



Newsletter

20.09.19

Recently at Greenfields...

I am so impressed with how all of the children have settled into their new classes and routines. They have all grown over the summer break, and these last few gorgeous days have really highlighted their new heights and confidence in the playground as I have been shown just how many can travel across the monkey bars in one / two jumps and how many can jump from tyre to tyre. In class too, the children are really showing how well they can work and succeed. I do appreciate all of the handwriting practice, reading and maths support that is going on at home.

Reading is so vital. We expect all children to read at least 4 times a week and for this to be recorded in reading logs for teachers to see. Remember, children should only be reading books which are age and ability appropriate; they should not be struggling. This is now termed 'fluency' by academics. You may find that your child gets a book which they have read before – being able to read it fluently will help their confidence. The key here is to hear them read without hesitation and struggle.

The volunteer meeting we held in the first week was a huge success with over 15 parents and friends volunteering to help out in school in many different ways – hearing readers, walking to and from swimming, laminating and cutting out resources... If anyone else finds they have some time to give to the school; you have not missed your chance- please just come and speak to me. All volunteers must have a DBS check and references, but once we gain those, we would love to see you.

Speaking of volunteers, many thanks to those who came to support the FOGs at their AGM, although the turnout was a little disappointing for them. Congratulations to Lucy Sharp who was unanimously voted in as Chair, Katie Taylor as Vice, Carly Hyde as Treasurer and Toni Foskett as Secretary. We have now planned events for the rest of this year and FOGs are raising money for a new reading scheme for all the children to benefit from. So, to start, FOGs will be putting on a Halloween disco, followed by a movie night for children and then supporting at the Christmas Fair. This year FOGs will buy each class a Christmas present, crackers and treats for the Christmas parties, not individual presents for the children, which Father Christmas will deliver on Christmas party day. Please check the diary for the dates and support FOGs where you can.

If you missed the post on the App, we have also appointed our House Captains for the year: Reece, Eira, Laine Mai, Sattar, James, Mia, Bertie and Alice. Each house has chosen a charity to fundraise for – MacMillan Cancer Care, GOSH, Greenpeace and The Dogs Trust. We will be arranging days for them over the course of the year, but we will kick off with MacMillan's great Coffee Morning next Friday. Please do come to the school, bring some cakes (home made or shop bought) and raise some money for this fabulous charity. Please see my letter on this separately.

Handwritten signature of Kate Day.

Attendance for the Year

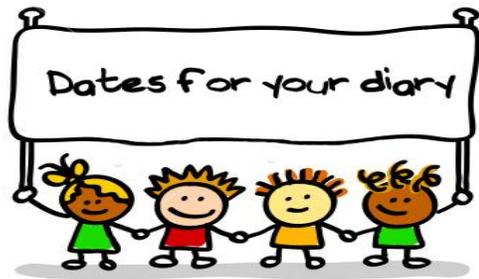


Nursery	96%
Reception	100%
Y1	100%
Y2	96%
Y3	96%
Y4	99%
Y5	98%
Y6	96%
Overall Attendance w/c 9/9/19	98%

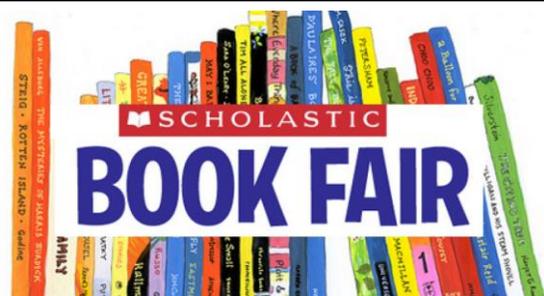
How great does this rainbow look?! What a wonderful start to the attendance of pupils at Greenfields this academic year. Thank you all so much for your help and support in getting the children into school. A huge well done to Reception and Year 1 who have earned their first non-uniform days.

As you all know, this is the one area of Greenfields that I have little control over, but will do all I can to help you get your children into school. I've just finished going through last year's data, and it concerns me the number of Unauthorised Absences we have – these are days which children have had off and we do not know where they are as no phone call has been received by the school, or no reason given when the children do return. Greenfields has a duty of care to your children; if you did not know where your child was you would be doing all you could to make sure they were safe. We will do the same. That includes phone calls home and home visits if we have not heard from you. We are not being nosy, we are not checking up on you; we are just ascertaining that your child is safe. Please minimize this work for us by making sure you phone in when your child is off sick. You can ring the office any time before 9.30am and either leave a message or speak to a member of staff.

Heads up for events next year...



23.9.19	Book Fair all week
26.9.19	Sustainable Futures Showcase 3.30pm
27.9.19	MacMillan Coffee Morning
3.10.19	Harvest Assembly
21.10.19	Y5/6 Bikeability Course all week
23.10.19	Halloween discos Nursery-Y2 4.30 – 5.45pm Years 3-6 6-7.30pm
25.10.19	TRAINING DAY – SCHOOL CLOSED
28.10-3.11	Half Term
7-10.10.19	Reception Open week taster sessions
7.11.19	Year 5 Class Assembly
6&7 11.19	Parent's Evenings 3.30pm – 7pm
11.11.19	Anti-Bullying Week
11.11.19	Year 6 Class Assembly - Remembrance day
14.11.19	Year 4 Class Assembly
15.11.19	Children in Need
21.11.19	Year 3 Class Assembly
27.11.19	Y5 Kidzania trip
28.11.19	FOGs Movie Night
5.12.19	Christmas Fair
11.12.19	Christmas Concert Performances
19.12.19	Christmas Party Day
20.12.19	End of Term 1.15pm



Scholastic Book Fair will be in school **every day next week** running from **3.30-4pm** as well as at the cake sale on Friday. Please do come along and buy a book, which helps with reading at home and reading at school. Every book we sell makes a little for us which we are using to update our classroom libraries.

E-safety

This Wednesday we held an E-safety day with all the children and invited parents to come in for a talk. Each class had a session with Richard which was aimed towards their needs and the benefits as well as the dangers of the internet and its unchecked usage. After school, all staff had a training session too, which reminded us of our duty as educators to ensure children are safe, as well as the dangers out there for parents.

With two teenagers myself, I constantly feel they know more about the internet than me – in fact children seem to be born these days with the ability to work a smart phone and swipe! However wonderful the world at your fingertips is, there are always people who make these places a dark and dangerous space to be in.

Richard shared some really useful tips and guidance which I'm repeating here for those who couldn't come.

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- Tiktok 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 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. Richard also shared tales of people being tracked through pictures online and some horrible cases of cyber bullying to the point of murder which had happened through such apps. Please do talk to your children about the "friends" they make online and who they are interacting with – you never know who they really are. Evidence suggests that over 80% of children who have met someone online have actually ended up meeting them in person. Most of the time they arrange these meet ups without their parent's knowledge and go with a friend. How scary is that! However, the advice is to tell children that they can meet their online friends – but they you as parents will facilitate that meeting so that it happens in a safe and secure way.

Richard urged us all to become good role models and to set good examples. Ask permission from your child 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 was 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 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

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 which is a great site full of safety guides.



A **huge thank you** for all your recycling help for Recycle with Michael. I hope you have now all created some much needed space in your wardrobes! The charity is collecting all our donations today, so please do not bring them into school now as we cannot pass them on – use the charity shops who will be delighted to take them. I will let you know how much we raised in weight as well as pounds as soon as I know.