

January Newsletter

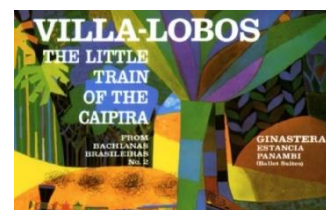
We hope you all had a good Christmas break and wish you a happy and healthy New Year. Thank you from all of us for your good wishes, cards and presents, which are very much appreciated.

We are looking forward to the Spring term very much (even though it doesn't feel very Spring-like at the moment!)

Our value this term is *Teamwork* and we have already begun to hear some stories in which characters work together (or don't) in assembly. We will also be weaving work on Teamwork through our Inquiry lessons this term. Year 1 and 2 parents, look out for our curriculum newsletters which will be sent out soon for more information about what the children will be learning about this term as well as ideas for how to support your child at home. Reception parents, look out for your weekly email as usual.

ASSEMBLY MUSIC

Each half term, the children listen to some different music in assembly. This half term, we are listening to some Brazilian-inspired music by Heitor Villa-Lobos. He was a real trail-blazer, bringing the instruments and rhythms of Brazil into classical music during the 1930s. The piece of music we are listening to is called *The Little Train of the Caipira* and is about a train journey carrying the people of the countryside. You can watch an orchestra performing the piece here <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MhGTQfyVj5w> and there's also a lovely animation of a train journey set to the piece of music here <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QIWSz81gkFA> You might enjoy watching these together.



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NSPCC NUMBER DAY – 6th FEBRUARY

On **Friday 6th February** we will be celebrating NSPCC Number Day. If children would like to wear something to do with numbers (e.g. a t-shirt decorated with numbers, a number hat or clothes they own with numbers on them) then they can. If they choose to do this, please bring a donation of £1 which will go to the NSPCC. On this day children will be taking part in lots of different activities to promote numbers and maths in their classes and year groups. We will send more information about this soon.



NSPCC

Number Day 2026

IT'S MATHS, BUT NOT AS YOU KNOW IT.

Friday 6 February

Have fun and Dress up for Digits

Tag us online:
#NumberDay

EVERY CHILDHOOD IS WORTH FIGHTING FOR

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EMERGENCY CLOSURE SYSTEM

We had a wonderful time in the snow on Tuesday. Thank you for sending your children in so well equipped to enjoy the weather! Hopefully that will be it snow-wise for the time being, but I wanted to remind you of the procedure should we have to close for safety reasons.

If the school has to close due to bad weather, we will do our best to send you all a text message as soon as possible. We are aware we need to make an early decision due to working parents needing to make arrangements as well as the early start of Cheeky Monkeys. We will announce any closure on our Facebook page and it will also always be announced on the local radio and on the school closures website: (www.schoolclosures.norfolk.gov.uk)



SAFEGUARDING AND CHILD PROTECTION

Because of our day-to day contact with the children we are particularly well placed to observe outward signs of abuse, changes in behaviour or failure to develop. We have a duty to protect children from abuse; however, our role is in recognition and referral, not investigation or intervention. We are required by law to follow procedures laid down by the Norfolk Safeguarding Children Partnership if we see signs which suggest that one of our pupils may have been the victim of abuse. Use of the procedures in this way is an obligation placed on the school by legislation and in no way infers that any parent/ carer is being accused of wrongdoing.

Lodge Lane is registered with Operation Encompass. This means that Norfolk Police will contact the school concerning any domestic incidents, which involve the families of our children the day after the incident occurred.



CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY

Thank you for your kind donations on Christmas Jumper Day. We raised an amazing £90.60 for Save the Children.

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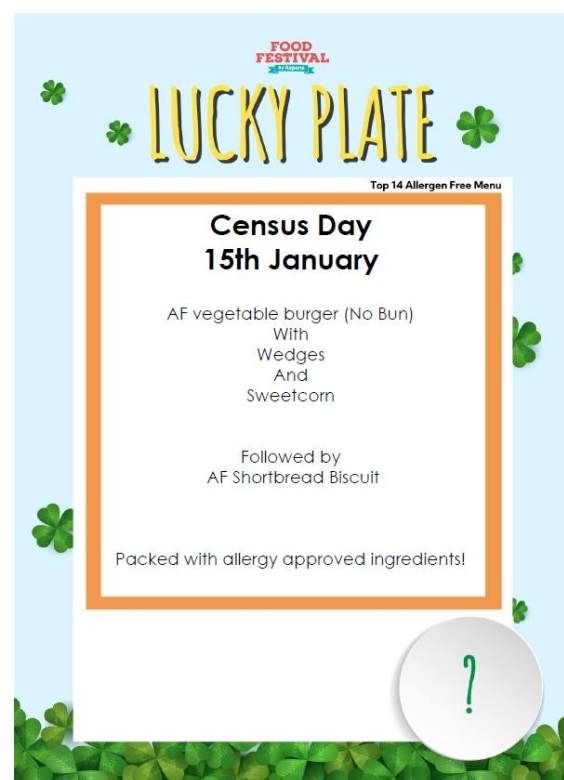
CENSUS DAY MENU SWAP



There will be a school census on Thursday 15th January 2026.

On School Census Day, we ask you to consider choosing a school-provided lunch for your child. This is because the census records how many children are taking a school meal, and this information is used by the government to help determine school funding for future years. The more pupils recorded as having a school lunch on census day, the more accurately our school's funding reflects the needs of our children. Even if your child usually brings a packed lunch, choosing a school meal on this day can make a real difference in supporting resources, staffing and opportunities for all pupils.

The menu will be:



The jacket potato, school packed lunch and pasta twirler options will remain the same.

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PHARMACY FIRST

We have been asked to share this useful information with you:



NHS Pharmacy First Service

Did you know that the NHS Pharmacy First Service enables children and adults to get convenient access to healthcare advice and treatment where appropriate, for seven common conditions without the potential delay of having to wait for a GP appointment? Accessing the service may mean that children can feel better and get back to school as quickly as possible, as well as supporting parents/carers to also get better if they are unwell with one of the conditions covered under the service.

There is no need to make an appointment; parents or carers can pop into their local Boots pharmacy with their child and ask for help under the service.

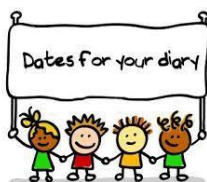
Support for the following conditions can be accessed under the service, free of charge (**unless NHS prescription charges apply**):

<u>Common condition</u>	<u>Patient eligibility</u>
<u>Earache</u>	<u>1 to 17 years</u>
<u>Impetigo</u>	<u>1 year and over</u>
<u>Infected insect bites and stings</u>	<u>1 year and over</u>
<u>Sore throats</u>	<u>5 years and over</u>
<u>Sinusitis</u>	<u>12 years and over</u>
<u>Uncomplicated urinary tract</u>	<u>Women 16 to 64 years</u>
<u>Shingles</u>	<u>18 years and over</u>

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JANUARY		
15 th	Census lunch (see above)	Order on day as usual
FEBRUARY		
6 th	NSPCC Number Day – wear something to do with numbers for £1	
11 th	Year 2 ‘Spring Awakening’ at Norwich Cathedral (details sent out separately)	
13 th	School closes for half-term	
23 rd	School re-opens	
24 th	Parent open afternoon	2.20-2.50pm
25 th	Parent open afternoon	2.20-2.50pm
26 th	Parent open afternoon	2.20-2.50pm
MARCH		
5 th	World Book Day	
Week commencing 9 th	Parent/Teacher meetings	Details to follow
20 th	Comic Relief	
27 th	School Closes for Easter holiday	
APRIL		
14 th	School re-opens	

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Instagram Teen Accounts - update

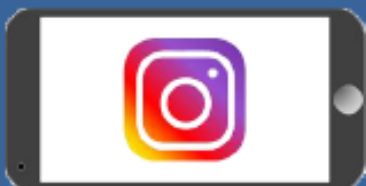
You must be over 13 years of age to set up an account. Instagram is used to post photos and videos as well as send direct messages, make voice/video calls, and send disappearing messages.

Teen accounts are automatically set up for users aged 13 – 17. Instagram have announced that teens will now see content similar to content that they would see in a PG-13 movie.

Instagram have also updated their policies around content to include "hiding or not recommending posts with strong language, certain risky stunts, and additional content that could encourage potentially harmful behaviors"

Finally, for parents who would like to apply more stringent settings, Instagram are also introducing a new, stricter setting called 'Limited Content.' This setting will mean your child is not able to see, leave, or receive comments under posts as well.

You can read about the updates here: <https://about.instagram.com/blog/announcements/instagram-teen-content-safety-pg-13>



Playing games online

Does your child play games online? We have outlined some risks that you should consider:



Chatting to strangers / risk of inappropriate language

Some games will allow communication via text chat, direct messages or chatting. Some games do offer the ability to switch communication off and/or the option to restrict bad language, so make sure settings appropriate to your child are applied. If your child is playing online with strangers, then you need to be aware that there is a risk of grooming. Some games do allow you to restrict communication to 'friends only,' however you would need to monitor that their online friends are real life friends. It can be difficult to moderate online chat so ensure your child knows how to block and report other players.

Cyberbullying

It can be very easy online for children to behave in a way that they would not if they were face to face. Talk to your child about how they speak to others online and encourage them to talk to people online with respect. Other forms of cyberbullying whilst playing games could be excluding others, criticising the ability of other players and ganging up on others.

In app purchases

Many games include the option to purchase additional items/ subscriptions so ensure you do not have payment cards saved or set up restrictions/ a password to approve purchases.

What can I do?

- **Set up parental controls** - as well as setting up appropriate parental controls through the game's settings, ensure you have set them up on the console/device your child is playing on.
- **Check age ratings** - before buying the game, check that your child is old enough to play it. All games will either have a PEGI rating or be rated by the App Store/Google Play.
- **Chat to your child regularly** about the risks above so that they are aware of what can happen online and remind them to always talk to you or a trusted adult if they have any concerns

Further information

CEOP provides further guidance and support regarding this topic: <https://www.ceopeducation.co.uk/parents/articles/gaming/>

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Snapchat

Snapchat is a popular social media app used for messaging and sharing photos and videos. You must be 13+ to sign up. Users can send messages (snaps) to others that are only seen for a set time, and users can also upload snaps to stories, which disappear after 24 hours.



Key Concerns

There are potential risks such as:

- the risk of your child viewing content that is not appropriate for their age.
- location sharing (via Snap Map).
- cyberbullying.
- contact from strangers.
- excessive screen time – children may have a fear of missing out (FOMO) as well as pressure to maintain “streaks”.
- “disappearing” messages can lead to more risky behaviour and a “false sense of security.” These messages could be screenshot or another device used to take a photo, so they’re not actually deleted as the sender believes. The image could then be shared.
- in app purchases.

Parental Controls / Safety settings

Snapchat's Family Centre is a set of parental controls and includes tools such as allowing you to:

- see who your child is friends with.
- see who your child has sent messages (not the contents of conversations though), photos or videos to in the last week.
- view a list of group members for groups that your child has been active in.
- restrict content to limit access.
- report any accounts that you are concerned about.

You can learn more about Family Centre here:

<https://parents.snapchat.com/parental-controls?lang=en-GB>

If your child is using Snapchat, then make sure the appropriate privacy settings are set up, including who can see their location and who can contact them. Also ensure your child knows how to block and report other users if necessary:

<https://help.snapchat.com/hc/en-gb/articles/7012343074580-How-do-I-change-my-privacy-settings-on-Snapchat>

More information

For more detailed advice and information:

- <https://parentzone.org.uk/article/snapchat>
- <https://parents.snapchat.com/safeguards-for-teens>

Family Smart Start

Family Smart Start is a free toolkit designed to help you and your child navigate the milestone of getting their first phone. The toolkit provides support on how to set up their new phone, how to talk to your child about digital safety and a template family agreement. Find out more here:

<https://familysmartstart.com/>

Cyber security

Cyber security is the process of protecting your information and data whilst online against scams and cyber-attacks. Cyber-attacks are the process of maliciously targeting individuals or organisations to disable networks or steal data for example.

The National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC) have an area on their website with guidance to help protect you and your family. The guidance includes how to manage your digital footprint online, information about anti-virus software as well as top tips for staying online such as:

- Using a strong password
- Setting up 2step verification

You can find the resources here:

<https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/section/advice-guidance/you-your-family>

The NCSC also provide advice on what you should do if you are the target of a scam or cyber-attack. Find out more here:

<https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/section/respond-recover/you>

Would you like to read this newsletter in a different language? You can use the translate tool on our web version:
<https://www.knowsleyclcs.org.uk/january-2026-primary/>

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Swimming Lessons
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- Following an established teaching path
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- All Teachers DBS checked
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