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Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2024

**Sutton Road Primary  
School and Nursery**

Mansfield  
Nottinghamshire  
NG18 5SF

Dear Parents/Carers,

As you are aware we are planning an exchange visit with a school in Finland who we have had established links with for several years. Following to the meeting held before half term and for those who could not make the meeting but would like more details, attached is further information about this amazing opportunity for our current year 5 children who will be in year 6 at the time of the exchange visits.

A reminder that the party from Finland will be visiting us first in September 2024. We will then return with a party of our children in February 2025. You are encouraged to take part in both parts of the exchange but do have the option of hosting some of the Finnish visitors only if you prefer.

**Guests from Finland staying in England.**  
**Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> September – Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> September 2024**

The party of 28 from Finland will consist of 20 children, 7 parents and Patrik Karlsson the Head Teacher. The children will stay with the host family in pairs. Emergency contact details of families and staff will be provided to you. The children and adults in the party all speak very good English. The visitors do not need to have their own room are more than happy to share a room.

As hosts your child will be able to take part in all the activities that are planned for the 3 days and your whole family have the option of taking part in many of the activities which will be completely free of charge. You are not expected to take part in all the activities as we appreciate time off work and other commitments may not allow this. There will be plenty of staff to support the activities so your child(ren) will be able to take part, even if you cannot make it.

The activities will include:

**DAY ONE – Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> September**

- PM Finnish visitors arrive from Heathrow in the afternoon and met at school by host families to go to your home and settle in.  
6.00pm Finnish visitors and UK families meet at the Mansfield Superbowl to play bowling (meals will be provided for everyone)  
8.30pm Visitors taken home for a good night's sleep.



**DAY TWO – Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> September**

- 8.00am Meet at School of the host family; Holgate Primary or Sutton Road Primary for tour and activities  
Coach pick up from Holgate Primary, then Sutton Road and on to Chatsworth  
12pm Arrive at Chatsworth to visit the house, gardens, farmyard, and adventure playground.  
Packed lunches will be provided by the school.  
PM Leave Chatsworth and travel back to both schools.  
Evening Disco and buffet at school.



### DAY THREE – Friday 27<sup>th</sup> September

8.00am Meet at host family school  
9.00am Coach pick up from Sutton Road, then Holgate and onto Nottingham Castle  
10.30am Arrive at Nottingham to visit the Castle and Caves.  
Packed lunches will be provided by the school.  
PM Nottingham City Centre Shopping  
PM Coach from Nottingham to Holgate then Sutton Road  
Evening To be spent packing and time with host families.



### DAY FOUR – Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> September

8.30am Families to meet at Sutton Road to bid farewell to their visitors who will leave on the coach to pick up the rest from Holgate then on to London Hotel  
9.00am Families to meet at Holgate for coach to London

### Pre-Visit Arrangements

If you would like to take up this exciting opportunity to be a host, please indicate this on the ParentMail form.

To comply with safeguarding legislation, we will need to obtain an enhanced DBS certificate for anyone aged 16 or over in the household where the children will be staying and we will be able to process this for you.

It would be brilliant to build up links during the rest of this term and over Summer with those who will be staying with your family, so if you could provide a preferred telephone number and/or email address that you would be happy for the Finnish family to contact you on, please indicate this on the ParentMail form.

### **Return visit to Finland.** **Week commencing 10th February 2025 – 4 days, 3 nights.** **(Exact dates to be confirmed flight dependent)**

We are planning to go in February so we can experience the Finnish winter. Our children will be staying in pairs with pupils from the Finnish school (Vastersundoms Skola) and their families in Vantaa, on the outskirts of Helsinki, giving them the opportunity to experience family and school life in a different country. We will have a few parent places to accompany the visit too if you are interested in joining us. The host families in Finland all speak good English and are very welcoming. They will all have the equivalent of our DBS Safeguarding checks completed also. Previous pupils and families that have taken part have had fantastic experiences and built long-time friendships with Finnish pupils and their families.

Exact timings will be confirmed nearer the time but activities will likely include:

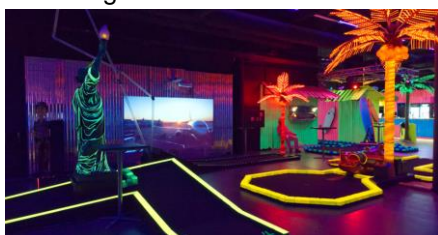
### DAY ONE

TBC Arrive at school with all luggage, passports, etc.  
Depart from school by coach.  
Arrive at Airport (to be confirmed once booked)  
Check in at (Terminal number to be confirmed)  
Flight departs from Airport (Terminal TBC)  
Arrive at Helsinki Airport (Terminal 2), met by families and taken home.



### DAY TWO

8.00am Meet at School; Vastersundoms Skola for tour and activities  
11.15am Lunch in school then bus to Heureka  
P.M. Heureka Science Centre visit  
Evening Flamingo Centre for West Coast mini golf



### DAY THREE

8.00am Meet at school for activities  
11.15am Lunch in school then bus to Fazer  
12.00pm Fazer Chocolate Factory visit  
2.00pm Afternoon to be spent with host families  
6.00pm Disco and pizza at school



### DAY FOUR

8.00am Helsinki sightseeing, shopping and lunch  
P.M. Train to the airport  
Check in to Helsinki Airport (Terminal 2)  
Flight departs Helsinki (Terminal 2) Flight number TBC  
Arrive at Airport TBC (Terminal TBC)  
Arrive at Holgate/ Sutton Road Primary School

We estimate the approximate cost of this visit will be around £350 per person which will include all flights, travel arrangements, excursions and there is no charge for the accommodation and meals as these are provided for us by the Finnish School and the Finnish host families. Payment for the trip will be made via ParentMail in instalments.

Please note that there is no pressure for your child to visit Finland even if you would like to have some involvement in offering to host a couple of our Finnish exchange pupils or an adult and just experience the one-way exchange.

We are expecting the trip to be popular so if you would like to request a place for your child on the Finland residential visit, please complete the online form **which will be available from 6pm Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> June**

A maximum of 20 places are available and allocations will be made on a first come first served basis. Please remember places on this trip will also be behaviour dependent. **Children who have been allocated places will be informed by the end of this week. If your child is allocated a place a deposit of £30 will need to be paid via ParentMail by Monday 10<sup>th</sup> June.**

**Please complete all parts of the ParentMail Form about both hosting our visitors from Finland and if you would like your child to take part in the return visit to Finland.** Also please indicate on the form if you would be interested in accompanying us on the visit to Finland.

Yours sincerely,

*Nicola Davies*

**Executive Headteacher**

