

Friday News 20.09.2024

This week, Oceania (Year 2) have been lucky enough to visit Boxford fruit farm. They were treated to an excellent morning of learning which brought their science topic to life. The children had a wonderful time and were very keen to share their knowledge with us. There are certainly some budding farmers in that class! Boxford fruit farm were also very generous in donating several large boxes of apples to the school that the children had picked themselves. We have all been enjoying the apples, the cox apple was my favourite.

North America class (Year 5) also welcomed parents and grandparents for the first No Outsiders session. Miss Butcher was really impressed with how many adults attended. The children and adults all enjoyed the session.

Water Bottles

Just a reminder for all that these should be filled with water and not squash. We do not allow squash in water bottles in school.

Collections

Just a reminder that if it is not Mum or Dad collecting, especially with our youngest children in Antarctica (Reception) and Africa (Year 1), can you please let the classteacher know. If there is a regular pick-up schedule with different adults, can you please let the classteacher know. That way we make sure your child is collected by the correct adult. This may just be a case of letting the classteacher know Mum, Dad, Grandma, Grandad And Auntie or Uncle..... Are all able to collect. This will save phone calls at the end of the day. Thank you.

Absence requests

I and the governors are very concerned about the number of absence requests the school has had already. The majority of these have been for term time holidays which have all been unauthorised. The new legislation is very clear that any family holiday will not be authorised; this includes children who have disabilities or children who have family members with disabilities as this does not count as an extraordinary circumstance. We have seen in school a direct correlation between absences and poorer attainment, especially in writing.

Miss Prall as Attendance Officer and I will be holding an information session for parents on **Thursday 3rd October at 9am** to explain the new policy. This will be an opportunity for you to ask any questions and seek clarification on this new process.

Smart Phone Free Childhood

There is a growing movement for children to have a smart phone free childhood. The negative impact that smartphones are having on Primary age pupils is becoming ever clearer. There are local groups, and I have been informed that there is a Great Waldingfield group.

Please see the link for more information. <https://smartphonefreechildhood.co.uk/>

Open Evenings

I know we have only just started, but it is that time where we have to think about the next steps for our Year 6s. Our local secondary schools have their open evenings at the end of September / beginning of October. I would encourage all of our Year 6 parents to visit as many secondaries as possible to see which school would best suit your child. If you are a parent of a child in Year 5, I would also encourage you to start visiting as well. I know OSA are welcoming Year 5 parents as well.

OSA - 25th September

TGS - 26th September

Stour Valley - 3rd October

Please see their websites for more information.

Attendance

We achieved **95.3%** attendance this week which is below the national average. Year 2 are our attendance champions with **99.6%**, well done Year 2! They were followed closely by Year 4 with 99.3% and Year R with 96.35%.

There has been an increase in coughs and colds this week as we move into the Autumn months. Reminder that children can come in to school with a cough/cold as long as they are feeling well enough and do not have a high temperature. #MomentsMatterAttendanceCounts

Autumn Term Key Dates

Monday 23rd September - Europe (Y4) parents invited in for No Outsiders 2pm
Tuesday 24th September - South America (Y3) parents invited in for No Outsiders 2pm
Wednesday 25th September - Asia (Y6) parents invited in for No Outsiders 2pm
Thursday 26th September - Flu vaccinations in school
Friday 27th September - Africa and Oceania (Y1/2) to see The Gruffalo at Mercury theatre
Tuesday 8th October - Whole school to Church for Harvest Festival (children only)
Thursday 10th October - Oceania (Y2) parents invited in for No Outsiders 2pm
Thursday 17th October - Parents' Evening - invite will go out on Arbor closer to the time
Tuesday 22nd October - Africa (Y1) parents invited in for No Outsiders 2pm
Tuesday 22nd October - Parents' Evening - invite will go out on Arbor closer to the time
Thursday 24th October - North America (Y5) to Fitzwilliam Museum
Thursday 24th October - Antarctica (YR) parents invited in for No Outsiders 2:30pm

Monday 28th October to Friday 1st November - Half Term

Monday 4th November - PD day no children in school
Saturday 9th November - Open morning 9:30 - 11:30 for parents and children who are due to start school in September 2025
Friday 15th November - Individual school photos
Friday 6th December - Christingle in school
Tuesday 1st December - Antarctica nativity to parents - pm
Thursday 12th December - Antarctica nativity to parents - pm
Tuesday 17th December - KS2 Christmas concert for parents at the church pm
Wednesday 18th December - KS1 Christmas concert for parents at the church pm

Happy Weekend



Mrs Baker

Headteacher

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“Let the children come to me and do not stop them, because the Kingdom of heaven belongs to them”

MATTHEW 19:14