



Meadgate Mail

Unlocking Learning Together

Dear Families,

It was lovely to see the children back this week. The staff are all ready for some wonderful learning adventures this year and the smiles that greeted us on Thursday morning suggest that the children are too.



Dropping children off before school

Just to remind you that school starts at **8.45** a.m. so children should be in before that for registration. Staff are on duty outside and open the gates from 8.35 a.m. Gates close at 8:45., when everyone should be in school, after that time children should arrive via the office and are considered late. Between 8:45 and 9:00 each class has early morning work for children and our LSAs run targeted interventions or pre-teaching sessions. If your child is late they will miss these opportunities, so it's really important to make the most of it.

Collecting at the end of the day

As per last year, if someone is collecting your child, who is not a parent, we need you to let us know the arrangement, well before the end of the day please. Teachers will not release children to anyone other than those identified to collect, unless notified by our school office.

If you have a regular arrangement with another adult to collect your child please let the school office know, in writing, what the arrangements will be.

We ask that if you are collecting on behalf of someone else and we have not been told, you are patient with us as, in line with our safeguarding policy, we will check. It only takes a couple of minutes and it is important that children get home safely.

New pupils

We have several new pupils this academic year, both in reception and across the school. We welcome you and your families to our community. Everyone has settled in well and our reception children are already joining us for lunch and are ready to start a full week next week.

New parents will find a wealth of information on our website, which is always a great place to start if you have any questions, after that, please feel free to contact Miss Bury and Miss Scully, in our school office, for any further advice you might need.

School Office and Arbor

If you haven't yet downloaded the Arbor app, please ensure you do so, as a priority, as **all** payments are through Arbor and it is our avenue of communication with families.

Any slips, letters and forms can be posted in the letter box outside the school office. It is emptied by office staff during the morning and the contents dealt with. Posting them into the box, rather than handing them in, frees up the office staff to deal with parents who have more immediate issues during busy times.

P.E.

P.E. kits should be back in school ready for the new term. Class teachers will have let you know which days your child



will have most of their P.E. sessions. This is subject to occasional change, as we can be interrupted by the weather or other activities in school. If kit is here everyday it means we can be flexible if we have to.



Earrings should be taped before P.E. (something that your child will need to be able to do themselves) or even better, left at home. School staff cannot tape or remove/replace earrings, so children will not be able to participate wearing them. This is an Essex County Council rule which we support in school. Hair tied back for P.E. is also a safer option for sporting activities.

Secondary School Applications

The new secondary school admission round opens on **12th September 2026**, for parents of current Year 6 children to apply for a secondary school (Year 7) place for September 2027. **The statutory national closing date for applications is 31st October 2026.**

Applications can be made online via www.essex.gov.uk/admissions.

All the information required is available on the website above. Parents **must** apply for places as, even with an application, your choice of place is not guaranteed, so ensure you submit your application within the admission window.

Please visit individual school websites to see the dates of their forthcoming open evenings – it is well-worth visiting to ensure that the school is right for your child.



Last year we all enjoyed the music on the gate on Friday mornings – a great and uplifting way to start the day and ease us all into the weekend.

Over the last couple of years, Friday assemblies have taken us on a virtual journey around the world and last year we explored a range of music genres.

This year we are looking ahead to see what we might aspire to when we leave school. Each Friday Ms Meager and Mrs Morton will be welcoming children to the Mystery Careers Club, where we consider some of the most exciting, creative and frankly cool jobs that we might consider.

“The world is your oyster”

William Shakespeare – The Merry Wives of Windsor

Harvest

We would like to invite families to our forthcoming harvest assemblies, so please join us after dropping the children off at school.

If KS1 parents could gather **outside the office** we can ensure that KS2 parents have left the premises before admitting you.



The date and timings for the assemblies are below and we know that some families will have children in both key stages, so please feel free to stay in the hall between times. Please bear with us if timings are not exact.

Thursday 1st October 2026

Key stage 2 (Year 3-6) 9:00 – 9:20

Key Stage 1 (Year R – 2) 9:30 – 9:45

As usual we will be supporting Chelmsford Food Bank who would be hugely grateful of any donations you can send in, if you are able.

Items that they are currently in most need of are as follows:

Small jars of instant coffee	Male and female toiletries	Breakfast Cereal
Tea bags 40 and 80s	Laundry pods/tabs (only)	Tins of meat meals
UHT Fruit Juice	Nappies sizes 5 to 7	Tinned hot dogs
UHT Milk	Washing up liquid	Tinned fish
Milk - non dairy	Toilet rolls	Tinned potatoes
Fruit Squash	Ketchup and mayo	Tinned tomatoes
Cup soups	Tinned fruit	Tinned vegetables
Tinned soup	Sponge puddings	Instant Mash
Mug Shots	Tinned rice pudding	Rice
Jars of hot chocolate	Tinned custard	Cooking Oil
Jams and spreads	Pasta Sauces	Instant noodles
Packets of biscuits	Jelly and packet desserts	Sponge Puddings

They have plenty of pasta so do not need pasta donations thank you.

We know that these events are special milestones in children's school lives and that families will want to take photos and videos.

Please ensure that these are only for your own private memories and are not shared on social media. It is likely that other children will be in them and their families may not want their children on line for a number of reasons, some of which may be for safeguarding purposes.

Parent Reading in Year 2 and Year 3

Regularly reading to a young child is a powerful tool. It has many benefits for children: comfort



and reassurance, relaxation, happiness and fun. We know that giving a child time and full attention when reading them a story tells them they matter. It builds self-esteem, vocabulary and feeds their imagination. This is why we are inviting Year 2 and 3 parents to our early morning reading sessions in the classrooms.

Year 3 sessions will begin on **Wednesday 16th September** and Year 2 sessions on **Thursday 17th September, from 8:35 until 8:45**. Rather than dropping your child off, with a wave, come into school together and spend the first ten minutes reading. It is a lovely opportunity to hear your child read and a great way to start the day. If you are unsure about how to best support your child with their reading, Mrs Ash and Ms Pateman will be there to help. We would encourage you to attend as many sessions as you are able to, however we understand that sometimes children are dropped off by grandparents or other family members. They would be very welcome to be the reading partner on that day if they would like to join in. We know some children love reading to extended family members at home, so why not in school too?

Dates for your Diary

Thursday 1 st October 2026	Harvest Assemblies
Tuesday 13 th October 2026	YR + Y1 Phonics Meeting for Parents at 3:30pm
Tuesday 20 th October 2026	Flu Vaccinations
Tuesday 3 rd November 2026	Parents Consultations 3:30pm – 6pm
Wednesday 4 th November 2026	Parents Consultations 3:30 – 6pm
Thursday 5 th November 2026	Parents Consultations 4pm – 6:30pm
Tuesday 10 th November 2026	Individual & Sibling Photos
Wednesday 25 th November 2026	Y6 Trip to Duxford
Thursday 26 th November 2026	Open Afternoon 1:15pm – 2:45pm
Friday 27 th November 2026	Open Afternoon 1:15pm – 2:45pm
Friday 4 th December 2026	Open Afternoon 1:15pm – 2:45pm
Wednesday 9 th December 2026	Flu Vaccinations 2 nd Catch Up Session
Thursday 10 th December 2026	Christmas Jumper Day
Friday 11 th December 2026	YR Christmas Nativity
Friday 11 th December 2026	Christmas Choir Evening 5pm – 5:45pm
Friday 23 rd April 2027	Y1 Trip to Mountfitchet Castle
Monday 10 th May – Thursday 13 th May 2027	Y6 SATs Week
Tuesday 29 th June 2027	Y5 Taster Day at GBHS
Friday 16 th July – Monday 19 th July 2027	Y6 Isle of Wight Residential

2026/2027 – Term & Holiday Dates

Friday 2 nd October 2026	INSET Day
Monday 26 th October to Friday 30 th October 2026	October Half Term
Monday 21 st December to Friday 1 st January 2027	Christmas Holidays
Monday 4 th January 2027	INSET Day
Tuesday 5 th January 2027	First Day of Spring Term
Monday 15 th February to Friday 19 th February 2027	February Half Term
Friday 26 th March to Friday 9 th April 2027	Easter Holidays
Monday 12 th April 2027	First Day of Summer Term
Monday 3 rd May 2027	Bank Holiday
Friday 28 th May 2027	INSET Day
Monday 31 st May to Friday 4 th June 2027	Half Term
Wednesday 21 st July 2027	Last Day of Summer Term

