SUTTON ST JAMES C.P. SCHOOL

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Headteacher: Miss Claire Willows

23rd October 2026

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Orton Mere Evacuation Day – Tuesday 17th November

This year, the children in Year 4, 5 and 6 have been studying the historic events of World War Two. They have been learning about the effect that the war has had on children, women and men in Britain – many areas of our literacy learning, as well as our curriculum work, have been based on this topic.

In order for the children to gain valuable experience of what life was like during the war, a special evacuee visit has been arranged to Nene Valley Railway (Wansford Station) where the children will be transported to Orton Mere on **Tuesday 17th November.** Each child will be allocated the name of a real child who was evacuated from London to Orton Mere back in the 1940s and role-play this character throughout the day. They will be expected to act their part from the moment they transfer from the train at Wansford Station. They will carry around with them their evacuee name, their luggage label and their very own gas mask box (all created at school prior to the visit). I have also attached a recommended outfit page for each child to gather ideas about what they would like to wear on the day too. All of this is to enhance the learning experience for each child as much as possible. This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

We will be leaving school at **8:30am,** so children need to arrive in school slightly earlier than normal, approximately **8.15am** so we can leave at 8.30am promptly.

We will aim to arrive back at school at the slightly later time of **4:00pm**, traffic dependent.

This means that children **cannot** bring anything with them that an evacuee didn't have during this time (medical supplies i.e. Inhalers, will still be brought by staff).

On the day, children will be having a packed lunch but again, it will further support the experience if this closely mimicked that of an evacuee. To make this easier for parents, the children will be making their own sandwiches in school the day before the visit and additional food will be provided for their lunches such as fruit, cake/biscuit and a drink. The packed lunches will be stored in school overnight and given out on the day prior to leaving for Orton Mere. Please ensure that you do NOT order a hot school lunch for this day.

The total cost of the visit is **£20 per child**, which includes transportation, lunch and all activities and this has already been subsidised by £7.50. Please can you log onto your Parentpay account and pay by **Friday 13th November via ParentPay**.

If you have any questions or queries about this visit, please don't hesitate to come and see me in school. Thank you in anticipation of your support of this visit to help to enhance your child's learning.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Richardson

Mr Richardson
Class Teacher – Herons

Orton Mere Evacuation Day – Tuesday 17th November

I give permission for my child, _____, to attend

the visit to Orton Mere on Tuesday 17th November.

I have paid my £20 via ParentPay.

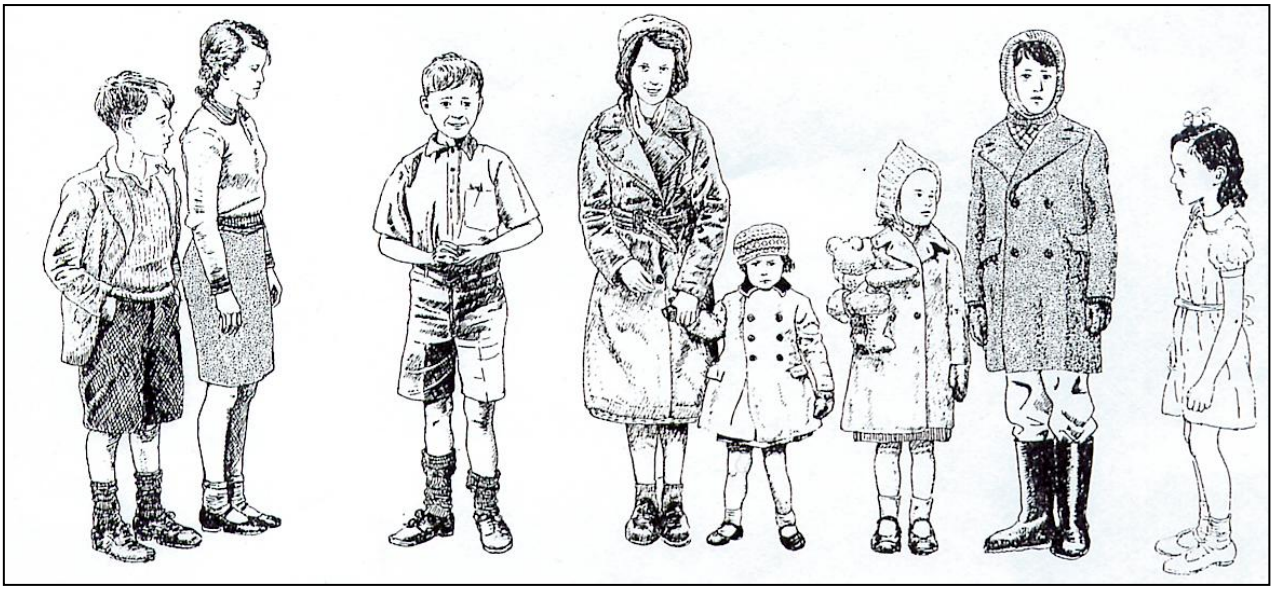
Signed …… Parent/Carer

Please provide an up-to-date emergency telephone number for the day of the visit: _____

Please complete and return this permission slip by **Friday 13th November.**

Evacuation Day – Costume Ideas

Children who are being evacuated to Orton Mere for a day should try to dress like children did in the 1940s. These drawings show what children looked like, and the notes below give some suggestions about what you might wear.



Clothes:

Everyone should wear: Shoes, boots or wellies (not trainers)

Woollen jumper or cardigan (not sweatshirt)

Shirt or blouse (not t-shirt)

Boys should wear a cap or woollen hat and they should have knee-length shorts or trousers tucked into knee length socks.

Girls should wear a beret, headscarf or woollen hat and a knee-length dress or skirt.

On **cold or wet days** everyone should have a **warm or waterproof coat**. This is important because the programme for the day includes a walk through the "wartime countryside". A modern coat will be fine if you don't have an "old style" one. For very cold days scarf, gloves and thick socks are useful too.

Other things to bring:

At school you will be making a **gas mask box** and a **luggage label** to bring with you.

From home you should choose **either**

- A small "old style" doll or cuddly toy such as a teddy bear

Or

- Make yourself a parcel which you can pretend contains your favourite toys that you have chosen to take with you when you are evacuated. The parcel should be quite small, e.g. shoe box or ice cream container size, and it should be wrapped in brown paper and tied with string.

These are the only things you will be allowed to take with you when you are evacuated!