



Whole school	<p>Severe weather arrangements - Essex's procedure is that parents/carers should check the Essex.gov.uk website - https://www.essex.gov.uk/Education-Schools/Schools/Dates/Pages/Emergency-School-Closures.aspx for school closures. However, to ease communication we will put a notice onto our school website and Facebook page as soon as a decision has been made. A text will also be sent to parents/carers. Prior to making a decision, our Site Manager will assess the site and we have to make contact with 24x7, our transport provider. This takes some time but we will endeavour to make a decision as swiftly as possible. At this time of year, please ensure pupils have a warm coat, hat and gloves. In snowy conditions, boots are advisable. Our dedicated team will continue to try to keep the school operating as normal whenever possible.</p>
	<p>ParentMail – We have now upgraded to ParentMail. You should have received an email and/or text message from ParentMail. You will still receive texts and emails even if you are not registered. We are only using the text and email services on parentmail and all other services that you may see are unavailable. You are not able to reply to the texts and emails received. Should you need to email us please continue to use the class email addresses. Please be assured that ParentMail is registered with the Information Commissioner and <u>guarantees</u> that all information you provide will be kept private and will not be passed on to any other organisation. If you need any additional information or assistance, please visit the help site: www.parentmail.co.uk/help/parenthelp/ or if you have not received any contact from ParentMail please contact Sarah Cannon in the ICT office.</p>
	<p>Go Fund Me Page - We have set up a "Go Fund Me" page to raise money to purchase a set of virtual reality glasses and software to enhance the learning experiences of our pupils. You can donate using this link: https://www.gofundme.com/enhancing-learning-experiences?fbclid=IwAR0gVj06e81AtNuI93GzV6Vkp1uFT-FWQgDPmH-pMQ5vkD200TUBcuQuJ-Y</p>
	<p>Non-uniform day. On Friday, 15th February, pupils will be taking part in a fundraising event to raise money for the School Library bus. On that day, your child may wear non-uniform to school for a donation of £1. Pupils should come in uniform if they do not wish to participate.</p>
	<p>An introduction to questioning and language levels – coffee morning. Our Speech and Language Therapist will be holding a coffee morning at Downtowner Youth Centre, Irvon Hill Road, Wickford SS12 0AQ on Wednesday, 6th March at 10.30-11.30am. Refreshments can be purchased.</p>
	<p>World Book Day – 7th March – We will be celebrating World Book Day on Thursday, 7th March. All children (and staff) are invited to dress up as their favourite character from a book or story. Dressing up always adds to the atmosphere of these occasions at Castledon, for the children and the staff, so if your child is able to join us in this part of the day we look forward to seeing them in some colourful and imaginative costumes. If your child does not want to dress up they must wear school uniform as normal.</p>
	<p>Book Sale - We will also be holding a book sale. Pupils will have the opportunity to purchase a range of secondhand pre-loved books in support of the British Heart Foundation. The cost of the books will be between 30p-£1.50p. If you would like your child to purchase a book, please send them with their money in a clearly labelled envelope for them to purchase books directly from the stall.</p>
	<p>Motivated Minds – coffee morning. Carla from Motivated Minds will be holding a coffee morning at Downtowner Youth Centre, Irvon Hill Road, Wickford SS12 0AQ on Wednesday, 1st May at 10.30-11.30am. Refreshments can be purchased.</p>
Future dates	<p>Half term – 18 – 22 February (return on 25 February) World Book Day – 7 March Easter - 8 – 22 April (return on 23 April) Bank Holiday – Monday 6 May Half term 27 – 31 May (including bank holiday) Last day of school 24 July (except for year 11 which will be 28 June)</p>

Please ensure that we have your up to date email address and contact numbers in case of an emergency. Please let the School Office know of any changes.