



# Meadgate Mail

## Unlocking Learning Together

Dear Families,

### Feel Good Friday



This week we have been exploring country music. This musical style began in the early 1900s in the southern United States, especially in the Appalachian Mountains, where families played fiddles, banjos, and guitars at home and at dances. It grew out of folk songs brought over from Europe, mixed with African American blues, gospel and cowboy music. One of the first big country stars was **Jimmie Rodgers**, known for his famous yodelling, and another was **the Carter Family**, whose songs helped shape the sound we know as country music today. Later on, stars like **Johnny Cash**, **Dolly Parton**, and **Willie Nelson** made country music popular all over the world. Modern country is very popular and have been the career springboard for a number of big stars including Taylor Swift who is the youngest artist to single-handedly write and perform a #1 country song.

### SATs Meeting

As you will have seen in the dates section, our SATs meeting for parents of Year 6 children is taking place on **Monday 26<sup>th</sup> January at 3:30**. It will provide parents with useful information regarding the organisation of the upcoming tests, what you can do to support your child at home and also help understand how we ensure they are administered as gently as possible for all the children. Please do attend if you are able.

### Fairy Tales in Year 1



Year 1's mystery reader this week was... Edward's mummy! She read The Gingerbread Man and the children LOVED joining in. At the end, the children were able to retell all of the people and animals that chased the gingerbread man to the river. What impressive listening! Thank you, Edward's Mummy, for joining us this week. We are looking forward to next week's mystery reader!

### **The Big Garden Birdwatch 23rd - 25th January 2026**



Do you know the names of the birds you see out of your window, in your garden and at the park? Why not take part in this year's Big Garden Birdwatch, count how many of each bird species you see in one hour, while learning their names too. You might like to record your observations on the rspb website, [please follow this link.](#)

To further support the birds in your local area, you might like to leave some bird food out for them and make sure they can access some fresh water to drink too, which is especially important on these cold and frosty mornings, when the ground is hard and puddles of water are frozen. The link below shows how you can make your own feeders for the birds!

<https://www.rspb.org.uk/helping-nature/what-you-can-do/activities/feed-the-birds>



### **Year 6 Sports Hall Athletics Event**

Year 6 went on a coach last week to the Chelmsford Sports and Athletics Centre. In the Athletics Sports Hall events, there were a series of events to take part in. The host, who was very welcoming, explained what we had to do in the competition. We had such a wonderful day and cheered each other on like crazy! The people running it were very supportive and were clear about the instructions, which was great. The events included things like vertical jump, an obstacle relay, and chest push. We may not have won but it was the participation that counted! We enjoyed every second. Lots of other schools had kind-hearted children cheering each other on, even those we didn't compete.

by the Meadgate House Captains

### **Drop - In Mornings**



We would like to invite all parents and carers to our drop-in mornings at the Orchards Café (next door to the school). Primarily, it is an opportunity for us to meet more of our parents and carers and ensure you are feeling supported within the school community. It is also a chance for you to chat with us about any concerns you may have regarding your child or family, i.e. children's additional needs, housing, benefits, counselling, foodbank, etc. Or just drop-in to purchase a drink and say hello! We would love to meet you, and to get to know our families even better. Any questions please don't hesitate to contact either of us using the email addresses below.



Many thanks

Anna Ing (SENDSCO) and Mel Pointon (Family Support Worker)

New session dates all between 9-10am:

Tuesday 3rd February (Mel only)

Tuesday 3rd March

Tuesday 5th May

Anna Ing: [aing@meadgate.essex.sch.uk](mailto:aing@meadgate.essex.sch.uk)

Mel Pointon: [m.pointon@meadgate.essex.sch.uk](mailto:m.pointon@meadgate.essex.sch.uk)

We look forward to seeing as many of you there as possible!

### **Kids Inspire Free Holiday Club**



The Kids Inspire free Holiday Club is running once a week during most school holidays. It creates a safe space for children to:

- participate in meaningful activities
- make friends and socialise
- access lunch and snacks

and all of this is while **developing** social and communication skills and exploring new talents or interests.

#### **Who is the Holiday Club for?**

Holiday Club sessions are booked and offered to families according to criteria. Priority will be given to those from lower income families, in receipt of pupil premium or eligible for free school meals.

Activities are free and suitable for children aged 6 and over in primary school.

For more information you can [read our Holiday Club Terms and Conditions.](#)

#### **Where are the Holiday Club activities?**

Activities are held at our Kids Inspire HQ, Hargrave House, Hollycroft, Great Baddow, Chelmsford, CM2 7FW

Time: 10:30am-3:30pm

#### **Upcoming dates for 2026 Holiday Clubs:**

#### **Tuesday 17 February 2026 - Animal Discovery with [Eden Oasis](#)**

This February half term, children will have the chance to meet and handle eight amazing animals with a visit from Eden Oasis! **Please be aware that this will include cockroaches, leaf insects, royal python, blue tongue skunk, tortoise, ferrets, armadillo and rabbits.**

Expressions of interest are now open for our February activity, please complete our [expression of interest form.](#)

[Eden Oasis - Animal Discovery Tuesday 17 February 2026 – Fill in form](#)

## 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, 10<sup>th</sup> 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.

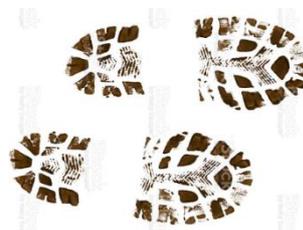
## Attendance

As you know we are closely monitoring pupils' attendance across the school. Therefore, before half term you may be invited to attend a meeting with a member of the school's senior leadership team to discuss your child's attendance and what needs to be done to improve their attendance as well as the support that the school can offer.

## Mud

With this wet, cold weather we find that our site can get very muddy. If the children could try and keep from running around on the muddy, grassy bits when they arrive at school, and keep to the pathways, that would stop an awful lot of mud making its way into the building and onto the carpets.

Thank you.



## Letters Sent Home

Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> January 2026	Year 2	Trip to Chatham Green
Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup> January 2026	Year 3	Trip to Colchester Castle

## Dates for your Diary

Monday 26 <sup>th</sup> January 2026	Year 6 – Parents SATS Presentation – 3:30
Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> February 2026	Year 4 Superstars Event
Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup> , Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> , Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> February 2026	Parent Consultations
Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> – Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> February 2026	Half Term
WB 16 <sup>th</sup> March 2026	One Planning Meetings
Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> March 2026	Year 2 Trip to Chatham Green
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> March 2026	Year 2 Infant Music Festival
Wednesday 25 <sup>th</sup> March 2026	Year 3 Trip to Colchester Castle
Monday 30 <sup>th</sup> March – Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> April 2026	Easter Holidays
Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> April 2026	Year 1 Trip to Mountfitchet
WB 27 <sup>th</sup> April 2026	Mock SATS
Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> May 2026	Year 5 Trip to Chelmsford Museum
Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> May 2026	Year 4 Trip to Thorndon Country Park
WB 11 <sup>th</sup> May 2026	SATS Week
Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> May 2026	INSET DAY
Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> – Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> May 2026	May Half Term
WB 1 <sup>st</sup> – 14 <sup>th</sup> June 2026	Multiplication Tables Check Window
WB 8 <sup>th</sup> June 2026	Phonics Check Week
Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> June 2026	Reception Trip to Barleylands
Tuesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> June 2026	TELAT Sports
WB 29 <sup>th</sup> June 2026	Year 6 Isle of Wight Week
Tuesday 30 <sup>th</sup> June 2026	Year 2 Mini Games
Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup> July 2026	Sports Day
Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> July 2026	Leavers Assembly to Year 6 Parents

Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> July 2026	Last Day of Term
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### **2025/2026 - Term & Holiday Dates**

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