



Meadgate Mail

Unlocking Learning Together

This is a gentle reminder to families that due to Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities (SEND) meetings, there are no teacher-led clubs next week (16th – 20th March).

Dear Families,

Feel Good Friday



This week we have been exploring all things disco. Disco music became popular in the 1970s and was known for its strong beats that made people want to dance. It started in nightclubs in cities like New York, where DJs played energetic songs with drums, guitars, and pianos. The movie Saturday Night Fever helped make disco famous around the world, with music by The Bee Gees. Disco clubs were known for their shiny mirror balls that reflected colourful lights across the dance floor. Visitors would often wear outfits that were very sparkly in order to make the most of the twinkling atmosphere.

Year 1 Mystery Reader



Year 1 were lucky to get Mr Figg as their mystery reader this week! He read the fairytale, The Princess and the Pea. There were some good emotional words in this particular version which was great for the children to hear and expand their own vocabulary. At the end the children thought about their favourite part and explained why using a full sentence with 'because'.

Year 1 have also been writing their own 'You Choose' stories. They had to choose a main character, a setting and then write about their character's adventure using adjectives and conjunctions.



Mystery Books

Some of you may have received the mystery book folder over the last week and we hope that you enjoyed the book inside. Don't worry if you don't see it for a while, it'll take a little time to work its way through the classes, but if you have had it, please remember to keep the contents a secret and not to spoil it for the next reader. Some of the books might be at a slightly higher level than all children can read independently, so it is fine to read together or for a grown-up to read the story. This still allows lots of opportunities to chatter about what has been read and it's lovely to spend time together sharing books.

Take the challenge!

Would you like to read our mystery book?

Can you keep a secret?

We would love you to take part!



Swimming

Letters have now gone home regarding swimming lessons for next term. Please make sure that if you would like your child to swim you respond as soon as possible to avoid disappointment. **The deadline for swimming forms and payment is 15th April.** No further swimmers can be added after that date.

Head Lice

We have had some reports to us of head lice in school. We understand that head lice are uncomfortable and frustrating, especially if you have had them more than once, however, unfortunately within most schools there are likely to always be a few children infested with head lice at any time. Schools do not send out specific alerts for head lice, as we would be sending them out all the time, however when we are made aware of several cases we do draw attention to it via the newsletter.



While lice are generally nothing more than a nuisance, they can spread so it is important to check heads regularly to ensure hair is lice-free. It remains parental responsibility to detect and administer treatment for head lice to their own children as the days of the nit nurse are a distant memory. Any lice that are detected can then be dealt with quickly rather than being allowed to multiply.

If you do use a clinically proven treatment on your child, **please read the instructions carefully and ensure you repeat the treatment, if required, to break the cycle of lice. This is really key to getting rid of them.**

We would like to encourage families to check children's hair every Friday for head lice, so that we can all work together to help limit the spread.

More information around head lice, along with some useful pictures and techniques for removing lice, can be found on the NHS site [by clicking here](#).

Household Support Funding

As you will be aware, the Government has ended the Household Support Fund (HSF) with effect from March 2026. This means the food voucher scheme previously funded through HSF has now closed, and no further food vouchers will be issued under this programme.

We recognise that this change may raise questions from families, and we want to reassure you that support for vulnerable households will continue and will be delivered through new arrangements and via a new fund.

The Crisis and Resilience Fund (CRF) will launch on 1 April 2026. This fund is designed to support low-income households facing sudden financial pressures. It also aims to help build long term financial resilience across communities.

The CRF will include:

- crisis payments for urgent, unexpected financial pressures
- housing payments to support households with shortfalls in housing costs
- resilience services including financial guidance, money management support and access to wider community services

Although national voucher funding has ended, Essex County Council is expanding the Holiday Activity and Food (HAF) programme. This means more eligible children will have access to:

- free and enriching holiday activities
- free nutritious food
- opportunities to socialise, be active and learn new skills

Please see the links below which you might find useful.

Free Holiday and Food clubs - [Essex Activate](#)

Active Essex Support before April 1, which includes support from the Essential Living Fund, visit - [Help with the cost of living: Household Support Fund | Essex County Council](#)

Drop - In Mornings

Please see the next dates that Mrs Ing and Ms Pointon will be at The Orchards Café from 9-10. They are 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 love to meet you, and to get to know our families even better.

Forthcoming dates

Tuesday 5th May

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

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

Letters Sent Home

Wednesday 11 th March 2026	Year 6	Leavers Hoodies Order Form
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Dates for your Diary

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
Friday 20 th March 2026	Year 4 Trip to GBHS to see Oliver
Tuesday 24 th March 2026	Year 1 Phonics Screening Meeting
Wednesday 25 th March 2026	Year 3 Trip to Colchester Castle
Friday 27 th March 2026	Non Uniform Day
Monday 30 th March – Friday 10 th April 2026	Easter Holidays
Wednesday 15 th April 2026	Year 1 Trip to Mountfitchet
Monday 20 th April 2026	Swimming Starts
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
Thursday 21 st May 2026	Non Uniform Day
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 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