

Friday News - 24.04.2026

What a sunny week we've had! This week saw Year 5 off on a trip to the Food Museum. They had a wonderful time learning all about the food that is produced in the area both now and in the past. The class thoroughly enjoyed their trip and returned to school full of knowledge. Well done Year 5. This week also saw Antarctica class walk to Old School Woods for the first of their off-site forest school mornings. The sun was shining and a lot of fun was had by all.

Sun Safety

With the weather due to remain sunny for a while, please remember to send your child(ren) in with a water bottle, hat and sun cream where necessary. We are fortunate to have lovely trees around school but they sadly, do not provide very much shade for our field or playground. Thank you.

Term Time Holidays

As the weather warms up here, many start to think about booking holidays abroad. I fully appreciate and understand the price difference between a term time holiday and one taken in the school holidays. It is ridiculous and something that many have been trying to change for many, many years with no success.

I wanted to clarify the Department for Education's position on term time holidays as this is the guidance that the school is held account to by Suffolk County Council. The guidance that the school is working from is very clear - it does not consider a need or desire for a holiday or other absence for the purpose of leisure or recreation to be an exceptional one. This guidance means that I do not have very much flexibility in what I can and cannot authorise for absences. The guidance does not specifically mention any pupils with SEND or families with children with SEND and therefore Suffolk's view on this is that they would not consider this an exceptional circumstance. Any authorised absences beyond illnesses are scrutinised by our Education Welfare Officer.

I hope this clarifies the school's position around term time holidays and how inflexible the guidance is for Headteachers.

For further information, the school's policy can be found

here: <https://www.greatwoldingfield.suffolk.sch.uk/attachments/download.asp?file=476&type=pdf>

I can fully appreciate how frustrating the system is and understand how controversial this DFE guidance was. I wanted to be transparent with all families. Miss Prall as Attendance Officer, can answer any further questions you may have.

Learning Progress

As we move further into the Summer term where many of the key national assessments are carried out, all staff have been very impressed with how hard everyone is working. I've held meetings with all class teachers this week to discuss the progress of individual pupils. There are so many wonderful stories of children who are making phenomenal progress with their learning. Thank you parents for your support. Everything you can do at home, makes a huge impact on the progress of your child. If you would like to support your child more with their

learning, reading is always the first place to start, read as much as you can, read with your child, to your child and get them to read to you. With any more specific questions, please speak to your child's class teacher.

Key Summer Dates (these may be added to)

PTFA Fri-Yay events - first Friday of every month

4th May - BANK HOLIDAY

11th - 15th May - Year 6 SATs

18 - 22nd May - Year 2 SATs

20th May - Asia to Crucial Crew

22nd May - Oceania to Jimmy's Farm

25th to 29th May - MAY HALF TERM

1st to 5th June - Year 4 Times Tables Check

2nd June - Doorstep Theatre production in school (more details to follow)

8th to 12th June - Year 1 Phonics Screening Test

23rd June - Doorstep Theatre Production in school (more details to follow)

2nd July - Sports Morning all year groups (start around 9:15 finished by 10:35 ish)

6th & 7th July - OSA transition for Y6

13th & 14th July - Stour Valley transition for Y6

13th to 15th July - TGS transition for Y6.

17th July - Last day of school

Have a very happy, sunny weekend.



Mrs Baker

Headteacher

Great Waldingfield CEVC Primary School

T 01787 374055

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

MATTHEW 19:14