



PARENTS NEWSLETTER JANUARY 2018

Happy New Year. Thank you for the cards and good wishes sent into school. I hope you have all had a lovely holiday.

Panto on Tuesday!

On Tuesday we are having the last Christmas treat: a professional touring pantomime theatre group (4 performers) coming to school on Tuesday morning. The performance will take place in our neighbouring mainstream school hall, Linton Village College, so that any pupil who finds it too challenging can return to school without upset. I am hugely grateful to the Friends of Granta for providing the funds to enable this to take place and to LVC for lending their larger hall.

All pupils will be given the opportunity to attend unless you say via their diary you do not want them to take part.

We may invite pupils off buses a little early to ensure we are ready in time and the performance will be over by 10.30am. After returning to Granta the performers will visit classes in costume (accompanied by staff) to answer questions about the story, their characters, and stage craft. This is a rare opportunity to bring live performance to our pupils and fits in with our creative curriculum focus this year.

Charity day

As part of their life and living skills course work, senior pupils have arranged a charity day for **Friday 26 January**. If your child would like to attend school on that day in either PJ's (over other clothing for warmth) or non uniform colourful clothing, they are invited to do so. Senior pupils request a donation of £1 which will be sent to their chosen charity, an orphanage in China.

Phone calls to teachers

As a school we warmly welcome all parent contact: via diaries, email and via phone calls. On some occasions parental phone calls come in whilst teachers are in class with pupils and on those occasions please leave a message with the office staff. They will ask teachers to call back immediately if there is an emergency or, more usually, at the end of the school day. This is so that we can keep disruptions to lessons at a minimum. Thank you in advance for your understanding.

Medicines update

All schools have received a request from Cambridgeshire Health Authority to agree to administer over the counter medications (paracetamol/ibuprofen etc) even when not prescribed by a GP. This is a change to previous advice and one that we will action. Please be patient whilst we update policies. In the meantime, if there is a health condition that requires over the counter medication that you would like your child to have access to at school, please let your child's class teacher know and we will provide a permission form to you. Thank you

Free school meals consultation

The local authority have sent me the following message:

We are writing to advise you that we have just received notification that the Department for Education are carrying out a consultation on proposed changes to the Free School Meal / Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP) criteria for families who will be in receipt of Universal Credit. The consultation is open now and [closes on 11 January 2018](#).

Please find a link to the consultation <https://consult.education.gov.uk/healthy-pupil-unit/fsm/> and survey <https://consult.education.gov.uk/healthy-pupil-unit/fsm/consultation/intro/>

We appreciate that the timing of this is less than ideal, but would be very grateful for your help in ensuring that the parents/carers of pupils at your school are made aware of this, so they can respond individually.

Wishing you all a very good 2018 ahead

Best wishes
Lucie