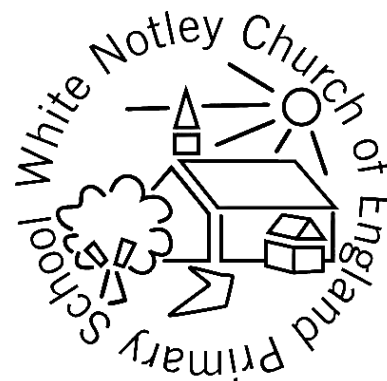


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Dear Parents,

September 26th 2022

What an exciting week Class 1 and 4 have had! Class 1 went to the Heath's Farm to see how grain is grown and harvested. They got to sit in the tractor, which was very exciting! Class 4 spent 3 days at Danbury Outdoor Centre and had a wonderful time completing a range of activities: kayaking, canoeing, vertical climbing challenge, low ropes, aerial trekking, bmx-ing, bush craft, problem solving, just to name a few! They developed friendships and their personal management skills and had a lot of fun.





24th September – 2nd October marks Xia-Gibbs Awareness Week.

Leopold is 4, he started reception just 3 weeks ago and he LOVES school. He is a very loving little boy and you will most likely see him excitedly coming and going from school. If you ask him, he will tell you he has a superpower called Xia-Gibbs Syndrome.

Xia Gibbs syndrome is a neurological disorder characterised by weak muscle tone (hypotonia), mild to severe intellectual disability and delayed development.

Xia-Gibbs Syndrome (pronounced Sha-Gibbs), commonly shorthand to XGS, was first recognised in 2014. Currently less than 400 people from more than 30 different countries world-wide have been diagnosed.

Where does it come from?

XGS is caused by a mutation of the AHDC1 gene. The mutation can be anything from a change, to shortening to complete deletion. It's a 'de novo' mutation. This means that the change usually comes from a 'typo' in early embryo development. There's no known cause, it's not inherited, it just is. Just 1 little (like a G to an A) in the 3 billion base pairs in the human DNA can change so much.

Imagine changing one letter in a word

Go = No

Dream = Dread

Slow = Flow

Stop = Shop

You get the idea, the word and its meaning completely changes. So, to understand how the letter change will affect the individual, we need to look at what 'word' the AHDC1 gene normally codes. This is where it gets tricky... scientists are trying to find out what it 'does' but so far, little research has been completed on the gene.

For research to happen we need 2 things. 1 is awareness and the other is funding. Both of these can be achieved by having a look on the XGS Society website. Whether you wish to donate £1 or £100 or just read some more about this rare condition, you are helping the cause.

Thank you

<http://www.xia-gibbs.org>



Harvest Festival

As part of our Harvest Festival, we make donations to the Witham and Braintree foodbank. We would like donations to be sent to school by Friday 14th October. Please see the list for the most required items. The foodbank cannot take any goods with damaged packaging or with an expiry date less than 6 months.



Birthdays

It is always lovely to celebrate children's birthdays with them at school but we have had an increasing number of parents asking if they can bring in birthday cakes in to school to share with the class. Whilst we welcome sweets that we can send home, we are unable to distribute cake due to health and safety legislation.

After School Club

After school club has a new phone number. If you need to get in touch with them regarding anything (e.g. pick up) please phone 07716 362 842. If your child uses after school club, please store this number in to your phone.

Applications for Secondary School Places - September 2023

The new secondary school admission round is open for parents of current Year 6 children to apply for a secondary school (Year 7) place for September 2023.

The statutory national closing date for applications is 31st October 2022. Applications can be made online via www.essex.gov.uk/admissions. 99% of parents in Essex applied online last year.

All of the application information is available on the website above.

The website also has a copy of the Secondary Education in Essex 2023-24 booklet which contains details of all secondary school admission policies.

<https://www.essex.gov.uk/admissions-booklets-policies-and-forms/admission-booklets>

Congratulations to the children who received certificates in celebration assembly this week



Class One:

- William - for great responsibility and enthusiasm in looking after the environment by collecting rubbish from the fields and paths
- Loula-Belle - for showing a caring attitude towards her classmates

Class Two:

- Jessica - for great responsibility and enthusiasm in looking after the environment by collecting rubbish from the fields and paths

- Spencer - for an excellent attitude to learning and thoughtful contributions in class discussions
- Jack - for excellent attitude to learning and effort in class

Class Three:

- Matilda - for a super effort in improving your writing - wonderful emotive vocabulary
- Oscar F - for being a helpful and reliable member of Class 3



All these children completed the Summer Reading Challenge!



Diary dates for next week:

- Monday 26th September: CYO assembly 10:20am
- Tuesday 27th September:
- Wednesday 28th September: LSAs First Aid Training
7pm Full Governors Meeting
- Thursday 29th September: Class 2 local history trip to Cressing Temple Barns
- Friday 30th September: Danbury assembly 9am for Class 4. Parents invited

I hope you all have a super week.

R. Fitzpatrick

Patsy Fitzpatrick

