



Meadgate Mail

Unlocking Learning Together

Dear Parents/Carers,

Feel Good Friday



Today in assembly we enjoyed a selection of pieces of ragtime music.

Originating in African-American communities in the late 19th century it has evolved from a fusion of African rhythms and European classical pieces, including marches and folk dances. We learned about the life of Scott Joplin, who became known as The King of Ragtime and whose music is still well known today.

A lot of ragtime music became popular during the birth of silent movies, where its lively syncopated rhythms would help bring the stories to life for actors like Charlie Chaplin,

Harold Lloyd and The Keystone Cops.

The music this morning was The Black and White Rag, written in 1908 by George Botsford but brilliantly arranged by Winifred Attwell, an amazing pianist and composer from the 1950s. If you are a snooker fan, you might have recognised it as it became the iconic theme music for the long-running BBC snooker television programme, Pot Black.

Punctuality

We'd like to kindly remind families about the importance of arriving at school on time each day. The first part of the morning is a key time for children to settle in, connect with their classmates, and begin their early morning work. This learning is carefully planned to build important skills, support confidence, and set a positive tone for the rest of the day. Punctuality is also a really important life skill.

Our school gates close at **8:45** each morning. By arriving on time, your child can make the very best start to their day, ready to learn and thrive. For those upper KS2 children, beginning to think about preparing for high school, this is especially important. Thank you for supporting us in giving every child the strongest possible start each morning!

Governing Body News

From September 1st the governing bodies of Meadgate Primary and St Luke's Park Primary will be joining forces to create 1 governing body. This is becoming a popular model within multi-academy trusts as it brings together a stronger skillset of governors in order to challenge and support each school. Both schools will have parents, staff and the local community on this new governing board. In order to contact the governing body parents should still speak to their school's headteacher and/or school office.

Water Bottles

Most of the children in school have a sensibly-sized water bottle with them so that they can have a drink during the day in the classroom. It is important to keep hydrated, especially if the children have been very active at break time or it is a particularly warm day.

We have noticed that a growing number of children are arriving at school without a water bottle and then asking to borrow cups from the kitchen. This then impacts the kitchen, especially on a day when they have high numbers of meals to cook and several cups have disappeared. Please ensure, even if your child has a school dinner and gets a drink with their lunch, that they also have a bottle for water in the classroom. It does not need to be a huge bottle as all classes have drinking water so they can be easily refilled and do not take up lots of space. Thank you

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.

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	

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.

Parent Reading in Year 2

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 parents to our early morning reading session in the Year 2 classroom.



Running each Thursday, starting on **Thursday 25th 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 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, Mrs Sweeting or Mrs Ellingford 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 Ash is looking forward to welcoming as many grownups as can make it – see you there!

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.

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:

Anglo-European School	Thursday 25th September 2025 https://www.aesessex.co.uk/home/admissions/open-evening-and-tours/
Great Baddow High School	Tuesday 23rd September 2025 https://www.gbhs.co.uk/641/open-evening
The Sandon School	Thursday 2nd October 2025 https://www.sandon.essex.sch.uk/

Families InFocus Essex Understanding special needs

PARENT SUPPORT GROUP
Connect, Share and Support

Are you looking for support, advice or just a place to connect with other SEND Parent/Carers? Join our friendly support group where we share experiences, offer guidance and find encouragement from others who understand.

Whether you're facing specific challenges or just looking for a supportive SEND community, we'd love you to join us!

When
Last Monday of the month
10.30am to 12.30pm

Where
Christ Church
164 New London Road
Chelmsford
CM2 0AW

Dates for your Diary

Thursday 2 nd October 2025	Harvest Assembly KS2 - 09:00, KS1 – 09:30
Friday 3 rd October 2025	Non Pupil Day
Monday 27 th – Friday 31 st October 2025	Half Term
Tuesday 4 th , Wednesday 5 th , Thursday 6 th November	Parent Consultations
Wednesday 5 th November 2025	Individual Photos
Monday 10 th November 2025	Flu Immunisations
WB 10 th November 2025	One Planning Meetings
Thursday 20 th November, Friday 21 st November	1:30-2:45 – Open Afternoon for New 2026 Reception Intake
Thursday 11 th December 2025	Christmas Jumper Day
Friday 12 th December 2025	EYFS Nativity 09:15 – 09:30 Christmas Songs Evening 4:30 – 5:30
Wednesday 17 th December 2025	Panto
Friday 19 th December 2025	Last Day of Term
Monday 5 th January 2026	First day of Spring Term
Monday 26 th January 2026	Year 6 – Parents SATS Presentation – 3:30
Tuesday 10 th , Wednesday 11 th , Thursday 12 th February 2026	Parent Consultations
Monday 16 th – Friday 20 th February 2026	Half Term
WB 16 th March 2026	One Planning Meetings
Monday 30 th March – Friday 10 th April 2026	Easter Holidays
WB 27 th April 2026	Mock SATS
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
Tuesday 23 rd June 2026	TELAT Sports
WB 29 th June 2026	Year 6 Isle of Wight Week
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

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