



Howbridge Infant School Newsletter

July 2025 – Issue 11



Message from Ms Conley:

It is hard to believe that this is the last newsletter of the year! The children have worked so hard and the whole of the Howbridge team are very proud of them. We wish all of our Year 2 children the very best of luck for the next chapter of their school life and we know that they will move on with the confidence and knowledge that they will continue to be the best they can be. As always, I am very grateful for the support that the school receives from the whole community and I would like to wish you all a fantastic summer break!



Summer Fayre

Thank you to everyone that donated towards, helped at and attended our Summer Fayre on Friday 11th July. We all had a brilliant time and raised £1323.59

Sports Day

We are really looking forward to sports day on Tuesday – the events begin at 11am, so please arrive in plenty of time. The gates will open at 10.45am.

Pirate Workshop

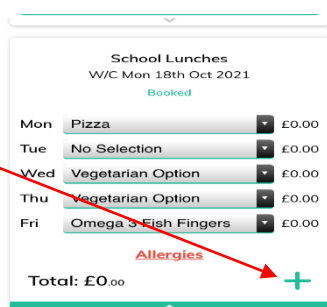
On Wednesday 9th July, Year 2 were lucky enough to welcome Mr Mortimer back for another exciting workshop, this time all about pirates!

We learnt about famous pirates from the past and listened to Mr Mortimer retell famous pirate stories and we were even chosen to act out different scenes. We had a great time walking the plank and finding out all about life on board a pirate ship. We even practised talking like pirates! We had a brilliant and memorable day.

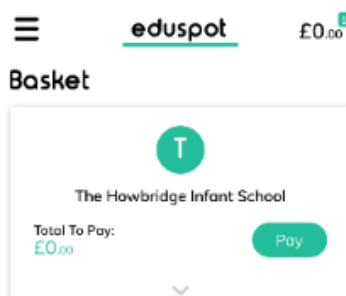
Booking Lunches & Desserts

Please book your child's lunches by Sunday evening for the coming week. All dinners are made to order, so if you have not ordered a school dinner and send your child without a packed lunch, this leaves us short. In these instances we will call you and ask you to deliver a packed lunch for your child. We know some parents have experienced difficulties with our ordering system, so please follow these steps.

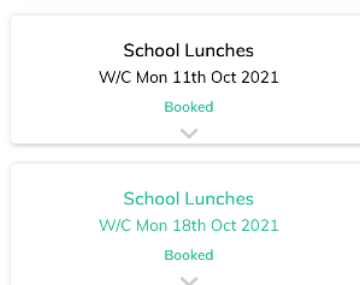
1. Log on to the Teacher2Parents eduspot app and select the relevant child. Click on the week you would like to book for, make your selections then click on the + symbol



2. You will now also need to complete a 2nd menu each week for desserts. This will look the same as above and will list the different options available per day. You will only be able to select one dessert per day.
3. Click on the basket (top right hand corner) to 'check-out'. The basket page will look like this:



4. Once you have checked out your child's lunches they will show in black text, if it hasn't been checked out it will show in green text despite saying 'Booked'



5. All options are clearly marked with either (DF) – Dairy Free or (GF) – Gluten free. If neither of these are next to an option, those particular options will NOT be catered for these allergies. Please only select the “DAIRY FREE OPTION” or “GLUTEN FREE OPTION” If your child has allergies associated to these allergens.

Attendance and Punctuality

As you know it is very important that children attend school regularly and maintain a pattern of good attendance.

Very good attendance has a positive impact on your child's:

- Attainment at school
- Relationships with other children and their ability to form lasting friendships
- Confidence to attempt new work and to work alongside others
- Good habits for life leading into the world of work.

Please speak to your child's class teacher or any member of staff if there is anything we can do to support you and your child in improving their attendance.

If your child is absent from school please report their absence on studybugs (<https://studybugs.com/>), or call the office and leave a message. Ideally this should be done prior to 9.15am.

The school gates open at 8.40am, with all children to be in school by 8.55am



Jewellery Policy

Please remember that when your child started you signed a number of forms, including one that relates to our jewellery policy. If your child has their ears pierced, earrings must be removed before school, it is no longer sufficient for them to be taped over. Please also take this into account if you are considering having your child's ears pierced during the holidays.

Medication

Please be sure to collect any medication that your child has at school before the end of term.

Online Safety

Are you planning on giving your child a new games console, mobile phone, tablet or computer game this summer or do you have friends or family who are? Visit www.essex.police.uk/sortyoursettings for practical things you can do to help make your child's new device safer when they are online. Here are their five top tips to help keep you and your child safe when online.

1. Protect your identity. Do not share personal information.
2. Think before you post. Once posted it's no longer yours.
3. Check your privacy settings.
4. Games and Apps have age ratings for a reason.
5. Make use of the parental controls.

Children & Families Directory

Introducing the Children and Families Directory by Essex County Council. This is a new, digital, easy to use directory to find help and support for children, young people and their family. For more information please visit the link below.

<https://www.essex.gov.uk/children-young-people-and-families/find-support-services-children-and-their-families?page=0>

Essex Child and Family Wellbeing Service

You can go along to drop-in sessions at your local Family Hub to get advice and support for your school aged child with a member of our school health team, where you can discuss things which may be concerning you.

Areas of Support

- Managing worries, low mood, Stress or anger issues
- Bullying and friendship issues
- Diet/Nutritional support
- Improving sleep
- Day and night wetting
- Behavioural concerns
- Personal hygiene
- Sexual health
- Information and signposting Regarding medical conditions

T: 0300 247 0014

www.essexfamilywellbeing.co.uk

2nd & 4th Monday **3pm-4.30pm**

Location: Harlequin Family Hub,
CM8 1NA

Every Tuesday **3pm- 4.30pm**

Location: Carousel Family Hub,
CM3 5ZX

Every Wednesday **3pm-4.30pm**

Location: Acorn Family Hub, Halstead,
CO9 1JH

1st, 3rd & 5th Wednesday **3pm-4.30pm**

Location: Silver End Family Hub,
CM8 3RQ



Special Educational Needs & Disabilities

Are you looking for help with your child's education, health or care needs, but are not sure where to start? Please see the attached leaflet with steps on how to get the support you need.

Spot the Difference

How many answers can you find?



Word Search

How many answers can you find?

castle
shell
palm
bucket
shovel
ball
sunglasses
umbrella
crab
lighthouse
boat



s	h	o	v	e	l	e	l
u	l	p	e	b	i	t	u
n	a	a	h	o	g	b	m
g	s	l	m	a	h	c	b
l	a	m	c	t	t	a	r
a	c	r	a	b	h	s	e
s	r	l	u	a	o	t	l
s	h	e	l	l	u	l	l
e	b	o	g	l	s	e	a
s	b	u	c	k	e	t	s

Summer 2025 Free Family Events in Mid Essex

Please see attached information on free, fun and family friendly activities across Mid Essex helping you make the most of the holidays.

The "Big School Meet Up"

Get ready for big school! A fun relaxed session with a story time, activities and a chance to meet other families with children who are starting school in September. Please click the link below for more information.

<https://library-events.essex.gov.uk/event?id=211246>

Local Clubs and Events

Please regularly check the community page of our website: <https://howbridge-inf.essex.sch.uk/community-page/> for details of local events and clubs.

Upcoming Diary Dates

21 st July	Leavers Assembly Year 2 – 9.15am
21 st July	Leavers Party Year 2 – 1.45pm
22 nd July	Sports Day and Half Day 1.15pm Finish – End of Term
1 st Sept	Non Pupil Day
2 nd Sept	Non Pupil Day
3 rd Sept	Return to School



Have a lovely summer – we look forward to welcoming the children back on Wednesday 3rd September!

SUMMER 2025

Free Family Events

in Mid Essex

*Braintree,
Chelmsford
& Maldon*



A snapshot of free fun & family-friendly activities across Mid Essex

Helping you make the most of the holidays!



MID ESSEX CHILDREN'S PARTNERSHIP

Working together to ensure all children & young people in Mid Essex get the best start in life

SUMMER 2025

Free Family Events

in Mid Essex

*Braintree,
Chelmsford
& Maldon*

Keeping children and young people entertained over the summer can be a challenge—even at the best of times.

That's why partners from across the Mid Essex system have come together to create this resource: a snapshot of some of the fantastic free, family-friendly events happening in Braintree, Chelmsford, and Maldon this summer.

While it doesn't capture everything on offer, it's designed to give families a helping hand in discovering local activities, support, and welcoming spaces.

With even more events and opportunities available through local organisations, there's plenty to explore—so dive in and make the most of what Mid Essex has to offer this summer!

All the best,

Mid Essex Children's Partnership partners



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SUMMER 2025 Event Schedule CHELMSFORD

23-22 JUL - AUG	<u>Play in the Park</u> A series of FREE 2 hour Play sessions in parks and parish venues around Chelmsford and SWF. Activities include; sports, games, crafts, and free play. Some sessions have additional 'Extras' including inflatables, petting zoos and more. <u>Suitable for aged 3-11 yrs.</u>
28-01 JUL - AUG	<u>Picnic in the Park</u> FREE themed activity days at Melbourne Park. Activities similar to Play in the Park but include a free lunch for anyone accessing benefit-based free school meals in addition to food demonstrations available for everyone. <u>Suitable for 3-11 yrs.</u>
31 JUL 11am	<u>Storytelling Event - Twitten Green, Galleywood</u> A special reading hour for families. Bring a picnic and get lost in the magic of storytelling. 
06 AUG 2pm-6pm	Essex Youth Service Detached at Chelmsford Skatepark Youth Support workers will be bring the Youth Bus to Chelmsford Skatepark. 
07 AUG 10am-4pm	Chelmergate Youth Centre Summer Delivery Open Centre delivery 10am-4pm for ages 11-19 (Up to 25 with SEND).
13 AUG 2pm-6pm	<u>Free School Uniform Event</u> Free pre-loved uniform available. Anyone can pop in and help themselves and enjoy crafts and refreshments that will also be available. Christ Church Chelmsford, 164 New London Road, Chelmsford CM2 0AW 
22 AUG 12:30-4pm	Galleywood Youth Centre Open Centre delivery 12:30pm-4pm for ages 11-19(Up to 25 with SEND)

For more ongoing events and support for families visit:

SCAN HERE



SUMMER 2025 Event Schedule

MALDON

24-14
JUL - AUG

Library Summer Family Craft Session

Free art and craft session for families.

24th July: 10:00am-12:00pm at Maldon Library

14th August: 2:00pm-4:00pm at Burnham on Crouch Library



28-22
JUL - AUG

CVS Maldon Green Space Games

A series of **FREE**, two- hour multi-activity sessions run for families across the Maldon District utilising green spaces and local parks. Over 20 dates to choose from.

31
JUL
12-5pm

Mini U Fest Burnham Event at Burnham Skate Park

A free community event taking place at across Riverside Park including the skatepark and the Dengie Hundred sports hall for all families.



05
AUG
2pm-4pm

Free School Uniform Event at Althorne Parish Hall

Free pre-loved uniform available. Anyone can pop in and help themselves. Will have free crafts and refreshments available.



15
AUG
11am-4pm

U Fest Maldon

UFest is a free all-day community festival that celebrates everything that makes life worth living. Held in the picturesque surroundings of Maldon's Promenade Park, UFest brings local people together in the Maldon District for a day of joy, connection, and wellbeing.

20
AUG
2pm-6pm

Youth Service Detached Work

Youth support workers will be doing detached work on the Promenade and have booked the youth centre in case of bad weather.

Community Gaming Initiative

Aimed at young people who love gaming, these sessions offer a fun, social space to connect with like-minded peers.

- Maldon Activity Centre – Fridays, 5–7pm (Ages 11–18)
- Burnham Village Hall – 1st & 3rd Tuesdays, 5–7pm (Ages 8+)

For more ongoing events and support for families visit:

SCAN HERE



SUMMER 2025 Event Schedule

BRAINTREE

SAT

9:30-
11:30am

ParkPlay Halsted

Taking part every Saturday, attend and take part in informal games and activities for the whole family to enjoy.

King George Playing Fields, Kings Rd, Halstead CO9 1HA

26

JUL
10am-4pm

Extinction Day! at Braintree Museum

Celebrate the opening of the Extinction! exhibition with family activities inside the Museum and dinosaur-themed fun in the Urban Garden. Includes mindfulness crafts for children.

30

JUL

Free School Uniform Event at Carousel Family Hub

Free pre-loved uniform available. Anyone can pop in and help themselves. There will be crafts/refreshments available.

10am-12pm and 1pm-3pm



04-05
AUG

Youth Service Open Centre

Open Centre delivery 10am-4pm for ages 11-19 (Up to 25 with SEND)

4th August - 10am-4pm at Chapel Hill Youth Centre

5th August - 10am-4pm at Chapel Hill Youth Centre

23

AUG
10am-2pm

Plants and Habitats Day at Braintree Museum

Explore the connection between nature and habitat in the Museum Garden through a flower planting activity. Enjoy exhibition crafts focused on climate action.

Fusion SEND Swimming Sessions

Perfect for families with SEND children from 0-18 years old. Enjoy the warm welcoming environment as you splash around in our spacious pool, making unforgettable memories together. **Please note this is a paid activity.**

Bookable via the Fusion App

**For more ongoing events and
support for families visit:**

SCAN HERE



Want more information about what's happening in Mid Essex and beyond?

This guide is just a starting point — there's so much more happening across Mid Essex & beyond this summer!

If you're looking for additional events, support, or information, check out these websites from local organisations working together to support families:

- **Essex Child and Family Wellbeing Service** – Health, development and wellbeing support from bump to teens. essexfamilywellbeing.co.uk
- **Talk, Listen and Cuddle (TLC)** – Fun, simple ways to boost communication skills for 0–5s through everyday play, stories & cuddles. www.tlc-essex.info
- **Essex Libraries** – Storytimes, crafts, and reading adventures for bookworms big and small. <https://libraries.essex.gov.uk/>
- **SEND Local Offer** – Events, groups and services for families of children and young people with SEND. <https://send.essex.gov.uk/>
- **Essex Youth Service** – Clubs, activities and support for young people under 25. <https://youth.essex.gov.uk/>
- **Chelmsford City Council** – Parks, theatres, museums, and events across the city. www.chelmsford.gov.uk
- **Braintree District Council** – Outdoor fun and family-friendly spaces to relax and explore. www.braintree.gov.uk
- **Maldon District Council** – Coastal walks, countryside charm, and Promenade fun for the whole family. www.maldon.gov.uk
- **Explore Essex** – Discover parks, green spaces, and heritage sites across the county: www.explore-essex.com/places-to-go/our-parks-and-places
- **Essex Wildlife Trust** - Wild play, forest school, and nature adventures at local reserves. essexwt.org.uk



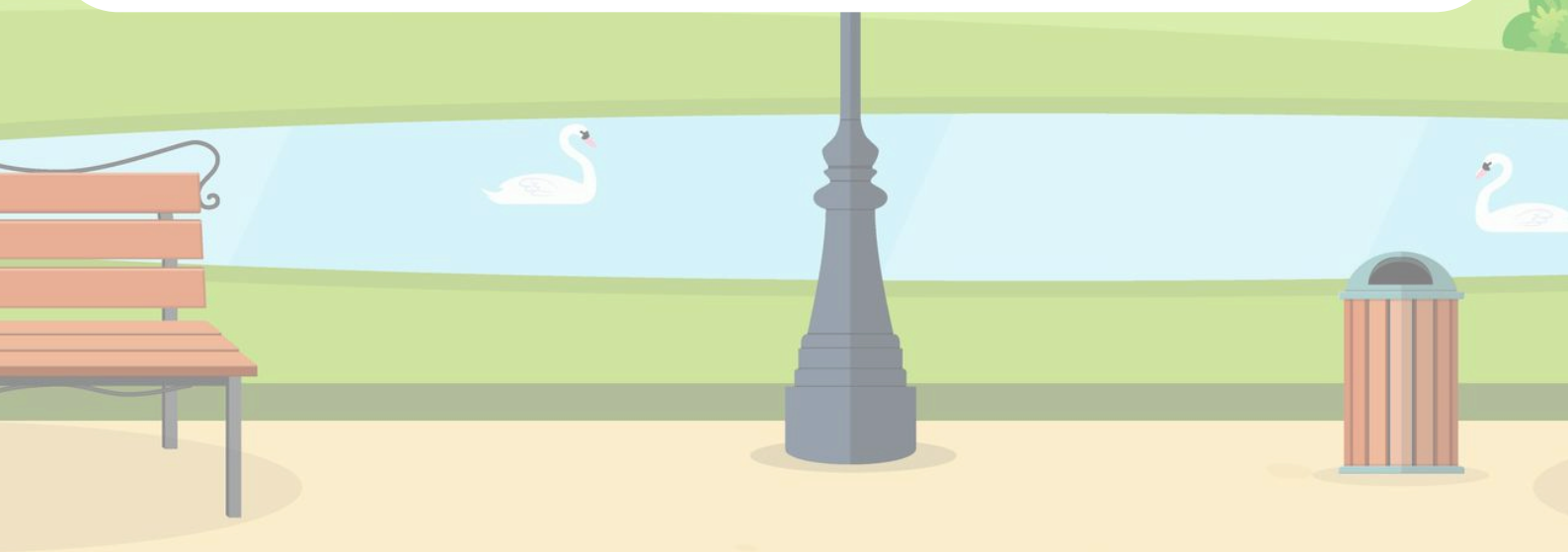
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YOUR SUMMER ADVENTURE LIST

10 fun things for families, children, and young people to try this summer – how many can you tick off together?

- ✓ Explore a new park or green space as a family
- ✓ Try a free event from this guide
- ✓ Go on a nature or photo walk together
- ✓ Visit the library – borrow books or join an activity
- ✓ Get creative – make art, music, or a short video
- ✓ Have a picnic in the park or garden
- ✓ Try a new sport, game, or active challenge
- ✓ Watch the sunset or stargaze as a family
- ✓ Cook or bake something new together
- ✓ Start a summer scrapbook or memory jar



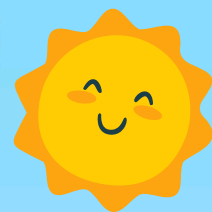
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HAVE FUN EXPLORING THIS SUMMER



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