



hello 2024

Newsletter

12.1.24



Recently at Greenfields...

...and just like that – we're back!

Happy New Year to everyone. If I haven't seen you personally yet to ask – I hope you have had a great break, enjoyed the festivities and had a wonderful time. The children were full of what they had been up to in assembly on Monday, and I have heard about lots of wonderful presents and magic moments. The children are very lucky! As a staff we have had two days less than you, with two training days in the break, planning lots of engaging activities and learning about new ways of working and planning, so we are excited for the term ahead to see the impact they make. One of these days was about our Arts Week (12th-16th February) where we will be looking at the work of M.F.Husain and using our week to create work inspired by this Indian artist. We will be showing it all off on the Friday before half term.

I haven't been about as much as I like to be this week due to meetings with every class teacher regarding progress and needs in every class. We are constantly assessing the children and supporting their learning, but each term we do formally assess what they have retained for the term. These meetings give us an opportunity to analyse the data and discuss what other support children may need if they are falling behind, and what we can manage with the manpower we have. Mrs Evans will be sending out new intervention letters in the next few days. One thing that really does show is the children who do have support at home and ensure homework is done, and those who do read as much as possible.

We have been quite shocked by the number of children who have not picked up a book since the middle of December. The children need to keep reading and practising their phonics. I know our lives are busy and time is precious, but to make the best progress possible, the children really do need to keep up with their reading. And they need the interest of an adult – when they are younger to sit with them and help, and when they are older to discuss the book. Our expectation is every child reads at least 4 times a week outside of school. Please support them in ensuring they do this. It is the singular most important thing you can do to support their learning.

Next week we have our third House Charity Day with Saxons raising money for the Starfish Ward at Watford General. The children have chosen a non uniform day (donations please) and a bring and buy pre loved toy sale. Thank you to those who have already had a clear out and donated toys and games. We do need every child to send in a game or toy they no longer play with to swap for something new. If only half the school bring in, it is not fair to expect to be able to participate. We do urge though that any games or puzzles are checked to ensure they are all working and have all their pieces. So, on Friday, children will be in non uniform, they will be having a games based play afternoon in class and attending the toy sale. If you would like to come and look too, we will be in the hall from 1.30pm. Any volunteers for help too would be much appreciated!





Attendance 8th-12th January

Nursery	80.71%
Reception	97.01%
Year 1	94.69%
Year 2	97.44%
Year 3	88.89%
Year 4	95.17%
Year 5	94.07%
Year 6	99.14%

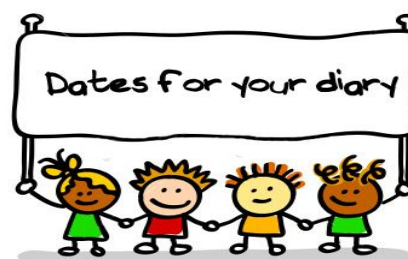
We started the week on Monday with only 5 children missing out of the entire school and things have gone downhill since. Whilst I do expect coughs and colds at this time of the year, I do not expect holiday requests and random days off with refusal to give a reason. These latter are obviously unauthorised.

I do feel I am understanding whilst having to toe the political line, I do understand. I would much rather be open and honest about attendance, but equally I do see the impact children missing time in school. It may 'just be a day off' in your head, but for your child it is missing out on new learning meaning they cannot cope in class, missing out on friendships meaning they are socially isolated. Unless they are ill, they should be in school!

Volunteers for the next disco needed

On the 9th February we are trying something a little bit different, and are holding a Silent Disco at school. This is where the children all will be given a headset which can be set to 2 different discos and only they hear the music! We will still be doing all the lights, refreshments and sales as usual, but I do need helpers. If you are willing to support the school in this, please let me know – I like to be able to plan!

I need helpers 3.45-5pm for KS1 and EYFS and then 5.15-6.30pm. Please let me know what you can do! Thank you!



8.1.24	Term Starts
16.1.24	Y5 Fun Run – Greenfields
18.1.24	Y6 indoor athletics at Merchant Taylors pm
19.1.23	Saxons Charity Day for Starfish Ward – bring and buy toy sale
1.2.24	Y2 Class Assembly
8.2.24	Y1 Class Assembly
9.2.24	Silent Disco – EYFS / KS1 at 3.45pm KS2 at 5.15pm
12.2.24	Arts Week Dance Festival at Rickmansworth – rehearsals at 11.45am Performances at 6pm
13.2.24	Pancake Day race
16.2.24	Arts Week Show pm
19.2.24 - 25.2.24	Half Term
27.2.24	Parents Evening
28.2.24	Parents Evening
7.3.24	World Book Day 5.30pm Book at Bedtime
11.3.24	Science Week
14.3.24	Y5 Class Assembly Y5 Tag Rugby Festival at Greenfields
21.3.24	Reception Health Screening checks
27.3.24	Awards Assembly
28.3.24	Easter Bonnet Parade End of term 1pm

World Book Day 7.3.24

We have been discussing what we will do for World Book Day this year, and I know some of you spend time (and money) on some great costumes! This year we ask that children dress up as their favourite characters. In school they will be writing about the character they have come as and we will be doing a 'Guess Who' reveal game with them, their writing and their photo – which we will take on the day. Please start thinking now...

It needs to be a character / book they know and will be able to talk about. Please not film stars or just a generic footballer...

Book at Bedtime will be back at 5.30pm for those who want their yearly bedtimes stories too!