



# Newsletter



08.11.2024

## Recently at Greenfields...

It has been back to school at a frantic pace this week – already November and this term is always so busy with the C word fast approaching. I'm already having meetings to discuss the Christmas Play and Concerts (put the dates in your diary now - 11<sup>th</sup> (1.30pm and 5pm) and 12<sup>th</sup> December (9.15am) and working out which carols to practise.

This week most classes have started new topics and learning themes, and what better way to grab their attention than a trip or experience to engage their brains. Y6 went to the Uxbridge Bunker to continue their learning about World War II and see the very bunker which controlled the Battle for Britain. See further on for their account of the trip. Years 3 and Year 5 are out as I type at the Natural History Museum and the Science Museum respectively. Year 2 were meant to have an experience which had to change last minute, and so Mrs Jeffries led an immersive day at school. I appreciate that all trips rely on voluntary contributions. We legally can insist on the entry costs being paid if you would face a cost to take a child yourself, it is the mode of transport that is the voluntary bit. However, I always say if you are experiencing difficulties, please come and see me so we can work out a way forward together. When we do not have enough donations we have to make hard decisions, and as a school I cannot pay for all trips. I also cannot work on parents paying / promising to pay after the trip has happened as we have to pay in advance. You cannot go to a restaurant, eat a meal and then promise to pay next month.

I know the Arbor system is not the easiest as it does not allow you to put multiple things in a cart and check out in bulk, but it does save cards and it does work. Please pay attention to

the payment deadline, and please do come and speak to me if there is a problem so we can find a way forward together. I have tried really hard to make pots open as early as possible, to give as much notice as possible about money needed. However, I will make the calls when we cannot go ahead with trips which is disappointing for everyone involved. Currently, pots are open for all Christmas events – fair, grotto and panto. This week I have paid for all the panto tickets, which school is covering, we are asking for contributions towards the cost of the coaches and the refreshment treats.

This week I have been really proud to be showing so many potential families around who are all looking for spaces for their children for September 2025. It is so good that our reputation is such that so many families want to attend Greenfields, and I know this is down in part to the wonderful things you say about us in the local community. My aim has always been for Greenfields to be a school of choice, and finally that appears to be happening. Thank you for the part you are playing in that. Even covered in scaffolding, it is lovely to hear so many strangers saying what a wonderful warm feeling the school has, and how they want to be a part of our community. If you are part of our Nursery and want to attend here in Reception, remember you still need to apply online through Hertfordshire council as we do not run the admissions for Reception.

*Kate Day*



### Attendance Autumn 1

|           |        |
|-----------|--------|
| Nursery   | 92.55% |
| Reception | 93.67% |
| Year 1    | 95.06% |
| Year 2    | 96.17% |
| Year 3    | 95.7%  |
| Year 4    | 94.36% |
| Year 5    | 92.19% |
| Year 6    | 94.29% |

Attendance is something we began working on when I took over in January 2019, and has always been something I am proud of the improvement. Now it seems we are going back a bit – at a time where we are entering an Ofsted window, and a time where they have announced they will definitely be looking at attendance and lateness. It is the one bit of school I really have no control over, and have to look to you and ask you to help. As you can see – only 3 classes managed to have 'good' attendance last half term, and the week before half term, every class falls into yellow or worse.

### Attendance 21<sup>st</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> October

|           |        |
|-----------|--------|
| Nursery   | 86.79% |
| Reception | 91.36% |
| Year 1    | 90.74% |
| Year 2    | 88.57% |
| Year 3    | 85.6%  |
| Year 4    | 94.65% |
| Year 5    | 86.79% |
| Year 6    | 91.36% |

I appreciate this time of the year we do have illnesses, but the number of days off with no contact are not acceptable. You must ring us by 9am if a child is going to be off. If we ring and get no answer, we have a duty of care to ensure your child is safe. There have been horrible stories about parents having accidents and children dying because nobody checked, so we are just doing our job. Please do not be cross or rude to the office staff for checking.

We also have many families coming in late. It really impacts your child when this happens as they miss key learning time, messages and are playing catch up for the rest of the day. Registers are taken at 8.45am and children must be in then. Our doors open at 8.40am. Attendance after 9.15am is Unauthorised, and 10 unauthorised marks in a 10 week rolling period, I now legally have to take action.

Please can we all make a concerted effort to improve this, and together we can make a difference to ensure we keep being a GOOD school.

## Getting your child to school on time really matters

| If in a school year your child is late everyday<br>..... | Your child would have lost approximately<br>..... | Or they would have missed approximately<br>..... |
|--|---|--|
| 5 Minutes  | 3 days from school                                | 16 lessons lost                                  |
| 10 Minutes   | 5 days from school                                | 32 lessons lost                                  |
| 15 Minutes   | 8 days from school                                | 48 lessons lost                                  |
| 20 Minutes   | 11 days from school                               | 63 lessons lost                                  |
| 30 Minutes   | 16 days from school                               | 95 lessons lost                                  |

## Staffing News

Sometimes appointments just don't work out, and despite everybody trying to find a way forward, it just doesn't work. We have recently had two people join us for which this has been the case, so we have parted ways. Those of you who have been in may have spotted a familiar face back in the office helping out whilst we work to replace Mrs Lee - Mrs Parker! We are eternally grateful to Mrs Parker for stepping in, but I am delighted to say we have been able to appoint Mrs Saywers who will be starting in the office on the 25<sup>th</sup> November. It does leave us short staffed in the office for a while, especially on Fridays where it is just Mrs Brodie, so please do be patient! We cannot answer the door, the phone, the gates, deliver messages to class and deal with poorly children in one go!

We also have a new TA joining us in December – Miss Baynes who will be working with various children around the school. Miss Baynes brings lots of valuable experience to the support staff and I know will prove invaluable to the offers we can make to support children.

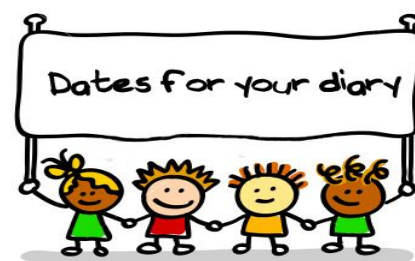
In teaching news, I am so thrilled with the next two appointments. The Y2 class have been so well taught by Mrs Jeffries, but this was not something we could do full term for a long time. However, she has been amazing with the class, and I am so please she has now decided to train properly to be a teacher. It felt wrong to remove her completely from the class after all she has done, so we have decided to keep Mrs Jeffries with the children for Mondays and Tuesdays. The teaching team will be strengthened with the addition of Miss Daniels. Miss Daniels has been teaching for 9 years across a range of classes at a school in Hillingdon. She has sent this message to introduce herself:

Hello Greenfields and in particular Year 2! I have been teaching for 9 years but this year I have been kept very busy with my now 10 month old daughter! I cannot wait to start at Greenfields and to get to know all of the children in January. I have a huge love of travelling, fitness, the outdoors, animals and reading. These are all things I hope to bring into the classroom to help the children with their learning. I look forward to meeting you all in 2025!

My final bit of news will come as no surprise to those who have seen Mrs Pearce recently, but Mrs Pearce will be going on maternity leave in February next year to have a new addition to her family. We are all thrilled for her and her husband, and Oliver, for their news. Of course I will share the news of their arrival when they come around March time. However, this does leave a gap, so I was so pleased to be able to appoint Mrs

Farmer to join our staff in January. Mrs Farmer joins us after teaching for many years and recently being at another local school. Mrs Farmer is joining us full time, so will be covering Mrs Pearce's maternity leave in Year 6, Year 3 for a day and then additional PPA cover across the school. I might let Mrs May finally retire now as Mrs Farmer will replace her teaching responsibilities in Year 3, and again would like to thank her for stepping in when we were short staffed. I'm sure many of you will recognise Mrs Farmer, and I have been keen to add her to our staff for some time, so I am delighted!

I know, as always, you will make our new additions welcome and a part of our community. Our staff are certainly looking forward to their arrivals soon.



|          |  |
|----------|--|
| 11.6.24  | Y6 Class Assembly 10.40am  |
| 13.11.24 | Y5 Fun Run @ Woodhall  |
| 14.11.24 | Flu vaccination in school<br>Y2 local area walk<br>Electric Umbrella workshops for all classes |
| 15.11.24 | Y2 great Fire of London workshop   |
| 18.11.24 | Football friendly v Bromet   |
| 21.11.24 | ELSA diabetes clinic check   |
| 22.11.24 | Vikings Wild Water Day<br>Non Uniform plus hot chocolate and cookie sale                       |
| 27.11.24 | No Pen day!<br>Stay Active sessions for Years 5 and 6  |
| 28.11.24 | Y4 Class Assembly 8.50am   |
| 2.12.24  | Y3 Healthy Heroes workshop   |
| 6.12.24  | Flu Jabs in school   |
| 11.12.24 | Christmas Shows 1.30pm and 5pm   |
| 12.12.24 | Christmas Shows gam  |
| 13.12.24 | Christmas Fair   |
| 16.12.24 | Awards Assembly<br>Christmas Lunches<br>Class Parties  |
| 17.12.24 | Whole School to the Panto  |
| 18.12.24 | End of Term. 1pm finish  |
| 19.12.24 | Training Day   |
| 20.12.24 | Occasional Day holiday   |
| 6.1.25   | Term Starts  |

**Please note the change of date for Vikings Wild Water Day!**