



15th May 2026



BADDOW NEWS

Baddow Hall Infant School Newsletter

Dear Families,

This week we have seen both year 1 and year 2 head out on their school trips.



Year 1 headed to Danbury Park, where they took part in a habitat activity day, with Essex Outdoors. The children enjoyed pond dipping, den building and mini beast hunting.

Thank you to all the parents who volunteered to help on the trip. Mrs Cook and Mrs Fairley were very impressed with the children. Well done year 1.



Year 2 travelled to Thriftwood Scout Camp, to take part in adventurous outdoor activities. Children took part in a number of activities including the cresta run, climbing wall and archery. Thank you parent helpers too.



Children demonstrated our school value of being resilient, as some of the activities required them to persevere. Well done year 2

Reception have been working hard on their writing. The children have been applying their phonics and remembering to use capital letters, finger spaces and full stops. We are supporting children to have the correct pencil grip and letter formation.

Family Learning Day—Friday 22nd May

We look forward to having you join us next week for Family Learning Day. Please **complete the form below by Thursday 21st May**, to confirm your attendance, this will enable us to reduce the time for adults signing in. If you are attending for more than one child, please complete a new form for each child. Thank you.

Have a great weekend.

Lesley Schlanker
Headteacher

Family Learning Day

Please complete [this form](#) to register for Family Learning Day.

School Attendance

Whole school attendance: **94.3%** ▼
Reception attendance: **94.9%** ▲
Year 1 attendance: **92.5%**
Year 2 attendance: **95.1%** ▼
Our school target is 97%.

Attendance Matters



Reporting absence—reminder

If your child will be absent from school you must **call or email the office** rather than the class teacher by **9.30am**. When calling or emailing, please include the following information:

- **Child's first and last name**
- **Class number (or name of teacher)**
- **Reason for absence**

Please note that if your child has been sick or has had diarrhea, they must remain off school for **48 hours** from the last instance. This is to help prevent the spread of potential bugs.

Please ensure that your child does not bring any products into school containing nuts, including cereal bars, cakes and sandwich fillings.

This includes chocolate spread as we cannot be sure that it is not Nutella.

We have staff and children with severe nut allergies.

Pre-order your child's school dinners

Meals for the **week beginning 1st June must be booked by midnight on Tuesday 19th May.**

If a meal is not booked, reminders are not always sent out so parents will be phoned and asked to provide their child with a packed lunch. If a meal has been booked and they arrive with a packed lunch they will be given the meal and the packed lunch will come home with them.

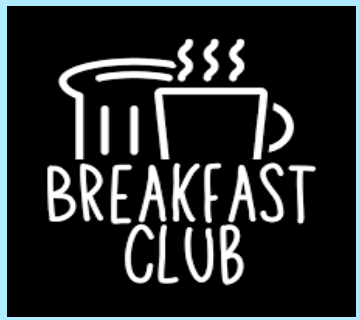


Breakfast Club

If you are needing a child care solution in the mornings due to needing to get to work, we run a fantastic Breakfast Club which caters for infant & junior children and starts at 7.30am. If you would like to register your child, please contact the infant office.

Breakfast Club sessions can be booked online via Parent Pay at any time, but no later than 7.15am on the day. (The serving of food finishes at 8.15am).

Childcare vouchers can be used as payment for breakfast club sessions, please see <https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk/> for additional information on how to apply.



REMINDER: Important—PARENT PAY—do not use One Click Payments

When making a payment on Parent Pay please **do not** use One Click Payments as the payment method. Please see the letter that was emailed to parents regarding this.

Class and Year 2 photographs

Horizon Photographic will attend school on **Wednesday 3rd June** to take our class photos as well as year 2 leavers and year group photos. Any child that missed the individual photos that took place in September will also have their picture taken. Proofs will then be sent into the school and parents order and pay for any purchases directly with the provider.

School Council Obstacle Course sponsor payment



Just a reminder to say that the deadline to pay in your sponsor money for the School Council Obstacle Course that the children took part in last Friday is **Thursday 21st May** on Parent Pay. (Please do not use one click payments).

We will announce the final figure raised on next week's newsletter, hopefully we can smash the target that was set.

New Clubs

We are looking to start new clubs in the Autumn Term and one we are really interested in is Lego Club. We would need donations of Lego though in order for this to work as currently we do not have enough in school. If any of your older children or you know of anyone that wants to offload their Lego, we would most certainly give it a good home. If donations of Lego could please be brought to the office.



Medical Appointments

Medical appointments such as routine dental checkups should be done outside of school times where possible. If you are needing to take your child to a medical appointment during school hours please show proof of this appointment to the office either in person or you can email over a screenshot. Please let the office know the time your child will be either collected or dropped off and whether their school dinner would need cancelling.

Other important dates coming up

Friday 22nd May—Family Learning Day (music themed)

Monday 25th May—Half Term

Monday 1st June—Inset Day

Wednesday 3rd June—Class and Year 2 photographs

Friday 12th June—PSA Pop Up Shop (Father's Day)

Tuesday 16th June—Year 1 Seaside Day—with History Off The Page

Thursday 25th June—Infant Sports Day (reserve date Friday 26th June)

Tuesday 30th June—Year 2 Mini Games—competing with other schools at CSAC

Monday 29th June—Last week for extra curricular clubs (except Football & Music which finish Monday 6th July)

All events and important dates can be found on our calendar on our website.

Warm Weather



We hope that the sunny days are here to stay. With this in mind please ensure that your child has in school a named water bottle and named sunhat everyday. Sun screen should also be applied before school. With such changeable weather though, perhaps a lightweight jacket too in case it is raining at school pick up time.



Amazon Wishlist

We have an Amazon wish list in school. If you would like to contribute something, please click [Here](#) for our wish list.

Easy Fundraising

Money raised can really help our school to buy additional equipment or resources to benefit the children and it doesn't cost you anything.

To register is simple (and FREE), please click the link [HERE](#)



Keep your postage stamps for us—Stamp Collecting for RNIB

We are collecting postage stamps on behalf of the Royal Institute for the Blind and have a collection box in the lobby.

Please cut around the stamps and place them in the donation box. (Please do not give them to us attached to envelopes with personal details on).

RNIB

See differently

Useful information—including local events and holiday clubs information

Please click [HERE](#) for the useful information tab on our website for parents such as ordering name labels, advice on health for families and courses for parents.

If you use **Stikins** to order name labels please ensure to use our unique code so that we get a small commission on the orders placed. **Our code is 1081.**

This page is also updated regularly with events taking place in the local area so please ensure to check them out.

Textiles Recycling

We have a textiles recycling box beside the bike shelter. If you are having a sort out of clothes, shoes, bedding, curtains etc, please use this bin to recycle them. This helps to raise funds for the school. A poster of which items can and can't be recycled can be found on the window of our main entrance and also on the side of the recycling box. **(They do not accept school uniform items with logo's on it).** If you have any school logo uniform in good condition that you no longer need, please give to the PSA rather than place in the recycle box.

Pre-loved uniform

The PSA regularly hold pre-loved uniform sales. You can also contact the PSA at anytime if you are in need of uniform and they can check what they have. Please contact the PSA directly at psa@baddowhall-inf.essex.sch.uk (you can hand pre-loved uniform into the office and we will pass this onto the PSA).

Pre-loved Uniform Donations

If you are having a clear out, we are in need of the following for our spare clothing boxes: (please only give us any of the items below, thank you)

Boys white polo tops (any size), **PE shorts** (any size), **Tracksuit bottoms ONLY** (any size), **PE white tshirt** (any size), **spare sun hats**.

Lost Property

If your child has lost something please check in our lost property boxes which are in the lobby of the main entrance. We please urge parents to name everything, including lunch boxes, coats and water bottles so that they can be easily reunited with your child.

Any unclaimed items remaining in lost property on the last day of each term will be recycled or disposed of.



Our vision is for every child to make the best possible progress.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about YOUTUBE

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Almost anyone with an internet connection knows about YouTube. The Google-owned platform allows users to upload and share videos globally, making it a readily accessible resource with free content on almost any topic. However, with over 20 million videos uploaded each day, not all material is suitable for younger audiences.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

YouTube is free and can be accessed across multiple device types, even without an account. While some videos are marked as age restricted, this relies on uploader honesty and automated moderation, meaning children and young people may still encounter unsuitable content if these measures aren't taken.



TRENDS AND CHALLENGES

Popular trends and challenges can be entertaining and widely shared. While many are harmless, some can be risky or harmful if copied. For example, the 'ice and ice challenge' has caused injuries when imitated.



EXPOSURE TO EXTREME CONTENT

The platform's algorithm often promotes content that attracts high engagement, which can sometimes include videos containing extreme viewpoints, misinformation, or risky behaviour. As children and young people watch more of this content, similar videos are likely to be recommended by YouTube's algorithm, increasing their exposure.



CONNECTING WITH STRANGERS

YouTube includes social features such as comments and direct messaging. This means young users can interact with people they don't know, potentially exposing them to inappropriate language, cyberbullying, or unwanted contact. Young content creators may be especially vulnerable.



SUGGESTED CONTENT

YouTube recommends videos based on what users have previously watched, while this can enhance the experience, it may also encourage binge-watching and excessive screen time, particularly when autoplay is enabled. Without an account, users are shown trending videos, which are not always age appropriate.



SHORT-FORM CONTENT IMPACT

YouTube shorts – short, fast-paced videos – are designed for continuous viewing. This style of content can be highly engaging but may also contribute to increased screen time and difficulties with maintaining focus over longer periods.



Advice for Parents & Educators

CONSIDER YOUTUBE KIDS

YouTube Kids can help reduce young users' exposure to unsuitable content by filtering videos into age groups, such as preschool, younger, and older children. However, as moderation is automated, it should be used alongside active supervision.



CHECK PRIVACY SETTINGS

If a child in your care uploads content, consider setting videos to Private or Unlisted so they are only shared with trusted viewers. Disabling comments can also help reduce unwanted interaction from strangers.



USE PARENTAL CONTROLS

Google Family Link allows adults to filter content, monitor usage, and manage younger users' screen time. Supervised Accounts offer a greater step up from YouTube Kids, enabling children to explore the platform with appropriate safeguards.



WATCH TOGETHER

Spending time watching YouTube with the children and young people in your care can help you understand what they enjoy and guide your conversations about content. Tools like *DownTime* in Family Link can also help limit unsupervised viewing.



Meet Our Expert

Alex Martin is an experienced technology journalist who has written for publications including *Wired*, *TechRadar*, *Tom's Guide*, *The Evening Standard* and *The New Statesman*.



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