

Braintree Museum Holiday Club Newsletter

ISSUE 6 • MAY 2026

Top news

- This Easter, we welcomed 72 children!
- We hosted an unplanned talent show with breath holding, gymnastics and rubix cube solving!
- The children have put in requests for the summer!

May Half Term 2026

May half term provided us an early heatwave with Tuesday being 35 degrees! This did not stop our fun as we managed to stay cool and have fun this week. On Tuesday, we explored 'The Great Outdoors' by doing a waterlilies inspired watercolour, creating bead flowers and even planting giant sunflowers. We finished the day with an ice lolly to cool off!



Can we go into the museum today?

One of the top ten questions we are asked by children at the holiday club is 'Can we go into the museum today?'. It is lovely that so many of the holiday club children are eager to visit and often show off things they have made to new visitors. They play roleplay games in the classroom, hunt for archaeology in the sand pit and explore the everchanging exhibitions!

SHOWCASING OUR WORK

Fun Activities

On Wednesday, we explored life as a pirate by making treasure chests, creating an origami hat and finding out some horrible history facts!. We then had a competition to see who could build the best sea-faring ship and even learnt about scurvy through our high vitamin c snacks!

On Friday, we celebrated the Essex Book Festival by starting to create our own holiday club book. We read a few example stories for inspiration and then got to work designing our own. We each thought of a page important to us and then drew it. This will eventually get made into a book all about the holiday club. After all that hard work, we decide to party for the rest of the the afternoon. We played games and even popped fresh popcorn!





Making Slime

Children's Choice!

Every so often, instead of planning in advance we let the children decide what we do all day! Many holiday club children have visited for over two years now, with some attending as long as four years – so they have a good idea of what they want to do. This 'Children's Choice' day began with making loom bands, before we went into the museum, made slime, and decorated tiles using sharpies! We will have another Children's Choice day in the summer, we are excited to see what we will pick next.



**Previous Special Guest Thomas
- Fossil Expert**

Special Guests?

Every week at the holiday club, we aim to welcome a special guest to tell us about their job or passions. In the past, this has included illustrators, film crews, authors, police officers, fossil experts and other interesting local people. We have a few exciting guests lined up this summer, but if anyone knows anyone who would like to come in and speak to us about what they do, we would love to meet them!

Festival of Essex

Archaeology and Heritage!

Braintree Museum will be at The Festival of Essex Archaeology and Heritage on 23rd July 2026. This is a free event, for more info see below:

<https://www.explore-essex.com/whats-on/festival-of-essex-archaeology>



Summer Holidays!

Dates:

- Week 1: Wednesday 29th, Thursday 30th and Friday 31st July.
- Week 2: Monday 3rd August – Friday 7th August
- Week 3: Tuesday 11th – Friday 14th August
- Week 4: Tuesday 18th – Friday 21st August

Themes TBC

Bookings go live on Monday 22nd June, 12pm. Please book via Holiday Activities.

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