



Newsletter

08.03.19

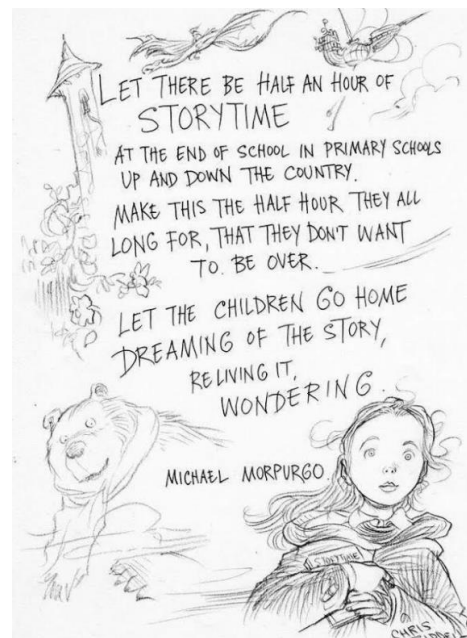
Recently at Greenfields...

Reading is so important in every part of your child's education, and we are having a real push on reading and enjoying reading this year. I already warned you I would talk to you a lot about this as I am passionate about children reading and sharing books.

We hear all the children read in school, day in, day out. Your child will also read individually with an adult in KS1 every week and change their reading book. However, we also need and expect you to hear your child read at home every week with you. Our expectation is that in a week you will hear your child read at least 5 times. Not every night – that is not practical and doesn't allow for you to have a busy night or other commitments, but 5 times. We ask that you write in their reading log that you have heard them read. This could be any book at home or their school reading book. It could be a magazine they have begged you to buy, or the back pages of the newspaper. It could be the cereal box or recipe book whilst they help you prepare dinner. Whatever it is, they are reading!

I often hear the quote: "A child who reads becomes an adult who thinks," and this is so true. So much of the curriculum is closed off to your child if they cannot read. But it is not just about the reading, it is about the language and discussion that goes on surrounding that book. Talking to your children is as important as hearing them read. So please, discuss characters and story lines. Predict what will happen next. Ask the children to summarise what they have just read to check they understood it. We are developing some bookmarks in school with questions on to help you discuss books with your children and will send these home soon. Children also benefit from hearing stories read to them – the tone, characterization and vocabulary. Please share stories at bedtime and help develop their love of books.

I was blown over by the characters that came to school this week – a huge well done and thank you to all parents who really made an effort to help their children dress up as Peter Rabbit, Golden Tickets, Georges, Matildas and many more. The children looked so good in assembly and paraded for all to see on their way in and out. Please look at the App and website for photos of the day – as well as in the newsletter. Please give the same enthusiasm and encouragement to hearing your child read!



Kate Day

Attendance

Our Educational Welfare Officer came into school to visit me last week to discuss attendance and it was so great to be able to share that we are making an effort at Greenfields, and attendance is improving. I know these last two weeks have not been good however, and there have been some nasty bugs around, hence why the figures this time are not so good. Well done to all those who did come in, but remember, attendance below 80% means missing one day off a week at least. We cannot afford that and the children deserve to be in and learning – please do support the school in moving forward.

When we reviewed the figures so far, we looked at everyone’s attendance for the Autumn term against attendance so far in the Spring term. It was wonderful to see that some children have really made a change and their attendance has improved, 12, 16, 28%! That is amazing. It gave me great please to make 15 phone calls to parents who had supported the school in turning their child’s attendance around. Remember, this half term there are 3 prizes up for grabs for the most improved attendance.

In the last assembly of last half term we also held our prize draw for everyone who had received 100% raffle tickets. A huge well done to Isla Q, Taylor, Taylor, Ibi, Mia, Gracie and Jayden for winning the prizes.



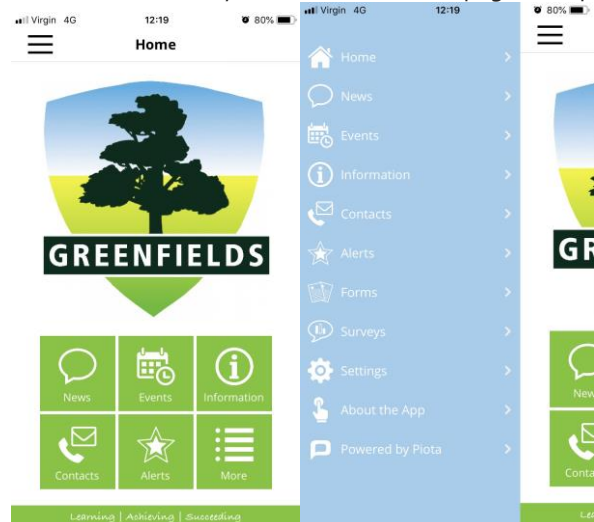
Nursery	91.1%
Reception	92.6%
Year 1	93.8%
Year 2	91.4%
Year 3	91.6%
Year 4	94.2%
Year 5	94.8%
Year 6	92.7%
School for week 4 th – 8 th February:	92.2%

Greenfields App

A reminder that after Easter, we will no longer be using the text message system, but doing all our communication through the Greenfields App. Please download it, and thank you to the 112 people who have downloaded it so far! For those who have forgotten, here is a reminder of what to do:

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 – a white stylized P on a blue background. 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!



I'm sure many of you have seen the news which frequently talks about schools not having the money to spend on maintaining their premises and parents having to fund roofing projects, stationary and even teachers. Well, Greenfields is no different, and there simply is not the money in the new budget to do any of the maintenance projects that we need as a school to make a difference. We have been fortunate enough to win bids to Herts County council for new external windows and doors, and for new boilers, which will make a difference to the school, but we have no money for making the site better for the children.

Therefore I am putting out a plea for any bodies who can help with re-vamping the Nursery outdoor area and making fences, mud kitchens, music areas, small world areas etc. I have a plan, a fallen tree and 15 pallets so far, but also need sand, pots and muscles! I'm bringing my chainsaw! I am planning on doing the job over 3 days in the Easter holidays – the 10th – 12th April 9-3pm. 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! Any experience with creating decking, fencing and digging will be gratefully received!

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.



Before and After School

We had 62 responses to our survey regarding before and after school care provided by the school. When I look at numbers I can clearly see that we have a need for a Before School Club, and your responses indicated that you need us to run this facility. There is also a need for the club to accommodate parents who need an earlier start, therefore from 23rd April, Before School Club will run from 7.45am. The cost for this service will increase to £2.50 for a 7.45am drop off, with breakfast included. Should you drop off from 8am onwards, the cost of the club will be £2. Breakfast will be included as cereal, toast and a drink. This will be the only price difference: drop off at 7.45am = £2.50, drop off after 8am, £2.

I have seen some children being dropped off at school at 8.30am and being left unattended. This is not permitted, and is not safe for your children. The children are not our responsibility until they walk through our doors – and these do not open until 8.45am. Therefore, if this happens after the Easter break, the children will be brought into school and you will be charged £2 for the child care.

Stay and Play takes on average £50 a week, but costs the school over £125 to run. Thursday night and Friday night are by far the busiest nights, but even then, the income does not meet what it costs the school to run. Over the course of the year, the school is losing £3000 by running this facility. From your responses to the questionnaire, there is not the demand for Stay and Play, or for it to continue. Therefore, from April 23rd, we will no longer be running Stay and Play in school. Staff will continue to look after children until 3.30pm as before, but after this we need to have passed them onto your care.

I am currently finding alternative possibilities through clubs and external providers to see what we can offer, especially on a Thursday and Friday night to help those who would like to make use of the possibility.



15th March is fast approaching, and as most schools do, we will be having a Red Nose Day here in school. Children are invited to come into school wearing red, having wild hair styles and sporting their red noses. School will be donating all money received on this day to the Red Nose Day charity, so whilst there is no set charge for the day, please be generous in your charitable giving, and donate what you can.

World Book Day!



14.3.19	Year 1 Assembly Year 5 Tag rugby Festival
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 Year 6 Visit to the Houses of Parliament
4.4.19	Nursery Assembly Easter Egg Hunt and Disco
5.4.19	End of term Easter Hat Parade
10-12.4.19	Project EYFS – Nursery Garden revamp
23.4.19	Term Starts – No Stay and Play from this date
6.5.19	May Day Public holiday
27-31.5.19	Half term

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

