



# Newsletter

20.12.23



## Recently at Greenfields...

How the year has flown – and what way to end this calendar year but with our Greenfields Christmas concert. Wasn't it wonderful? If we didn't manage to make you feel Christmassy – I don't know what more we could have done. Our Christmas show was stunning and the children shone like the true stars they are. It was so lovely to play to 3 audiences and indeed Wednesday night was a full house! 150 seats full to the brim in the hall – we are actually not allowed to have more and don't have any more chairs fit for adults! Thank you too for your donations to be allowed to get out – a generous £510 which goes towards the costs of putting on a show and Christmas generally in school. I really do appreciate your generosity especially during these challenging times.

Since I last wrote, we have had our school fayre, which the children thoroughly enjoyed. A huge well done to Y6 (and Y5) who operated the stalls throughout the day and enabled everyone to come. Again, it was lovely to open up to parents in the Nursery and Reception slot. By pre selling the tickets we know pretty much how successful we have been before the event, so it is great to report that the Fayre raised over £1000 profit for the school. I am always surprised at what stalls the children favour year on year, but always know that the Chocolate Game is one they all make a bee line for – I had to go out at lunch to make emergency purchases! Thank you for your generosity in enabling these to run. This year candy canes also proved a hit, as did punch balloons, but unfortunately no-one managed to free the elf so he remains locked up and away...

The end of term is always celebrated with our Awards Assembly, and it was lovely to be able to have our Chair of Governors Zoe Baines in to present all the awards. So many Bronze cards achieved, the odd silver card too, attendance prizes and Values Badges. Please see the photos and names on Piota. Each class is given 5 badges to hand out, and I know the staff find this genuinely challenging to narrow their choices down. All the children at Greenfields are amazing and show that day in, day out. It was lovely to recognise this by all classes being in the last Green Book of the year for their efforts this term!

The there was the Panto! It was such good fun and so special to be able to return to an old tradition. Special thanks must go to South Oxhey Parish Council for their grant to the school which paid for the majority of the tickets. Thank you too to all of those who paid for their coach travel. Seeing the children engage, sit and watch the panto for nearly 2 ½ hours was amazing. I know they will have come home full of what they saw and the traditional panto jokes! It really was a magical memory for us to end the year on. Mrs Evans has put lots of photos on our twitter page for you to see.

As 2023 comes to a close, it just leaves me time to wish all our families and friends a very merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Thank you all for the cards gifts and words to all the staff. May 2024 bring you all that you deserve. Stay warm and safe over the holidays and we will see you back on the 8<sup>th</sup> January – 8.40am!

*Kate Day*

## Help at Christmas

<https://parents.actionforchildren.org.uk/additional-needs-disabilities/support-home-school/send-christmas/>



[How can I help my child with special educational needs cope over Christmas? - Support for Parents from Action For Children](#)

Find out what's happening at your child's school or nursery. Celebrations could include concerts, parties, lunches or Christmas jumper days. This could become overwhelming for some children. If you feel your child may need extra support during these times, make sure the school is aware.

It's a stressful time! You may get to the end of your tether, but remember there are people out there who can help! For SEN families, this website might be useful...



### Governor Cup Autumn Term

The teachers were tasked with naming someone who stood out for going beyond. Naming someone who was honest and empathetic, someone who aspires to achieve and shows everyone respect. A true team player. We are proud to say that the person who has stood out for those reasons is Ivan.

Ivan and his family joined our school and our community from the Ukraine at the end of 2022. He showed great bravery, not only moving to a new school, but also to a new country. Yet through it all, he had a wonderful smile and gave everything his best. Learning a new language, tackling new learning and problem solving, finding good friends, and building that sense of belonging were just some of the things he had to do when he came to Greenfields, and have achieved 100%.

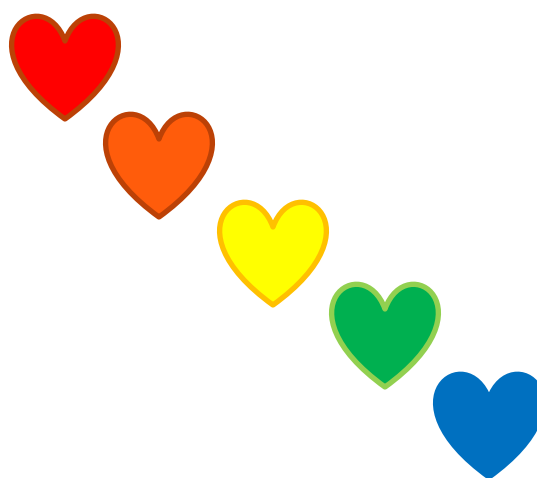
When Ivan was in Reception he showed exceptional excellence in all areas of the curriculum. He excelled particularly in Literacy and Maths. He learnt to read at an excellent rate and really wowed all the staff. English is not his first language and this is what made his progress more remarkable. He has a true heart of gold and always showed the Greenfields values in whatever he set out to do. We are proud that he has continued to shine and give his best in Year 1.

Teachers in year 1 are so amazed by your imagination and tinkering mind. He loves to build to design, finding new ways to make models and patterns and sharing them with others in the classroom. We are pretty sure there is nothing he cannot make using Lego.

Ivan understands others, showing deep empathy for how his friends feel and what they need. He's shown great kindness and maturity, helping children in our class with whatever they may need and going out of his way to make them feel happy and comfortable.

He is a team player, not just in the sense of sports, but as a member of Year 1 and Greenfields. Ivan shows not only pride in what he has achieved, but also celebrates others and has a good sense of fair play. He is always helpful in the classroom, and can encourage friends through any problem.

It has been a privilege to have Ivan in our school, to see him grow and change all with that same beautiful smile. We know he will continue to show our school values and shine like the star he is! When you become a famous builder or architect remember where it all started...



Well done to all our HEART Value Badge Winners!





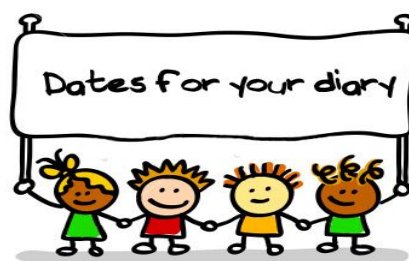
## Attendance Autumn Term

Nursery	88.98%
Reception	92.04%
Year 1	93.53%
Year 2	95.63%
Year 3	94.56%
Year 4	96.35%
Year 5	92.66%
Year 6	95.62%

This is not a great picture for attendance as a whole school, but it is better than this time last year. Those people whose children are not marked as Persistent Absentees will be getting a letter from me today as this is something that really needs to be worked on next term. Attendance is the one thing I have no control over, but I have to report it every half term to our Governors and to the Department of Education. It is the singular most important thing you can support that will make the most impact to your child's learning. We still have children late every morning, missing the valuable first lesson and settling in period for the day. Please, please, please ensure your child is here and ready to learn from 8.45am. Doors open at 8.40am.

## Safety Reminder

Older children walking home or cycling is great for their independence but please remind them of safety issues such as crossing roads! We have done Road Safety in school, but too many of our older children are just stepping or cycling straight out without watching. This week we had a near miss for a child cycling home and not looking at all at the bottom of Ellesborough Close. Equally, younger children running ahead and out of sight of their adults. Over the holidays, please remind them of the dangers of not paying attention to what is happening around them when out and about! Thank you!



8.1.24	Term Starts
16.1.24	Y5 Fun Run – Oxhey Fields
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
19.2.24 - 25.2.24	Half Term
27.2.24	Parents Evening
28.2.24	Parents Evening
7.3.24	World Book Day 5pm 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

## Homework for all the children from Mrs Day:

- Spend time with the people you care about.
- Do the things you enjoy.
- Eat the food that you love.
- Watch your favourite film or TV show.
- Make someone laugh or smile.
- Do something for someone else.
- Visit your favourite place, even if it's in your dreams.
- Play with your toys.
- And come back to school ready to learn!

