If your child has been sick or has diarrhoea, they should not be in school for 48 hours after the last incident of either. Please do not send them before then as they may pass their germs onto other children. It can be frustrating if you are working but we ask that you do make arrangements for your child to be at home, if they have had either of the symptoms above. Thank you for your support.

Clubs

Clubs letters have gone home so please send them back as soon as you can if your child is keen to attend a club. We try to accommodate as many children as we can, but obviously some clubs have limited spaces. Those that have been popular we do try to offer again so if you are not successful initially you will get another chance. Miss Scully will be busy organising the club registers and she should be sending out the return slips next week, so keep an eye out for those to see which clubs your child has been allocated.

At the moment we ask that Year 6 children are collected from an after school club by an adult, as the nights are still dark early and the weather can be poor.

Smart Watches

It seems Father Christmas brought some lovely presents to some of our children this year. We have heard about new phones, toys and books that have been received.

We have noticed that a couple of Smart watches have appeared in school. If your child's watch is a 'Smart' type watch and has the capacity to take photos and send messages we would ask that they are not brought into school. As well as the danger of breakages, these devices have many of the functions of a mobile phone. We have a strict policy on mobile phones at Meadgate and children are not allowed them around the school and in the playground. This extends to smart watches and other similar devices too.



Trainee Teachers

We will be joined by three trainee teachers during the spring term, who, under the guidance of our staff, will develop their teaching and classroom management skills. We have all been trainees at some point, so are looking forward to working with them.

All three have visited us at school and are keen to get started and we know you will make them feel very welcome within our school community.

Mr Pain will be joining Year 1, Miss Leete will be working with Year 2 and Miss Gash with Year 4. All three will be taking on some of the lessons, depending on where they are in their course, supported by the current class teachers.

We are also joined by college students Miss Louise, who is continuing her placement with us in our reception class and Miss Scott who will also be joining us, both of them are studying for T Levels in child care and learning support.

Year 1 Reading News



Our first afternoon reading session in Year 1 has taken place and went very well. The children were a little surprised to see parents arriving in the classroom as it was something new. It was great to see so many parents joining us to read with their child. We will be continuing with the afternoon reading sessions, so if you are able to pop at about 3:00 we'd love to see you.

We do know that some parents will find this time tricky, but grandparents or other adults who usually collect your child are welcome if they would like to join us. For those children without an adult there will always be a story to enjoy with an LSA in the classroom.

SNAP Charity Parent Information Morning

Thank you very much to all who came along to the SNAP Charity information morning when unfortunately it had to be cancelled due to their family worker no longer being able to attend. This event has now been moved to **9:30am on Tuesday the 10th of February in the school hall**. I would love to see the same faces again plus anyone else who would like to come along and find out more. You do not have to have a child on the SEND register to attend.

Adverse Weather

We were very lucky with the weather before the Christmas break, with only a couple of mornings where the playground has been a little icy before school.



This week, however, it has been quite a different story and our site was covered in a thick layer of frost at the beginning of the week. Clearly it was not safe for the children to be outside running around on it and so we did have a couple of days indoors.

We would ask that when the site is icy, you keep off the ice at drop off and pick up. We noticed a lot of families heading straight onto the playground once they had collected their children and we would hate for there to be an avoidable accident.

Chelmsford District Family Hub News

Please find attached the Jan-Mar 2026 timetable for the Chelmsford District which you may wish to share with your school community. [Please follow this link](#) to see the timetable of spring activities for families.

Please note,

- Multiples stay play and learn session – no longer running
- SEND Stay, play and learn session- no longer running
- 5-19 health drop-in sessions- No longer running from Morrisons. Change of time at Chelmsford West. Newly running from Chelmer Gate Youth Group on Fridays 4-5pm

Chelmsford District: 1st January – March 2026

Welcome to your local family hub, where you can access **free**, friendly and high-quality health services in your community, school, online or family home. We offer a variety of sessions to support your child's development and build strong parent-child relationships.

Family Hubs ensure that children, young people and families (0-19 years or up to 25 years if SEND) can access integrated early support. We provide a one-stop shop of family support services for your mental and physical health plus your educational and social care needs. Our partner agencies include midwives, GP's, CAMHS and local community groups.

The focus of our service is making sure that everyone in Essex has the best possible start in life through meeting the identified needs of children, young people and families.

Chelmsford Central Family Hub

Lower Ground Floor, County Hall (by Chelmsford Library)
Market Road
CM1 1QH
Monday to Friday 9 - 5pm

Chelmsford West Delivery Site

Dixon Avenue
Chelmsford
CM1 2AQ
Monday, Wednesday & Friday 9am – 5pm

Chetwood Delivery Site

Shirebourn Vale
South Woodham Ferrers
CM3 5ZX
Monday & Thursday 9.30am–4.30pm
Wednesday 9.30am–12.30pm

Letters Sent Home

Monday 5 th January 2026	Year 6 Sports Hall Athletics Letter
Wednesday 7 th January 2026	Clubs Letter
Wednesday 7 th January 2026	KS2 Book Bingo Information
Thursday 8 th January 2026	Year 4 Bikeability Letter

Dates for your Diary

Monday 12 th January 2026	Swimming Lessons Start
Tuesday 13 th January 2026	Year 6 Sports Hall Athletics
Monday 19 th January 2026	Clubs Begin
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 16th March 2026	One Planning Meetings
Monday 30th March – Friday 10th April 2026	Easter Holidays
WB 27th April 2026	Mock SATS
WB 11th May 2026 Friday 22nd May 2026	SATS Week INSET DAY
Monday 25th – Friday 29th May 2026	May Half Term
WB 1st – 14th June 2026	Multiplication Tables Check Window
WB 8th June 2026	Phonics Check Week
Tuesday 23rd June 2026	TELAT Sports
WB 29th June 2026	Year 6 Isle of Wight Week
Thursday 9th July 2026	Sports Day
Wednesday 15th July 2026	Leavers Assembly to Year 6 Parents
Friday 17th July 2026	Last Day of Term

2025/2026 – Term & Holiday Dates

Monday 16th – Friday 20th February 2026	Half Term Holiday
Monday 30th March – Friday 10th April 2026	Easter Holiday
Monday 13th April 2026	First Day of Summer Term
Monday 4th May 2026	May Day Bank Holiday
Friday 22nd May 2026	Non Pupil Day
Monday 25th - Friday 29th May 2026	Half Term Holiday
Monday 20th July 2026	Non Pupil Day
Tuesday 21st July 2026	Break up For the Summer Holiday