



# Newsletter



20.12.19

## Recently at Greenfields...

I cannot tell you how quickly this year has whizzed by, and I'm finding it hard to fathom that less than a week away is Christmas Day. What a year it has been! To me; my first day feels like a lifetime ago, and at the same time could have been just last month! When I first visited Greenfields in September 2018 I was impressed by the children and could see a school with huge potential. It needed a lot of hard work and a lot of love, and I hope that in some ways this year we have shown you just how much we are doing as a school to improve the building and the quality of education for your children. So much has improved, but we still have so much to do. Next year we anticipate the return of Ofsted and I cannot wait to show them just what we are capable of, and the hopes and aspirations we have for your children.

Please indulge me as I reflect on what has happened this year:

- Attendance has increased by 3% and we are trying hard to make this positive change permanent. Attendance non uniforms, trips out, parties and extra playtimes reward the great attendance of classes. Let's keep this up.
- The App was introduced through which over 300 people now get their messages and letters instantly. It has meant the school saves money in printing and keeps communication open with you all. We have used it for surveys and responses, and there is still more we will look to use it for. Thank you all for helping make this a success
- Staffing is stable – not many people have left us and this means that we can move forward together with everyone working on shared ideas, plans and aspirations. This is in the best interests of your children.
- The Nursery outside area was extended and enlarged – whilst a quagmire in this weather it is a valuable resource and an improvement on before. There is still a long way to go here,

but what a difference it has made.

- The introduction of 30 hours care for those who would like it in Nursery has made a huge impact. We currently have 12 children who stay for full days and in January this number grows to 18. What a positive difference this has made to some families lives.
- A new curriculum has been introduced and is currently being planned and worked on across the school. This would not have happened without your help and support as it is no small job. Thank you to the team of parents who came to help shape it, and to the children and staff for their ideas. This will continue to grow and evolve as we do.
- Fundraising – A huge thank you to FOGs for raising over £8000 for the new Pirate Ship in the playground, which is used all of the time. Still one of my favourite additions to Greenfields over the year. In addition to all of FOGs hard work, with your generosity we have raised a further £1800 for school through our Christmas Fayre and donated nearly £650 to charities so far this year as well as half a tonne of clothes and a large amount of food.
- The Windows! I know they were a long time in coming and a long time in promising, but they really are here. The areas of the school which have already been finished are almost unrecognizable. They make such a difference to us and save so much heat! The project will be finished by February half term and in January we will be changing the hall windows and dining room as well as the remaining classrooms. This is the biggest part of the build, so please bear with us...
- The gates – what a difference they have made to our safety and security. Such a positive impact.
- The choir and community work: in the last week the choir have sung at 4 different events either with other choirs or at local community homes and Day Centres. What special experiences and one I am so glad Greenfields can be a part of. Miss Lake (Head Teacher of Woodhall) and I are working on other community events for the new year which all can join in, so watch this space.

These are just the things on the top off my head, there is so much more – some that you as parents and friends do not even see or realise. I would like to take this time to mention the staff. I have worked in schools now for 22 years, and have never worked with such a dedicated, passionate and hardworking team – teachers, TAs, support staff – the lot. They work tirelessly for the benefit of your children every day. It isn't easy. They give up time with their own families above and beyond what they are paid for so that your children can achieve their goals. Without them, Greenfields would not be the place it is, and so I would like to say a huge THANK YOU to the team for all that they do. I know many of you will have sent them cards and shown your gratitude this week, so on their behalf I say thank you too.

Thank you for welcoming me to Greenfields and for working with me as we strive to improve the school for all of the children. Your support and help means so much in what is an incredibly tricky job. And yes, there is still so much more to do. We need to continue to work together to ensure that 2020 is another fantastic year for everyone. I cannot wait for it.

I wish you all a very happy, healthy and magical Christmas and New Year and look forward to seeing you all back in 2020.




## Attendance



Nursery	88%
Reception	92%
Y1	96%
Y2	97%
Y3	95%
Y4	97%
Y5	96%
Y6	97%
Overall Attendance Autumn term	95%

With coughs, colds, tummy bugs and winter weather attendance has been a struggle recently, but some classes have managed 100% attendance and some have fallen short by only 1% which is an amazing achievement. The term overall sees us at 95% which is good for this point in the year. We all need to work on ensuring medical, dentist and optical appointments are made outside of school hours, and that if children are off sick, that the office is called by 9.30am – although coming knocking is one way for me to get to know South Oxhey! I'm sure you'd rather I didn't see your PJs though, so please do remember to call the office.

Last week's attendance figures are as follows:

Nursery	82%
Reception	88%
Y1	99%
Y2	96%
Y3	93%
Y4	93%
Y5	95%
Y6	97%
W/e 13 <sup>th</sup> Dec	93%

## E-safety

Recently we have had more and more issues in school where children have come in arguing about things that have been said or done on online game forums and chats outside of school. Things that happen outside school are not our remit normally, but when they affect the ability for children to work together harmoniously in school, we will respond.

I am also concerned about the number of young children having uncontrolled access to channels on YouTube and viewing content that is way above their age. Whilst many parents think their children know it is not real, they find it incredibly hard to disassociate between what happens in films and clips and what would happen in real life. Things which you might not find scary can be incredibly damaging to children and many children act out what they have seen. This includes fighting, violence, bad language and age inappropriate behaviour. Can I please remind you of the advice from earlier in the year:

Apps: YouTube is for 13+ only, Facebook 13+ and Whatsapp 16+. Discussions with our pupils showed that over 80% had access to one or more of these accounts- Ticktok and Snapchat were mentioned too. These apps, alongside others, leave individuals open for cyber bullying. There were 4 key pieces of advice to help tackle this:

- Do not join in
- Block them
- Report them
- Keep evidence

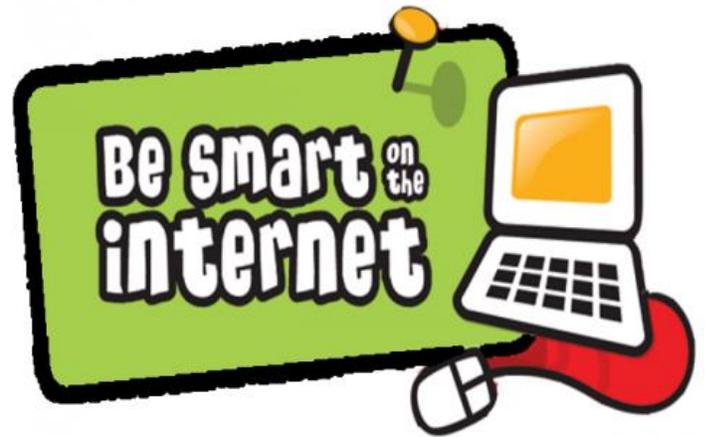
Do not do nothing! Keep the evidence and share with the police through CEOP.Police.uk

You cannot disable Direct Messaging on Instagram – and if your child has a profile they can be messaged by anyone anywhere.

I urge us all to become good role models and to set good examples. Ask permission from your children before posting an image of them on the web. Adhere to age restrictions. There are far too many children who know what Call of Duty entails yet it is an 18 game. Talk to them regularly about what they are up to online and check! Just because one online video looks innocent doesn't mean the whole channel is. The most important message is to not overreact when something does happen. Show children that you can help fix things and they can tell you anything – you will help them sort it out. Ultimately control them less and talk to them more.

Online gaming did come up for discussion in several classes. So many of our children tell staff about playing games which are not age appropriate. Then they act out what they see in the games and we wonder why fighting and poor behaviour increases. If in doubt, please check out [www.imdb.com](http://www.imdb.com) and type in the name of the game and read the reviews. They will tell you if the game is suitable for your child. Roblox is fine if set up with an under 13 account. Fortnite is a 12 rating. For more help on setting parental controls, visit [www.pegi.info](http://www.pegi.info)

If you need any help or support with online apps and games, please do come into school and ask, or check out [www.internetmatters.org](http://www.internetmatters.org) which is a great site full of safety guides.



## A Miracle in Town

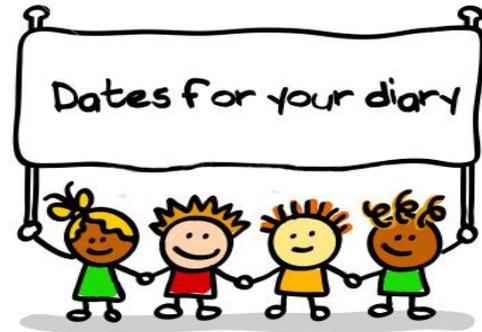
Well there was certainly a Miracle in Greenfields as we got all children on stage to perform their end of term showcases. Thank you all who came to see the performances and donated to the school at the end – we raised over £300 which will go towards the cost of the script and the licenses to perform. The children sang their hearts out and the enthusiasm of some of the younger children was quite something to behold. Well done to all the children who showed their confidence in performing in front of packed audiences. It was wonderful to share with so many friends and family. Thanks again to all who ensured their children were back in the evening for the final showcase. It was very special and sent everyone off feeling very festive. Photos are on the class blogs on the website.



## Thank you FOGs

Thank you FOGs for the presents for the children this Christmas. Instead of individual chocolates, this year Father Christmas bought presents to each class with something the children really wanted inside. Some classes had asked for toys and games, others cushions for their reading areas, and two classes got CD players so they could listen to stories and music in their classes. How lucky are we that the children of Greenfields seem to be on the 'Nice' list this year!

Heads up for events next year...



1.1.2020	Nursery Applications for September 2020 open. Please ask in the office if you need a pack
6.1.20	Term Starts 8.50am
13.1.20	Y3 Healthy Heroes workshop
30.1.20	Governors Meeting 5.30pm
10.2.20	Feeling Good week
11.2.20	Valentine's Disco – FOGs 4.30pm EYFS and KS1 6pm KS2
12.2.20	Parents Evening
13.2.20	Parents Evening
14.2.20	Nursery Applications close
15.2.20	Half Term Week
24.2.20	Back to School
26.2.20	Intra School competition Ys 1 and 2 – Multi Sports
4.3.20	Intra School competition Ys 3 and 4 - Handball
5.3.20	World Book Day – costumes at the ready!
23.3.20	Assessment Week
26.3.20	Governors 5.30pm
27.3.20	Y6 Trip to the houses of Parliament
2.4.20	Whole School Easter Egg Hunt
3.4.20	Easter Hat Parade End of Term 1.15pm

## Whole School Christmas Homework

- Drink hot chocolate
- Sing and dance to Christmassy music
- Watch a Christmas Film
- Spend time with friends and family
- Write a Christmas wish
- Eat nice food
- Have lots of fun
- Draw a festive picture
- Be good boys and girls
- Read

Have a fantastic fun filled holiday and come back to school refreshed and ready to go!

