End of Summer Term Newsletter 2026



Note from the Headteacher

As we reach the end of another successful school year, I would like to take a moment to thank our entire school community for your continued support and partnership. Most importantly, I want to recognise and celebrate the exceptional staff team who work tirelessly every day to ensure that every child in our school learns, progresses, thrives and, just as importantly, enjoys their time with us.

Our staff consistently go above and beyond, showing unwavering dedication, professionalism and commitment to the children and families they serve. They bring not only expertise and talent to their roles, but also kindness, empathy and care. Whether in the classroom, around the school, on trips, at clubs, or providing support behind the scenes, they are united by a shared determination to give every child the very best opportunities to succeed. I feel incredibly fortunate and proud to lead such a remarkable team of talented, caring and compassionate individuals whose hard work makes a positive difference to children's lives every single day.

I would also like to thank our wonderful children. They are, and always will be, at the heart of everything we do. Throughout the year, they have shown enthusiasm, resilience, kindness and a willingness to embrace new challenges. It has been a pleasure to watch them grow in confidence and maturity, achieving so much both academically and personally.

Our recent production of The Lion King was a perfect example of the incredible talent within our school. The performances showcased not only the children's creativity, confidence and hard work, but also their unique personalities.



Note from the Headteacher

It was truly heartwarming to see every child shine, support one another and perform with such pride and enthusiasm. We could not have been prouder of them.

We also say a heartfelt farewell to Mrs Payne as she retires after an incredible 34 years at Whatfield.

Over more than three decades, Mrs Payne has been at the heart of our school community. She has cared for, supported and inspired generations of children, and has even seen many of her former pupils return as parents, bringing their own children through our doors. Her kindness, dedication and unwavering commitment have made a lasting difference to so many lives.

This week, we were delighted to gather together in our outdoor Classroom to celebrate Mrs Payne's remarkable career. She was presented with gifts from the staff and the FOWS, and it was a lovely opportunity to reflect on the countless memories she has helped create over the years. It was a truly fitting send-off for a wonderful woman.

While we will all miss seeing Mrs Payne at school every day, we are delighted that she has promised to come back and spend some time with us as a volunteer, so this isn't quite goodbye.

On behalf of everyone at Whatfield, thank you, Mrs Payne, for 34 years of care, dedication and friendship. We wish you a long, happy and well-deserved retirement—you will always be a valued part of the Whatfield family.

Have a wonderful summer break. We look forward to welcoming you back in September.

Warm regards,
Mrs Shaw
Headteacher



Future Dates

- Friday 17th July – Last day of term
- Monday 20th July – Monday 31st August – Summer Holidays
- Tuesday 1st & Wednesday 2nd September – PD Days
- Thursday 3rd September – Autumn Term Begins
- Thursday 3rd & Friday 4th September – New Reception Children 9.30am – 12.45pm (including lunch)
- Thursday 17th – Friday 18th September – Oaks Bikeability
- Wednesday 7th October – Flu Vaccinations
- Monday 2nd November – Kittle Photography
- Monday 30th November – Friday 4th Dec – Oaks Class Residential



CHILDREN STARTING SCHOOL IN SEPTEMBER 2026

Thursday 3rd & Friday 4 September
9.30 – 12.45pm (including lunch)

To help our new Reception children settle into school and become familiar with their new environment and routines, the children will attend two morning sessions, including lunch, rather than full school days.

From Monday 7th September, all Reception children will begin attending full-time.
We appreciate your support during this important transition and look forward to helping the children settle happily into school life.

Please pass [illegible] any pote[illegible]

WHATFIELD PRIMARY

Open Days for new families

Friday 18th September 9.30-11am
Wednesday 21st October 2-4pm
Thursday 26th November 4-5.30pm

Stay & Play
Friday 8th January 9.30-11am

Our school is set in the beautiful countryside within the picturesque village of Whatfield, just one mile from Hadleigh. We provide a nurturing and supportive environment, with small class sizes that allow every child to receive individual attention. Our friendly and welcoming pupils create a positive community atmosphere, while our extensive outdoor space offers plenty of opportunities for exploration, play, and learning beyond the classroom.

Growing and learning together.

Manor Adventure - Norfolk Lakes

We would like to reinforce to parents that full balances must be paid by the end of October 2026.
To ensure that all bookings and arrangements can be confirmed, it is important that payments are kept up to date and that outstanding balances are reduced steadily over the next 3 months.

If you have not made recent payments, we strongly encourage you to do so as soon as possible. Many families find it helpful to divide the remaining balance into monthly instalments to spread the cost and avoid a large payment being due closer to the deadline.

You can check your current balance at any time by logging into Arbor and selecting Trips.







eats. Spring/Summer 2026 Menu

Allergen key:

May Contain in ( )

Peanuts P	Nuts N	Crustaceans (Shellfish) CR	Molluscs (Shellfish) MO	Fish F	Eggs E	Milk MI	Cereals containing Gluten G	Soya S	Sesame seeds SS	Celery CE	Mustard MU	Lupin L	Sulphur Dioxide SD

		Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Week 1 13/04/2026 04/05/2026 01/06/2026 22/06/2026 13/07/2026 14/09/2026 05/10/2026	**Option 1** Main Dish	Margherita Pizza, Potato Wedges, Seasonal Vegetables G;MI;S;(E)	Lasagne with Garlic Bread, Seasonal Vegetables G;MI;(S)	Roast Chicken, Crispy Roast Potatoes, Seasonal Vegetables, Yorkshire Pudding, Gravy G;MI;E	Breakfast Brunch E;MI;G;SD	Battered Fish & Chips with Baked Beans or Peas G;F
	Option 2 Alternative Dish	Vegetable Supreme Pizza, Potato Wedges, Seasonal Vegetables G;MI;S;(E)	Macaroni Cheese with Garlic Bread, Seasonal Vegetables G;MI;(S)	Roast Quorn, Crispy Roast Potatoes, Seasonal Vegetables, Yorkshire Pudding, Gravy G;MI;E	Vegan Breakfast Brunch G;S	Vegetable Goujons & Chips with Baked Beans or Peas
	Dessert	Frozen Fruit Smoothie	Shortbread Cookie G	Ice Cream Sundae MI	Cheese & Biscuits G;MI;(SS);(E)	Chocolate Brownie G;E
Week 2 20/04/2026 11/05/2026 08/06/2026 29/06/2026 31/08/2026 21/09/2026 12/10/2026	**Option 1** Main Dish	Hot Margherita Wrap, Potato Wedges, Seasonal Vegetables G;MI	BBQ Chicken with Rice, Seasonal Vegetables	Roast Pork, Crispy Roast Potatoes, Seasonal Vegetables, Yorkshire Pudding, Gravy G;MI;E	Sausage & Mash, Seasonal Vegetables G;SD;MI	Chicken Dippers & Chips with Baked Beans or Peas G;CE
	Option 2 Alternative Dish	Vegan Sausage Roll, Potato Wedges, Seasonal Vegetables G	Vegetable Enchilada, Seasonal Vegetables G;MU	Vegetarian Toad in the Hole, Crispy Roast Potatoes, Seasonal Vegetables, Gravy G;MI;E;S	Veggie Sausage & Mash, Seasonal Vegetables S;MI	Quorn Dippers & Chips with Baked Beans or Peas G
	Dessert	Mousse MI	Apple & Oat Cookie G;(MI)	Sticky Toffee Pudding with Ice Cream G;E;MI	Fruit Salad	Chocolate Crunch G;E
Week 3 27/04/2026 18/05/2026 15/06/2026 06/07/2026 07/09/2026 28/09/2026 19/10/2026	**Option 1** Main Dish	Margherita Pizza, Potato Wedges, Seasonal Vegetables G;MI;S;(E)	Pasta Bolognaise with Garlic Bread, Seasonal Vegetables G;(MI);(S)	Roast Chicken, Crispy Roast Potatoes, Seasonal Vegetables, Yorkshire Pudding, Gravy G;MI;E	Hot Dog, Herby Diced Potatoes, Seasonal Vegetables G;(SS);SD	Fish Fingers or Salmon Fish Fingers & Chips with Baked Beans or Peas G;F
	Option 2 Alternative Dish	Sweet Barbecue Cheese Pizza, Potato Wedges, Seasonal Vegetables G;MI;S;(E)	Veggie Pasta Bolognaise with Garlic Bread, Seasonal Vegetables G;S;(MI)	Cauliflower Cheese, Crispy Roast Potatoes, Seasonal Vegetables, Yorkshire Pudding, Gravy G;MI;E	Veggie Hot Dog, Herby Diced Potatoes, Seasonal Vegetables G;(SS);S	Fishless Fingers & Chips with Baked Beans or Peas G
	Dessert	Fruit Yoghurt MI	Flapjack G	Apple Crumble & Ice Cream G;MI	Iced Sponge G;E	Fruit Muffin G;E
	Option 3 Pasta	Tomato Pasta, Seasonal Vegetables G	Tomato Pasta, Seasonal Vegetables G	Tomato Pasta, Seasonal Vegetables G	Tomato Pasta, Seasonal Vegetables G	Tomato Pasta, Seasonal Vegetables G
	Option 4 Baked Potato	Baked Potato with Grated Cheese MI or Baked Beans & Salad. **Dessert of the Day**	Baked Potato with Grated Cheese MI or Baked Beans & Salad. **Dessert of the Day**	Baked Potato with Grated Cheese MI or Baked Beans or Tuna Mayo E;F & Salad. **Dessert of the Day**	Baked Potato with Grated Cheese MI or Baked Beans & Salad. **Dessert of the Day**	Baked Potato with Grated Cheese MI or Baked Beans & Salad. **Dessert of the Day**
	Option 5 Packed Lunch	Cheese Wrap MI;G or Ham Wrap G Sausage Roll G;MI;S;SD or Veg Sausage Roll G;S;(MI) Carrot Sticks & Apple Wedge. **Dessert of the Day**	Cheese Roll MI;G;(SS) or Ham Roll G;(SS) Popcorn; Cucumber Sticks & Satsuma. **Dessert of the Day**	Cheese Wrap MI;G or Ham Wrap G or Tuna Wrap E;F;G Nachos (S) Carrot Sticks & Apple Wedge. **Dessert of the Day**	Cheese Roll MI;G;(SS) or Ham Roll G;(SS) Chicken Bites G;CE or Quorn Bites G;, Cucumber Sticks & Satsuma. **Dessert of the Day**	Cheese Wrap MI;G or Ham Wrap G Pizza Finger G;MI;S;(E) Carrot Sticks & Apple Wedge. **Dessert of the Day**

Please Refer to Separate Menu for Gluten Free, Dairy Free and Vegan Options.

Salad Options Available Daily.

WIBBLE

1% FOR THE PLANET

eats. Spring/Summer 2026 Menu

Allergen key: May Contain in ( )



		Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Week 1 13/04/2026 04/05/2026 01/06/2026 22/06/2026 13/07/2026 14/09/2026 05/10/2026	Gluten Free Main Dish	Pizza, Seasonal Vegetables MI	Macaroni Cheese, Seasonal Vegetable G;MI	Roast Chicken, Crispy Roast Potatoes, Seasonal Vegetables, Gravy	Breakfast Brunch E;(S);SD	Fish & Chips with Beans or Peas F
	Gluten Free Dessert	Frozen Fruit Smoothie	Shortbread Cookie	Ice Cream Sundae MI	Yoghurt MI	Chocolate Sponge MI;E
	Dairy Free Main Dish	Pizza, Seasonal Vegetables	Tomato Pasta, Seasonal Vegetables G	Roast Chicken, Crispy Roast Potatoes, Seasonal Vegetables, Gravy	Vegan Breakfast Brunch G;S	Battered Fish & Chips with Beans or Peas G;F
	Dairy Free Dessert	Frozen Fruit Smoothie	Shortbread Cookie G	Ice Cream Sundae S	Fruit	Chocolate Brownie G;E
	Vegan Main Dish	Pizza, Seasonal Vegetables	Tomato Pasta, Seasonal Vegetables G	Roast Quorn, Crispy Roast Potatoes, Seasonal Vegetables, Gravy G	Vegan Breakfast Brunch G;S	Vegetable Goujons & Chips with Beans or Peas
	Vegan Dessert	Frozen Fruit Smoothie	Shortbread Cookie G	Ice Cream Sundae S	Fruit	Shortbread Cookie G
Week 2 20/04/2026 11/05/2026 08/06/2026 29/06/2026 31/08/2026 21/09/2026 12/10/2026	Gluten Free Main Dish	Sausage, Mashed Potato, Seasonal Vegetables S;SD	Caribbean Chicken with Rice, Seasonal Vegetables	Roast Pork, Crispy Roast Potatoes, Seasonal Vegetables, Gravy	Ham, New Potatoes, Seasonal Vegetables	Fish & Chips with Baked Beans or Peas F
	Gluten Free Dessert	Mousse MI	Shortbread Cookie	Sponge Cake MI;E	Fruit Salad	Shortbread Biscuit
	Dairy Free Main Dish	Vegan Sausage Roll, Mashed Potatoes, Seasonal Vegetables G	Caribbean Chicken with Rice, Seasonal Vegetables	Roast Pork, Crispy Roast Potatoes, Seasonal Vegetables, Gravy	Ham, New Potatoes, Seasonal Vegetables	Chicken Dippers & Chips with Baked Beans or Peas G;CE
	Dairy Free Dessert	Jelly	Shortbread Cookie G	Sticky Toffee Pudding G;E	Fruit Salad	Chocolate Crunch G;E
	Vegan Main Dish	Vegan Sausage Roll, Mashed Potatoes, Seasonal Vegetables G	Vegetable Enchilada, Seasonal Vegetables G;MU	Vegan Sausage, Roast Potatoes, Seasonal Vegetables, Gravy S	Tomato Pasta, Seasonal Vegetables G	Quorn Dippers & Chips with Baked Beans or Peas G
	Vegan Dessert	Jelly	Shortbread Cookie G	Fruity Jelly	Fruit Salad	Chocolate Crunch G
Week 3 27/04/2026 18/05/2026 15/06/2026 06/07/2026 07/09/2026 28/09/2026 19/10/2026	Gluten Free Main Dish	Margherita Pizza, Potato Wedges, Seasonal Vegetables MI	Pasta Bolognaise, Seasonal Vegetables	Chicken, Crispy Roast Potatoes, Seasonal Vegetables, Gravy	Sausages, Diced Potatoes, Seasonal Vegetables (S);SD	Fish & Chips with Baked Beans or Peas F
	Gluten Free Dessert	Fruit Yoghurt MI	Sponge Cake E;MI	Apple Crumble	Sponge Cake E;MI	Muffin E;MI
	Dairy Free Main Dish	Margherita Pizza, Potato Wedges, Seasonal Vegetables G	Pasta Bolognaise, Seasonal Vegetables G	Chicken, Crispy Roast Potatoes, Seasonal Vegetables, Gravy	Hot Dog, Herby Diced Potatoes, Seasonal Vegetables G;(SS);SD	Fish fingers & Chips with Baked Beans or Peas G;F
	Dairy Free Dessert	Jelly or Fruit	Flapjack G	Apple Crumble G	Iced Sponge G;E	Fruit Muffin G;E
	Vegan Main Dish	Margherita Pizza, Potato Wedges, Seasonal Vegetables G	Veggie Pasta Bolognaise, Seasonal Vegetables G;S	Oven Baked Vegan Sausages, Crispy Roast Potatoes, Seasonal Vegetables, Gravy S	Vegan Hot Dog, Herby Diced Potatoes, Seasonal Vegetables G;(SS);SD	Fishless Fingers with Chips Beans or Peas G
	Vegan Dessert	Jelly or Fruit	Flapjack G	Apple Crumble G	Jelly or Fruit	Shortbread Biscuit G

Packed Lunch

Gluten Free Ham Sandwich or Gluten Free Vegan Cheese Sandwich with Veggie Sticks, Apple Wedge or Satsuma, Popcorn or Nachos (S) and Special Menu Dessert of the Day

Baked Potato

Baked Potato with Cheese MI or Vegan Cheese or Baked Beans & Salad
Dessert of the day

Salad Options Available Daily.

WIBBLE

1% FOR THE PLANET

SCHOOL UNIFORM



As we prepare for the new school year, we would like to remind everyone of the importance of wearing the correct school uniform every day.

Our school uniform helps to create a sense of belonging, pride, and identity within our school community. It promotes equality, reduces distractions, and ensures that all pupils are dressed appropriately for learning.

Wearing the correct uniform also helps pupils feel part of the school and represents our high expectations for behaviour, attendance, and achievement.

We kindly ask parents to ensure that children arrive at school in the correct uniform each day, including appropriate footwear and any required PE kit. School uniform can be ordered from school trends using the following link:

Whatfield C E VC Primary School

Shop Whatfield C E VC Primary School uniform online. Quality embroidered schoolwear. Free delivery over £50.

ST School Trends

FREE SCHOOL MEALS
CHANGES FROM SEPTEMBER 2026

Three entitlements. Different support.
ONE SIMPLE STEP – APPLY NOW!



THREE CATEGORIES OF FREE SCHOOL MEALS FROM SEPTEMBER 2026

	UNIVERSAL INFANT FSM (UIFSM)	TARGETED FSM (Means-tested)	EXPANDED FSM (Means-tested)
WHO IS IT FOR?	All Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 pupils	Universal Credit with earnings of £7,400 or less*, or certain other qualifying benefits	Universal Credit with earnings above £7,400*
FREE SCHOOL MEALS?	✓ YES	✓ YES	✓ YES
PUPIL PREMIUM FUNDING FOR SCHOOLS	✗ NO (pupils separately eligible)	✓ YES	✗ NO
OTHER FSM-LINKED BENEFITS FOR FAMILIES	✗ NO	✓ YES (see examples below)	✗ NO (free meals only)

FAMILIES WHO QUALIFY FOR TARGETED FSM MAY ALSO RECEIVE:

- Holiday Activities & Food (HAF) eligibility
- Extra funding for your child's school (Pupil Premium)
- Help with home to school transport (where applicable)
- Access to other local support schemes

RECEIVING UNIVERSAL CREDIT?
APPLY EVEN IF YOUR CHILD ALREADY RECEIVES A FREE MEAL.
An application could unlock additional support for your child AND extra funding for the school.

APPLY TODAY – IT'S QUICK, EASY AND CONFIDENTIAL

Apply online at:
www.suffolk.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals

NEED HELP?

Contact your school office or email
freeschoolmeals@suffolk.gov.uk

APPLY NOW!

TOGETHER, WE CAN GIVE EVERY CHILD THE BEST START IN LIFE

*£7,400 is the annual earnings threshold after tax, not including benefits. The rules may change – please check the website for the latest information.

Suffolk County Council

FREE SCHOOL MEALS – IMPORTANT UPDATE FOR FAMILIES

- ALL CHILDREN IN RECEPTION, YEAR 1 AND YEAR 2 CONTINUE TO RECEIVE FREE SCHOOL MEALS THROUGH THE UNIVERSAL INFANT FREE SCHOOL MEALS SCHEME.

FROM SEPTEMBER 2026, FREE SCHOOL MEAL ELIGIBILITY WILL BE EXPANDED TO ALL CHILDREN IN HOUSEHOLDS RECEIVING UNIVERSAL CREDIT, REGARDLESS OF HOUSEHOLD INCOME.

FAMILIES MAY ALSO BE ELIGIBLE IF THEY RECEIVE:

- SUPPORT UNDER PART VI OF THE IMMIGRATION AND ASYLUM ACT 1999
- INCOME-RELATED EMPLOYMENT AND SUPPORT ALLOWANCE (ESA)
- THE GUARANTEE CREDIT ELEMENT OF PENSION CREDIT
- SUPPORT AS A FAMILY WITH NO RECOURSE TO PUBLIC FUNDS (NRPF), WHERE ELIGIBLE. [SUFFOLK.GOV.UK], [GOV.UK]

TO RECEIVE FREE SCHOOL MEALS, AN APPLICATION MUST BE MADE AND ELIGIBILITY VERIFIED BY THE SCHOOL OR LOCAL AUTHORITY. [SUFFOLK.GOV.UK]

WHY APPLYING STILL MATTERS

FAMILIES RECEIVING UNIVERSAL CREDIT WITH ANNUAL HOUSEHOLD EARNINGS OF £7,400 OR LESS CURRENTLY QUALIFY FOR TARGETED FREE SCHOOL MEALS. THIS HELPS SCHOOLS RECEIVE ADDITIONAL FUNDING THROUGH THE PUPIL PREMIUM, SUPPORTING CHILDREN'S LEARNING AND WELLBEING.

ELIGIBILITY FOR OTHER SUPPORT PROGRAMMES, SUCH AS HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES AND FOOD (HAF) CLUBS AND SOME SCHOOL TRAVEL ASSISTANCE, MAY ALSO BE LINKED TO FREE SCHOOL MEAL ELIGIBILITY.

TRANSITIONAL PROTECTION ENDING

CURRENT TRANSITIONAL PROTECTIONS FOR FREE SCHOOL MEALS END AT THE END OF THE 2025–26 ACADEMIC YEAR.

FROM SEPTEMBER 2026, ELIGIBILITY WILL BE ASSESSED AGAINST THE NEW CRITERIA.

APPLY ONLINE

IF YOU THINK YOUR CHILD MAY BE ELIGIBLE, PLEASE APPLY EVEN IF YOUR CHILD ALREADY RECEIVES UNIVERSAL INFANT FREE SCHOOL MEALS, AS THIS CAN UNLOCK ADDITIONAL FUNDING AND SUPPORT FOR THE SCHOOL.

👉 APPLY THROUGH SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL

HTTPS://WWW.SUFFOLK.GOV.UK/CHILDREN-FAMILIES-AND-LEARNING/SCHOOLS/SCHOOL-MEALS-UNIFORMS-AND-TRIPS/APPLY-FOR-FREE-SCHOOL-MEALS

READING QUEST SUMMER 2026

Suffolk Community Libraries is launching its popular summer reading programme this July with the new, exciting theme of Curious Creatures. Children of all ages and reading abilities are welcome to join in the fun when the Reading Quest runs from 18 July - 31 August 2026.

All libraries in Suffolk will be offering the programme aimed at getting children reading across the six-week summer holiday. Activities are library based, with staff and volunteers on hand to help children join in, choose books to read and discover something new over the summer.



OAK CLASS BIKEABILITY

SEPTEMBER 2026

MORE DETAILS TO FOLLOW







DUXFORD

Oaks Class will be having a school trip to Duxford on Tuesday 22nd September.

Please complete the following form and make payment on Arbor

Duxford Imperial War Museum Visit – Fill in form



SEND Passport Reviews

We have set aside dedicated dates across the next academic year to meet with families to review their child's SEND Passport together. These sessions will give us time to discuss individual needs, update key information, and ensure that support strategies remain fully aligned between home and school. If you have any questions ahead of these meetings, please let us know. Otherwise, ensure you note the dates down in your diary as individual slots will be emailed out nearer the time.

ACORN CLASS

Wednesday 30th September
Wednesday 13th January
Wednesday 28th April

SAPLINGS CLASS

Thursday 1st October
Thursday 14th January
Thursday 29th April

OAK CLASS

Monday 28th & Wednesday 30th September
Monday 11th & Wednesday 13th January
Monday 26th & Wednesday 28th April

FOWS

As we come to the end of another fantastic school year, we wanted to take a moment to celebrate everything that Friends of Whatfield School (FOWS) has achieved for our children and school community.

None of this would be possible without the support of our parents, carers, staff, local community and, of course, our dedicated volunteers who generously give their time throughout the year to raise vital funds for the school.

What FOWS Has Funded and Provided This Year

Autumn Term

- **Raising funds by providing refreshments at the Elmsett Village Event in November.**
- **Purchasing a book for every child to take home at Christmas.**
- **Providing Christmas treats for every child.**
- **Buying crackers for the whole school's Christmas dinner.**
- **Supporting our school community by providing refreshments at the Nativity performances.**
- **Funding pantomime tickets for the whole school, enabling all children to enjoy this special experience.**
- **Providing a school disco, fully-funded with food for every child.**

Spring Term

- **Providing Easter treats for every child.**
- **Hosting 2 x Jumble Sales.**
- **Providing a Raffle at the Jumble Sale.**
- **Providing the Acorn area with a new storage shed.**
- **Building a new patio for the school field.**

Summer Term

- **Providing fruit for all children on Sports Day.**
- **Offering refreshments at Sports Day and other school events.**
- **Supplying ice lollies during the recent heatwave to help keep children cool.**
- **Providing free leavers' hoodies for every Year 6 pupil, helping to mark the end of their time at Whatfield School.**

FOWS

Throughout the Year

- Funding Times Tables Rock Stars (TTRS) for the school, benefiting all pupils.
- Providing refreshments at a variety of school events.
- Hosting two jumble sales and three raffles to help raise much-needed funds.
- After school cake sales and ice cream sales.
- Completing the new patio and pathway project on the field, which is already being enjoyed daily by children at lunchtime. This improvement will also help reduce muddy shoes and classrooms during the winter months.

Our Main Fundraising Events

This year, FOWS successfully organised:

- The Christmas Fair
- The Summer Fete
- Two Jumble Sales
- Three Raffles

These events not only raise funds but also help bring our wonderful school community together.

Thank You

Every item listed above has been made possible because of the time, effort and dedication of FOWS volunteers. Behind every cake stall, raffle, refreshment stand and fundraising event are parents and carers balancing jobs, family commitments and busy lives to help provide opportunities and experiences for all of our children.
The reality is that many of the extras our children enjoy would simply not be possible without the fundraising efforts of FOWS.

FOWS

Could You Help?

We are always looking for new volunteers to join FOWS.
Many people think they need to commit to organising a whole event, but that is simply not the case. Every little bit of help makes a difference.

Whether it's:

- Helping for an hour at an event,
- Selling raffle tickets,
- Setting up or tidying away,
- Donating a cake,
- Or simply lending a hand when you can,

it all helps to share the workload and makes our events easier and more enjoyable to run.
Even small contributions, such as baking a cake for a fundraiser, can free up valuable time for another volunteer who may already be juggling multiple responsibilities.

As many of our current FOWS members now have children in Key Stage 2, we are keen to welcome new parents and carers to begin their own FOWS journey and help ensure the group continues to thrive for years to come.

If you would like to get involved, we'd love to hear from you. Together, we can continue to provide those extra opportunities, experiences and treats that make such a difference to our children's school lives.

Thank you for supporting Friends of Whatfield School. 💙💛

GREAT BRITISH SUMMER SAVINGS

Helping families enjoy more for less this summer!

Rising prices can make life's little treats harder to afford, especially during the school holidays when costs build up for families. This Government is determined to help, and that is why last month the Chancellor announced the **Great British Summer Savings** scheme.

FROM 25 JUNE TO 1 SEPTEMBER 2026

the Government is temporarily cutting VAT from 20% to 5% on:



children's meals in restaurants



children and family tickets to cinemas,



theatres, concerts and exhibitions



admission to a wide range of attractions

EXTRA GOOD NEWS!



Combined **FREE BUS TRAVEL** during August for children aged **5 to 15** in England.

Families and young people will be able to enjoy experiences that make **summer special**, including visits to the kinds of cultural and educational attractions that **enrich children's lives** outside the classroom.



Let's make this a summer to remember – for less!

Flatford Nature Day

Tuesday 11th August 2026

Tuesday 25th August 2026

Join in at Flatford for our summer Nature Days!

Lots of free, nature-theme and crafts including:

- Bug hunting
- Garden trails
- Tree detectives
- Fun quizzes and nature cra
- Boat trips on the River Stour



[redacted] Drop in activities 11am – 4pm

Enjoy the outdoors around Flatford on either of our Nature Days.

There will be something for all the family!



River Stour Trust boat trips are free for children under 14 when accompanied by £8.00 fare paying adult.

There is a charge of £6.00 for use of the National Trust car park for non-members.

Call Field Studies Council Flatford Mill on 01206 297110 for more details.

[redacted]

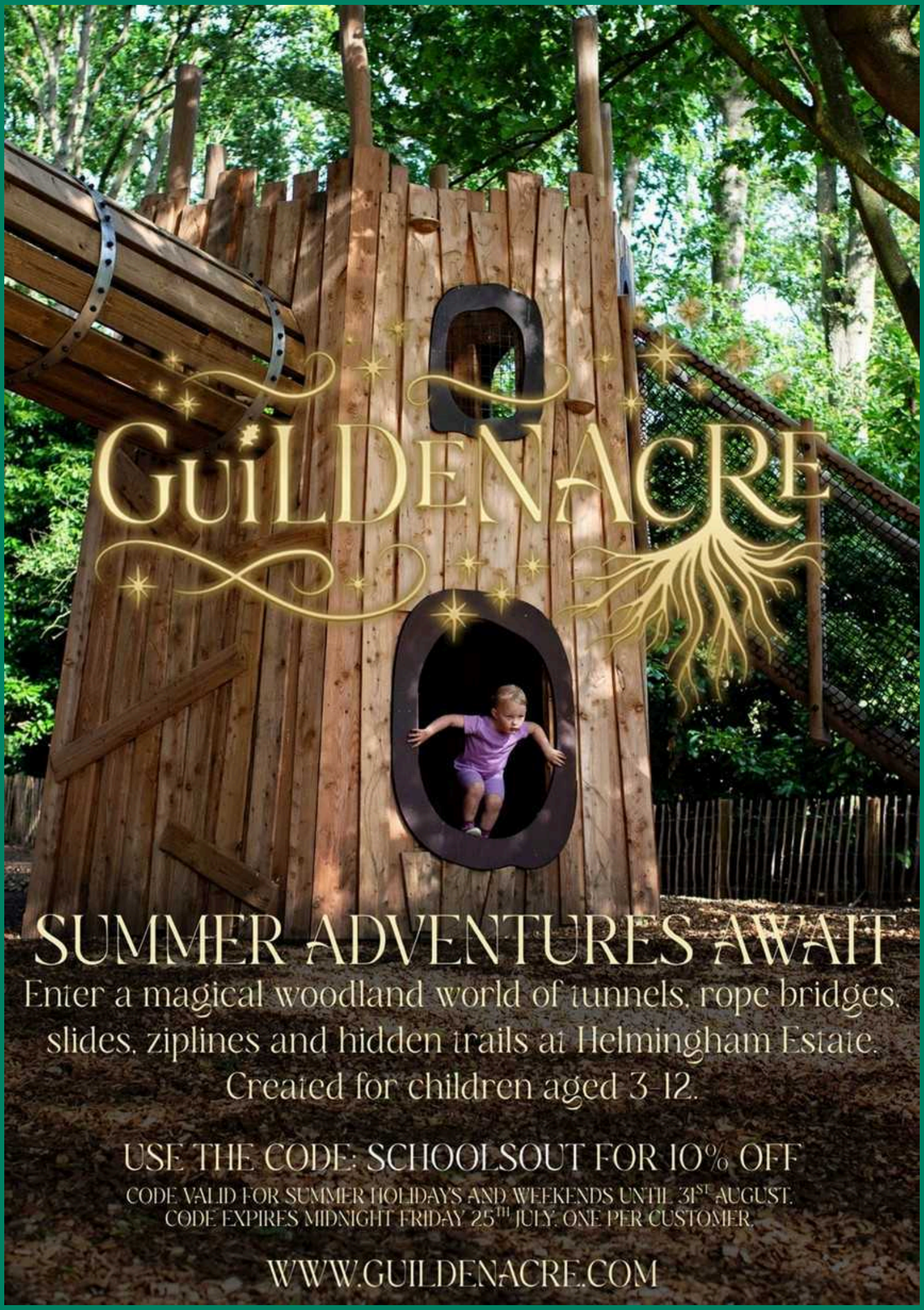
River Stour Trust

Dedham Vale National Landscape

RSPB

National Trust

Dedham Vale National Landscape – Dark Skies Campaign


GUILDENACRE
SUMMER ADVENTURES AWAIT
Enter a magical woodland world of tunnels, rope bridges, slides, ziplines and hidden trails at Helmingham Estate. Created for children aged 3-12.
USE THE CODE: SCHOOLSOUT FOR 10% OFF
CODE VALID FOR SUMMER HOLIDAYS AND WEEKENDS UNTIL 31ST AUGUST.
CODE EXPIRES MIDNIGHT FRIDAY 25TH JULY. ONE PER CUSTOMER.
WWW.GUILDENACRE.COM

DISCOVER THE GUARDIANS OF GUILDENACRE

FLINT | EIRA | ATLAS | VEX









Guildenacre is a magical woodland adventure play experience inspired by the Guardians of Guildenacre. Explore four themed play areas filled with climbing challenges, tunnels, rope bridges, slides, ziplines and woodland trails, with plenty for young adventurers to discover along the way.

Designed for children aged 3-12, with free entry for children aged two and under.
Choose your entry timeslot and begin your adventure.









Guildenacre is open at weekends and during school holidays, with free parking and food and refreshments available both inside and outside of the play. Advance booking is recommended.
Find us at Wades Barn, Helmingham, Stowmarket, Suffolk, IP14 6EF, and book online at guildenacre.co.uk.

Attendance Letters



At the end of each term, all parents will receive a general attendance letter showing their child's attendance statistics. **Our school's expected attendance is 96% or above**, as regular attendance is essential for your child's learning and progress.

If your child's attendance falls below this level and needs improvement, we will send a separate letter to offer support and work together to help them get back on track.

If you have any concerns or need advice about attendance, please don't hesitate to contact the school office—we're here to help.

Thank you for your continued efforts in making sure your child attends school every day—it really makes a big difference!

Example reports that you will see when you receive your letters:

So far this school year, has attended 100.0% of sessions (a session is a half day). Therefore has missed 0 days of school.
has been late to school on 0 occasion(s).

Here are some additional attendance statistics for authority and national values. They cover the curren

Attendance percentage

2025-2026 (Y5)	100.0%
This time last year	100.0%
School	95.6%
National	95.4%
Local Authority	95.5%

So far this school year, has attended 73.0% of sessions (a session is a half day). Therefore has missed 13.5 days of school.
has been late to school on 2 occasion(s).

99%	Excellent attendance
96%	Good attendance
91%	Room for improvement
90% or lower	Cause for concern

Here are some additional attendance statistics for and some comparisons with the school, local authority and national values. They cover the current academic year so far (03/09/2025 to 24/11/2025).

Attendance percentage

2025-2026 (Y6)	73.0%
School	95.6%
National	95.4%
Local Authority	95.5%

Days missed

2025-2026 (Y6)	13.5
School	2.3
National	1.8
Local Authority	1.8

Absences

- 13 school days since last absence
- 26 authorised absences
- 1 unauthorised absence
- 13.5 days missed
- 1 session late before register closed
- 3 periods of absence due to illness
- 4 broken weeks

Even a seemingly high percentage of attendance can result in missing a great deal of learning over time.

Attendance %	Impact over 1 school year	Impact over 5 school years
100%	0 days missed	0 days missed
96%	8 days missed	¼ year learning lost
90%	19 days missed	½ year learning lost
85%	28 days missed	¾ year learning lost
80%	38 days missed	1 year learning lost
75%	47 days missed	1 ¼ years learning lost



Portfolios

Why not make the most of your child's Do jo account?

You can use your child's account to send us photographs of achievements or events that have taken place out of school so they can be shared with their class teachers and school friends.

We wanted to remind you about our main communication tool and some important guidelines to ensure effective and appropriate communication.

Our primary platform for basic communication is Class Dojo. This tool is in place for routine updates, announcements, and general enquiries. We encourage you to use this platform for day-to-day communication.

For any communication that involves sensitive information, personal matters, or detailed discussions, please use our school email to reach us directly. admin@whatfield.suffolk.sch.uk This ensures privacy and allows us to address your concerns more effectively.

We appreciate your understanding and cooperation in using the appropriate channels for different types of communication. If you have any questions or need further clarification, please feel free to contact us.