



Newsletter

15.2.19

Recently at Greenfields...

How have we reached half term already? The past week really has flown by and I cannot believe that I have only been here 6 weeks, but it actually feels like an awfully long time – in a nice way! Already we've seen rain, snow, endless clouds and sunshine – I really hope that Spring is here to stay and we do not get the snow like last year. Many thanks to all of you who came to Parent's Evening last week – I'm sorry I did not get a chance to meet many of you as I was in Stevenage, but those who I did, thank you for your kind words and support for both myself and the school. I hope you liked the reports you were given to guide your conversations prior to Parent's Evening. Please do let me have any feedback on the style. Summer reports will be very similar with grading given for attainment and effort, alongside more detailed comments about each subject, so please do let me know your thoughts.

Thank you too to all parents who supported the school with Word Wednesday on the 30th January. So many children joined in and I was really impressed that so many words were based on positivity and growth mindset; endurance, resilience, determination being some of my favourites. Your donation of money has also enabled the school to purchase a new spelling scheme which will form part of our teaching and spelling homework after half term.

This week we celebrated our 100th day of the academic year. The children spent the day in classes with all their focus on the number 100 – maths problems, number facts, estimations- easy, but the staff had to be more inventive for English. Stories in 100 words, poems using 100 syllables, words made from the letters in 'one hundred day challenge' etc. Then to crown off the day we had our lovely creative family challenge. Well done to everyone who came and got stuck in to the lolly sticks, shapes, pipe cleaners and pom

poms. Please enjoy the photos of the day later in the newsletter. All of the family challenges are on display in the main entrance and the winners were announced in assembly this week. I look forward to many more families learning together in future events.

I have met with FOGs a few times this half term, and am blown away by their commitment to creating events for your children to take part in as well as raising money for the school. So many things have been purchased by FOGs for the benefit of all the children over the years. I have asked them to raise a considerable sum of money towards play equipment for the Infant Playground and they have committed to raising £8000 for a pirate ship which all children coming to Greenfields will benefit from, and will also make our school stand out. We have such lovely grounds, we need to make the most of them in the resources we provide for the children to play and learn on. However, I am sure you have all seen in the press just how tight school budgets are, and FOGs really do supply the extras that schools just can't afford any more. Please do support their events. They are great fun for both children and families. Without you, they cannot run. There are many ways to support the school though. Please see the next page for some major help I am looking for as well as other ways to be involved in the Greenfields family.

I wish you all a happy and enjoyable half term, and look forward to seeing you all on the 25th February ready for the second half!

Kate Day

Attendance

Well done Year 6! Our first 100% attendance for a full week. In reward they receive a non uniform day today, which I am sure they enjoyed! Every time a class does achieve 100% they win this prize. There have been quite a few occasions where a class has so nearly got their 100% attendance before, only for parents to collect for a dentist appointment at lunch time or families taking the Friday to visit relatives. Please, please try to make appointments during the school holidays or after 3.30pm. It is such a shame that classes are missing out of their hard earned rewards for a reason that could have been changed.

Remember, every child's attendance does count. I am so pleased with the chart below, and it just goes to show what we can achieve together. In just 6 weeks you have managed to improve the average weekly attendance by 2%, so that last week the average attendance met the national expectation, with three classes well over! Thank you all so much on supporting this. Imagine what we can achieve together over the next term and shift that whole school percentage!



Reception	93.8%
Year 1	96.1%
Year 2	95.0%
Year 3	98.5%
Year 4	95.8%
Year 5	98.3%
Year 6	100%
School for week 4 th – 8 th February:	96.8%

Attendance Spring 1 = **95.2%** overall

Attendance so far this year = **94.8%**

Greenfields App

I am so pleased to announce that the Greenfields App is now ready for you to download and start using.

After half term we will be using the App to communicate with you as well as the text messaging service and Marvellous Me. Letters will still come home on paper. All this will happen until Easter. **From Easter we will only communicate via the App and Marvellous Me as well as the school website.** This saves the school money, which means I can spend more on the resources we need to support your child's education. If you cannot get the App and require paper copies of letters, please ask the office and we will print them out for you and send them home. Any letter requiring a return slip will always be sent home as a paper copy for you to do this.

To get the App, simply go to your App store on apple and android and search for Piota Schools. Once that is downloaded you choose Greenfields Primary School and our own page will appear.



Once you have the screen on the left, you can choose which streams you receive notifications for by going into the menu via the three black lines or the more button. Then in settings, choose the channels you want – which are year group specific. Now, when staff send out messages they will make them year group specific and choose the channel, or choose whole school, so please make sure you sign up to all that are appropriate to your family.

What is lovely about the App is that we can also use it for photos of events, letters, quick information and whole school admin, so please encourage family members to download it too so that they can see what the children have been up to.

If you need any help downloading, or just need to check, please ask any of the teaching staff, office staff or myself, who will happily try to help!



Help Wanted

Now that I've spent time here at Greenfields I have seen so many areas of the school that need improving and a bit of TLC, or could just be changed to make everyone's lives and interaction with the school a bit better. However, as I keep saying, as a school we do not have bottomless pockets of cash to make things happen. As a school, on most occasions, I can afford to buy some of the resources, but I certainly cannot afford the man power to pay for the labour!

Right now, I am looking and asking if there are any parents who might be able to help in terms of landscaping and path laying / tarmac. I'm looking for people who might be able to get me building materials at cost price rather than through a company, and also some muscles to help build a path / slope down from the key stage 1 playground to the pathway through Nursery. I'm also looking for help in re-siting the nursery fence and laying some paving stones to create a hard area for storage and redoing the paths around the nursery space to make it safer and flow better.

Ideally the job will be completed over a weekend and I'll happily supply bacon/sausage rolls and endless tea / coffee to keep a workforce happy.

If you think you might be able to help, please do call into the office and let me know. Then we can start working towards making Greenfields a better place for the children, and an easier site to navigate around for adults!

Also, if you do work for a company which will do matched funding for fundraising, I would love to hear from you so that we can make the most of any money raised in the future. Thanks in advance.

Easter Raffle

After half term we will be sending home raffle tickets with each child for our Easter Raffle. I understand this was an incredibly popular event last year, so I hope it continues to make a difference this year! Please support the school by selling raffle tickets to friends and family. It will be drawn during assembly on our last day of term.

In addition to this the school will also be holding a family Easter Egg Hunt on the afternoon of the 3rd April. Eggs will be hidden around the school grounds for everyone to find to then solve some problems and clues. The winning family will receive some Easter goodies, but all children who take part will receive an Easter Egg – paid for by FOGs. Each class will have a time slot to do this during the afternoon, so please look out for the letter and sign up.

In the evening there will also be Easter discos for the children to celebrate the end of term and then the Easter Hat Parade will take place on the 5th April. Get planning those creative bonnets now!

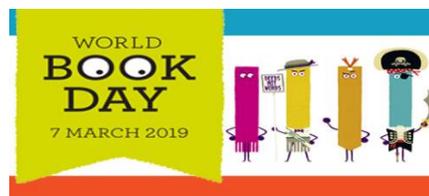
Before and After School

Thank you to all those who have returned questionnaires so far. Please could all responses be back in school by the 1st March? Thank you to the 53 responders we have had so far. Your responses are very helpful.

Whilst on the subject, could I please remind all parents and carers that we are not responsible for children before 8.45am when the doors open to classrooms unless you have signed a child into Before School club. Likewise, we are not responsible after school for children unless they are in Stay and Play. There are several children who are dropped off at the school gates at 8.30am and left in the playground. Should anything happen to them in the following 15minutes, they would not be our responsibility. The playground is not staffed and we do not stop children from leaving the site. Please make sure your children are safe at all times.

World Book Day – Advanced Notice!!!

We will be celebrating World Book Day on the 7th March by having a day where the children are invited to dress up as their favourite book characters. Hopefully, this will enable the creative ones of you to make some excellent costumes and for the children to think about who they would like to be. Please try to make the characters book characters and not film ones. The staff will all be dressing up too...



100 Day!

What a day we had! Literacy, maths, investigations, fun and laughter. Year 5 spent time investigating which words scored 100 if a=1, b=2 etc and found out that ATTITUDE made 100. They were also planning trips to the seaside spending £100 – you have been warned! Year 4 were working out how far 100 paperclips could take them. Year 6 tried to write sentences using 100 letters; my favourites being:

Amazingly, the octopus somehow wrote down a sentence with millions, thousands of words into only one immense, great sentence. (Toby)

Determined and desperate to catch her prey, the hungry female cheetah got ready to speedily pounce on her prey (a nimble doe). (Soumiya)

Early in the morning, my dog heard a peculiar noise; he was very discombobulated as he ran up to me and hid behind me in fright. (Brooke)

Reception went on a word hunt around the school to find 100 words, and had discovered 57 before they reached the front door!

Here are a few photos of the fun we had.



26.2.19	Year 5/6 Football tournament
28.2.19	Year 5 Kidzania Trip Year 2 Class Assembly
7.3.19	World Book Day
14.3.19	Year 1 Assembly
18.3.19	Nursery Applications Close
21.3.19	Year 6 Assembly Governing Body Meeting
25.3.19	Mother's Day Gifts done this week through FOGS
26.3.19	9.30am – Tenor Horn Concert and Assembly for Year 4 parents
28.3.19	Reception Assembly
4.4.19	Nursery Assembly Easter Egg Hunt and Disco
5.4.19	End of term Easter Hat Parade
23.4.19	Term Starts

Term Dates



For 2019-2020

Autumn Term

Wednesday 4th September – Friday 20th December
Half term: 28th October – 1st November

Spring Term

Monday 6th January – Friday 3rd April
Half Term 17th – 21st February

Summer Term

Monday 20th April – Friday 17th July
Half term: 25th – 29th May