

# Newsletter

## Parental Questionnaire

Thank you to all of you who have completed the Google form for the parental questionnaire. We've listened to your responses and would like to take this opportunity to explain some of our policies and procedures in a little more detail:

**Behaviour** – all incidents of poor behaviour are recorded on our electronic system, where the relevant members of staff, including SLT and the class teacher are alerted. We use the restorative approach in school - a sanction is always put in place, however as it is our policy to 'praise in public, reprimand in private', other children may not always be aware of that incidents have been dealt with, but we can assure you, they are. If there is a 'serious incident' as outlined in our behaviour policy which is available on our website, this is dealt with by our senior leadership team and the parents of the child responsible are contacted and the child completes a 4-part apology and reflection sheet as well as completing their sanction. At times, you may see children in a heightened state. This can be due to a number of reasons, including Special Educational Needs or trauma at home, and not necessarily simply poor behaviour. As inclusive schools, governed by the SEND Code of Practice, we work hard to meet all children's needs.

**Rewards** – Children are rewarded for good behaviour and work. This is through our currency (Gedneys, Smarties, Westies) where children can buy things in the shop. We also use house points which are accumulated across each term, and the winning house receives extra play. Our reward system is designed that the children who are always good, and always work hard, receive the most rewards.

**Communication** – it was pleasing to read that you as parents really appreciated the weekly emails from teachers with links to the weekly learning. We did stop this in September as classes are not now going to be sent home in the event of a positive case. However, we understand that this was an effective way of letting you know what you can do to support your child. With this in mind, we have listened to you and will replace the topic section on the newsletter with information in the weekly re-introduced email from the class teacher. As communication is a 2-way process, if you would like more information about anything, please email [help@griffin federation.co.uk](mailto:help@griffin federation.co.uk) and we will forward this to the person who can best help you.

**Progress** - as schools, we offer two parents' evenings and two written reports per year, however if you want more information from your child's teacher, please email them or catch them at the end of the day when they will be more than happy to discuss progress and any other concerns you may have. Remember we want you to ask the little questions, before they become big issues, please email [classname@griffin federation.co.uk](mailto:classname@griffin federation.co.uk) e.g. Norway@griffin federation.co.uk

**Clubs** - we were not allowed to offer after school clubs during the pandemic, however these have now started again. All of our teachers in KS1 and KS2 give up their time to offer an afterschool booster club each week. Mr Timmins is offering a sports club each night.

**Parental events** – again these were put on hold because of the pandemic; as things improve, we can't wait to invite parents back into school again as we strongly believe that educating your children is a partnership. Thanks for those parents who attended our first event of this type this year, our reading afternoon. We look forward to arranging more of these soon.

## Head Lice

Please regularly check your child's hair for headlice and treat if needed.

## Belongings in School

We would like to remind you that children should not bring in toys and belongings from home. The reason for this is that often these things get lost or broken, as well as them being a distraction to learning. At times, they are also the reason for disagreements.

## Diary Dates

19<sup>th</sup> October West Stow Anglo-Saxon Village  
21<sup>st</sup> October Term 1 Ends  
1<sup>st</sup> November Term 2 Starts  
9<sup>th</sup> November Westmere Flu Vaccination  
12<sup>th</sup> November HSM Flu Vaccination  
16<sup>th</sup> November GDE Flu Vaccination



## Illness

If your child has any of the following symptoms, you **must not** send them to school. Instead you will need to arrange a PCR test by booking online or calling 119. A lateral flow test is not to be used when children are showing symptoms, it is designed to detect virus when children are asymptomatic.

- A new cough
- A temperature of 37.8 or above
- Loss of taste or smell

If your child is unwell with a sore throat, runny nose or other mild illness, they can still come to school. If they need medicine during the day you can either come to school to administer it at breaktime or lunchtime or you can complete a medication form and staff can give medicine.

## Flu Vaccinations

All parents should have received a copy of the flu vaccination letter by email this week. If you haven't already registered your child and would like them to be immunised, then please use the following link and the appropriate school code from the table below:

<https://www.lincolnshireimmunisations.co.uk/Forms/Flu>

	School Code	Vaccination Date
Gedney Drove End	EE120410	16 <sup>th</sup> November
Holbeach St Marks	EE120549	12 <sup>th</sup> November
Westmere	EE120502	9 <sup>th</sup> November

## Trip to West Stow Anglo-Saxon Village – Westmere

As part of their topics, USA, Portugal, Canada and Spain will be visiting West Stow Anglo-Saxon Village on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> October. Children should wear their PE hoodies and bring a packed lunch and a water bottle. The coach will leave Westmere at 9am. We expect to leave West Stow by 2.30pm, so should be back at Westmere for 4.00pm. The total cost of this trip is £13 per child, but this is subsidised by school and so we ask for a voluntary contribution of £10 per child. Please sign and return the permission slip by Monday 4<sup>th</sup> October, or alternatively, you can email your permission to the office and send payment with your child. Children who are entitled to a free school meal can have a packed lunch provided by school; please indicate on the permission slip or email. Updates on the day will be posted on our Facebook page.

## Parents' Evenings

You will be contacted soon by your child's class teacher to arrange a 5 minute telephone appointment. The appointments will be between 3.30pm and 6.30pm on the following dates:

CLASS	DATE	CLASS	DATE
CHINA	20 <sup>th</sup> October	CANADA	20 <sup>th</sup> October
AUSTRALIA	11 <sup>th</sup> October	SPAIN	18 <sup>th</sup> October
FRANCE	19 <sup>th</sup> October	CUBA	18 <sup>th</sup> October
ITALY	19 <sup>th</sup> October	BARBADOS	18 <sup>th</sup> October
BRAZIL	19 <sup>th</sup> October	ST LUCIA	19 <sup>th</sup> October
MEXICO	19 <sup>th</sup> October	FINLAND	18 <sup>th</sup> October
USA	20 <sup>th</sup> October	SWEDEN	19 <sup>th</sup> October
PORTUGAL	18 <sup>th</sup> October	NORWAY	20 <sup>th</sup> October

## Keeping Warm in School

Now that the weather has changed, please make sure that your child has extra layers of clothing on to keep them warm. We are following our risk assessment to stop the spread of Covid and are keeping the classroom windows open.

## Free School Meals

If your circumstances have changed recently, your child may be eligible for free school meals. Children can have a free hot meal every day if they wish, and the school receives additional funding for each child who is entitled. If you are in receipt of any of the following benefits you could qualify.

## Kids' Corner

Welcome to our new Kids Corner!

Each week you will find different things here. There will be jokes, competitions, do quizzes and lots more.

### COMPETITION

Create a poster for one or all, of our school values:

**Wisdom & Knowledge** –

**Working to Learn**

Acquiring the knowledge to equip us for the journey ahead

**Koinonia** –

**Working Together**

By combining our strengths, it helps work to be done and burdens to be carried

**Respect** –

**Working as Friends**

Everyone supports and respects each other, understanding that there are consequences to our thoughts, words and actions

**Persistence** –

**Working Hard**

Gives us courage and strength when life is tough



- Universal Credit - your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get)
- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guaranteed element of state Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for four weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- It only takes a few minutes to apply using the following link  
<https://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/school-pupil-support/apply-free-school-meals>

### Next Week's Topics:

CLASS	ENGLISH	MATHS
CHINA	Narrative	Comparing size, mass and capacity
AUSTRALIA	Letter writing	Place value
FRANCE	Poetry	Place value
ITALY	Poetry	Place value
BRAZIL	Narrative	Addition and subtraction
MEXICO	Narrative	Addition and subtraction
USA	Narrative – The Journey	Addition and subtraction
PORTUGAL	Narrative – The Journey	Addition and subtraction
CANADA	Narrative – The Journey	Fractions
SPAIN	Narrative – The Journey	Multiplication and division
CUBA	Poetry	Addition and subtraction
BARBADOS	Persuasive writing – Holiday Brochure	Addition and subtraction
ST LUCIA	Persuasive speech	Addition and subtraction
FINLAND	Poetry	Addition and subtraction
SWEDEN	Non-chronological reports	Addition and subtraction
NORWAY	Narrative – The Journey	Addition and subtraction

Kind regards  
Sally Massey

### Permission Slips

#### West Stow Anglo-Saxon Village Trip Permission 19<sup>th</sup> October 2021 USA, Portugal, Canada, Spain

I give / do not give permission for my child(ren) .....  
to attend West Stow on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> October.

I do / do not enclose a voluntary contribution of £10 per child.

My child is entitled to free school meals and would like a packed lunch provided

Signed ..... Parent/Carer Date.....

