



AS/ks

September 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

I would like to welcome all new students to Farlingaye and welcome back all other students to school. I do hope that you have all had a good summer.

On **Friday, 22nd October 2021**, we will be holding our eleventh School Sponsored Walk, which we hold every other year. This will involve the whole school following an eight mile route based around Woodbridge. Each time we have had great fun and have raised money which has helped enormously to fund important extras for the school, such as external works to improve the environment for the students—for example, an all-weather picnic area for the Year 7s to use and a memorial bench for two previous students. We have also donated money every year to various charities, which are chosen by the students.

The current financial climate for schools is very difficult and the money the Sponsored Walk brings in will be hugely helpful this year to help the school fund improvements to support the implementation and development of our extra-curricular programme. We know how much students benefit from being involved in extra-curricular activities. We therefore believe that it is vital that we continue to offer these activities, even in times where budget cuts have made it difficult to sustain them. Funds from the Sponsored Walk will allow this to happen. We will also again make a donation to external charities, to be chosen by the students.

As always, we intend to make it a good day out and lots of fun. We are encouraging students to wear fancy dress, but it needs to be fancy dress that is suitable for walking in! Students will need sensible shoes (trainers or walking boots) and waterproof clothing for wet weather. The walk will take place unless it is very wet, (in which case a reserve date will be fixed) and so students need to be well equipped for poor weather. There will be special spot prizes for the best fancy dress and prizes for the five individuals who raise the most money.

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We are well aware that this all needs a great deal of planning and supervision. We are liaising with Woodbridge Police and all staff will be marshalling the route or walking. Students will also be checked as they leave, at lunch-time and as they return. There will be first aid and water stations along the route. There will be refreshments available at lunchtime to purchase, although students should also bring a packed lunch with them. We would like every student to participate, apart from those in Year 13 who are taking part in a work shadowing programme that week. (For our disabled students, and any students with medical needs, we will be taking a carefully chosen route for them, and a few of their friends and staff). I hope that every student will be willing to participate and raise money for the school. Everyone who participates will be asked to collect some sponsor money, even if it's only £1. A separate sponsorship template is also attached to this email for manually collating sponsorship if you wish to use it– this **isn't necessary for the school** but your child may wish to keep their own record of sponsors.

To make paying money in after the walk easier, **all sponsor money should be paid through your Parentpay account** and this is then collected safely by the school. Please follow the link on your Parentpay Account labelled '**Sponsored Walk 2021**'.

In order for your child to participate in the school sponsored walk, we require parent/carer consent. This can be given via your Parentpay account. Please be aware that by giving consent on Parentpay you:

- Give permission for your child to take part in the school sponsored walk on 22/10/21
- Understand that your child is expected to collect sponsorship for this event.
- Acknowledge that the staff will be liable in the event of any accident only if they have failed to take reasonable care of your child during the visit and consent to your child receiving medical treatment which, in the opinion of a qualified medical practitioner, may be necessary.
- Confirm that the medical/contact information held by the school for your child is up to date and will inform the school if you think your child has a medical condition which may affect their participation in the walk

Those students who are unable to support us will be provided with work in school and will need to attend for a normal school day in full school uniform.

I would also be grateful if you can do all you can to help them collect as much sponsorship as possible.

Yours sincerely,

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'AS'.

Dr Andy Sievewright
Headteacher