



Recently at Greenfields...

I cannot quite believe we have had a quarter of the academic year already! Two weeks back since half term, and what a lot we have been up to – 3 class assemblies, parents evenings for all classes, science and technology workshops, How 2 Help sessions, football matches and sporting fixtures to name but a few of the events that have taken place. The assemblies really have shown off all of the wonderful learning that has been going on since September. Year 5 stunned us with an excellent assembly showcasing all of their learning about Ancient Egypt including singing about 50 Egyptian gods – what a mouthful; Year 4 wowed us with examples of every area of the curriculum including their Ancient Greek work, and Year 6 lead us through a respectful and fitting tribute on Armistice Day. Thank you to all the classes for such superb events, and to all of the class teachers and staff who have supported them in making such great assemblies. Please check out the blogs on our website to see more of what is going on in classes day to day.

We recently had visits from our Hertfordshire Improvement partner who visited every class to see how well reading, history and geography were being taught. I'm really pleased to say she found really strong teaching across the school, great examples of lessons and commented on how well the children spoke and were proud of their work. It was a privilege to be able to show the classes off to her and discuss the journey we are all on together to improve Greenfields. So much has changed since January and it is always good for external people to recognise what an impact the changes

making. One thing that did come up was the amount of children reading for pleasure outside of school, and the types of books they read. I know I've said before how important reading is, but when you see facts such as a child who reads frequently will achieve better results by at least a grade in primary school, and 3 grades by GCSEs, and that if we read a book a day to children to the age of 5 they will have heard 32million more words than a child who doesn't read, it really makes a difference. Please, please do uphold our expectation of reading at least 4 times a week with your child. Our How 2 Help sessions do explore this with you, and please do not think once you've come to one you've heard it all. The more you are involved and attend school events, the better off your child will be.

A final reminder that our windows project starts on Monday. We will be starting with the main entrance, and so for one week, you will not be able to enter the school from the front door. We will move the doorbell to the hall door and staff will let you in, but please bear with us as there will be no camera in place and we will have to get to the door to open it – there will be no buzzer. The children have all been informed of the expectations for safety whilst the builders are around, so please do follow the rules – no going near the fences and keep away from the areas where they are working. The compound will be by the kitchens, so please do not try to cut through the school on that side as it will be safely locked, please use the pathways on the classroom side of the school. Once the main corridor is done, we will start on the classrooms beginning with the junior

followed by the Year 1 and reception classrooms, offices, dining hall and hall in the new year. We will have to be very flexible with what we are doing, and some days things might not be quite as we planned it.

Please ensure you have the App downloaded on your phone and the notifications set for Urgent, as this will be our only form of immediate communication with you during the work. Details on how to get the App are in every classroom window, or come into the office for help. It is free and will stop any undue worry or miscommunication during this busy time. I cannot wait to see the difference the windows and doors will make to the school. Thank you for working with us and your flexibility during this time.

As Christmas approaches at the speed of light, please do check out the calendar section of the newsletter and make note of any events which involve your children. Please try to keep to deadlines given – they help with everything running as smoothly as possible.



SUN TOKENS

We have signed up to collecting the reading tokens which are published in the Sun newspaper from this week onwards. We need to collect 3500 tokens, but there are multiple and bonus ones in the paper. Please spread the word in between your friends and family and send in any tokens to our office. If we can achieve our goal we will receive over £600 of books for the school. Tokens will be published until February so there is plenty of time. What an achievement it would be if we managed this.



Dates for your diary

Attendance



Nursery	86%
Reception	94%
Y1	97%
Y2	97%
Y3	95%

The Governing Body

Our Governing Body has recently undergone a bit of a change due to terms of office being completed. I am so pleased that we have added some great external support in the form of the Revd. Liz Guest from All Saints Church, Marsha Myers a health care professional from Watford specializing in mental health, and we have employed a new clerk Karen Walton. David Ray has been elected as Chair for another academic year, although the role of vice chair remains empty. Katie Tarrant is now re-elected as the only parent who put themselves forward in the recent nominations. Thank you Katie.

This leaves us with one space on the parent governing board. Please do think seriously about whether your skills could be used to support the school. Governors are the 'critical friends' of the school and help challenge and support us to ensure that we are always doing the best we can for the children. Terms of office are for 4 years, and I promise Brexit is not discussed!

If you would like to chat about possibly taking on the role, please do come and see either myself, Mr. Ray or any of the current parent governors.



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Don't forget:

Jazzy Jars to be made and sent in

Non Uniform days – chocolate and £1 - see diary

Stalls to be booked if you want one- £10 for the afternoon

Grotto slips to be returned with payment