

Friday News - 16.10.2026

What a wonderful turn out we had for Parents Evenings this week! Thank you to all families who were able to attend to discuss your child's learning. We really appreciate the opportunity to talk about everything that your child has achieved and their next steps. We thank you all for your support.

Breaktime Snacks

Just a reminder about snacks that children are allowed to have a breaktime. Breaktime snacks should be nutritious to see the children through until lunch.

Children in Antarctica, Africa and Oceania have fruit provided for them at school. Children in KS2 can bring in fruit, vegetables, plain crackers or cheese for their snacks. Any crackers / rice cakes which have been sweetened / flavoured will not be acceptable. Thank you for your support.

When can I leave my child alone / let them outside on their own?

These are questions that we often get asked in school. We also have many concerned parents informing us that they have seen a child outside alone or a child's behaviour outside of school has not been appropriate and they are on their own with no parent support.

Unfortunately, there is no definitive answer to these questions as it is left up to families to decide and every family has a different situation.

However, the NSPCC and other support networks for parents have advice for parents when trying to navigate what is a very complex and changing world around us. We all know the importance of giving children more independence and children need to be outside as this is beneficial for their mental health.

<https://parents.actionforchildren.org.uk/feelings-behaviour/safety-wellbeing/is-my-child-ready-to-go-out-without-an-adult-or-stay-home-alone/>

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/advice-for-families/>

The NSPCC mentions that children under 12 are rarely mature enough to be left alone for long periods of time, either inside the home or outside on their own without adults.

If you are concerned that a child is at risk of harm / neglect as they are being left alone, please report to Suffolk Safeguarding.

<https://www.suffolksp.org.uk/concerned>

You can also speak to Customer First on 0808 800 4005.

Sporting Success



Annabella (Y5) participated in a gymnastic competition on Sunday in Ipswich, competing in four events. She came 1st in vault, and 2nd in bars, beam and floor, which meant she came second in the competition overall! She has worked incredibly hard with her gymnastic coach after school and wore all her medals with pride on Monday.

Attendance

We achieved **94.1%** attendance this week. This is an increase on last week.

Year 4 are our attendance champions for an outstanding 4 weeks in a row with 99.6%, well done Year 4!

They were closely followed by Year 6 with 99.3% and Year 2 with 98.5%.

#MomentsMatterAttendanceCounts

Attendance reports

We will be sending out attendance reports at the end of next week. This will highlight what your child's attendance is for the start of the year.

We recognise that the short period of time means that if your child has been off for a few days, it will have a greater impact on your attendance percentage and it may be less than you expected. There is a lot of the school year left in which to improve on this attendance figure.

Children who have an attendance of 95% or above achieve more highly than those who do not. The learning that is lost with an attendance of 90% or below cannot always be caught up.

Poppies

We will be selling the usual poppies, snap bands, bracelets etc at break time from Monday 26th October to raise money for the Royal British Legion for Remembrance Sunday. Suggested donation £1 per item.

There will be an assembly led by Mark van der Lande and Tony Petersen on Tuesday 3rd November for the school telling them all about remembrance and why it is so important. We will have another Remembrance Assembly led by Mrs Baker on Wednesday 11th November (Remembrance Day).

School Meals

We would like to make you aware of an important update regarding the price of school meals. Our catering provider, Caterlink, have informed us that from Monday 2nd November 2026, the cost of a school meal will increase to £3.20 per pupil.

PTFA Christmas cards

A reminder from our wonderful PTFA to please place your Christmas card/gift orders before midnight on Monday 26th October. If you have any queries, please email the PTFA team at greatwoldingfieldptfa@gmail.com

PD Day

Just a reminder that next Friday is a PD Day and therefore school will be closed to pupils. The office will also be closed all morning.

Key Dates:

These may be added to:

22nd October – Red Rainbow Reading Non-Uniform

23rd October – PD day – no children in school

26th – 30th October – Half Term

3rd November - Royal British Legion in school for remembrance service

13th November - Non Uniform day for Children in Need

20th November – Individual Photos

7th December – EYFS nativity to school

8th December – EYFS nativity to parents

10th December – EYFS nativity to parents

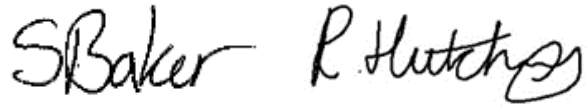
11th December – PTFA Christmas Disco

11th December – Christmas Jumper Day

14th December – KS1 Christmas concert @ church 2pm

15th December – KS2 Christmas concert @ church 2pm
16th December – Orange Rainbow reading non-uniform
17th December – Christingle in school – pupils only
18th December – Last day of term

Have a very happy weekend!

Handwritten signatures of S. Baker and R. Hutchings in black ink.

Mrs Baker and Mrs Hutchings

Headteachers

Great Waldingfield CEVC Primary School

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