

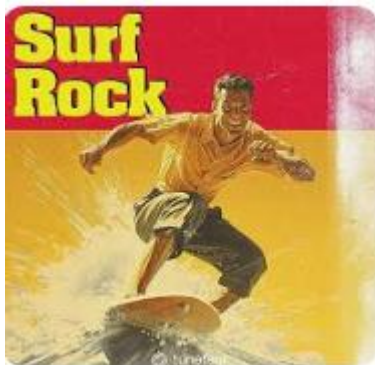


Meadgate Mail

Unlocking Learning Together

Dear Families,

Feel Good Friday



To beat the dreary January weather, this week we have been learning about Surf Rock. Surf rock music is a fun style of rock music that started in California in the early 1960s. It was inspired by the beach, the ocean, and surfing.

This music often uses electric guitars that sound “twangy” or echoey, like the sound of waves. Drums are fast and exciting, and the songs usually feel happy and energetic. It’s aim to remind us all of happy times with family and friends on holidays we have loved.

Famous surf rock artists include The Beach Boys and Dick Dale. Their music helped make surfing and beach life popular all around the world. Even today, surf rock is still enjoyed

because it makes people feel relaxed, cheerful, and ready for summer fun.

The music on the gate this morning was Surfin’ Safari by The Beach Boys

Year 1 Parent Reading News

Mrs Francis will be letting parents know directly, but from half term The Year 1 reading afternoon will be on **Wednesday afternoons same time 3-3.15**. Mrs Hughes is looking forward to seeing as many of you as possible.

Smart Watches

We have had one or two questions this week relating to watches that are allowed in school, as a few of the children are wearing pedometer-style step counters which have created a buzz about Smart Watches.

If your child’s watch is a ‘Smart’ type watch and has the capacity to take photos, record images and send/receive 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. If your child does have a smart watch in school it will be kept safe in the office until we can return it to you at the end of the day, just as we would with a mobile phone. We then request that it is kept at home to use out of school. Thank you for your support.



Year 1 Mystery Reader

Our mystery reader arrived in our classroom wearing a bear costume... What a great clue for Year 1 to guess what story was being read to them! Baraka's Daddy read the fairytale, Goldilocks and the Three Bears. The children remembered key parts of the story- including what was wrong with Daddy bear's chair and what made Mummy bear's porridge too sweet. Thank you for joining us this afternoon, Baraka's Daddy.



If any Year 1 parents would like to read a fairytale on Monday 9th March (The Princess and the Pea) or Monday 23rd March (Rapunzel), we would LOVE to have you and we will provide the books!

Parent Consultations

This week you will have received a letter regarding parent consultations. Please note the booking window is now open and **closes on Friday 6th February at 12:00**. We suggest that in order to get a time that suits your family routine, you book promptly as slots do go very quickly. We would also add that teachers cannot accommodate parents that have swapped slots, so ensure you choose a slot that you will be able to attend yourself.

Clubs News

One of our new clubs, requested by the children, Hama Beads Club has been very well received. The children have been really enjoying creating some imaginative bead art and it's been a very mindful activity for many after a busy day of learning.



We would also like to say thank you to our PTA for donating child-appropriate utensils and peelers to our cookery club. It is important that children learn to use the correct tools for cooking and understand how to use them safely. Sometimes the knives, scissors and peelers we have at home are not suitable for little hands. These are perfect and will enable the children to create delicious dishes safely.

Fund Raising Cake Sale



Join us for a delicious cake sale in support of Willow Harding (Year 5) who has been selected to represent Team England at the Cheerleading European Summit. Funds raised will go towards the cost of her official uniform.

The sale will take place on Friday 13th February, straight after school in the school hall. Every cupcake counts, so come along, enjoy a treat and help support this fantastic achievement!

Drop - In Mornings

Our first drop in morning with Ms Pointon takes place on Tuesday 3rd February. She will be at the Orchards Café from 9-10 and is looking forward to meeting you for a chat 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 get to know our families even better.



Forthcoming Dates

Tuesday 3rd February (Mel only)

Tuesday 3rd March

Tuesday 5th May

Anna Ing: aing@meadgate.essex.sch.uk

Mel Pointon: m.pointon@meadgate.essex.sch.uk

Essex Fire Museum
Open Day 2026



17th and 22nd Of February
10:30AM To 4:00PM
Fire Station, Hogg Lane, Grays
RM17 5QS

 **Book Now**
Free Entry 



Museum@essex-fire.gov.uk

Kids Inspire Free Holiday Club



The Kids Inspire free Holiday Club is run 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 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 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.

Letters Sent Home

Tuesday 27 th January 2026	Year 6	SATs Presentation
Tuesday 27 th January 2026	All Year Groups	Consultations Evenings Letter
Thursday 29 th January 2026	Year 5	Chatterbooks Club Letter

Dates for your Diary

Wednesday 4 th February 2026	Year 4 Superstars Event
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
Thursday 19 th March 2026	Year 2 Trip to Chatham Green
Friday 20 th March 2026	Year 2 Infant Music Festival
Wednesday 25 th March 2026	Year 3 Trip to Colchester Castle
Monday 30 th March – Friday 10 th April 2026	Easter Holidays
Wednesday 15 th April 2026	Year 1 Trip to Mountfitchet
WB 27 th April 2026	Mock SATS
Tuesday 5 th May 2026	Year 5 Trip to Chelmsford Museum
Thursday 21 st May 2026	Year 4 Trip to Thorndon Country Park
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
Monday 15 th June 2026	Reception Trip to Barleylands
Tuesday 23 rd June 2026	TELAT Sports
WB 29 th June 2026	Year 6 Isle of Wight Week
Tuesday 30 th June 2026	Year 2 Mini Games
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 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