



Newsletter

05.04.19

Recently at Greenfields...

It's been a whirlwind of a week! The last few days have been full of fun and laughter and learning – just how I feel a school should be. Meanwhile, I have sat in meetings talking about how every child is doing and the progress they are making. It was so pleasing to be sitting with staff exploring the progress of every pupil and to know that all children are making the steps they should be towards their next learning goal. All children learn at different rates and it is so good to see those who are shooting forwards as well as discuss those who make slow and steady progress towards their goals.

One area which came up in every meeting was that of reading. There are some children struggling to make progress because they are not being heard regularly enough. We do all that we can in school with volunteers and help from outside (thank you Northwood College for sending 16 girls and Merchant Taylors for the boys), but nothing can replace the bond of reading at home every night with Mum or Dad. Our expectation at Greenfields is that children read at least 5 times a week for at least 20 minutes (15 minutes in KS1). It does not have to be your child reading their school book every night – read home readers, take it in turns to read, discuss the story so far and what has happened. Read the newspaper, a magazine, the television subtitles if you put their favourite show on mute! Without the skill of reading, so much more of their curriculum and their life is closed to them. Over the holidays, please make an extra effort to read a book together and enjoy the world it transports you to. Their lives will be richer for it.

We have also had several visitors in this week working with the children. On Wednesday Liz Guest visited us from All Saints Church to talk to the children about Easter and what it means to Christians. The children listened really well and discovered that eggs and rabbits are not the true meaning of Easter, but of rebirth and the spring- taken from the pagan festival of Eostre. The Watford Schools Trust also did lessons with year 2 and Year 6 about the story behind Easter and the Easter message. Well done to all children for taking part respectfully in these sessions.

On Thursday we were treated to an end of term show by MM Theatre Company who performed Alice in Wonderland to all the children. A big thank you to FOGs for this treat. The company performed splendidly and kept all of the children engrossed in the story. In fact they complimented us on the children's behaviour and concentration which was lovely to hear.

A reminder that this is the last paper copy of a newsletter that you will receive. After Easter, all letters and newsletters will only come home via the App or on the website. If you are unable to download them, please inform the office that you need paper copies and we will make sure they are sent home to you.

Attendance

I spoke too soon didn't I! Sickness bugs, impetigo and vomiting hit us again last week and so attendance figures have dropped. We are still doing well compared to last year (an overall increase of 2.3%) but these figures are not great. I really hope that warmer weather and the summer term sees consistent improvement.



Nursery	90%
Reception	90.6%
Year 1	94.7%
Year 2	85.5%
Year 3	92.4%
Year 4	96.3%
Year 5	98.3%
Year 6	97.3%
School for week 25 th -29 th March	93.1%

In assembly today we awarded each class their 100% attendance raffle winners with an Easter Egg. Well done to: Emily, Mia, Kriya, Luka, Stanley, Riley, Amelia and Tani for winning the prizes.

We also awarded three prizes for the most improved attendance this term. Taking everyone's Autumn term attendance figure and comparing it to their Spring term figure we have three clear winners, so well done Rubie in Year 4, Yutika in Year 1 and Ibi in Year 3 for improvement by over 10%. There were several children whose attendance has improved by 9, 8 and 7% which is brilliant to see.

22 children have 100% attendance to date which is magnificent. They are all on target for a special outing at the end of the year. Remember that the child who finishes the year with attendance of 96% or over will receive a non-uniform day, 98% and above will receive a disco on top and then the 100% trip out.

Congratulations

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Mia Barrett took part in the year 5 Watford & District Cross Country Final at Cassiobury Park on Saturday and did really well. She finished the course in 7 minutes 45 seconds. It was a really good experience and we are very proud of her. As you can see, Mia was representing the school and she certainly wore her t-shirt with pride. Well done Mia for taking part and doing so well.



Congratulations 2

Each term two trophies are awarded to students who shine above all others. These awards do not necessarily celebrate academic success, but focus more on the resilience and determination of the children to uphold our values, and aspire to be the best that they can. The trophy winners were presented their awards in assembly today.

Governor's Cup.

This was awarded to Jayden Smith from Year 6. When choosing the cup winner, which is awarded for Citizenship and upholding British Values, there really was a clear winner from the staff who unanimously supported Jayden in his nomination. Jayden is a caring individual whose every action serves towards the greater good. He constantly puts others before himself and is willing to help every second of the day – from helping staff carry things from their cars, to opening doors, to being a complete role model for younger children. Jayden never expects reward or recognition; nothing is done for self gain, purely out of genuine kindness. Last week he was in the Green Book for "being a true gentleman" and that really does sum Jayden up. Jayden embodies our school values day in, day out. He should be immensely proud of himself.

Trophy of Inspiration

This trophy was awarded to Ashton Lee in Year 2. Ashton has been working all term on his progress both academically and socially and has made huge strides in both areas. He is able to produce work of a personal great standard and will now proudly involve himself in lessons with his peers. His maths, reading and writing have all seen wonderful rewards for his new attitude to learning and we are all very proud of his determination to improve against the odds. Well done Ashton – we cannot wait to see what you will achieve next term.

Internet Safety

Recently, Mrs Weller and I have had to have serious words with several children about their internet and App use outside school. When speaking to parents, they really were just not aware of what their children were getting up to online, and who was accessing their games or groups. This is really concerning, as children are increasingly at risk. Please read the following article from Internetmatters.org:

As well as offering children the opportunity to 'do anything', the internet can expose children to things that they may not be ready for such as violent content, extreme ideas, and adult content either by accident or through an intentional search.

As they start to communicate with others through gaming or social networks there's the temptation to overshare information that could lead to incidences of cyberbullying or put them at risk of being approached by those that may wish them harm.

Also, we know from research that the time they spend online increases year on year so there is the added need for them to learn how to regulate and balance the amount of time they spend online and offline.

From our own research parents say that between the ages of 6 – 10 they feel children are naive and their curiosity can unintentionally put them in harm's way. Parents are worried about their children finding inappropriate sexual or violent content online, particularly at a young age.

Inappropriate content

Like looking up rude words in the dictionary back in the day, children remain curious creatures looking to push boundaries and be in the know about things they have heard about on the playground.

Whether it's inappropriate pop-up ads, videos showcasing Peppa Pig or other cartoon characters in seemingly adult contexts or forums promoting self-harm and extreme ideas, children can stumble across content by accident or intentionally that can make them feel upset and confused. The ease with which children may be exposed to this content all depends on what they are doing online. When children take part in the following activities online, the possibility and probability that they will see content that is not inappropriate increases:

- Joining social networks before reaching the minimum age
- Playing games and using apps which are not age-appropriate
- Watching live streams which may show inappropriate content or taking part in them and unconsciously being exploited

An NSPCC survey found that [78% of young people admitted to joining social media sites](#) before reaching the minimum age and half of the children surveyed had seen sexual, violent or other adult material on social media.

Using apps and platforms that are not age-appropriate can expose children to things that they may not be ready for. Whatever age your child is, it's important to prepare them for what they might see and if it does happen, staying calm and using it as an opportunity to help them understand difficult topics is important.



Please be proactive in ensuring that your child is safe online and in the games that they have access to. Think about the people they are interacting with. Do you know them personally? Would they be welcome around your house to play? If the answer is no to either of these questions, should your child be interacting with them online. How do you know they are who they say they are?

Games have age ratings for a reason. Please do not give into the pressure of 'all my friends are playing on it, so it's fine'. It isn't. 5 year olds should not be on Roblox or Un censored on YouTube. There are many resources that can help you police your child's internet use. Please come in and ask for help if you need pointing in the right direction.

Dinner Money charges

Hertfordshire County Council has increased their dinner charges from the Summer term due to the cost of ingredients and suppliers. Therefore our new cost for lunches will take effect from the first day back after the holidays. Each cooked lunch taken in the juniors will now cost £2.60 per day. Letters have already gone out regarding lunch choices should you wish to have an every day dinner, Wednesday roast or Friday fun lunch. Please check your child's bags and the App.

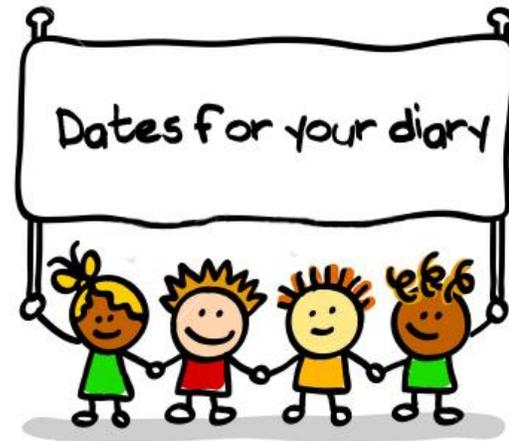


New Gates

Over the holidays we are installing new gates from Ellesborough Close onto the main site to improve our site safety and security of pupils. There will be new gates to the car park which will be shut during the school day and only accessible through a buzzer system with the office. Therefore parents will not be able to use the car park during the school day and the core hours when children are on site.

Likewise, there will be a new pedestrian gate which will link directly to the office through a buzzer to allow pedestrians access to the school during the school day. This gate will be open before 9.15 am and open again at 3.10pm to allow for collection and drop off.

I appreciate this is a change, but it is needed to make the site more secure and your children safe. Your children's safety is my priority.



10-12.4.19	Project EYFS – Nursery Garden revamp
23.4.19	Term Starts – No Stay and Play from this date
30.4.19	Class Photos
2.5.19	Polling Day – SCHOOL OPEN!
6.5.19	May Day Public holiday
6 th – 24 th May	Public Examination time – Y2 and Y6.
27-31.5.19	Half term
17-21.6.19	ASSESSMENT WEEK
24.6.19	Year 6 Production Week
27.6.19	Year 6 Production shows to parents
1-5.7.19	Year 6 School Journey
8.7.19	Sports Week
9.7.19	Advance notice – SPORTS DAY
17.7.19	Open evening and art exhibition
19.7.19	Year 6 leavers assembly Advance warning – term finishes 1.30pm

App

Please check out the App for lots of photos of our last week of term, Easter parade winners, green book photos and Alice in Wonderland pictures. There has been so much going on and so much to record.

Thank you Mrs Congerton for becoming the unofficial school photographer and putting them up!