



# Meadgate Mail

## Unlocking Learning Together

Dear Parents/Carers,



Following our epic, virtual world tour during Friday assemblies last year, we are now on a musical journey through the ages exploring a range of genres and styles, both old and new.

This week we looked at classical music. The children were surprised at how many pieces of classical music they recognised, from films, tv and adverts. Other children, who play instruments, are learning some classical pieces. Some children could name composers and even identify them from their images, which was wonderful.

This morning, on the gate, we enjoyed Prokofiev's Classical Symphony, hopefully you enjoyed it.

### Harvest

We would like to invite families to our forthcoming harvest assemblies, so please join us after dropping the children off at school. Our PTA will be selling teas and coffees in the hall, so please join them after drop off if you can.



If KS2 parents could gather outside the office we can ensure that KS1 parents have left the premises before admitting you – we do not have room for all parents in the hall at the same time.

The 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 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2025

**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
Jars of hot chocolate	Tinned rice pudding	Rice
Jams and spreads	Tinned custard	Cooking Oil

Packets of biscuits	Pasta Sauces	
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Please do not send pasta as the Foodbank currently have plenty of this.

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

### School Office and Arbor

If you haven't yet downloaded the Arbor app, and made an account for yourself, please ensure you do so, as a priority, as **all** payments will be through Arbor moving forward and it will be our avenue of communication with families.

Just to remind you that slips, letters and forms can be posted in the letter box outside the school office, on the wall. It is then 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

### Nut Awareness

At Meadgate we strive to provide a safe environment for all pupils. Due to some of our pupils suffering with serious nut and prawn allergies, we are a **NUT/PRAWN AWARE SCHOOL.** An allergic reaction (anaphylactic shock) can occur through ingestion of nut products, cross contamination and breathing nut dust in the air.



We are asking all members of the school community for their help in minimising the risk to these children by:

- **Avoiding giving children nuts or nut products in their packed lunches.**
- **Avoiding giving nuts or nut products or snacks/bars containing nuts for break time snacks.**

Please check the ingredients of products carefully before sending them into school, even if you use them regularly, **sometimes the ingredients change.** Cereal bars, Nutella type spreads and some marzipans are examples of some foods which can contain hidden nuts.

This year we also have children with additional food intolerances which we must monitor closely. Please spend some time reminding your child about not sharing their food with their friends. No-one wants to inadvertently make another person very unwell.

Please be vigilant and check before you send food in. Thank you for your support.

### Parent Reading in Year 1

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 1 parents to our early morning reading session in the Year 1 classroom.



Running each Tuesday, starting on **16th 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 Francis 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?

Some weeks reading in class just might not be possible, for work commitments or other appointments. In that case, Miss Dennis will be sharing a story with those children that do not have a reading partner that day – so be prompt to school; you wouldn't want to miss the beginning of a great story! Mrs Francis is looking forward to welcoming as many grownups as can make it – see you there!

We hope to roll this out to Year 2 families very soon, so look out for that.

### **Meet the Teacher**

Our meet the teacher sessions, over the last few days, have been well supported, so thank you if you attended. It is so important that we work together to support the children in both academic learning and social development, both of which they learn in school. Ensuring that parents are informed of the expectations for both supports our staff immensely.

### **Secondary School Applications**

The new secondary school admission round opens on **Friday 12th September 2025**, for parents of current Year 6 children to apply for a secondary school (Year 7) place for September 2026. **The statutory national closing date for applications is 31st October 2025.**

Applications can be made online via [www.essex.gov.uk/admissions](http://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 please ensure you submit your application within the admission window.

### **Secondary School Open Evenings**

If your child is due to transfer to secondary school in the next year, to help you make a more informed decision, most schools hold an open evening where prospective families can visit, tour the site and speak to staff and pupils. Schools generally advertise these on their website. Some schools also offer tours during the normal school day and families should contact schools directly for more information regarding these.

Open evenings being held at more local secondary schools include:

<b>Anglo-European School</b>	Thursday 25th September 2025 <a href="https://www.aesessex.co.uk/home/admissions/open-evening-and-tours/">https://www.aesessex.co.uk/home/admissions/open-evening-and-tours/</a>
<b>Great Baddow High School</b>	Tuesday 23rd September 2025 <a href="https://www.gbhs.co.uk/641/open-evening">https://www.gbhs.co.uk/641/open-evening</a>
<b>Moulsham High School</b>	Thursday 18th September 2025 <a href="https://www.moulshamhigh.org/">https://www.moulshamhigh.org/</a>
<b>The Sandon School</b>	Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> October 2025 <a href="https://www.sandon.essex.sch.uk/">https://www.sandon.essex.sch.uk/</a>

### **Mrs Ing and Ms Pointon Orchard Drop in**

As usual, Mrs Ing (our lovely SENDCO) and Ms Pointon (our lovely Family Support Worker) will be at the Orchards Café for their drop-in sessions. If you have something specific that you would like to make them aware of, need some advice, or would just like to pop over for a chat over a cuppa they would love to see you. The session will take place from 9:00 – 10:00 this term on the following dates:

Tuesday 16th September

Tuesday 7th October

Tuesday 4th November

Tuesday 2nd December



This October half term kids will meet Essex Therapy Dogs, learn about their special work, and enjoy some Halloween fun together.

10:30am-3:30pm | Kids Inspire HQ, Hollycroft, Great Baddow, CM2 7FW

With limited spaces for our free activities, we aim to prioritise lower income families.

Primary school children 6+

Scan to register: 

## Letters Sent Home

Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> September 2025	Year 1	Autumn Walk Letter
Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> September 2025	Years 1-6	Clubs Letter
Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> September 2025	Year 1	Bring in a Toy Letter

## Dates for your Diary

Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> October 2025	Harvest Assembly KS2 - 09:00, KS1 – 09:30
Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> October 2025	INSET DAY
Monday 27 <sup>th</sup> – Friday 31 <sup>st</sup> October 2025	Half Term
Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup> , Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup> , Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> November	Parent Consultations
Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup> November 2025	Individual Photos
Monday 10 <sup>th</sup> November 2025	Flu Immunisations
WB 10 <sup>th</sup> November 2025	One Planning Meetings
Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup> November, Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> November	1:30-2:45 – Open Afternoon for New 2026 Reception Intake
Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> December 2025	Christmas Jumper Day
Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> December 2025	EYFS Nativity 09:15 – 09:30 Christmas Songs Evening 4:30 – 5:30
Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> December 2025	Panto
Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> December 2025	Last Day of Term
Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> January 2026	First day of Spring Term
Monday 26 <sup>th</sup> January 2026	Year 6 – Parents SATS Presentation – 3:30
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
Monday 30 <sup>th</sup> March – Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> April 2026	Easter Holidays
WB 27 <sup>th</sup> April 2026	Mock SATS

WB 11 <sup>th</sup> May 2026 Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> May 2026	SATS Week 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
Tuesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> June 2026	TELAT Sports
WB 29 <sup>th</sup> June 2026	Year 6 Isle of Wight Week
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

### 2025/2026 - Term & Holiday Dates

Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> October 2025	Non Pupil Day
Monday 27 <sup>th</sup> - Friday 31 <sup>st</sup> October 2025	Half Term Holiday
Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup> December 2025 to Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> January 2026	Christmas Holiday
Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> January 2026	First Day of Spring Term
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