



Dear Families,



If you are celebrating Eid today, we hope you have a wonderful time with your families and friends.

Feel Good Friday



Glam rock was a fun and flashy style of music that became popular in the early 1970s. Musicians wore bright costumes, glitter, and dramatic makeup, turning concerts into colorful shows. The songs often had catchy tunes, simple lyrics, and a big, exciting sound. Famous performers like David Bowie and T. Rex helped make glam rock famous. It encouraged people to be creative and express themselves in bold ways. Even today, you can see its influence in music and fashion. Glam rock reminds us that music can be playful, imaginative,

and full of sparkle. The music on the gate this morning was Tiger Feet by Mud.

Picnic Lunches

It was lovely to see some children enjoying their lunch outside in the sunshine on Tuesday. It was a gloriously warm lunchtime and everyone was enjoying the opportunity. We know that it will be a few weeks yet before this becomes something we can do regularly but in the meantime the odd day outside will lift all our spirits.

Great British Spring Clean Friday 13th – Sunday 29th March 2026



The Great British Spring Clean is the nation's biggest mass-action environmental campaign. Since 2016, armies of millions of amazing Litter Heroes has shown they love where they live by pledging to pick more than 4.5 million bags of litter. We know that some of our families here are passionate about keeping their community litter-free.

In school over the next couple of weeks we are encouraging the children to ensure that their litter goes in the bin, both when they are in school and when they are out and about.

Some of you might be involved in group picks, over the next couple of weeks as part of this initiative. Please remember if you or your children do pick up litter while you are out, key tips to success include using the right equipment (gloves, pickers, hi-vis jackets), avoiding hazardous items and locations, and practicing good hygiene.

Courses for Easter

The holidays are fast-approaching

Are you *looking* for something for your child to do during this time?

Why not sign them up to one of our Bikeability Courses.

- Chelmsford
- Harlow
- Witham
- Colchester
- Uttlesford



Please see below the link to book Easter holiday courses:
<https://essex.cycleready.co.uk/publicbooking>

A vertical poster for an Easter Forest School event. The top has a red header with the 'Explore Essex' logo (a tree) and a QR code. The main image shows a woman and a young boy sitting on a log in a forest, smiling at each other. The woman is holding a colorful, circular object. The text 'Easter Forest School' is written in a large, white, cursive font. Below this, a green box contains the text 'DANBURY COUNTRY PARK Wednesday 1 and 8 April Am and pm sessions'. At the bottom, there are logos for 'Essex County Council' and 'ESSEX COUNTRY PARKS', along with the text 'Book now: explore-essex.com/events'. The bottom left corner has decorative floral graphics.

St George's Day Lunch

Mrs Hill and Mrs Carter will be providing a special lunch menu on St George's Day, which is Thursday 23rd April. The menu will include....



*Royal Roast Chicken and Yorkshire
Pudding
Or
Little Knight Veggie Fillet*



*Roast Potatoes
Knight's Crunchy Carrots
Dragon Green Peas
Gravy (Optional)*

Knight's Apple Crumble and Cream

Lunch can be booked and paid for in the usual way.

Swimming

Letters have 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.

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 date 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 date

Tuesday 5th May

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

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

Get in the Swim



£5.00 SWIMMING LESSONS EASTER HOLIDAYS FOR CHILDREN AGED 4-11 YEARS

Monday 30th March to Thursday 2nd April
For non-swimmers to 25m swimmers
Sessions at 2:00PM, 3:20PM & 4:40PM

70 MINUTES SESSIONS
(2 x 30 minutes session with 10 minute rest)
Cost £5.00 per session, per child

We are looking for swimmers to take part in a STA Level 2 Award in Aquatic Teaching Course is taking place at Meadgate Pool, Great Baddow by Go Leisure. This is for individuals from across the UK to train to become Swimming Teachers. In order to fulfil the practical teaching requirements of the course, they are required to teach a range of swimming abilities.

FOR MORE DETAILS OR TO BOOK
PLEASE EMAIL

MEADGATEPOOLTD@OUTLOOK.COM



Letters Sent Home

Tuesday 17 th March 2026	Reception	NHS Dental Visit
Wednesday 18 th March 2026	All Year Groups	PTA Easter Competition

Dates for your Diary

Tuesday 24 th March 2026	Year 1 Phonics Screening Meeting
Wednesday 25 th March 2026	Year 3 Trip to Colchester Castle
Thursday 26 th March 2026	PTA Easter Competition
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
Tuesday 19 th May 2026	Reception NHS Dental Visit
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