



Walsham le Willows CEVC Primary School Newsletter

With God's Blessing, we DISCOVER, INSPIRE, GROW

Friday 22nd May
2026

Contact us on: admin@walsham-le-willows.suffolk.sch.uk

HEADTEACHER NOTE TO PARENTS/CARERS

This week, pupils enjoyed a special church visit to explore the story of Pentecost through a range of interactive prayer and reflection stations. The children learned about how Christians believe the Holy Spirit came to Jesus' disciples, bringing courage, peace and joy.

Throughout the church, pupils took part in activities linked to the Pentecost story, including creating doves of peace, exploring different languages from around the world, reflecting in a peaceful prayer space and learning about symbols connected to Pentecost.

The visit gave children a wonderful opportunity to reflect, ask thoughtful questions and experience the church in a creative and meaningful way. We were incredibly proud of the respect, curiosity and enthusiasm shown by all pupils during the visit. A big thank you to Vicar Cat and Mrs Gorzelak for putting all the ideas together and to the volunteers at the church who gave up their whole day. The work is displayed in the church, and you are welcome to go along to see this any day during half term break between 8.00 a.m. and 4.00 p.m.



The Year 5/6 sleep over was a success. The weather was lovely, and they had lots of fun. The children were very well behaved and polite and all managed to get to sleep at a reasonable time. The fun carries on today with team building games. They will probably be worn out by the time they come home!

This term is always an exciting one, with plenty of events and activities going on. We have our sporting morning, transition afternoons, and KS2 plays coming up, so please check the 'Diary Dates' at the end of this newsletter.

Have a lovely half term!

THE BIG FUTURE

The Children's Commissioner, Dame Rachel de Souza has set up a survey called "The Big Future" which is open for all children to complete. The survey is to ask children about the changes they want to see in their communities, their biggest concerns and their hopes for the future. The survey can be found by following this link <http://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/thebigfuture>
The findings from this survey will be published next year.

FUNDED TRANSPORT : ACTION NEEDED BY 31ST MAY

If your child is eligible for SCC funded school travel, you will need to opt-in (apply) by **31 May 2026** to receive travel for the start of the 2026/2027 school year.

If your child already receives SCC funded school travel to a mainstream school, you still need to opt-in every year.

If your child is starting secondary school in September 2026 and they are eligible for SCC funded school travel, you will be contacted by Thursday 2 April 2026. You will need to opt-in (apply) if you would like your child to use this service.

If your child is starting primary school in September 2026 and they are eligible for SCC funded school travel, you will be contacted by Friday 8 May 2026. You will need to opt-in if you would like your child to use this service by 31 May 2026.

For more information on the SCC school travel policy and getting your child to school please visit: www.suffolkonboard.com/optin

SUNFLOWERS

As pupils of Walsham School, everyone can enter the Sunflower Competition at The Horticultural Show to be held at Walsham Village Hall on Saturday 8th August 2025. Each child has brought home seeds from last's year's winner, kindly donated by Mrs Harlow. Please see the information about it (and other classes to enter) at: <https://www.walsham-le-willows.org/annual-events/horticultural-society-show/> click on 'Show Details' in the top left corner and you will see that you will need to enter the sunflower in Class 70 on 6th August. The sunflower will be measured where it is growing on 7th August, so you won't have to cut it down, and the birds will enjoy the seeds. Please let Mrs Gorzelak know if you need any more information. Good Luck!

JOIN OUR PTA!

Get involved, meet other parents, and help make a difference in our school. Whether you can give a little time or a lot, everyone is welcome—your support really matters! For more information, please ask Mrs McGarr, Mrs Pascoe or Mrs Morley (Jude's Mum).

UNIFORM

Here is a reminder about uniform expectations:

- Skirts/trousers/shorts/skorts in **black** or **grey** (not denim)
- School jumper/cardigan in **royal blue** (no hooded jumpers or other colours, including navy blue, pink or white.....)
- **White** polo shirt
- **Blue** checked summer dress/skirts
- Skirts should be of an appropriate length to not cause embarrassment when children sit down on the floor/grass
- **Black** school shoes unless it is a PE day when trainers can be worn. Sandals should not be worn in the warmer weather for Health and Safety reasons
- No makeup or jewellery to be worn (including nail varnish). Small studs for piercings are permitted and should be taken out/taped for PE
- Long hair (boys and girls) should be tied back even on non-uniform days.
- On a Friday, which is a PE day, the uniform is **black** joggers, leggings or shorts with a plain **white** t-shirt/polo shirt and trainers. For the second PE day children should wear school uniform with their trainers
- **Football boots are not allowed**

ATTENDANCE

Winners of the attendance award this week goes to Grasshopper Class with 97.39% attendance. This week our whole school attendance 96.8% and our target for the end of the school year is 96.4%.

UNIFORM ORDERING SYSTEM

The website for ordering school uniform can be accessed this via this link

<https://www.mapac.com/education/parents/uniform/walshamlewillowsip313bd>

The uniform can be delivered to your home or to school.

CONTACTING THE OFFICE

If you need to email the office for anything , please use the admin@walsham-le-willows.suffolk.sch.uk email address. Mrs Pascoe does not work on a Monday or Tuesday and if you send a message to her email address it will not be seen until she is in school and important information will be missed.

QUICK REMINDER

Please could I remind you that if your child is not going to be in school, someone else will be picking them up at the end of the day or your child will not be going home on the school bus, that you ensure that you let either Mrs Pascoe or Mrs Baker in the school office know. Please do not just message (via DoJo, email or written note) their teacher as these messages can easily get missed.

ATTENDANCE

For your information the grid below shows how much learning time is lost due to absence and its impact over one and five years.

	Impact over 1 school year	Impact over 5 school years
100% Attendance	0 days missed	0 days missed
95% Attendance	9 days of absence 1 Week and 4 Days of learning lost	¼ year learning lost
90% Attendance	19 Days of Absence 3 Weeks and 4 Days of learning lost	½ year learning lost
85% Attendance	28 Days of Absence 5 Weeks and 3 Days of learning lost	¾ year learning lost
80% Attendance	38 Days of Absence 7 Weeks and 3 Days of learning lost	1 year learning lost
75% Attendance	47 Days of Absence 9 weeks and 1 day of learning lost	1 ¼ years learning lost

SENIDASS

Suffolk SENDIASS (Special Educational Needs and Disability Information Advice and Support Service) is a confidential and impartial information, advice and support service on issues related to Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND). It is free, easy to access and confidential. They can help children, parents and young people take part in decisions that affect their lives.

Further information can be found here: <https://suffolksendiass.co.uk/>

ABSENCE/FIXED PENALTY NOTICE INFORMATION

The threshold for absences, including unauthorised family holidays, is 10 sessions (5 school days) of unauthorised absence in a rolling period of 10 school weeks. Unauthorised absence does not need to be consecutive for a fine to be issued. Holidays are not authorised.

To reiterate the penalties that will be charged for unauthorised holidays, this is the information on the DfE website.

If the absence is not authorised and the holiday is taken anyway, the case will be referred to the Attendance Service who may issue a Penalty Notice. In this case, each parent will receive a fine of £80, rising to £160 if you do not pay within 21 days. If you get a second fine in 3 years it will be £160. If you do not pay the fine in 28 days, you may be taken to court for keeping your child out of school. If your child is off school 3 or more times within the 3 years you will not be fined but may be taken to court. If you're taken to court, you could get a fine of up to £2,500, a community order or a jail sentence up to 3 months. The court could also give you a Parenting Order. All absences, authorised and unauthorised, are transferable between schools and remain on a pupil's record.

