



Newsletter

11.1.19

## Recently at Greenfields...

Welcome back and a Happy New Year to all our families and friends. I hope you all had a restful but exciting break. On behalf of all the staff we would like to thank everyone for the gifts, cards and good wishes we all received at the end of last year. I know it means a lot to all the staff to know how much their efforts and energy is appreciated by you all. Thank you to everyone who came to meet me for a coffee / tea this week too. It has been lovely to be greeted with such warmth from the community. I have taken all of your comments and concerns on board and will be working on your suggestions.

This coming term is the shortest in the school year, half term is only 5 weeks away, but we still have to pack in the same amount of learning as we do in the autumn term, so it does feel like there are a million and one jobs to be getting through. Well, there are for me! This week truly has been a whirlwind and a very steep learning curve. There will be many changes ahead – some obvious and some not so to you as parents. A new Head always brings new ideas and experiences, so please bear with me whilst the dust settles. Some changes will take some time to take effect, or to be implemented, whilst others needed to happen immediately. Within the newsletter, I will share what has happened, and what I'm planning. Please do read the newsletter carefully each time and make notes of meetings, changes and events that affect your child / family. I will be writing every other week. Right now, the newsletter will be sent home via paper copies, but by half term we will have had an App developed for Greenfields which will be our primary form of communication as we aim to go paperless to reduce our printing costs and to protect our environmental footprint. I received the mock up today and am very excited about this development, however, more on this over the next few weeks.

On Monday the staff all spent the day together planning Greenfields' future. As you all know, the last Ofsted was not as good as it could be, and part of my role is making sure that Greenfields improves – and that is in lots of different areas. However, the one that is outside of my control, and plays a big part in any schools judgement is attendance. Without good attendance, children cannot do well at school – they have to actually be here. Last term an amazing 95 children recorded 100% attendance – that is phenomenal! However, over 20 children had attendance below 80% - that equates to missing one day of school a week. Please do think carefully when keeping your child at home. We will never keep a truly ill child in school, but sore throats and headaches do not stop learning – I'm always amazed by how many tummy aches have vanished by 9.30am!

Something to think about...					
A whole year has 365 days, a school year has 190 days. That leaves 175 days to spend on family time, holidays, visits, shopping and other experiences.					
No absence	9.5 days absence	19 days absence	28.5 days absence	38 days absence	47.5 days absence
100%	95%	90%	85%	80%	75%
190 days of education	180.5 days of education	171 days of education	161.5 days of education	152 days of education	142.5 days of education
Good attendance Best chance of success		Poor attendance Less chance of success		Very poor attendance Serious impact on education and reduced life chances	

*Kate Day*

# Attendance and Punctuality

There are several initiatives we are putting in place in school to promote attendance.

## Class Attendance:

One you should have seen is the attendance rainbows in each class. These are class based rewards for attendance. Each class will be able to colour in a stripe of their rainbow when they have achieved the following:

Red: 100% class attendance for 1 day

Orange: 100% class attendance for 3 days in a row

Yellow: 100% class attendance for a week (Monday – Friday) – for this they will win a non uniform day, just for their class

Green: 100% attendance for 2 consecutive weeks – for this they win extra play for a week

Blue: 100% attendance for 3 consecutive weeks – win a class party

Indigo: 100% attendance for 4 consecutive weeks – a local trip

Violet: 100% attendance for a half term – a school trip of their choosing.

## Personal Attendance:

We are running several initiatives here:

- Every child who achieves 100% for the weekly attendance will receive a raffle ticket which will be put into a class raffle. On the last day of each half term, in Friday's assembly, I will draw one ticket out of each class to win a prize.
- Each term a £5 Amazon voucher will be awarded to the three top students in terms of improved attendance
- End of year awards:  
Awards will be given to all children who have:  
96% attendance and above – a non-uniform day  
98% attendance and above – a non-uniform day and disco  
100% attendance – a non-uniform day and disco plus a special trip out of school.

I shared this information with the whole school on Tuesday and the children were very excited, however, I appreciate that a child's attendance relies on their parents or guardians bringing them into school! If your child is really, genuinely ill; do keep them at home. Please try to make all appointments outside of school hours (Doctors, Dentists, Opticians etc) and get your child to school on time every day. It was really sad that on the first day of term, only one class managed to earn their red stripe. Let's see how quickly we can turn the attendance figures around for the benefit of the children.



Class attendance so far – Autumn term:

Reception	91.7%
Year 1	94.6%
Year 2	92.3%
Year 3	96.1%
Year 4	92.8%
Year 5	95.8%
Year 6	95.8%
School to date:	94.1%

As you can clearly see, we are not hitting the government guideline of 96% - with only one class scraping over that by 0.1%.

I will report on class attendance every newsletter, and attendance figures will be up in each classroom along with their rainbow so you and all of the children, will be able to see how your class is doing. I wonder which class will receive a non- uniform day first?



## Values

One of my beliefs as an educator is in teaching a child their place in the world, their point in society and their responsibilities as a human being. This comes through a child knowing their worth, knowing that they are valued and knowing how to make others feel that too.

With this in mind, a large proportion of the staff's time together on Monday was spent on discussing what we want a child who attends Greenfields to 'look like'. What skills, qualities and knowledge did we think it was important to teach them and to instill in them? Qualities such as kindness, loyalty, fairness, trustworthiness and open-mindedness we discussed, but as a school we have decided that the values we will base all that we do upon are:

- ✓ Honesty
- ✓ Empathy
- ✓ Aspiration
- ✓ Respect
- ✓ Team

As I'm sure you can see, these values cover so many different qualities and attitudes. We also discussed as a staff the difference between being a school driven by RULES and a school driven by VALUES. Rules apply to a certain place at a certain time – for example, at school we tell the truth. This allows the children to think that at school we tell the truth, but ANYWHERE ELSE we can tell lies – which obviously it isn't. By teaching children values like Honesty, we can teach the children that these apply ALL OF THE TIME. It does not matter whether you are at school, at home or out and about, we live by these values.

We have chosen these values for the following reasons:

**Honesty:** We tell the truth about every situation. Even when we have done something wrong, it is better to be honest

about it and own up. We are honest about our work, our actions and in our words.

**Empathy:** We think about how we affect others in our words and actions. We acknowledge that what we say and do can make others feel happy and sad. We try to think about that before we act.

**Aspiration:** We aim high. We want to do our best at all times. We set ourselves goals and challenge our self to achieve them. We want to be proud of what we do.

**Respect:** We treat others as we would like to be treated ourselves. We listen, we take turns, we look after our belongings and those of others.

**Team:** We are part of a team at school, at home and in the world. We look out for that team and we do what we can to make sure that the team works together.

Please talk to your children about these values and how they are part of what goes on in your homes too. I will be spending several assemblies talking to the children about how we show these values in school, and what it means to have these values.

## Site Safety

Please remind children that as soon as they cross the school gates, they need to follow the school values and follow expectations. One of these is that on the playground and site we respect the safety of others; so this means we walk to classes and do not ride bikes and scooters across the playgrounds.

On the subject of safety, please can I ask all parents not to drive onto the school site at drop off or pick up. Very soon (I hope) we will be getting automated gates to increase our site security, so this will not be possible. Please get into the habit of walking onto site from now. Thank you.

However, if you are coming for a meeting and staying, please remember to sign in in the office. This ensures that if ever any alarms go off, we do know who is on site and who we should be rescuing!

## Greenfields Communications

Over the next few weeks I will be developing an App alongside the Senior Leadership Team. The App will be applicable to anyone who has an interest in Greenfields and keeping up to date with the school and events. In addition to helping keep us communicating, the app will also enable us to go as paperless as a school as possible. From March onwards I hope to no longer send paper copies of information letters out, but will do so via the App. Any paper work that does need you to sign and respond will always come out in paper form.

Another way we are currently investigating using for communication is Facebook and setting up a Facebook page which would enable us to share what is going on in the school. I know many of us use Facebook daily, so this would allow us immediate interaction with you and your child's learning. Again, more to follow.

However, the day to day communications will not change, and as a staff, the doors are always open to you to talk to us at the beginning or the end of the day. Please always bear in mind that we do have classes of children to teach, so any chat that you know is going to take more than a few minutes, please book an additional appointment for with your child's class teacher.



## Census Day – January 17<sup>th</sup>

At certain points throughout the year the government collect data from the school which determines our funding for the next year. January 17<sup>th</sup> is one of these days. Please, please, ensure that your child is in school on that day to ensure we get paid the money for their education. The more children who have a school lunch, the more money we receive for our school lunches, so please take up the special menu that the kitchens are offering. This is the only day that our pupil premium figures are collected. If you are in receipt of any of the following the school is entitled to extra funding to support your child’s learning:

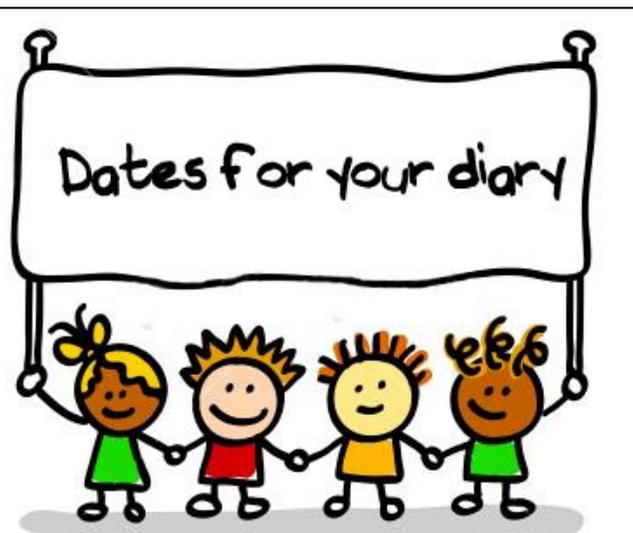
- Income support
- Income-based jobseekers’ allowance
- Income-related employment and support allowance
- Support under Part IV of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guaranteed element of state pension credit
- Child tax credit, provided that you are not also entitled to working tax credit and have an annual gross income of £16,190 or less
- Universal credit

If you do get any of these benefits and have not informed the school, please come in before the 17<sup>th</sup> January to see the office team. Your child could be missing out on an additional £1320 per year being spent on their education if you have not.

## Before School Club / Stay and Play

Please be aware that all families making use of the Before School Club facility must personally hand the child/ren over to the school and book them in physically and not drop them in the car park and drive off. We are not responsible for the health and safety of your child unless they are handed over to our care.

Could you please ensure that if you are using either of these facilities you have paid in advance, or at least by the end of the week. Obviously we will never turn a child away if you are in debt, but I am also very aware of how quickly debts can stack up, and I do not want to be chasing parents for large bills or using office time to ring non payers. Please write it in your diaries, do whatever you need to do to make sure that you are in credit or at least on an even state of affairs with the school. Thank you.



15.1.19	Reception application Deadline
17.1.19	Census Day Special Lunch Y6 SATs meeting 9am / 5pm
24.1.19	Y5 Class meeting 9am / 5pm Governing Body Meeting 5.30pm
30.1.19	Y2 SATs meeting 2.45pm
31.1.19	Year 5 Class assembly FOGs Meeting 3.30pm
5.2.19	Parent’s Evening Chinese New Year special lunch Book Sale and Pre Loved clothing sale after school
6.2.19	Parent’s Evening
7.2.19	Year 3 Class Assembly
13.2.19	100 Day 100 Day activity after school with parents invited – more to follow
14.2.19	Year 4 Class assembly FOGS Valentine’s Disco
15.2.19	End of Term

**Reception Applications –  
Deadline January 15<sup>th</sup>**

Deadline for all parents who would like their child to join Greenfields in September. Parents should apply online at [www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/admissions) or alternatively if you cannot access the internet, you can request a printed version of the website information and application form from the Hertfordshire County Council Customer Service Centre by calling 0300 123 4043.