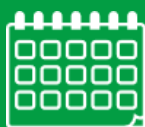




Dates for Your

DIARY



Friday 29th November 2024

School closed—PD day

Wednesday 11th December 2024 at 9.15am

Thursday 12th December 2024 at 9.15am

Reception and Nursery performing

'A Wiggly Nativity'

Thursday 12th December 2024

Christmas Dinner and Christmas Jumper Day

Tuesday 17th December 2024 at 9.15am

Tuesday 17th December 2024 at 2.30pm

Year 2 performing a Christmas Sing Song

Wednesday 18th December 2024 at 9.15am

Wednesday 18th December 2024 at 2.30pm

Year 1 performing a Christmas Sing Song

Thursday 19th December

Christmas Parties

Reception to Year 6 in the afternoon.

Nursery in the morning.

Term Calendar can be found [here](#).

NEWSLETTER

A message from Mrs Mitchinson

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we approach the festive season, the school is buzzing with activity. From celebrating diversity through Odd Socks day, reflecting on Remembrance Day and raising money for Children in Need, this newsletter showcases some of our favourite special days.

The air is also filled with Christmas cheer as Key Stage 1 practise their Christmas Sing Songs. The Reception and Nursery classes have come together to practise their 'Wiggly Nativity' with fluffy sheep, shimmering stars and a baby in a Manger—this year's performances promise to shine!

All dates for the Christmas events have been added to the Dojo calendar. Please speak to your child's class teacher about booking tickets.

As you know, we are constantly working on improving school attendance: Regular attendance links directly to pupil outcomes, which is why we want to work with families to ensure that all of our pupils are supported to attend school regularly.

We have recently had quite a few requests for holiday during term time. We wrote to parents back in June (13/6/24) and July (2/7/24) explaining that there will be a new National Framework for Penalty Notices issued by the Department for Education (DfE).

We are not able to authorise holidays during term time.

If the equivalent of 5 school days is unauthorised within a 10 week period (particularly due to holidays) then a penalty notice can be issued. I have included the guidance from Suffolk at the end of this Newsletter.

On Thursday 12th December, children can wear a Christmas jumper to school for the day (jumper in place of usual sweatshirt/cardigan and a t-shirt can be worn underneath for comfort with the rest of their usual uniform). We are collecting donations of Christmas jumpers so that every child is able to take part. Please bring any jumpers that you may have that are no longer needed, to the office.

Mrs Emily Mitchinson



The children enjoyed celebrating Children in Need on Friday 15th November.

We raised an incredible £ 140.64

Thank you to everyone who supported this incredible charity. BBC Children in Need exists to change the lives of disadvantaged children and young people across the UK. We whole heartedly agree with their vision: every child in the UK has the right to a safe, happy and secure childhood and the chance to reach their potential.

Non-Uniform Days

We understand that there have been some questions regarding non-uniform days so I would like to take this opportunity to explain -

As a Trust, all schools have adopted a more inclusive approach when celebrating and raising awareness of our Special days.

Many view non-uniform days as a treat – a day off from having to wear their shirts, ties and school jumpers. For some, it's an opportunity to show off their best clothes and fashion sense.

Sadly, however, for others it's a day that makes them anxious and nervous about coming to school. They're scared about others judging them on their clothing. This can then lead to children not attending school.

Children shouldn't be missing out on their education over concerns about their appearance.

By asking children to remain in their school uniforms on these days and add a 'special' item of clothing or a 'special' accessory, more children are able to take part.



I hope this goes someway in explaining why these changes have been made across our Trust. We are constantly thinking about alternative fundraising ideas and would always welcome any new ideas.

Being part of charitable events is an important part of our Values.

Our next special event is **Christmas Jumper Day**.

As we have already raised money for Children in Need, we will not be collecting money for this charity.

Children are welcome to wear a Christmas jumper, or another jumper of their choice, on **Thursday 12th December**. This will also be our Christmas Dinner day.

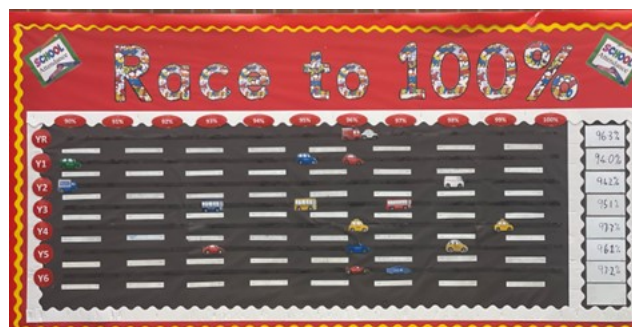
We are asking parents for donations of old jumpers that families no longer need. This will create a bank of jumpers that can be shared and worn by some of our children so that everyone can take part.

Please bring donations to the school office or pass on to class teachers.

**CHRISTMAS
JUMPER
DAY**



Attendance



This photograph shows the attendance board that is displayed in the school hall. All classes are represented by a different vehicle. The weekly class attendance is recorded on the vehicle to help the children see which class as a whole has reached, or is the closest to reaching, 100% attendance.

The attendance for each class over November is listed below. **Congratulations Osprey—an amazing 98.66%**

As a year group, Year 5's attendance is currently the strongest in school—well done!

APR	94.41%
PA	97.32%
PEACH	95.75%
BB	93.75%
STRAWB	96.55%
HERC	93.96%
LTNG	97.80%
VULCAN	97.66%
EAG	95.28%
GAL	95.94%
METEOR	96.10%
OSPREY	98.66%
TOR	95.92%
HURR	96.03%
SPI	96.56%
KIWI	96.02%
MANGO	95.24%

Can we please remind parents/carers that arriving after the registers close [09:15] means that your child will receive an **unauthorised** late mark which will affect their percentage attendance at school.

Mr Hicks and Mrs Martin



Remembrance



I would like to thank our Year 6 Ambassadors and their families for joining Mrs Cobbold and I at the Remembrance Parade on Sunday 10th November. They represented our school so well and at such an important event within the community. Nell and Harry laid our Poppy Wreath. As a school, we came together on Monday 11th, in assembly, and remembered those who gave their tomorrow for our today. Thank you.

Survey

A Trust wide survey will be launched in January 2025. The survey will be emailed out to all parents in January 2025 from a company called Edurio.

The survey will be open for a 4 week window and we are encouraging everyone to take part. Pupils will also have an opportunity to complete a child friendly survey during school time.



Opal



Our OPAL (Outdoor Play And Learning) journey has now officially started!

Last week, we delivered an assembly sharing the ultimate aims of OPAL with the children; to give them the best lunchtime play opportunities possible! We set each child a mission—to play across all areas of the school field and mix with pupils from other year groups. It was lovely to see this happening throughout the week and to see the children exploring areas of our grounds they had not really accessed before.

Last Friday, we held another assembly explaining the first stage from our plan of action—letting children choose where they sit in the dining hall when eating their meal and making their own way back outside to play as soon as they have finished. This will support the children in their independence and get them used to the routine of entering and exiting the dining hall before we introduce all the temptation of outside toys.

Assuming all goes well with the dining hall change this week, we will roll out the second stage of our action plan next week; extending the dinner time from 50 mins to 1 hour in preparation for all the wonderful play time the children will need in the new year once they have so many more opportunities to engage in creative play.

Mrs Ashford
OPAL Play Leader

Applying for a Reception School Place

If your child was born between 1 September 2020 and 31 August 2021, you'll need to apply for their school place before 15th January 2025.

I've added a poster to the end of this Newsletter with all the information needed.

Idling

We'd like to remind all motorists to turn off their engines when they are stationary to cut harmful toxic emissions from vehicles.

You may have noticed our new signs in the car park which state 'No Idling'.

Idling is when a driver is parked with their engine running. Where it happens outside schools, it exposes children to excessive toxic fumes. Long term exposure can cause asthma in children and stunt their lung growth, which can impact on their health for the rest of their lives.

Even with the colder weather creeping in, we kindly ask motorists to avoid the temptation of keeping warm with the engine running and 'switch off when parked'.



SEND

How to help your neurodivergent child cope with Christmas

Christmas can be a tricky time for neurodivergent children or children with SEND. They may find it hard to adjust to different light, colour, sound, smells, textures and tastes. It might be that their senses become overwhelmed. Changes in routine can also affect how they feel. Planning in advance can help you all adapt and enjoy the festive period.

Make a list: Make a list of what your child finds difficult. This could be anything from big crowds, loud noises, surprises or bright lights.

Involve them in decisions: Let your child have a say in the Christmas decorations around your home.

Prepare them for presents: Some children with additional needs find surprises overwhelming. You might want to let them know what type of gifts they will open on Christmas Day.

Create a safe space: Keep at least one room in the house free of decoration.

Consider changes in routine: Try to prepare your child each day for what's coming tomorrow.

Plan for visitors: You may also need a plan for the possibility of unexpected visitors.

Be conscious of sounds and smells: Let your child know when there is going to be strong smells in the house.

Miss Ramsell

Y4's visit to West Stow

This term, Year 4 pupils had an incredible hands-on experience as they visited the fascinating West Stow Anglo Saxon Village. The visit gave them the opportunity to step back in time and explore what life was like during the Anglo Saxon period, bringing their history lessons to life in a truly memorable way.

The day began with a visit to the museum, exploring a range of artifacts, and finding out about how the Anglo Saxons lived. After lunch, it was time to visit the reconstructed Anglo Saxon houses. The children visited all of the houses, with their wattle and daub walls, thatched roofs and open fires. Despite the cold, it was an engaging and energetic way to experience history!

Mr Smith



**If your child was born between
1 September 2020 and
31 August 2021,
you must apply for a full-time
Reception Year school place by
15 January 2025**



You **must** make an application even if your child already has a place in
a nursery class, pre-school or family hub

To apply for a place or for more information you can visit:

www.suffolk.gov.uk/admissions

Information is also available from:

- The Admissions Team on **0345 600 0981**
- Your local school

Penalty Notices for School Attendance from 19th August 2024

With the introduction of the National Framework for Penalty Notices issued by DfE, the following changes came into force for School Penalty Notices issued in Suffolk after 19th August 2024.

National Threshold

There will be a single consistent national threshold for when a penalty notice must be considered by all schools in England of 10 sessions (usually equivalent to 5 school days) of unauthorised absence within a rolling 10 school week period.

These sessions do not have to be consecutive and can be made up of a combination of any type of unauthorised absence.

The 10-school week period can span different terms or school years.

Please note: The DfE does not consider a need or desire for a holiday or other absence for the purpose of leisure and recreation to be an exceptional circumstance.

First Offence

The first time a Penalty Notice is issued for unauthorised absence the amount will be:

£160 per parent, per child paid within 28 days.

Reduced to £80 per parent, per child if paid within 21 days.



Second Offence (within 3 years*)

The Second time a Penalty Notice is issued for unauthorised absence the amount will be:

£160 per parent, per child paid within 28 days.



Third Offence and Any Further Offences (within 3 years*)

The third time an offence is committed a Penalty Notice will not be issued and the case could be presented straight to the Magistrate's Court. Prosecution can result in Criminal records and fines of up to £2,500

Cases found guilty in Magistrates' Court may show on the parent's future DBS certificate due to 'failure to safeguard a child's education'.

Per Parent*, Per Child

Penalty Notices are issued to each parent*, for each child that was absent.

For example: 3 siblings absent for term time leave would result in each parent receiving 3 separate fines.

*Parent

Section 576 of the Education Act 1996 defines "parent" as:

All natural (biological) parents, whether they are married or not.

- Any person who, although not a natural parent, has parental responsibility for a child or young person.
- Any person who, although not a natural parent, has care of a child or young person.

*based on a rolling 3 year period from the date of issue of first penalty notice

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators TEACHING CYCLE SAFETY

Cycling is an amazing way to spend quality time together as a family, as well as keeping everyone healthy and active – and it's an excellent exercise, whatever the age of your children. Getting started can sometimes be daunting, and there are obvious safety concerns over youngsters who are still getting used to a bike – so follow our top tips to help you ride with confidence.

1 CONSIDER CYCLE TRAINING

Courses like Bikeability are extremely useful, and training in general has come a long way since cycling proficiency began; there are Bikeability courses for adults, too. Cycle training teaches invaluable skills (such as good road positioning, signaling and visibility), and can help both parents and children feel more at ease on busy streets.

2 USE A SUITABLE BIKE

Find a bike of an appropriate size for its rider and resist the temptation to have children 'grow into' theirs by buying one too large for them. A bigger bike will be heavier and more difficult to control, making accidents more likely and potentially putting youngsters off cycling forever. If your child has any specific physical needs, or has dyspraxia, then try out a trike, handcycle or other adaptive cycle to see what works best.

3 TRY A CARGO BIKE

Cargo bikes, particularly the box-bike style, are ideal for transporting small children around. Depending on the type of bike chosen – as well as the size and age of the children – it can be possible to transport up to four little ones in this way, with additional space for other cargo as well.

4 INSPECT YOUR CYCLE

It's a good idea to do some routine checks on any bike before going for a ride to make sure everything's working correctly. The 'M check' is particularly useful: assessing the condition and position of the bike's wheels, handlebars, brakes, pedals, chain and saddle, working from front to back. Online tutorial videos can also teach you how to carry out basic repairs if needed. For more complicated fixes, head to your local bike shop.

5 BRING SUITABLE GEAR

Ensure whatever you're wearing, and any attachments for your bike, are suitable for the ride. A waterproof jacket will let you cycle safely in almost any weather. Make sure any helmets are fitted correctly. If you're riding after dark, remember to fit your bike with a white front light, a red rear light and a red rear reflector. These are required by law.

6 STICK TO FLAT TERRAIN

Take a smooth, flat route if possible, so it's more suitable for younger cyclists. You might be surprised by how many quiet roads or back streets there may be in your area. Don't be put off by an indirect but easier path as opposed to a shorter, busier one. Look out for the National Cycle Network, canal towpaths and even parks that you can cut through.

7 STAY ALERT AND IN SAFE FORMATIONS

For maximum protection and visibility, ride in a line with children in the middle and adults at either end. If you're the only adult present, take up a position at the rear to ensure all children remain in your sight. Don't be tempted to hug the kerb if cycling on the road – riding approximately a metre out will make you more noticeable to other road users, and you'll also stay clear of any debris in the gutter.

8 AVOID PARKED CARS

When riding past parked cars, try to stay at least a metre away, just in case anyone inside opens a door unexpectedly or the vehicle itself starts to move. This precaution will also deter anyone driving behind from trying to squeeze past you when there isn't enough space, so don't be afraid to ride in a prominent position.

9 START A 'BIKE BUS'

Cycling to school with other families is a potentially fun experience – one which comes with the added benefit of safety in numbers, in case anything goes wrong along the way. Team up with other parents, carers and educators and pick a day to cycle to school together. Who knows – maybe, in time, you'll have other folk asking to join you!

10 HAVE FUN!

Keep in mind that cycling should be fun! A good bike ride can be really enjoyable for adults and children alike, while also being a superb form of exercise. Ease children into the hobby by starting them off with shorter journeys – such as a trip to the park – and build them up to longer, more complicated outings. Some children may get bored on a longer ride, so try to keep a conversation going with them.

Meet Our Expert

Sophie Gordon is the campaigns manager at Cycling UK, a charity which inspires and enables people to start cycling. She has spent six years campaigning for safer roads and more protected cycle paths, while supporting communities to call for better cycling conditions where they live.

we are
cycling
UK

#WakeUp
Wednesday

The
National
College