



Newsletter

10.11.23



Recently at Greenfields...

Autumn really is making its' presence felt at school, and as usual the gods seem to time rain showers for lunch times and 3pm! It really is quite miserable – but this is all outside school as inside it is buzzing with learning, excitement and anticipation for what is a very busy half term! Christmas tunes have already been cracked out to practise, discussion turns to which Nativity will we put on, and when is it ok for the elves to return! This week all classes have been busy making their Remembrance wreaths which they all presented at this morning's assembly – beautifully written and performed by Year 6. Art Club have also been making lovely pieces for us to display, and today the school looks very respectful covered in poppies. Thank you to everyone who donated money for a poppy, or purchased wristbands on behalf of the British Legion. Please see piota or our Facebook page for all the photos today.

This week Year2 and Year 3 went into London to take their learning outside of the classroom as they visited the Tower of London and the Natural History museum respectively. Please see later on for Year 3's write up of their day. Both classes behaved exceptionally well, especially on the way home where they encountered London traffic, and it took a lot longer to get back than planned. Many thanks to all our families for their patience in waiting for the coach. We know the children had a great day though, so it was worth it!

Next week we will be focussing on being supportive friends during what is nationally anti-Bullying week. On Tuesday we invite all the children to wear loud or odd socks along with their school uniform.

I have also added into the calendar a day for children to wear non uniform in return for a £1 donation to enable me to purchase prizes for the most popular stall at our Christmas Fair – the chocolate tombola! This is on the 24th November – please support us with this as the children really do love this stall!

Finally, I am well into our Christmas fundraising planning, and our first event is coming up next weekend – our very first Greenfields Christmas Market. I now have nearly 20 stall holders booked in for what should be a really lovely shopping experience. £1 entry per family, we've got personalised goods, candles, sweets, tipples, tattoos, handmade cards, cleaning goods, wreaths, phone charms as well as a stocking filler stall. Teas, coffees and mince pies on offer. Please do support the school and pop in on Sunday 19th November between 10am-2pm and grab some Christmas shopping. Most of our stall holders are local to South Oxhey and Greenfields, so it really is a community event. Look forward to seeing you there!



Kate Day

Attendance



Attendance

Nursery	92.03%
Reception	96.92%
Year 1	96.09%
Year 2	96.15%
Year 3	96.54%
Year 4	96.96%
Year 5	91.67%
Year 6	94.83%
Whole School (without Nursery)	95.6%

This data is for the 30th October – 3rd November, and I am very pleased with 5 classes having attendance in line or better than the national data. This week is a very different story, with lots of temperatures and sickness bugs – the start of the illness season is upon us. Please keep your child at home if they have sickness or diarrhoea for 48 hours. Colds are down to your knowledge of your child – but a cough or a snuffle does not stop them learning. Please believe me when I say we will send your child home if they are not well enough to learn, but a sore throat does not stop them learning.

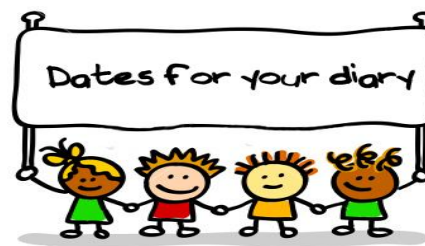
We still have a number of families struggling with being in school on time however. Please can every family try to be in school by 8.40am. Registers are taken at 8.45am and the first 15 minutes are used to catch up on misunderstandings from the previous days' learning, fine motor work, handwriting and just settling down to be ready for lessons. It makes a real difference to the children. Being late by 15 minutes a day means that by the end of the year a children would have missed the equivalent of 2 weeks of school. Please be in and on time!

Winter uniform needs

As the weather become worse – it definitely is autumn now – children need to ensure they have a coat every day. Even in rain, we do try to get the children outside to play, but only if they have a coat with them. There have been several children this week who have not been able to go out to play because they didn't have a coat. Please make sure they arrive wearing one!

We also have lots of children in sweatshirts which are not green or not school uniform. As it is colder, I appreciate the need for more layers, but please adhere to our uniform policy – a dark green sweatshirt. Not blue, grey or black. If your child is going to take this off in school, please ensure their name is in it, so when they leave it around the building we can return it to them. Ideally label the collar not the clothing labels, as these cannot be cut out.

If you are sending in gloves and scarves etc, please ensure these are named too.



13.11.23	Bikeability Week – Yrs 5&6
14.11.23	Positivity Day – Wear Odd Socks
16.11.23	Y5 fun Run – South Oxhey Playing Fields pm
19.11.23	Christmas Market
22.11.23	Y6 trip to Lincolnsfield
23.11.23	Year 2 Class Assembly gam
24.11.23	Non uniform day - £1 for Christmas Fair stalls
30.11.23	Year 4 Class Assembly gam
1.12.23	Romans Charity Day for Shelter – YES day
13.12.23	Christmas Show Day 2pm / 5.30pm
14.12.23	Christmas Show 9.15am
15.12.23	Christmas Fair
18.12.23	Awards Assembly Christmas Lunch and Party Day
19.12.23	Whole School Panto trip to St Albans
20.12.23	Carol Assembly 1pm Finish Staff Training evening
8.1.24	Term Starts

Year 3 news

On Monday, we went on a trip to the Natural History Museum to see the earthquake and volcano exhibition. We went by coach because it was in London.

First, we went to the exhibit and we went up an escalator, which took us inside a planet. It looked like it was made of gold foil and metal. It felt like we were inside the planet's core.

Next, we went inside a fake supermarket and the floor started to shake, to show what it would be like in a real earthquake. It was amazing, the wall looked like it was about to fall down and the food and drinks started to shake on the shelves. It was based on the Kobe earthquake in Japan in 1995. It showed us real footage of the earthquake on a little TV screen.

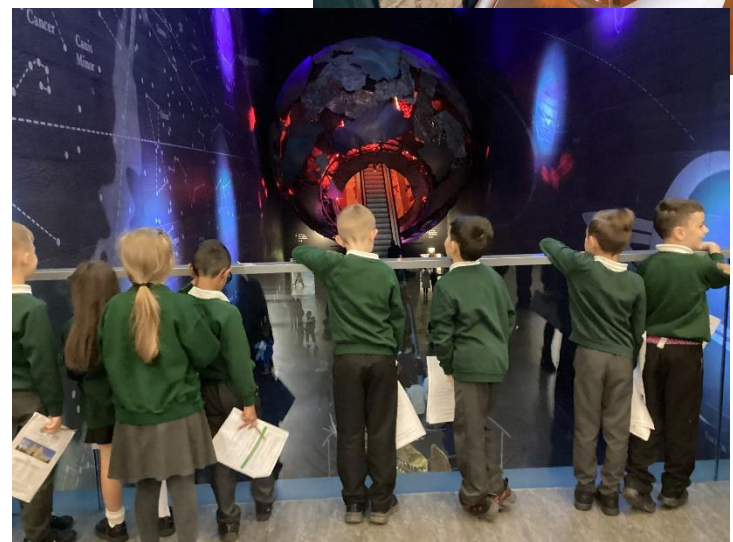
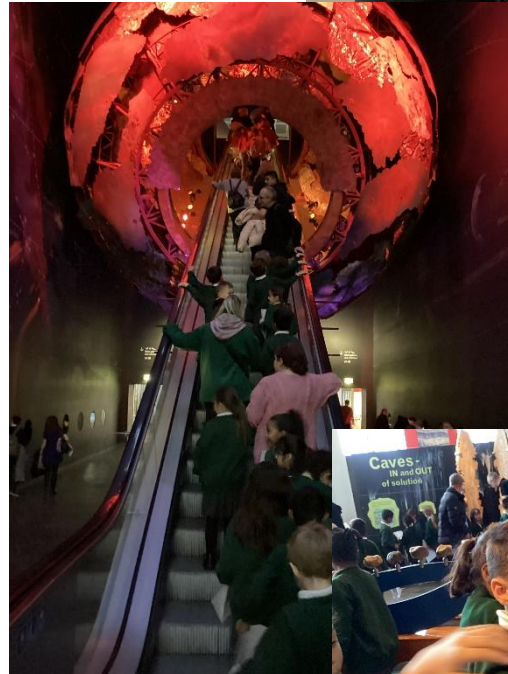
We saw a big screen that showed us all the different types of volcanoes, like mega volcanoes and ones that did not erupt but smoke came out of them.

In the Earths Treasures section, we saw some beautiful shiny crystals. There were many different colours, but the most popular colours were red and purple.

When we went to the dinosaur section, we were shocked by the size of bones and by the moving, roaring dinosaurs. When we saw the life size, moving T-rex and we thought that it might be real, but it was just a robot. We saw an enormous T-rex heart the size of a basketball.

We had a fantastic day out and really enjoyed ourselves. On the way out, we bought a dinosaur Santa to go on the top of Year 3's Christmas tree.

Some of us fell asleep on the way home, but most of us were wide awake from an exciting day.



Green fingered School Council

This year we have a very active school council who have been working with Mr Pople to find ways to improve our site. They have started by repurposing our old bio dome base into a sensory relaxing space. Working with Mr Ray, they have now planted herbs, shrubs and climbers to improve the space and make it a lovely area on the school site. I know it still has bulbs to be added, but am told now is not the right time to plant what else is planned! Thank you very much to all the team for their hard work – and to Mr Ray for helping!



Fundraising Success

A huge thank you to the 25 parents who volunteered their time to make the Glow Disco a great success. We raised over £700 for the school – this money goes directly to your children and their wellbeing. We will use this money to pay for Christmas presents for Father Christmas to deliver to each class, some for treats for the panto, and some towards outdoor play equipment for EYFS garden. It was so nice to have new faces helping out and promises of future help and support. As I said to everyone involved, I can organise events, but I cannot run them on my own, so it is hands and help I need. It is also nice to be able to give everyone some time to spend supporting their child at an event and not rely on the same adults to help every time.

A huge thank you also goes to Mrs Gheorghe, who has arranged a £500 donation for the school through her work's charitable giving. This was very much a surprise donation and very welcomed!

Our next event requires no effort on your part – but I would love to see as many faces as possible supporting our first Christmas Market here at Greenfields on the 19th November. We have 15 different stalls – all local traders, so please do pop in and grab some Christmas shopping. Teas, coffees and mince pies one sale if you get peckish browsing.

Our next event after that is the big Christmas Fair. Children will have time slots to attend during the day, and tokens need to be purchased in advance via School Grid. Father Christmas will be here to see any child and has his presents already wrapped up! Nursery and Reception children can come with their adults, and will visit the fair at 9am (Reception) and 11.15am (Nursery), so please bring younger brothers and sisters then too if you would like.

