



MAGDALEN GATES PRIMARY



Bulletin: 8th November 2021

Message from Mr Hutchinson

Dear Parents and Carers,

The pandemic is not over. Please see the BBC website for the latest situation both nationally and in our local area. (<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-51768274>) In school we have been notified that two members of staff have received positive tests (one from a PCR and one from an LFD - who is awaiting an PCR result) so we are taking some extra measures to do our best to mitigate the potential spread of the virus in school. All staff have been asked to do the following:

- Take daily LFD tests (for the next 7 days).
- Maximise the ventilation in the rooms that you are in.
- Wash/sanitise your hands on a regular basis.
- Increase the social distance between yourself and other members of staff.
- Staff meetings will be online where appropriate and in well ventilated rooms if in person. - Contact time between staff should be reduced as much as possible.
- Events with parents will be held online or outdoors.

All these recommendations are in line with current guidance from the Local Authority and are a step before anything that might be recommended by the Norfolk Outbreak Management Centre (NOMC) - which might include the return of masks and bubbles! If we reach the point that I should contact the NOMC and they make such recommendations, then I will write to parents at the time.

The part that parents can play at this point is to:

- Follow the one-way system at the beginning and the end of the day.
- Encourage their children to wash/sanitise their hands regularly.
- Maintain a bit of distance between themselves and others in social situations and when on the school site.

Everyone needs to do their bit to help to keep everyone safe.
Thank you for your support in this matter.

Chris Hutchinson
Headteacher

Attendance

Week beginning 18th October

Late arrivals - 43

Whole school attendance - 95.4%

Week beginning 1st November

Late arrivals - 33

Whole school attendance – 94.58%

Punctuality – Information for all parents/carers.

Please ensure all children arrive in school between 8.30 am and 8.45 am. Any child arriving after 8.45 am will be marked as late in their class register.

Lateness is recorded by school, and monitored, so it is really important that children are in on time and ready to learn.

Children with permission to walk home alone

Can we ask parents/carers to encourage children who are allowed to walk home by themselves to head straight home after school, not talk to strangers and be safe crossing roads. It is getting darker earlier now so this is really important.

Cold Weather

As the clocks have now turned back and the weather is much colder, please can all children ensure they bring a warm coat and their **school jumpers** in to school each day.

All schools have to consider the best way to ensure good ventilation in classrooms especially whilst Covid is very much in the community. Many schools including ours, are likely to have more windows open than usual to ensure, along with other measures, that all pupils and staff stay as safe as possible.

Free School Meals

If your circumstances have changed and you think you may be eligible for Free School meals, we would encourage families to register as soon as possible for free school meals.

<https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/education-and-learning/schools/school-meals-and-milk>

Spooky Day and Disco



Wow, didn't all the children and staff look fabulous for our Spooky Dayand who was the skeleton on the school gate on the last day of term???

We all had a wonderful Spooky day and this year the children really were outstanding in their many different spooky costumes. We were amazed with some of the face painting this year – we had to double check to see who it was underneath the paint!

Message from the Parent Teacher Association

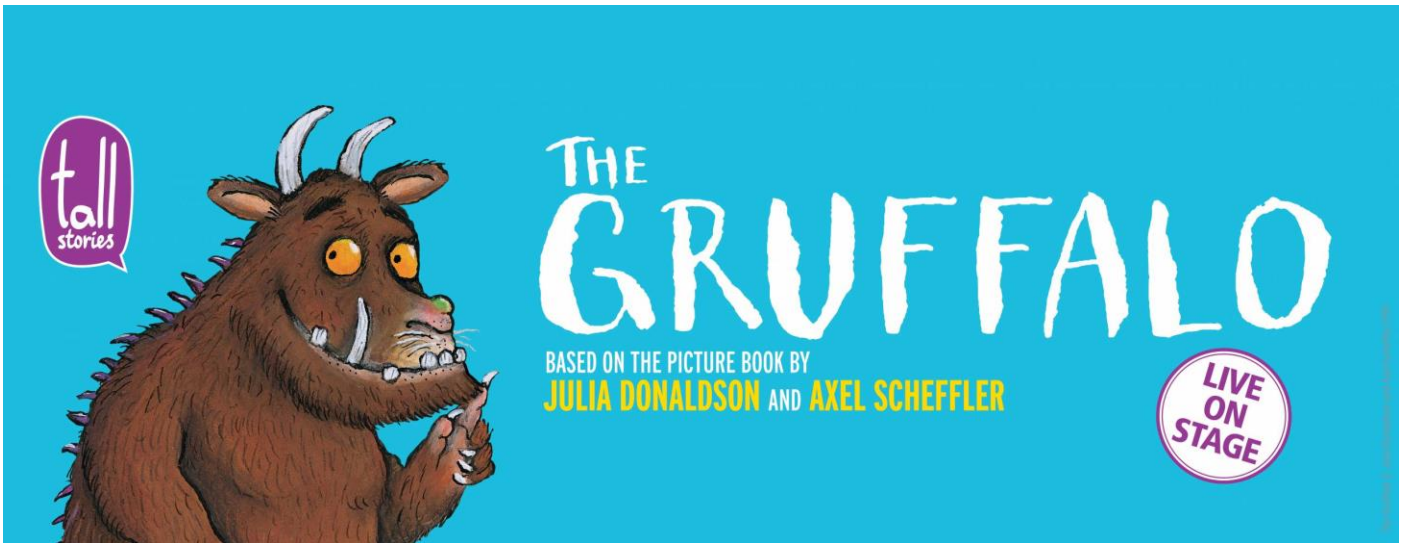
A big thank you to all the children who dressed up and donated their £1 for our spooky day.

Thank you also to all those who came to the spooky disco. We hope all the children had a lot of fun. We raised lots of money at the disco which is absolutely FANTASTIC. In total with the donations from the spooky day dressing up donations and the disco, we raised a massive £586. As both a member of staff and the PTA it's great that we were able to put on such an event and raise a decent amount of money. We are currently looking at what events we could do next but that will have a lot to do with covid guidelines etc., but watch this space!

As many of you will know it was a very different disco to those that we have done in previous years with no parents attending. Although it was something none of us had done before all in all the evening was a great success. This was partly down to an easy drop off and pick up operation which, with the help of parents, went extremely well. A big thank you also needs to be said to the members of the school staff who were involved on the night and gave us a hand. They were especially helpful with the EYFS/KS1 disco, guiding the children, on what would have been for some, a whole new experience. We do hope the children enjoyed themselves.

With the Parent Teacher Association (PTA) starting from scratch, it was great to have some fresh faces helping. So thank you to YOU if you were one of them. If you feel that you could spare an hour of your time once a month to come to a meeting for a chat and a coffee, or help out at any of our events then **please do get in touch** either by letting the office know or by emailing PTA@magdalengates.co.uk. We would especially like to try and get a **Year 2, Year 5 and a Year 6 parent on board**. Without parents there can be no PTA or events that we run to help raise money for the school. - Mr Paul Wilson.

REMINDER FOR ALL EYFS/KS1 PARENTS – The Gruffalo Playhouse Trip



Please could all our EYFS/KS1 parents remember to check into their emails for the permission form that was sent out late last week. The form requires permission for your child to visit and see the Gruffalo at Norwich Playhouse on Friday 26th November. Payment of £10.41 can be paid via Eduspot. I am really hoping for a good response with payment from as many parents as possible so that the trip can go ahead as unfortunately if we only have a small number of payments the trip will be unable to go ahead.

All the children in EYFS and KS1 will be having their lunch a little earlier that Friday to enable plenty of time for walking to the Playhouse. We will be returning back to school before 3pm. It really is a fantastic show and we are all looking forward to it. Thank you - Mrs Callaghan.

School Photos



The school photographer will be visiting us on Thursday 18th November. These will be individual photos and not whole class. However, any siblings **IN SCHOOL**, will have an opportunity for a joint photo.

Unfortunately, due to Covid restrictions this year we are unable to have photographs taken with preschool or younger siblings who are not in school.

Silver Road Community Centre

We have been asked to share some information with our parents on “Lonely Not Alone” – this is from Julie Brociek-Coulton our local councillor (and also one of our School Governors) We have attached to this newsletter information explaining what “Lonely Not Alone” is all about, along with a QR code which parents can scan on to mobiles to access a website full of helpful information and resources.

Children In Need-

Don't forget Children In Need day is on Fri 19th Nov. See poster attached for more details about what to wear and how to make a donation.

<http://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Magdalen-Gates-Primary-School1>

Informing School of contact details

We cannot stress the importance of parent's informing school of new contact numbers and change of addresses. Please inform the office straight away of any changes.

DIARY DATES

- Monday 15th
- Wednesday 17th
- Wednesday 17th
- Thursday 18th
- Friday 19th

Anti Bullying Week

Yr4 Food Discovery

Yr2 Edith Cavell session at school 11-12 (TBC)

School Photos – individual and siblings in school

Children in Need –Wear your spotty pyjamas and bring a £1 donation please

Attachments

Lonely Not Alone

BBC Children in Need flyer

Norfolk & Suffolk Mental Health Advice and Support for 0-25's.

Books for School – WE ARE COLLECTING!