

Newsletter



16.01.2026

Recently at Greenfields...

Happy New Year! If I have not yet seen you in person to say that, I do hope you had a wonderful break and enjoyed your time together no matter what you did. The children have been so excited telling me their presents – it seems like South Oxhey has a lot more ipads, mobile phones and remote control cars! But mostly, the children have been full of the fun they have had with friends and family and spending time with you. Once again, on behalf of the staff, thank you all for your lovely gifts and cards. We really do appreciate you remembering us in your festive greetings and love.

As always, the return from the Christmas break feels hard, and even though we have only been back 2 weeks, the holidays feel ages ago. We have again been hit by lots of absences, this time snow preventing people from returning from holidays as well as the usual bugs. County are again chasing me to enforce fines on parents who do take term time holidays, as is the law, so again I am reminding all parents that any unauthorised absence of over 10 sessions in a 10 week period means that I have to send out Notice to Improve letters, and have meetings with all involved. Any holiday taken with or without notice which is over 10 sessions means an immediate fine can be given by County, and I cannot authorise any holiday unless in **exceptional** circumstances.

School has been busy as usual, with all year groups launching new topics and themes of learning. I had a wonderful morning teaching Y4 this week only to find a thief had broken in and stolen all their chairs! We had to investigate – obviously – and quickly came up with a list of suspects we needed to interview. Mr Quarrel, Mrs Cochrane, Mrs Evans, Miss Wilds and even myself were interrogated by some very thoughtful

questions, before we then uncovered that the chairs had actually been hidden and the classroom was soon restored in time for maths! Today I am teaching Reception all day – I just hope they have all their furniture! They have started their new theme of Dinosaurs – see the lovely piece of writing above. Today we have a snake and possibly a tortoise visiting us to understand what dinosaur skin may have felt like. Life at Greenfields is never dull! These are just two classes I have the thrill of being in this week. Please look at our website and see the curriculum maps to check what topics your children will be covering: <https://www.greenfields.herts.sch.uk/curriculum/curriculum-documents/>

Currently the new calendar is slightly empty, but I know this will soon fill up as more and more events get added. Yesterday Miss Chopping and I were planning Sports Week and I've been trying to book in school photos and other workshops, so do keep checking every newsletter so you do not miss events. I have added the Term Dates for next year already as I know some of you will be looking to book holidays, and need to know when we are back after the summer. This will also be added to our website and Piota. Whilst both the Autumn Term and Spring term start mid week, these first few days are so important, I really do urge you to ensure you are back for them!

Kate Day



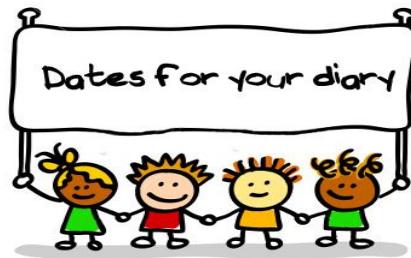
Attendance 5th-9th January 2026

Nursery	87.41%
Reception	95.36%
Year 1	88.15%
Year 2	84.83%
Year 3	90.95%
Year 4	93.85%
Year 5	91.92%
Year 6	90.88%

We are now preparing to enter the Ofsted inspection window, and these are new inspections with different criteria to be assessing. As I have said before, we will be judged on attendance, and currently we are below National so this will mean we cannot be a school which is awarded Expected Standard. This will place us in a category, so please do help us by ensuring your child is in school and on time. We really have seen a slip in punctuality – both in dropping off and collecting. We are doing all we can to make the National Curriculum exciting and engaging so the children want to be in. I do not want to spend all my time worrying about attendance and fretting about it, when I want to be ensuring your children gets the most they can out of being in school and learning; making school memorable for all the right reasons!

Well done Reception for a good start to the year. I hope all other classes catch up. I'm hoping that one week I can colour all the classes green! A reminder that all children should be in school at 8.45am as this is when the register is taken. Doors open at 8.40am. To those who know they cut this a little fine, please try to leave just 5 minutes earlier to make sure the children are in class for the very important start to the day. We know and see that children who miss these first few minutes take far longer to settle, miss out on key interactions and it impacts on their well-being.

Collection is 12 noon for nursery, 3.15pm for Reception, Y1 and Y2; and 3.20pm for the junior classes. No sibling under the age of 14 can collect a child from Greenfields classes without an adult present.



5.1.26	Term Starts 8.45am
22.1.26	Y5 Class Assembly
30.1.26	Y6 Athletics@ Merchant Taylors
6.2.26	Disco night
12.2.26	Y3 Class Assembly
13.2.26	Pancake Race
16-21.2.26	HALF TERM
5.3.26	World Book Day
12.3.26	Y1 Class Assembly
16.3.26	Y5 Rugby @ Greenfields
25.3.26	Parents Evening
26.3.26	Parents Evening
26.3.26	Awards Assembly
27.3.26	Easter Bonnet Parade 1pm End of Term
13.4.26	Term Starts

Term Dates 2026-2027

<u>Autumn Term 2026</u>	
Training Day	Tuesday 1 st September 2026
Term Starts	Wednesday 2 nd September 2026
Occasional Day	Friday 23 rd October 2026
Half Term	Monday 26 th October 2026 – Friday 30th October 2026
Return to School	Monday 2nd November 2026
Term Ends	Friday 18 th December 2026
<u>Spring Term 2027</u>	
Training Days	Monday 4 th January 2027 Tuesday 5 th January 2027
Term Starts	Wednesday 6 th January 2027
Half Term	Monday 15 th February 2027 – Friday 19 th February 2027
Return to School	Monday 22 nd February 2027
Term Ends	Thursday 25 th March 2027
Half Term	Monday 29 th March (Bank Holiday) – Friday 9th April 2027
<u>Summer Term 2026</u>	
Term Starts	Monday 12 th April 2027
Half Term	Monday 31 st May (Bank Holiday) – Friday 4 th June 2027
Training Day	Monday 7 th June 2027
Return to School	Tuesday 8 th June 2027
Term Ends	Wednesday 21 st July 2027