



4th January 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy New Year! We hope that you had an enjoyable Christmas Break.

As we start the new term for all students from tomorrow, Monday 5th January, we need to ensure that we have a really positive start to 2026; your ongoing support in this is really appreciated.

The importance of strong attendance

Regular attendance is essential to your child's progress, wellbeing and long-term success. Even small amounts of missed learning add up quickly and there is a very strong link between attendance and achievement at both GCSE and A Level. But there are also very clear links between high attendance, confidence and mental health. By attending regularly and punctually, students give themselves the strongest foundation to thrive academically, socially and emotionally.

Whilst the majority of ECC students currently have 'strong' attendance levels of 95% or greater (missing less than around 3 days of school so far this academic year), too many students have a lower level of attendance than they should. Of course there are, on occasion, unavoidable reasons for school absence that we fully understand, but our current levels of attendance this year are below both national and local averages.

This is a key focus for the school, but we need your support, as parents, to ensure that your child(ren) have as high attendance as possible. And if a student is really unable to get into school for the start of the school day, they need to be encouraged to come in as soon as they are well enough to be in school rather than 'writing off' the whole day. This is a team effort - if you are struggling at home, please reach out the House Teams for support.

Being ready for the new term

Please ensure that your child is fully prepared for the start of a new term, including all equipment and school uniform and appearance. If there are any financial barriers to accessing uniform or equipment, please contact your House Team who will be able to support.



Timetable changes

Please note that, as a result of staff changes, there are a number of timetable changes from January. These are now visible on ClassCharts and our new parent app, 'MCAS' (please see the most recent newsletter for details). If you have any queries, please do email the relevant staff (or the administration email on the website if unsure).

Winter Weather

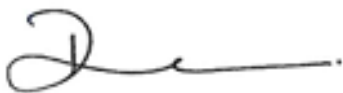
As we enter the coldest couple of months of the year, please note that we will always communicate with you directly via email regarding any school closure, if necessary, and the latest information will appear on the school website. Please DO NOT rely on second hand information, including on Social Media.

There is currently a 'Yellow' Weather warning in place for the SouthWest until tomorrow at midday. The school site is being gritted and salted today, and we are hopeful that we will be able to open tomorrow without any issue. We will aim to contact parents by 7am tomorrow if there is any change to this.

We're really looking forward to 2026 and we'll be working really hard to continue to make ECC the very best school that it can be for your children. One of the most important things in making this happen is that school and parents/ carers work in a 'joined up' way and that your children see that. If you have any worries or queries, please speak to the school privately so that we can make sure that the message given to your children is unified. This makes a huge difference, gives them the very best support possible and helps them to make the right choices.

With huge thanks for your ongoing support and with every good wish for 2026.

With best wishes



Tom Inman
Headteacher



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