

Learning Together: Working as One

Aspire; Believe; Progress; Succeed

Friday Bridge Primary School

Newsletter

November 2024

Maltmas Drove, Friday Bridge, WISBECH PE14 0HW
office@fridaybridge.cambs.sch.uk
Tel: 01945 860220

@Fridaybridgepr2
Find us on

We hope you all had a restful half-term. It was wonderful to meet so many of you at the Parent Teacher consultations before the holiday, I am enjoying getting to know your children! I would like to take this opportunity to let you know that Mr Elliott remains off school and is not expected back at work next week. Many of you have already met me, Maria Higgins, and I am being joined by Mrs Clare Talbot, another experienced local Headteacher, to support the school during Mr Elliott's absence. We thank all of you and the staff for making us feel very welcome.

If you have any queries or wish to discuss anything, please contact either of us using office@fridaybridge.cambs.sch.uk or call the school office. It is important that you use the office email address for the time being to ensure your emails are quickly directed to the right person.

Healthy Schools

Within the school community there are children with dietary intolerances and allergies. **Please remember we have a strict NO NUTS policy because of children's allergies.** These include dairy, soya, kiwi, raspberries. If your child has an allergy or intolerance, please inform the school office. If you send your child with a packed lunch, then please ensure that your child is aware that they **must not** share any part of their packed lunch with other children and please be mindful of your food choices. Some healthy suggestions can be found on the NHS website: <https://www.nhs.uk/healthier-families/recipes/healthier-lunchboxes/>

Uniform

A reminder that, for personal safety, jewellery, including earrings should not be worn in school.

Governor Updates

We welcome Sue Rudge to our Governing Body; she brings a wealth of knowledge and is a very experienced governor in Cambridgeshire. Sue is looking forward to getting to know the school in the coming weeks. A big thank you to Geena Hird for her time as a Parent Governor at Friday Bridge, she has been a Governor for many years but has decided to step down. This means that we have a vacancy for a Parent Governor, if you are interested in this role and would like to know more, please speak to Mrs Higgins, Mrs Talbot or Maggie Barwell.

Attendance

In August, the Government made several changes to their school attendance legislation. This included changes to the Penalty Notice system.

The fine for a penalty notice has increased to £80 per child, per parent/carer, increasing to £160 if not paid after 21 days but within 28 days for pupils who are of statutory school age. If a penalty notice remains unpaid, parents may be the subject of court proceedings for failing to ensure the regular school attendance of their child(ren). This could result in a fine of up to £2,500 and/or a term of imprisonment of up to 3 months per parent. If a second penalty notice is issued for the same child within a three-year rolling period, the fine is automatically £160. For a third penalty notice within a three-year rolling period, the parent will automatically be listed for prosecution in relation to Section 444 Education Act 1996. Where a parent takes a child out of school during term time for an extended period (20 days or more), not authorised by the school, prosecution in relation to Section 444 Education Act 1996, may also be considered. (Section 444 of the 1996 Education Act).

Head teachers may not grant any leave of absence during term time unless 'exceptional circumstances' exist. As parent(s), you are reminded that it is your legal responsibility, as stated under Section 444 of the Education Act 1996, to ensure that your child attends the school at which he/she is registered, regularly and punctually. Failure to do so may result in a referral to the Local Authority for enforcement actions to be considered. The Local Authority could issue a Penalty Notice fine or initiate legal proceedings through the Magistrates court for failing to ensure regular school attendance of your child. This may result in a fine of up to £2500 and/or 3 months in prison. It is important that you complete a leave of absence request before taking your child out of school **as a school cannot grant a leave of absence retrospectively.**

As a school we want to work with you to ensure your child has excellent attendance. If you are worried about your child's attendance please speak to your child's teacher in the first instance,

as there are lots of ways we can support you. You can find the government guidance here [Working together to improve school attendance - GOV.UK](#)

If you are not sure if your child is well enough to attend school, the NHS has some helpful guidance here [Is my child too ill for school? - NHS](#)

[Working together to improve school attendance - GOV.UK](#)

Gressenhall Workhouse and Farm Visit

Parents and Carers of year 5 and 6 children – I am sure that your child has been enthusiastically explaining about their workhouse and farm visit and the mystery of who was the workhouse thief (of two silver candlesticks!) We all had a brilliant time and were fully immersed in life at the workhouse: the “inmates - for the day” had to wash clothes using the copper and dolly; tasted drop scones cooked on the range; hand-picked potatoes and weeded the turnip patch. After their lunch they had a lesson in the school room where they wrote on slates and learnt by rote times tables and some of the countries belonging to the British Empire. They then went to the workhouse dungeon and were engaged with rope shredding. We finally found out who had stolen the two silver candlesticks and the reasons why!

Children were well behaved and worked really hard the whole time we were there. Well done to all year 5 and 6 children and thank you to parents and carers with your help with costumes – the children all looked great!

Ms Suttle

Diary Dates

Tuesday 12th November – Individual/sibling photographs

Friday 15th November – Hawks STEM Challenge

Tuesday 19th November – Celebrating Difference workshop (years 5 and 6)

Friday 22nd November – Gymnastics (Wisbech Grammar School) – letter to follow

Tuesday 26th November – Celebrating difference workshop part 2 (years 5 and 6)

Thursday 28th November – Flu vaccinations

Thursday 12th December – Roots to Food

Tuesday 17th December –EYFS/KS1 Nativity, more information to follow

Wednesday 18th December – Christmas Jumper and Dinner Day

Thursday 19th December –EYFS/KS1 Nativity, more information to follow

Friday 20th December – 2pm Carols Around the Christmas Tree, more information to follow