



Kendall Church of England

Primary School

'We Strive for a Bright and Wonderful Future!'

20th March 2026

Newsletter 25 Spring Term 2026



Dear Parents and Carers,

Mrs Mulvey's RE Parent & Child Workshop

On Wednesday, some willing parents came into school to learn about how RE is taught at Kendall. They worked with their children to explore some of our 'Big Questions'.



Year 3 Visit to Colchester Zoo

Our Year 3 school trip to Colchester Zoo was an exciting adventure where we learned all about the Amazon rainforest and the amazing animals that live there. As we explored, we saw creatures like monkeys, snakes, and colourful birds, just like the ones found in the rainforest. One of the best parts of the day was a special workshop where we discovered the different layers of the rainforest, including the forest floor, understory, canopy, and emergent layer. We also learned how animals have unique adaptations to survive, such as camouflage to hide from predators and strong limbs for climbing trees. It was a fun and fascinating day that helped us understand how important the rainforest is and how the animals depend on their habitat.



Kendall Church of England Primary School Recreation Road Colchester, CO1 2HH
01206 794634 • admin@kendall.essex.sch.uk • www.kendallprimary.co.uk
Headteacher: Mrs. Clare French

Changes to Support Fund for Families

This week the Local Authority (LA) wrote to all headteachers informing them that there will be no more free holiday food vouchers, as the scheme has come to an end. Instead, they will be expanding the Holiday Activity and Food (HAF) programme. Some families may also be able to access support through the Crisis and Resilience Fund (CRF). Further information and answers to Frequently Asked Questions can be found in the letter I received which can be found at the end of this newsletter.

The Schools White Paper

At the weekend, I read a very interesting article in *Schools Week* highlighting the direction this government is taking in relation to specialist school places. I am aware that many families with children currently attending Kendall are considering specialist provision as they prepare for the transition to secondary school. With this in mind, I thought it may be helpful to share the article with you. If you are interested, you may also wish to respond to the consultation on the Schools White Paper, which is currently open and can be accessed [here](#).

The outbreak of meningitis in Kent

The outbreak of meningitis in Kent has been heavily covered in the news and may be causing anxiety in Essex. The public health team at Essex County Council have said that there is no increased risk to anyone in Essex unless they have a direct link to a case of meningitis in the Kent outbreak and been contacted by the UK Health Security Agency. Simply being a contact of a person with a direct link does not increase the risk. If you would like to know more about the outbreak and how it is managed there is an update on the [UK Health Security webpage](#). If you would like to know more about meningitis and how to spot it the [NHS webpages](#) give good advice.

Pupil Contact Record Sheet

Next week your child will be bringing home their pupil Contact Record Sheet. To ensure we have all the correct and up to date information, which is legally required in case of an emergency, please check all the details, amend if necessary, sign and date anywhere on the sheet and return to the school office by Friday 17th April 2026, even if no changes are necessary. Thank you.

Easter Service at C3 Church

On Friday the 27th at 10am we would love you to meet us at C3 church (post code CO2 7UW) for Kendall's Easter service. If you want to walk behind us, we will be leaving at 9:30am from school. The service will finish around 11am. We would love to see you there!

Reminder! PTA Easter Egg Art Competition

Don't forget to enter and bring in your creation by Tuesday 24th March to be entered into the PTA Easter Egg art competition. You can make a donation of £1.00 to the PTA on the school gateway APP.

Reminder! Kendall Tuck Trolley

If you would like your child (Year 1 to Year 6 only) to access our Kendall Tuck Trolley for the 1st half of the Summer Term 2026 (From 13th April 2026 – 8th May 2026), please make payment of £11.60 (40p per day) via School Gateway under Kendall Tuck Trolley. Payment must to be made no later than **Friday 27th March**, ready for the new term. Only children whose parents/carers have paid in advance will be able to use the Kendall Tuck Trolley next half term. We **will not** be able to accept payments after Friday 27th March.

Beat the Street – Keep Going Team Kendall!

1	Kendall Church of England Prima...	361 players	158,490 pts
2	Home Farm Primary School	616 players	121,270 pts
3	Highwoods Community Primar...	570 players	113,430 pts
4	Stanway Fiveways Primary Sch...	535 players	109,710 pts
5	St John's Green Primary School	703 players	103,360 pts

Well done to everyone who has been earning points for Team Kendall in *Beat the Street*. We are still at the top of the table out of all the schools in Colchester which is an amazing achievement for a small school! It has been wonderful hearing how enthusiastic the children are and seeing our whole school community getting involved in keeping fit and healthy by walking and wheeling around Colchester.

Are you missing out on Gems along your travels? Download the *Beat the Street* app onto your mobile phone and log in. Every time you tap your card or scan the app on a *Beat Box*, gems will become available on your map. All you need to do it is walk through the gem zone and collect the extra points. Keep tapping – and let's stay at the top of the leader board!

Reminder! After School Clubs – Summer Term 2026

The new Autumn Term After School Clubs are now available to apply for online. The form will close at the end of the school day on **Wednesday 25th March 2026**. All clubs will start during the week beginning **20th April 2026** (with the exception of Jigsaw Puzzles and Traditional Playground Games which are only for 2nd half term). All clubs finish week ending **10th July 2026**. Please complete 1 form per child – do not include multiple children on 1 form.

Club	Yr Group	Cost
Football (KS1)	EYFS, Yr 1 & 2	Whole Term £50
Drama	Yr 3, 4, 5 & 6	Whole term £33
Chess	Yr 2, 3, 4, 5 & 6	Whole term £44
Jigsaw Puzzles (2 nd half term only)	EYFS, Yr 1 & 2	2 nd Half term only £18
Basketball	Yr 3, 4, 5 & 6	Whole term £55
Traditional Playground Games (2 nd half term only)	Yr 2, 3, 4, 5 & 6	2 nd Half term only £18
Sports Games	EYFS, Yr 1 & 2	Whole term £55
Spanish	Yr 3, 4, 5 & 6	Whole term £44
Lego/Colouring	EYFS, Yr 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 & 6	Whole term £33
Football (KS2)	Yr 3, 4, 5 & 6	Whole term £55

Allocation of clubs will be confirmed during the week beginning **13th April 2026**. Please click on the link below (or copy and paste into your browser) to see all clubs available and submit your applications: <https://forms.gle/6CEuqwbQDDWQdK34A>

There will also be an additional Dance Club, run by CGD (Carol Gale School of Dance) on Fridays taking place in our school hall, for all year groups. Please see the letter at the end of the newsletter how to book and make payment direct to the dance school. **Please be aware booking and payment is only available directly to the dance school.**

School Trips and Visiting Workshops

This is your last chance to complete our short survey regarding school trips and visits. Please click on this link: <https://forms.gle/oDoG7AtYHtyPRS6w8> All responses are anonymous.

Kendall Parent Choir

Our next and final rehearsal will be on Tuesday 24th March 7pm-7:45pm (no children at this one please). The actual service is on Friday 27th March. See you there! From Mrs Mulvey.



PTA Easter Discos

We are looking forward to seeing your children this evening at our PTA Easter Discos (KS1 starts 5pm, KS2 starts 6:30pm).

Pick up and helper arrangements

If you are on our list of parents who are helping, please enter via the kitchen door – this will be locked so please knock to let us know you have arrived. All children whose parents are dropping off their children, please come in via the main school entrance. At the end of each disco, all children will leave via the exit door beneath the fire escape steps that lead onto the KS2 playground (where Year 2 are dismissed at the end of the day). Please meet your child/ren there when their session has finished (EYFS/KS1 collection time 6.15pm and KS2 at 8.00pm).



Wraparound Childcare Update

Fun4 kids are hiring! See below for more information...

WE'RE HIRING

**Level 2+ Childcare
Practitioner for the role of
Deputy Manager in our up
and coming after-school
club at Kendall.**

Contact cathy@fun4kidscolchester.co.uk
for an application pack!



Please see job description at the end of the newsletter and please pass this information on to anyone you think could be interested in the role.

Easter Events

Please see a range of Easter events in the community at the end of the newsletter.

Join Us for Parent & Child Workshops at Kendall!

Please join our Parent and Child Workshops, offering a chance to learn alongside your child in fun, hands-on sessions led by Kendall's subject leaders. Each workshop is suitable for children in Years 1-6. Book via the school office. We look forward to seeing you!

Workshop	Date	Time
PE (Physical Education)	15 th April 2026	9.00-10.00am
Computing	21 st April 2026	2.00-3.00pm
Science	23 rd April 2026	9.30-10.30am
Geography	28 th April 2026	2.00-3.00pm
Music	18 th May 2026	9.30-10.30am
History	10 th June 2026	2.00-3.00pm

Forest School Diary 13th March 2026

EYFS enjoyed their own take on the festival of colours in the woodland. The children mixed up a selection of brightly coloured paint, they then used teabags dipped in the paints before then throwing them at paper to create a wonderful masterpiece. A spot of bug hunting for ladybirds finished off the session quite nicely.



Year 1 enjoyed the beautiful weather in the forest and used leaves to create artwork. They hunted for tiny creatures, played in the mud kitchen and looked out for the many signs of spring now showing in our forest.



Year 2 painted the wooden slices that they had cut in our previous session in preparation to assemble them as flowers, these will be used to brighten up our wildlife garden. A few of the children planted the top of a pineapple as we experiment to see if they will grow.



This week in the forest, Year 3 created a collage of both the rainforest and our woodland here at Kendall. Each collage consisted of the different layers of each ecosystem, from the lowest being the ground layer, to the tallest being the emergent layer. Natural items such as sticks and leaves were used to create the collage.



This week, Year 4 got creative and weaved some 'God's eyes'. By the end of the session the children were weaving independently with ease. In the woodland, others were busy practising their fire lighting skills by building and lighting small fires in pots.



It was a beautiful morning in our woodland this week for Year 5. Perfect for our first attempt at the scary but amazing 'Leap of Faith' challenge, and boy were we awesome! Matthew Magpie and Lucia Lark had to work extra hard to keep up with pace of Year 5's speed and enthusiasm for this most tricky of apparatus, breaking time records on each round and showing great resilience throughout the whole session. Well done Year 5 you were all brilliant!



This week Year 6 enjoyed one of their favourite activities – fire lighting! The children were able to build, light and safely keep their individual fire pots burning, demonstrating great progression with their Forest School skills. A few of the group chose to craft small fairy doors and houses using natural resources found in the woodland.



Reminder: Forest School Clothing

We learn outside all year round, and **all children take part in Forest School in all weather conditions**. Recently, many **children have been arriving without adequate clothing** for the **freezing temperatures**, and several are not wearing hats, scarves or gloves. Some children without waterproofs are also not bringing a spare change of clothes, resulting in them staying in cold, wet clothing for the rest of the day. Please ensure your child is dressed appropriately. Our guide, ***How to Dress for Forest School***, can be found [here](#) and it is also available on our website. We want every child to enjoy Forest School—not be cold, wet and miserable. ***There is no such thing as bad weather – only the wrong clothes!***

Essex Outdoors Holiday Activities

Exhilarating school holiday activity days for children age 8+ during. Please see flyer at the end of the newsletter for more information from Essex Outdoors holiday activities.

Online E-Safety Magazine for parents

Alan Mackenzie produces a [free online safety newsletter](https://www.esafety-adviser.com/latest-newsletter/) via email 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/>

Easy Fundraising

The school has now signed up with [Easy Fundraising](https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/kendall-primary-school/) a simple way to raise FREE money for our school every time you shop online! It's super easy:

- **Register:** for free at: <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/kendall-primary-school/> or download the app above. Remember to enable the donations reminder.
- **Get the app now and choose to support Kendall Primary School Colchester once installed.**

We have reached 63 supporters! We are so excited because together, in just 3 months, we have raised an amazing amount of money.

This is FREE money- it doesn't cost you a penny!

Let's see if we can make it 70 supporters – with 210 children at the school, I know we can do it!

Please – if you have not joined yet – do so – it is making such a difference to the quality of resources we can provide for your children ♥

Key Policies for Parents

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 note that, as indicated by road signs, parents must not drive on the road accessing Kendall, Scarlett's, and ECL at any time. The landowner, local businesses, and the school have worked together to reduce congestion and improve safety for children. Stopping on the private road may result in a penalty notice. To request a free parking pass for the Port Lane Recreation Ground car park (usable at drop-off and pick-up times), please contact 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.

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](#).

Happy Birthday!

Please join us in saying happy birthday to: David A and Enys RR

Headteacher Cups

Congratulations to the following who were awarded a Headteacher Cup in assembly this week:
Arabella O, Grace H and Eleanor VZ



Golden Awards

Congratulations to the following who were awarded a Gold Award in assembly this week:

Lylah M, Enys RR, Robyn B, Tommy C, Arthur G, Joshua G, Zara EE, Gia K, Lotus L, Nathan L, Matilda G, Matthew L, Jana F and Sylvia J

Writer of the Week

Congratulations to **Alpha Katherine** in **Year 1** who received our Writer of the Week award and took home a new stationery set and journal – keep up that good writing!

Maths Awards

Congratulations to the following winners:

KS1 – Mason F

KS2 – Neve B

Kendall Team Points

Congratulations to the Weekly Team Winners: **Yew!**

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

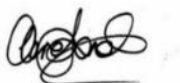
Amazing Attendance? Free Tuck Friday!

Free Tuck Friday – All classes who have achieved the required attendance of at least 96% are highlighted in green. Well done, **Year 2** for having the best attendance this week!

EYFS	93.3%	
Year 1	93.7%	
Year 2	99%	★
Year 3	96.9%	
Year 4	96.7%	
Year 5	97.3%	
Year 6	98%	
Overall Attendance	96.45%	

(Week ending 13/03/2026)

Have a lovely weekend!



Clare French
Headteacher

Allergen Check List Last Updated **March 2026**

Allergen	Currently allowed in school
Nuts	No ✗
Peanuts	No ✗
Sesame seeds	Yes ✓
Celery	Yes ✓
Cereals Containing Gluten	Yes ✓
Crustaceans	Yes ✓
Eggs	Yes ✓
Fish	Yes ✓
Lupin	Yes ✓
Milk	Yes ✓
Molluscs	Yes ✓
Mustard	Yes ✓
Soya	Yes ✓
Sulphur dioxide	Yes ✓

Week 1	MONDAY (meat free) Week 1	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Main	Thin crust margherita pizza (v)	Oven baked sausages	Oven roasted chicken breast	Chicken and vegetable curry	Birdseye Omega 3 fish fingers
Vegetarian (V) Or Vegan (Ve)	Vegetable pasta cooked with fresh herbs and garlic in a tomato sauce (ve)	Veggie sausages Vegan sausages (v) (ve)	Cheese puff (v0 VE)	Vegetable and lentil sweet potato curry (ve)	Quorn dippers (v) Vegetable fingers (ve)
Sides	Sweetcorn Vegan coleslaw	Creamy mashed potatoes, garden peas, vegan gravy (ve)	Roast potatoes, stuffing, Yorkshire pudding, carrots, peas, sweetcorn, vegan gravy	50/50 rice Warm naan bread	Chips Baked beans
Freshly prep salad bar	Tomatoes, Iceberg lettuce, cucumber,			Tomatoes, Iceberg lettuce, cucumber, tomatoes	Tomatoes, Iceberg lettuce, cucumber, tomatoes
Dessert	Strawberry angel delight or fresh fruit	Iced chocolate brownie or fresh fruit	Honeydew melon, pineapple and grapes or yogurt	Apple crumble and custard or yogurt	Iced sponge cake or fresh fruit

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

Schedule of Trips and Visits 2025/2026

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. We are hoping to run the following trips next year, but these are subject to provider availability:

Year Group	Quarter 1 Sept–Nov	Quarter 2 Nov–Feb	Quarter 3 Feb–May	Quarter 4 May–July
EYFS	NA	NA	Farm Visit	Seaside Visit
Year 1	Musical Workshop	Arctic Explorer	Hyde Hall – all about plants!	Colne Valley Railway
Year 2	Local Geography Walk	Colchester Cemetery – Colchester as an Army Town	Library Visit and Synagogue Visit	St Stephen's Church
Year 3	Stone Age to Iron Age History Day	Colchester Castle – Roman History	Colchester Zoo – Rainforest	Harwich and Felixstowe Docks – Geography Field Trip
Year 4	West Stow – Anglo-Saxons	Swimming & French Feast Day	Siege of Colchester – Historic Walk	River Colne – Geography Field Trip
Year 5	Henry Moore Foundation Art Trip	Life in Ancient Greece Day – History Experience	Life in Ancient Egypt Day – History Experience	Explore Nature Day (Beth Chatto depending on availability)
Year 6	PGL Bawdsey Manor (residential) London Aquarium/Houses of Parliament	Mayan History Day	Local Geographical Field Trip – OS mapping	Crucial Crew and Treat Trip

Quarter 3 Trips and Visits and Associated Costs

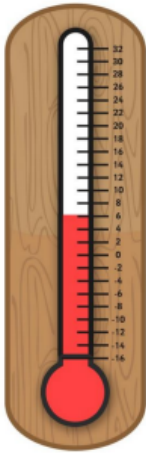
Year Group	Trip/Visit	Cost per child
EYFS	Farm Visit	£23
Year 1	Hyde Hall	£19.50
Year 2	Library	No cost
Year 3	Colchester Zoo	£19.70 (£12.70 with Gold Card)
Year 4	Siege of Colchester	No cost
Year 5	Ancient Egyptian Day	£21
Year 6	Local Geographical Field Trip – OS mapping	TBC

Dates for your Diary

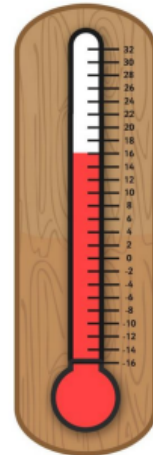
March	
Friday 20 th	PTA Easter Discos EYFS/KS1: 5pm-6:15pm KS2: 6:30pm-8pm
Thursday 26 th	Year 4 Swimming Final Session
Friday 27 th	Easter Service at C3 Church 10am
Friday 27 th	Last Day of Spring Term
Monday 30 th – Friday 10 th April	Easter Holidays

Summer Term 2026	
April	
Monday 13 th	First Day of Summer Term
Tuesday 28 th	EYFS Boydells Farm Visit
Wednesday 29 th	Year 1 Hyde Hall Visit
May	
Monday 4 th	Bank Holiday
Monday 11 th to Thursday 14 th	Year 6 SATs
Friday 22 nd	Year 6 Bake Sale 3:15pm
Monday 25 th to Friday 29 th	Half Term Holiday
June	
Friday 5 th	Rainbow Day
Friday 5 th	EYFS Bake Sale 3:15pm
Friday 12 th	Year 5 Bake Sale 3:15pm
Friday 19 th	Year 4 Bake Sale 3:15pm
Friday 26 th	Year 3 Bake Sale 3:15pm
Monday 29 th	Sports Day
July	
Friday 3rd July	Year 2 Bake Sale 3:15pm
Thursday 9 th	KS2 Production 7pm
Friday 10 th	KS2 Production 1:30pm & 7pm
Friday 10 th	Year 1 Bake Sale 3:15pm
Thursday 16 th	Year 6 Treat Trip
Friday 17 th	Year 6 Leavers' Assembly 9:30am
Friday 17 th	Last Day of Summer Term

Kendall KS1 Fortnightly Maths Challenge



Look at the temperature on these 2 thermometers.

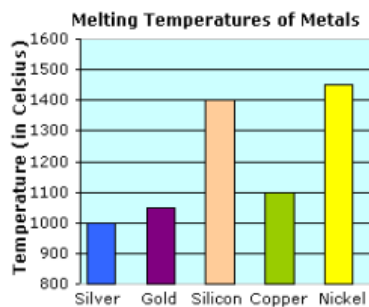


What is the difference between the two temperatures?

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

Here are the melting temperatures for 5 metals.



What is the mean average melting temperature of these 5 metals?

Hint: to work out the mean average, add up all of the values and divide by the number of metals (5).

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 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		
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8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31						
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31																				
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January 2026							February 2026							March 2026							April 2026								
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25	26	27	28	29	30	31																							

 = Schooldays

 = School holidays

 = Bank holidays

 = Weekends

 = Non-Pupil Days

	= Schooldays		= School holidays		= Bank holidays
	= Weekends		= Non-Pupil Days		

Academic Year 2026-2027

September 2026							October 2026							November 2026							December 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			
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January 2027							February 2027							March 2027							April 2027									
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May 2027							June 2027							July 2027							August 2027									
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24	25	26	27	28	29	30	29	30						26	27	28	29	30	31			23	24	25	26	27	28	29		
31																						30	31							
= Schooldays = School holidays = Bank holidays = Weekends = <u>Non Pupil Days</u>																														

	= Schooldays		= School holidays		= Bank holidays
	= Weekends		= Non-Pupil Days		

In addition, schools allocate five non-pupil days out of the school days indicated.
Please note, two non-pupil days are yet to be allocated.

Important update for schools: Changes to support funds for families

Dear Headteacher,

We are writing to update you on national changes to household support funding and to outline how Essex County Council will continue supporting families across the county.

As you will be aware, the Government has ended the Household Support Fund (HSF) with effect from March 2026. This means the food voucher scheme previously funded through HSF has now closed, and no further food vouchers will be issued under this programme.

We recognise that this change may raise questions from families, and we want to reassure you that support for vulnerable households will continue and will be delivered through new arrangements and via a new fund.

The Crisis and Resilience Fund (CRF) will launch on 1 April 2026. This fund is designed to support low-income households facing sudden financial pressures.

It also aims to help build long term financial resilience across communities.

The CRF will include:

- crisis payments for urgent, unexpected financial pressures
- housing payments to support households with shortfalls in housing costs
- resilience services including financial guidance, money management support and access to wider community services

Details on how families will be able to apply for support will be shared with schools before the scheme launches in April.

Support for families during school holidays

Although national voucher funding has ended, Essex County Council is expanding the Holiday Activity and Food (HAF) programme.

This means more eligible children will have access to:

- free and enriching holiday activities
- free nutritious food
- opportunities to socialise, be active and learn new skills

Booking details will continue to be issued to eligible families via schools and HAF providers.

We have included some links below that you may find useful and may want to share with families. We have also included some Q&As that you might find useful should you get any further questions from families.

Free Holiday and Food clubs - [Essex Activate](#) | [Active Essex](#)

Support before April 1, which includes support from the Essential Living Fund, visit - [Help with the cost of living: Household Support Fund | Essex County Council](#)

Thank you for your continued support.

Q&As

1. Why are there no more free holiday food vouchers?

The holiday food vouchers were funded through the national Household Support Fund (HSF). The government fund has now ended this scheme. This means that the Council is no longer able to issue vouchers through that scheme.

The last vouchers were provided in December 2025.

Although the voucher scheme is closed, support for families has not stopped.

Essex County Council has put in place new forms of support through the government's Crisis and Resilience Fund (CRF), launching on 1 April. The council is also increasing Holiday Activity and Food (HAF) sessions across the county. These free clubs will offer free childcare, nutritious food and activities for children.

2. Who decided there would be no more free food vouchers?

The decision to end the vouchers was made by the UK Government.

Local councils must follow national guidance which states that issuing vouchers under this fund is not permitted.

3. I'm not happy about there being no more vouchers – who do I complain to?

You can share feedback directly with the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP), which oversees national welfare funding.

Anyone in financial hardship and needing urgent support should visit - [Help with the cost of living: Household Support Fund | Essex County Council](#)

4. What support is there instead of food vouchers?

Support is still available.

From April 1 people needing support can apply to the Crisis Resilience Fund for:

- crisis payments to help residents facing urgent financial shock
- housing payments for those struggling with housing costs
- resilience services, which offer help with budgeting, financial guidance and wider support

Expanded Holiday Activity and Food (HAF) sessions are also available via Activate.

These free clubs give eligible children access to free activities and healthy meals during the school holidays.

These new options aim to provide more flexible and longer-term support than vouchers alone.

5. How do I get this support?

Essex residents will be able to apply for Crisis Payments and Housing payments through a simple online application when the new scheme launches in April 2026.

Information about eligibility and how to apply will be published on the Essex County Council website.

Families whose children are eligible for HAF/Activate will receive information through their school and can book sessions online or through participating providers.

Free Holiday and Food clubs - [Essex Activate | Active Essex](#)

Support before April 1, which includes support from the Essential Living Fund, visit - [Help with the cost of living: Household Support Fund | Essex County Council](#)



Deputy Manager - Fun 4 Kids at Kendall

We are excited to be opening a brand new after school club to support the families of Kendall School, and we are looking for a **Deputy Manager** to join our team.

This is a fantastic opportunity for a passionate childcare practitioner to help shape a new setting and make a real difference to children's experiences.

The club will be based at the **ECL Centre on Recreation Road**.

About the Role

The Deputy Manager is essential in supporting the day to day running of the club, working closely with the Manager and wider team to create a safe, engaging, and nurturing environment for the children, and acting as deputy DSL.

You will support children's independence and emotional development, planning and delivering activities that reflect children's individual needs and interests, whilst promoting positive behaviour using encouragement and reinforcement.

About You

We require a warm and caring person, who is enthusiastic about working with children. You must be observant and able to use initiative, whilst being able to communicate confidently with children, staff and parents.

A Level 2 or 3 childcare qualification is desirable, however, we will consider applicants with relevant experience.

Hours & Pay

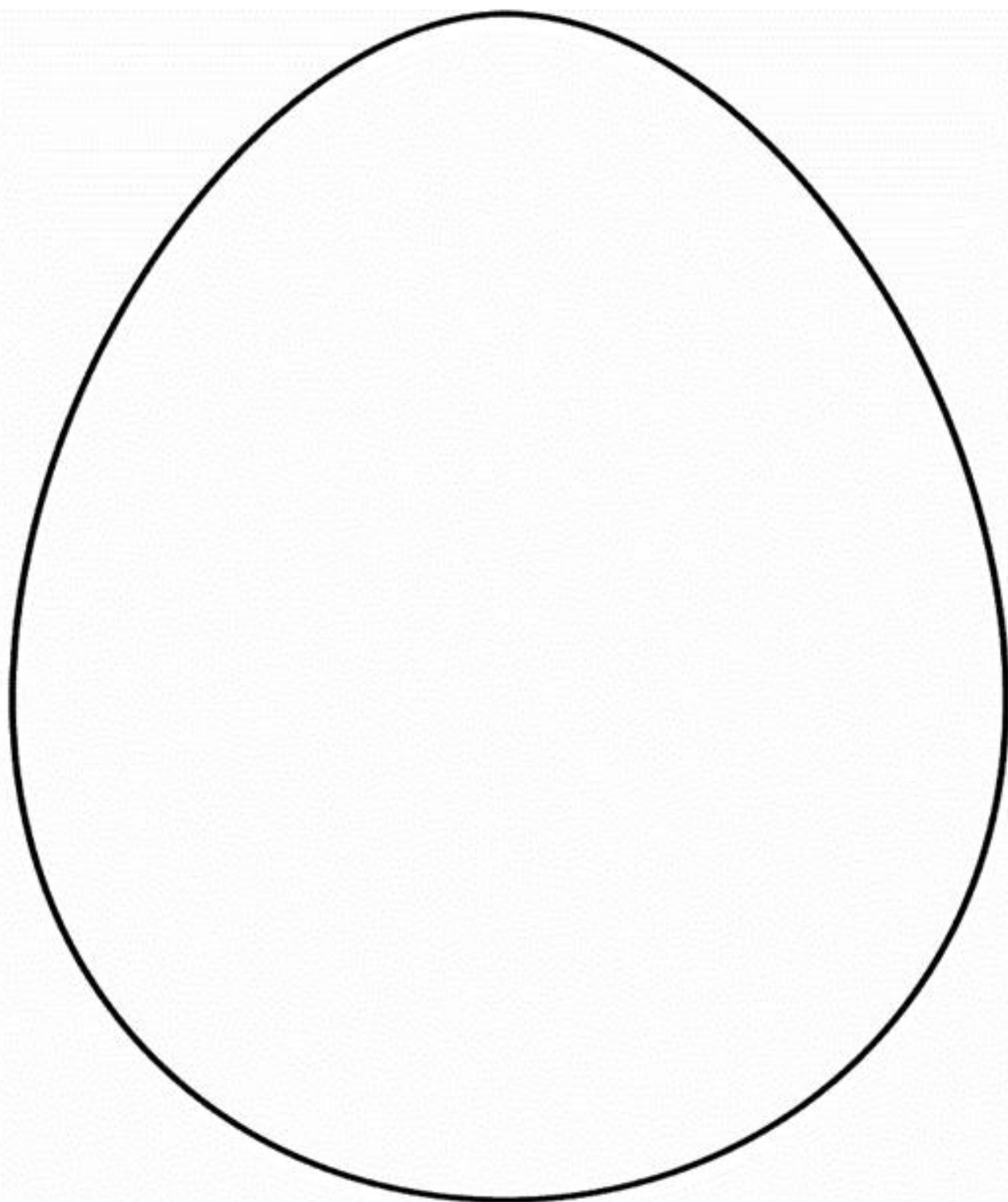
- Monday to Friday, 2:45pm – 6:00pm (term time only, paid evenly across 12 months, providing a consistent monthly income).
- £14.14 - £13.42 per hour, depending on qualification.

How to Apply

For a full job description and application form, please email cathy@fun4kidscolchester.co.uk

Safeguarding Statement

Fun 4 Kids is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people. All staff are expected to share this commitment. The successful candidate will be required to undertake an enhanced DBS check (or be registered with the DBS Update Service), and provide two satisfactory employment references.



PTA Easter Egg Art Competition

Colour, paint or collage your egg in any way you like – the more creative the better!

How to enter:

- Decorate your Easter egg design.
- Write your name and year group on the back.
- Carefully cut out the egg once it is finished and hand it into the school office



Carol Gale School of Dance

Stacey Taylor: 07725597775

staceyitaylor@icloud.com

We are pleased to invite pupils at Kendall Primary School to our summer term dance club sessions:

Friday 24th April to 10th July 2026 3.15-4.15pm.

There are only a limited amount spaces available so please contact Stacey on 07725597775 before making payment.

Open to children in reception to year 6 at Kendall Primary.

Any children who are allowed to walk home on their own please make us aware that they will not be collected by a parent using the contact details below.

The class is £44 for 11 weeks up to the Summer Holidays.

Secure your child's place now by messaging first to check availability, then paying the full, non-refundable amount to:

Carol Gale School of Dance

04-03-33

61757849

Please put your child's full name and year group in the payment reference & send a message or email to Stacey to confirm payment.

Kind regards

Stacey Taylor

Principal of the Carol Gale School of Dance



ACL

FREE!

Easter Crafts

ACL Colchester

Join us to have fun as a family and improve communication and wellbeing through creative activities.

Date: 02/04/2026

Time: 09:30 - 11:30 or 13:00 - 15:00



Scan the QR code, or Visit our website aclessex.com and type "Easter" in the 'Find a course...' box



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aclessex.com

0345 603 7635



The holidays are fast-approaching

Are you *looking* for something for your child to do during this time?

Why not sign them up to one of our Bikeability Courses.

- Chelmsford
- Harlow
- Witham
- Colchester
- Uttlesford



Please see below the link to book Easter holiday courses:
<https://essex.cycleready.co.uk/publicbooking>

Firstsite Holiday Fun

April Holiday 2026

Sat 28 Mar, Tue 31 - Sat 4 Apr
Tue 7 Apr - Sat 11 Apr

Activities take place at:
Firstsite
Lewis Gardens, High St
Colchester, Essex
CO1 1JH



FREE

Make
Free creative
art activities
10:00am -
2:30pm



Move
Free fun sport and
social activities
10:45am -11:45am
& 12:00pm -1:00pm



Canteen
Free freshly made
hot meals for
all the family
11:45am &
1:00pm

Our Holiday Fun activities are for families facing economic challenges or who require additional support during the school holidays, including those that qualify for benefit-based free school meals.

- Advanced booking is essential for Move activities and Canteen
- Activities most suitable for 4-11 years, but all ages welcome
- Caregivers are required to stay on site throughout the activities
- Menus and lists of activities available at www.firstsite.uk

Delivered in partnership with:



essex
outdoors



AMAZING ADVENTURES ON YOUR DOORSTEP

Exhilarating school holiday
activity days for kids age 8+

Water sports, high ropes, zip wire, archery,
bushcraft and more at four centres.

BRADWELL • DANBURY • HARLOW • MERSEA

**£40
PER DAY**

Essex County Council

essexoutdoors.com/school-holiday-activities