

Friday News 22.03.2024

Spring has certainly been in the air this week. Spring flowers are out in force and the trees are blossoming. Our field has also had its first cut. We're just waiting for the rain to stop long enough for it to dry out so the children can use it at break and lunchtimes without coming home covered in mud.

Our class assemblies continue to be a triumph and the children have loved sharing their learning with you in this way. Year 4's turn on Thursday.

Swimming

Year 4 and 5 will be starting their school swimming after Easter. You should have received an email about this. If you have any further questions, please ask the class teacher.

Attendance

We have had a lot of holiday request forms handed in this year and I wanted to clarify a few things about attendance and term time holidays. The DFE and Suffolk County Council have been making it clear to schools that they need to improve attendance in schools and discourage families from taking term time holidays. There is clear evidence that shows that children with lower attendance are less likely to reach age related expectations. We are seeing this impact in school with the attainment of the children whose attendance is less than 93%.

Sickness cannot be helped and we know that there are many pupils who have been ill this year and some with long periods of sickness which are completely out of your control and we do not want children to come to school if they are too unwell.

It is the expectation that family holidays are taken during the school holidays. The policy allows the school to grant authorisation for leave in **exceptional circumstances** only.

The school may consider authorising absences for the following reasons:

- Parents / carers in the armed forces returning from overseas placement.
- Parents / carers who are employed by the public services such as Police / Fire and Health whose holiday is rostered and changes are unable to be made.
- Parents / carers who are employed and subject to a strict and un-negotiable annual leave rota and where evidence is provided from a Senior Manager of the Company to this effect.
- Cultural issues for families returning to their homeland.
- Weddings of an immediate family member - for the journey out and return plus a day for the ceremony (3 days).

We will not be able to authorise a holiday for the following reasons:

- Cheaper cost of a holiday.
- Availability of the desired accommodation for a holiday.
- Poor weather experienced in school holiday periods.
- Absent parent / grandparent taking the child on holiday.
- A prolonged holiday overlapping with the beginning or end of term.

Any period of absence over 6 sessions (3 full days) may result in a fine if the absence is unauthorised.

I hope this clarifies the school's position on term time holidays. Please do come and speak to me if you have any questions.

Sickness

We know how difficult it can be to decide if your child is too unwell or not fit for school. Children, especially young children, bounce back so quickly from illnesses.

There is a 48 hour rule where children are not allowed to attend until 48 hours after their last bout of sickness or diarrhoea. There are also a few other illnesses that have a recommended period to be away from school. These can be found on the following link. https://www.publichealth.hscni.net/sites/default/files/Guidance_on_infection_control_in%20schools_poster.pdf

If you are at all unsure, please speak to the office, class teachers or myself. We are more than happy to discuss this with you.

Easter Bingo

Thank you to all that attended the Bingo session last night. It was a fun evening and Alife in Year 6 was an amazing bingo caller; well done Alfie. A huge thank you as always to Arwen and her team for organising the event. They wouldn't run as smoothly without her. We raised an amazing £486.77.

Dates

We have been organising key dates for the summer term which are below. There will be future events added as the term goes on.

28th March - Year 4 class assembly

28th March - Whole school Easter service at the church (pupils and staff only)

Thursday 28th March - last day for pupils

Friday 29th March - Easter holiday starts

12th April - PD day

15th April - Pupils return for Summer term

18th April - Thorpe Woodlands meeting for Year 5 parents and pupils

19th April - School swimming starts for years 4 and 5

24th April - Class photos

13th - 16th May - Key Stage 2 SATs

20th - 24th May - Key Stage 1 SATs

22nd May - Blue reading non-uniform day

24th May - Dress Down Day / Colour Run

27th - 31st May - Half Term

4th June - Multiplication tables check (year 4)

10th - 14th June - Phonics Screening checks (year 1)
3rd July - Royal Shakespear Company performance (year 5)
5th July - Summer Fair
8th July - Year 6 Leavers' Assembly pm (more details to follow)
9th July - Sports Day (timings and more details to follow later)
11th July - Reports out to parents
16th July - Transition morning in school for pupils to meet their teacher for next year
16th July - Meeting the teacher drop in after school 3:15 - 3:45 an opportunity for you to meet your child's teacher for the following year
17th July - Purple and Gold reading non uniform
19th July - Last day of term

Happy weekend everyone!



Mrs Baker

Headteacher

Great Waldingfield CEVC Primary School

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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