



## Kendall Church of England Primary School

*'We Strive for a Bright and Wonderful Future!'*

20<sup>th</sup> June 2025

### **Newsletter 35 Summer Term 2025**

Dear Parents and Carers,

#### **Public Speaking Competition**

At the start of Year 6, every pupil took part in our annual Kendall Public Speaking Competition, writing and delivering their own speeches on topics of personal interest. They also assessed each other using criteria such as confidence, clarity, volume, and positive body language. Our top three speakers – Esme, Ayla, and Archie B – earned the highest scores and went on to represent Kendall at the prestigious Colchester Public Speaking Competition, held at Colchester Town Hall this Tuesday. With ten other primary schools competing, the standard was incredibly high—but Esme, Ayla, and Archie B rose to the challenge brilliantly. After listening to all 11 schools, the judges awarded Kendall **first place!** A huge congratulations to our winning team, and special thanks to Mrs Crick for her support in preparing the children and accompanying them to the event.



*Well done, Team Kendall!*

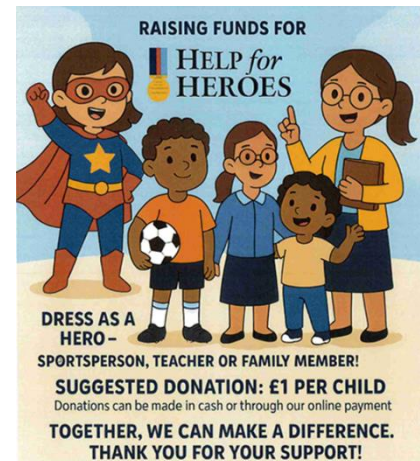
#### **New Town Open Gardens**

Kendall is taking part in the Newtown Open Gardens! We're proud to be part of the 2025 Newtown Open Gardens event, where members of the public will be invited to explore beautiful green spaces across the community – including our very own school greenhouse! If we have enough volunteers, we also hope to open up our fantastic Forest School grounds for tours. It's a wonderful way to showcase what our children have been working on, connect with the wider community, and raise valuable funds for local primary schools. If you'd be happy to help out on the day – whether it's greeting visitors, supporting an activity, or just lending a hand – please get in touch with Angela Hill, our PTA Chair. We'd love to have you involved!



## Dress Like a Hero Day!

This year, our School Council has chosen to support Help for Heroes, a charity that provides vital support to members of the armed forces and veterans. To help raise funds, we're inviting all children to take part in 'Dress Like a Hero Day' on Friday 4th July. On this special day, pupils are encouraged to come to school dressed as a hero of their choice—this could be a superhero, a sports star, a historical figure, or even a parent or carer who inspires them! We kindly ask for a £1 donation, which can be made via School Gateway or brought in as cash on the day. Thank you for your support in helping our children raise money for such an important cause.



## Supporting Local Events

More information about the Summer Reading Challenge can be found at the end of this email.

Essex County Council  
Libraries



Arriving in your local library this summer!

The challenge where children across Essex explore the magical connection between storytelling and nature! Read six books or do a range of other challenges to receive a certificate and medal!

**Saturday 19 July to  
Saturday 6 September 2025**

Find out more about how to take part in this free activity:  
[libraries.essex.gov.uk/news/summer-reading-challenge](https://libraries.essex.gov.uk/news/summer-reading-challenge)



THE  
READING  
AGENCY

Summer Reading Challenge



## PTA Friday Bake Sales Are Back – it's Year 4's stall tonight! 🍰

Our much-loved pop-up bake sales return this term—get ready for sweet treats and a great cause! Each Friday, a different class will take the lead by donating cakes or biscuits (homemade or shop-bought—just make sure ingredients/allergens are clearly labelled). Boxes and details will be sent home the week before your class's sale. To make it all run smoothly, we need **parent volunteers** to help at the stalls, and we're hoping some of our fabulous Year 6s will pitch in too. Cakes usually sell out in just 10–15 minutes, so it's a quick and easy way to support the school! **All funds go to exciting projects** like our new ICT suite and High Ropes equipment—so every slice counts!

**The Challenge:** Last year, we raised an amazing **£650.64**—let's beat it! If we do, the whole school earns **an extra 30 minutes of playtime** in the last week of term. We'll keep a running total in the newsletter so you can track our progress! Thanks for baking, buying, and being brilliant!

| Year Group                 | Date of stall                       | Money raised so far... |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------|
| EYFS                       | Friday 6 <sup>th</sup> June 2025    | £108.80                |
| Yr 1                       | Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> July 2025 | £TBC                   |
| Yr 2                       | Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> July 2025    | £TBC                   |
| Yr 3                       | Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> June 2024   | £TBC                   |
| Yr 4                       | Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> June 2025   | £TBC                   |
| Yr 5                       | Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> June 2025   | £152.15                |
| Yr 6                       | Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> May 2025    | £133.52                |
| <b>GRAND TOTAL SO FAR:</b> |                                     | <b>£394.47</b>         |

## Save Money by Raising Money

One of our school parents is employed by Utilities Warehouse (UW), a company that offers bundled utility services including energy, phone, and broadband. The PTA has agreed to collaborate with Esther, our parent at UW, following feedback from individuals who have seen reductions in their monthly bills by using the service. In one verified case, a school employee reported saving £180 per month. This partnership also presents an opportunity to raise funds for the PTA. There is no obligation to switch providers if you register your interest, and UW will provide information about potential savings. Esther's approach is low-pressure, and any decision to switch services is entirely up to you. If you're interested in finding out more or seeing if you could benefit, you can explore further without making any commitment.

# Help raise money for the Kendall PTA by saving money on your household bills.

## The only fundraising activity, that puts money back in your pocket!

To raise valuable funds for our school, the Kendall PTA has become a UW Connector. We have joined forces with one of our parents who has a business with Utility Warehouse. She will share her commission with us for any customers joining using our connector link. There's no obligation.

**It's really easy!** Register your details using the link\* below, or scan the QR code and Esther will be in touch.

**[connectors.uw.co.uk/CN-5BIM](https://connectors.uw.co.uk/CN-5BIM)**

\*Please type it as shown above, in your browser.



### **No waterproof? No Forest School!**

To ensure all children can safely and fully take part in Forest School, they must come dressed appropriately, including a **waterproof coat**. We've recently reminded families—via the Q-Ahead newsletter, weekly school newsletter, and School Ping—of the importance of bringing waterproofs. Even on sunny days, children often engage in water play, and sudden downpours are common. **Children without a waterproof coat will not be able to attend Forest School**, as staff cannot return them to class mid-session. Thank you for your continued support.

### **Forest School Diary 20<sup>th</sup> June 2025**

Last week EYFS painted their octopus wood slices in colours of pink and blue, we hope to have these completed within the next week for the children to enjoy. Making the most of the sunshine, many of the group had fun exploring the woodland and taking part in some pirate role play.



Year 1 couldn't let the week go past without getting involved with the water games! The children learnt how to play our Forest School game of 'Over and Under' and then finished off their session with a woodland water quiz.



Year 2 designed and made faith necklaces. Firstly, all of the children designed on paper a symbol they felt represented a group they belonged to. Then using the bow saw, each cut a small round of wood and transferred their symbol onto the wood.



Year 3 kicked off their session this week with some meditation in the woodland. We then enjoyed a water game where the objective was to transfer as much water as possible from one bucket to another using a sponge passed down the line, going over the head and through the legs. A few children ended up a little wet as you can see from our photos!



Year 4 took part in fun water games to cool off in the sunshine. Tree climbing and crafting with leaves were just a few more activities taking place.



It was a glorious day in the woods on Thursday, with sunshine streaming through the trees and nature putting on a show. Year 5 were on a mission — hunting for the perfect stick to craft our very first bows and arrows. We explored the woodland, carefully selecting sticks and putting our carving skills to the test. With focus and creativity, we shaped them into working models. Some of us even had the chance to test our creations, aiming for the target and seeing just how far our arrows could fly. It was a brilliant session filled with teamwork, hands-on learning, and a deep connection with the natural world.



Year 6 worked to complete their wooden crosses this week and what a great job they have done, every cross is unique in design and they are sure to brighten up our prayer garden area. Fire lighting was also practised by many of the group as they worked on not just building and lighting the fire, but the art of keeping it going which can at times be tricky.



### **Kendall Music Festival Amendment**

Please note the change of date for our Kendall Music Festival. It will now take place on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> July **not** Friday 11<sup>th</sup> July.

### **Online E-Safety Magazine for parents**

#DITTO is a free online safety newsletter in PDF format to keep parents up to date with online safety risks, issues, advice and guidance related to keeping children safe online, enjoying and learning about technology. You can sign up for this newsletter at <https://www.esafety-adviser.com/latest-newsletter/>

### **Quick links to important policies!**

We thought it would be useful to provide parents with quick links to some of our key policies in our weekly newsletter. Therefore, please find our **Attendance Policy** [HERE](#). Please find our **Homework Policy** [HERE](#). Please find our **Administering Medicines Policy** [HERE](#). Please find our **Mobile Phone Policy** [HERE](#). Please find our **Uniform Policy** [HERE](#). Please find our **Food Policy** [HERE](#). Please find our **Behaviour Policy** [HERE](#) and finally our **Parent Helper – School Trip Policy** [HERE](#). A link to our school webpage that has all of our statutory policies uploaded can be found [HERE](#). **Dressing for Forest School** [HERE](#).

### **Safety on the School Road**

Please be reminded that as per the road signage, parents should not be driving along the road that accesses Kendall, Scarlett's and ECL at any time. The landowner, other local establishments and the school have worked together to ensure that the traffic congestion and resulting danger to the children is, thanks to all our efforts, a thing of the past. Please be aware that stopping at any time along the private road can lead to a penalty notice being issued. If you would like a free parking pass for the Port Lane Recreation Ground car park that can be used at school drop off and pick up times, please speak to the school office.

### **Food Bank Vouchers**

Please don't forget that the school is an agent for food bank vouchers. Please speak in confidence to a member of the school office or Mrs French if you need to use this service.

### **Happy Birthday!**

Please join us in saying happy birthday to: Peyton E, Isaac B and Mahaut DJ



### **Headteacher Cups**

Congratulations to the following who were awarded a Headteacher Cup in assembly this week: Arthur G, Grace F and Ella LH

### **Golden Awards**

Congratulations to the following who were awarded a Gold Award in assembly this week: David A, Milana G, Esther B, Sylvie R, Joshua A, Thomas DJ, Wesam F, Theo K, George H, Matthew L, Jude W, Gabriel FB, Teddy H, Riley E and Grace J

### Maths Challenge

Congratulations to the following winners:

KS1: Sylvie R

KS2: Tyler E

New challenge attached!

### Writer of the Week

Congratulations to **Alice** in **Year 5** who received our Writer of the Week award and took home a new stationery set and journal – keep up that good writing!

### Vision Value Leaves

Congratulations to the following who were awarded a leaf for our 'Vision Values' Tree:

Ella W, Penelope E and Isabelle D

### Kendall Team Points

Congratulations to the joint Weekly Team Winners: **Elm**!

| Elm | Ash | Birch | Yew |
|-----|-----|-------|-----|
| 1st | 3rd | 2nd   | 4th |

### Amazing Attendance? Free Tuck Friday!

Free Tuck Friday – All classes who have achieved the required attendance of at least 96% are highlighted in green. Well done, **EYFS** for having the best attendance this week!

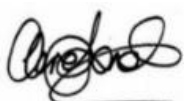
|                    |        |     |
|--------------------|--------|-----|
| EYFS               | 99%    | ★   |
| Year 1             | 97.65% |     |
| Year 2             | 95.65% |     |
| Year 3             | 94.2%  |     |
| Year 4             | 98.35% |     |
| Year 5             | 91%    |     |
| Year 6             | 95.95% |     |
| Overall Attendance |        | 96% |

(Week ending 13/06/2025)

### Reminder! No Chocolate Spread in Home Packed Lunches

Please remember that chocolate spread is not allowed in packed lunches due to the risk it poses to children with nut allergies. Details are in our prospectus and the [School Dinner page of our website](#).

Have a lovely weekend!



Clare French  
Headteacher

## **Schedule of Trips and Visits 2024/2025**

Budgeting £20 a quarter (£80 a year – or approximately £2 a term-time week) should cover the cost of trips. Where a trip is more expensive, for example £40, we will always try to make sure that over the academic year, the cost for all 4 Quarters comes to no more than £80 for the trips and visits we organise. Sadly, with school funding being at an all-time low in real terms, the school is financially unable to subsidise trips and visits to the extent it has done in the past. If we do not receive enough contributions to cover the cost, we will reluctantly have to cancel trips or visitors to the school. As promised, to help you with budgeting, please see the schedule and the associated charge for each trip for the next quarter below

### **Quarter 4**

| <b>Year Group</b> | <b>Trip/Visit</b>        | <b>Cost per child</b> |
|-------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| EYFS              | Walton                   | TBC (8pprox... £7)    |
| Year 1            | Chappel Railway Museum   | £17                   |
| Year 2            | St Stephen's             | n/a                   |
| Year 3            | Harwich Trip             | £15                   |
| Year 4            | River Walk               | n/a                   |
| Year 5            | Plants & Nature Workshop | £20                   |
| Year 6            | Treat Trip               | n/a                   |

### **Dates for your Diary**

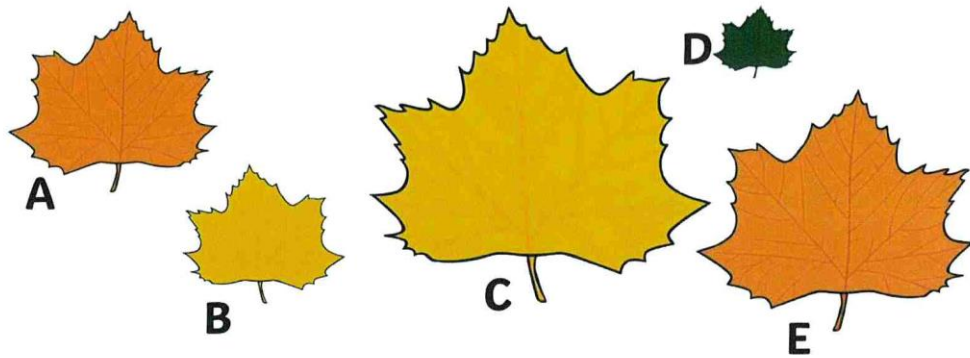
|                           |                                                           |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>June</b>               |                                                           |
| Friday 20 <sup>th</sup>   | Year 4 Bake Sale 3:15pm                                   |
| Thursday 26 <sup>th</sup> | EYFS Pirate Day                                           |
| Friday 27 <sup>th</sup>   | Year 3 Bake Sale                                          |
| Monday 30 <sup>th</sup>   | Sports Day & Family Picnic                                |
| <b>July</b>               |                                                           |
| Wednesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> | Year 1 Trip to Chappel Railway Museum                     |
| Wednesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> | Kendall SEND Support Group 9:30am-11am                    |
| Friday 4 <sup>th</sup>    | Dress Like a Hero Day (Raising funds for Help for Heroes) |
| Friday 4 <sup>th</sup>    | Year 2 Bake Sale 3:15pm                                   |
| Friday 4 <sup>th</sup>    | Music Festival 9:30am & 10:30am                           |
| Thursday 10 <sup>th</sup> | KS2 Production 7pm                                        |
| Friday 11 <sup>th</sup>   | KS2 Production 1:30pm & 7pm                               |
| Friday 11 <sup>th</sup>   | Year 1 Bake Sale 3:15pm                                   |
| Thursday 17 <sup>th</sup> | Year 6 Treat Trip                                         |
| Friday 18 <sup>th</sup>   | Leavers' Assembly                                         |
| Friday 18 <sup>th</sup>   | PTA Summer Disco                                          |
| Friday 18 <sup>th</sup>   | Last Day of Term                                          |

## Week One

|                                    | MONDAY                                                                                                 | TUESDAY                                  | WEDNESDAY                                                                                      | THURSDAY                                                                                            | FRIDAY                                             |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|
| Main                               | Thin crust cheese and tomato pizza (v)                                                                 | Oven baked sausage rolls                 | Roast Chicken breast                                                                           | Packed lunch Ham baguette                                                                           | Birds Eye Omega 3 Fish Fingers                     |
| Vegetarian (v)<br>Or<br>Vegan (ve) | Ratatouille pasta bake (v/ve)                                                                          | Oven baked vegan sausage rolls (ve)      | Baked Quorn fillet (v/ve)                                                                      | Cheddar Cheese baguette (v)<br>Vegan cheese baguette (ve)                                           | Crispy Quorn dippers (v)<br>Vegetable fingers (Ve) |
| Sides                              | Vegan Coleslaw (ve) sweetcorn<br><br>Freshly prepared salad bar – lettuce, cucumber, tomatoes, peppers | Creamy mashed potato<br>Baked beans      | Roast potatoes<br>Stuffing<br>Yorkshire pudding<br>carrots, sweetcorn, peas<br>Gravy (ve) (gf) | Vegetable sticks<br>Tortilla chips<br><br>Freshly prepared salad bar – lettuce, cucumber, tomatoes, | Chips<br>Baked beans<br>Tomato sauce               |
| Dessert                            | Raspberry Angel delight<br>or<br>Fresh fruit                                                           | Chocolate oat cake (ve)<br>or<br>yoghurt | Fresh fruit salad-<br>honeydew melon,<br>pineapple, grapes<br>or<br>yoghurt                    | Lemon drizzle cake (v)<br>or<br>Fresh fruit                                                         | Raspberry ice cream sponge roll<br>or<br>yoghurt   |

Please let us know what you would like to see on our school dinner menu.  
We would love to hear your ideas! Email us: [admin@kendall.essex.sch.uk](mailto:admin@kendall.essex.sch.uk)

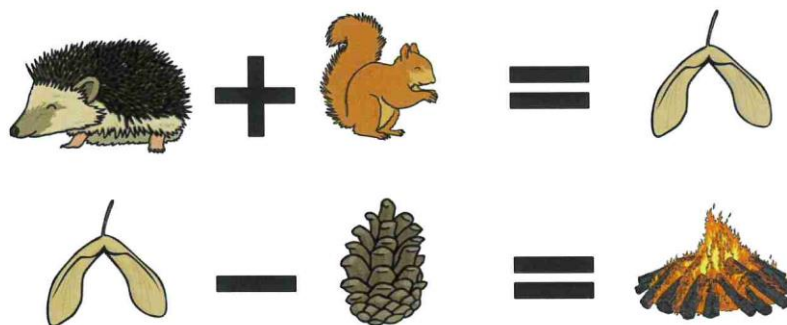
## Kendall KS1 Fortnightly Maths Challenge



Put these leaves in order from largest to smallest.

If you think you know, write your name and answer on a slip of paper and post it into the correct box on the table. The winner will be announced in two weeks. Good luck!

# Kendall KS2 Fortnightly Maths Challenge



If fire = 18, hedgehog = 16 and pine cone = 5, what is squirrel?

If you think you know, write your name and answer on a slip of paper and post it into the correct box on the table. The winner will be announced in two weeks. Good luck!

## Academic Year 2024-2025

| September 2024 |    |    |    |    |    |    | October 2024 |    |    |    |    |    |    | November 2024 |    |    |    |    |    |    | December 2024 |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|----------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|--------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|---------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|---------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| M              | T  | W  | T  | F  | S  | S  | M            | T  | W  | T  | F  | S  | S  | M             | T  | W  | T  | F  | S  | S  | M             | T  | W  | T  | F  | S  | S  |
|                |    |    |    |    |    | 1  |              | 1  | 2  | 3  | 4  | 5  | 6  |               |    |    |    | 1  | 2  | 3  |               |    |    |    |    |    | 1  |
| 2              | 3  | 4  | 5  | 6  | 7  | 8  | 7            | 8  | 9  | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 4             | 5  | 6  | 7  | 8  | 9  | 10 | 2             | 3  | 4  | 5  | 6  | 7  | 8  |
| 9              | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 14           | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 11            | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 9             | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 |
| 16             | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 21           | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 18            | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 16            | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 |
| 23             | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 28           | 29 | 30 | 31 |    |    |    | 25            | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |    | 23            | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 |
| 30             |    |    |    |    |    |    |              |    |    |    |    |    |    |               |    |    |    |    |    |    | 30            | 31 |    |    |    |    |    |

| January 2025 |    |    |    |    |    |    | February 2025 |    |    |    |    |    |    | March 2025 |    |    |    |    |    |    | April 2025 |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|--------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|---------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| M            | T  | W  | T  | F  | S  | S  | M             | T  | W  | T  | F  | S  | S  | M          | T  | W  | T  | F  | S  | S  | M          | T  | W  | T  | F  | S  | S  |
|              |    | 1  | 2  | 3  | 4  | 5  |               |    |    |    |    | 1  | 2  |            |    |    |    |    | 1  | 2  |            | 1  | 2  | 3  | 4  | 5  | 6  |
| 6            | 7  | 8  | 9  | 10 | 11 | 12 | 3             | 4  | 5  | 6  | 7  | 8  | 9  | 3          | 4  | 5  | 6  | 7  | 8  | 9  | 7          | 8  | 9  | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| 13           | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 10            | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 10         | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 14         | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| 20           | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 17            | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 17         | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 21         | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| 27           | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 |    |    | 24            | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |    |    | 24         | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 28         | 29 | 30 |    |    |    |    |
|              |    |    |    |    |    |    |               |    |    |    |    |    |    | 31         |    |    |    |    |    |    |            |    |    |    |    |    |    |

| May 2025 |    |    |    |    |    |    | June 2025 |    |    |    |    |    |    | July 2025 |    |    |    |    |    |    | August 2025 |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|----------|----|----|----|----|----|----|-----------|----|----|----|----|----|----|-----------|----|----|----|----|----|----|-------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| M        | T  | W  | T  | F  | S  | S  | M         | T  | W  | T  | F  | S  | S  | M         | T  | W  | T  | F  | S  | S  | M           | T  | W  | T  | F  | S  | S  |
|          |    |    | 1  | 2  | 3  | 4  |           |    |    |    |    |    | 1  |           | 1  | 2  | 3  | 4  | 5  | 6  |             |    |    |    | 1  | 2  | 3  |
| 5        | 6  | 7  | 8  | 9  | 10 | 11 | 2         | 3  | 4  | 5  | 6  | 7  | 8  | 7         | 8  | 9  | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 4           | 5  | 6  | 7  | 8  | 9  | 10 |
| 12       | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 9         | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 14        | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 11          | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 |
| 19       | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 16        | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 21        | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 18          | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 |
| 26       | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 |    | 23        | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 28        | 29 | 30 | 31 |    |    |    | 25          | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 |
|          |    |    |    |    |    |    | 30        |    |    |    |    |    |    |           |    |    |    |    |    |    |             |    |    |    |    |    |    |

= Schooldays

= School holidays

= Bank holidays

= Weekends

= Non-Pupil Days

# Academic Year 2025-2026

| September 2025 |    |    |    |    |    |    | October 2025  |    |    |    |    |    |    | November 2025 |    |    |    |    |    |    | December 2025 |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|----------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|---------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|---------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|---------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| M              | T  | W  | T  | F  | S  | S  | M             | T  | W  | T  | F  | S  | S  | M             | T  | W  | T  | F  | S  | S  | M             | T  | W  | T  | F  | S  | S  |    |
|                |    |    |    |    |    |    |               |    | 1  | 2  | 3  | 4  | 5  |               |    |    |    |    | 1  | 2  |               | 1  | 2  | 3  | 4  | 5  | 6  | 7  |
| X              | 2  | 3  | 4  | 5  | 6  | 7  | 6             | 7  | 8  | 9  | 10 | 11 | 12 | X             | 4  | 5  | 6  | 7  | 8  | 9  |               | 8  | 9  | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| 8              | 9  | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 13            | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 10            | 11 | 12 | 13 | X  | 15 | 16 |               | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 |
| 15             | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 20            | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | X             | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 |               | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| 22             | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 27            | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 |    |    | 24            | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |               | 29 | 30 | 31 |    |    |    |    |
| 29             | 30 |    |    |    |    |    |               |    |    |    |    |    |    |               |    |    |    |    |    |    |               |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| January 2026   |    |    |    |    |    |    | February 2026 |    |    |    |    |    |    | March 2026    |    |    |    |    |    |    | April 2026    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| M              | T  | W  | T  | F  | S  | S  | M             | T  | W  | T  | F  | S  | S  | M             | T  | W  | T  | F  | S  | S  | M             | T  | W  | T  | F  | S  | S  |    |
|                |    |    | 1  | 2  | 3  | 4  |               |    |    |    |    |    | 1  |               |    |    |    |    |    | 1  |               |    | 1  | 2  | 3  | 4  | 5  |    |
| 5              | 6  | 7  | 8  | 9  | 10 | 11 | 2             | 3  | 4  | 5  | 6  | 7  | 8  | 2             | 3  | 4  | 5  | 6  | 7  | 8  |               | 6  | 7  | 8  | 9  | 10 | 11 | 12 |
| 12             | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 9             | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 9             | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 |               | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 |
| 19             | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 16            | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 16            | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 |               | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 |
| 26             | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 |    | 23            | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |    | 23            | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 |               | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |    |    |    |
|                |    |    |    |    |    |    |               |    |    |    |    |    |    | 30            | 31 |    |    |    |    |    |               |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| May 2026       |    |    |    |    |    |    | June 2026     |    |    |    |    |    |    | July 2026     |    |    |    |    |    |    | August 2026   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| M              | T  | W  | T  | F  | S  | S  | M             | T  | W  | T  | F  | S  | S  | M             | T  | W  | T  | F  | S  | S  | M             | T  | W  | T  | F  | S  | S  |    |
|                |    |    |    | 1  | 2  | 3  | 1             | 2  | 3  | 4  | 5  | 6  | 7  |               |    | 1  | 2  | 3  | 4  | 5  |               |    |    |    |    | 1  | 2  |    |
| 4              | 5  | 6  | 7  | 8  | 9  | 10 | 8             | 9  | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 6             | 7  | 8  | 9  | 10 | 11 | 12 |               | 3  | 4  | 5  | 6  | 7  | 8  | 9  |
| 11             | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 15            | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 13            | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 |               | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 |
| 18             | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 22            | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | X             | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 |               | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 |
| 25             | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | 29            | 30 |    |    |    |    |    | 27            | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 |    |    |               | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |
|                |    |    |    |    |    |    |               |    |    |    |    |    |    |               |    |    |    |    |    |    |               | 31 |    |    |    |    |    |    |

 = Schooldays

 = School holidays

 = Bank holidays

 = Weekends

 = Non-Pupil Days

Dear Parent / Carer

Your child is invited to sign up for this year's [Summer Reading Challenge](#). Sign up for FREE at your local library!

### What is the Summer Reading Challenge?

The Summer Reading Challenge encourages children to keep reading during the school summer holidays – and to enjoy reading anything they like! All children are invited to read books and/or complete reading-related activities, and collect rewards. It's completely **FREE** to take part.

It is an amazing way to boost children's confidence – last year 72% of children taking part felt more confident reading.

### Why should my child sign up?

- They will be **better prepared to return to school** in the autumn.
- The Challenge **supports the move into a new year group**.
- Becoming more independent in their reading boosts children's **confidence and self-esteem**.
- The library provides **free access** to books and fun family activities all through the summer.
- Library staff are on hand to offer support and book recommendations.

Your child will be part of a UK-wide programme developed by [The Reading Agency](#) and delivered in partnership with the [public library network](#).

### How can my child take part? (Library OR online)

**In the library.** Visit your [local library](#) and sign up. Your child will:

- Aim to borrow and read six books (any combination of books, eBooks and audiobooks) and/or complete a range of reading-related activities.
- Receive a Challenge folder and collect special stickers and rewards for reading.

**OR**

If you can't get to the library, take part in the **Online challenge** at: [summerreadingchallenge.org.uk](http://summerreadingchallenge.org.uk)

- Sign up on the [official Challenge website](#).
- Set a reading goal and get book recommendations and tips.
- Unlock digital badges and online rewards, including a printable certificate.

### When?

Throughout the summer holidays from 19 July to 6 September. Unsure where your closest library is? Use the Essex Library Service [website](#) to check.

Head to your local library this summer and sign up! If you have any questions, please ask staff in the library.

We look forward to seeing you!

Best wishes

**Essex Library Service**

## Want to know more?

- Find out more about the importance of reading and its impact on children's success [here](#).
- Visit the [official Summer Reading Challenge website](#) for free activities, videos, book recommendations and more.

Keep up-to-date! Follow @EssexLibraries on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [X](#).

## What do families think?

"I never liked reading before because of this challenge I got the **courage** to read more books and I have more interest in books. This has been the **greatest experience** ever in my life to read more books than before thanks."

"My daughter has **moved up a reading level** at school thanks to the Summer Reading Challenge!"

"As a mother of a five-year-old boy I am so happy and thankful for this free summer reading challenge. My boy was putting in effort to read the books so that he will be rewarded with a medal and certificate at the end of the reading challenge. This has **motivated** him to get reading and he was so **excited** to read more."

"My children are reluctant to read during school holidays but the structured Summer Reading Challenge helps **overcome their reluctance**."

"We have taken part for the last 10 years with all of my children. It's almost a tradition to do it. **Staff were brilliant** with my autistic child."