

98% of pupils receive a place at one of their preferred secondary schools on National Offer Day

98% of children were offered a place on National Offer Day at one of their three preferred schools and 93% were offered a place at their first preference school.

Suffolk County Council received 8,083 applications from parents and carers indicating which secondary school they would prefer their child to transfer to in September 2023. This is approximately 300 more applications than received last year.

Families who applied online can log on to the Admissions Portal from today to see the school their child has been offered. They will also receive an email to confirm this offer. Letters will be sent to parents who made a paper application by second class post today (1 March 2023).

Fees waived for communities to celebrate His Majesty the King's Coronation

To mark the celebration of His Majesty The King's Coronation, Suffolk County Council has waived fees associated with applications to close roads for street parties and other local authority led public events.

Charles III's coronation will take place at Westminster Abbey in London on Saturday 6 May, where the King will be crowned alongside Camilla, the Queen Consort. This is the first coronation of a monarch in the UK since the late Queen's ceremony which was staged on June 2, 1953.

Events will be taking place across the country, between 6 and 8 May 2023. This bank holiday gives communities and people throughout the UK the opportunity to come together and celebrate with their neighbours. Many of Suffolk's residents will also be giving up their time as volunteers to bring people together as part of The Big Help Out. For all events planned over the weekend, which is being referred to as The Coronation Big Lunch, Suffolk County Council will not be charging fees normally associated with road closures for events.

Suffolk backs national campaign to tackle food waste

Suffolk Waste Partnership (SWP) is backing a national campaign highlighting the problem of food waste and encouraging people to take action.

Food Waste Action Week runs from March 6th– 12th and is run by the international action charity Waste & Resources Action Programme (WRAP).

This year's theme is 'Bin. Don't Win', which encourages everyone to make the most of their leftovers and to understand financial saving by doing so.

In Suffolk, there will be information events organised by the SWP at libraries in Ipswich, Felixstowe, Lowestoft, Haverhill and Stowmarket.

Visitors will be given Food Savvy leaflets, recipe cards and food-saving giveaways such as spaghetti measures and rice scoops to help get portion sizes right.

Children's expert brought in to strengthen council's focus on real-life experiences of children with special educational needs

An independent special advisor has been commissioned to further strengthen reform of special educational needs and disabilities services (SEND) at Suffolk County Council.

Well-respected senior leader in children's services, consultant Anthony Douglas CBE, will work with SEND system leaders and the SEND networks to support the reforms already underway. He will draw on his years of experience to focus on how services are impacting upon the everyday experience of children and young people with SEND.