



Graveley Primary School
Newsletter No. 7 Autumn II 2018

Dear Parents,

We have had another busy week here at school. Last week Class 1 held their Nativity, the choir performed to the residents at Halcyon Days and on Tuesday we had our Carol Concert. It has been so wonderful to see so many of you supporting the children. They were so excited about performing for you and their enthusiasm and enjoyment was matched only by the quality of the show they gave - fabulous! Well done to our talented children for giving their best, and thanks to staff who worked so hard to enable the children to perform so successfully.

We all tucked into a Christmas lunch on Tuesday. Thank you to Mrs. Morgan for providing a spread for the staff and Governors and to Gemma and Heather in the kitchen for ensuring the children feasted on turkey and all the trimmings.

In order for us to monitor attendance and absence, we have launched a new absence request form. We ask that any future planned absence from school be applied for in this way. The form can be obtained from the school office or on our website.

In addition to the newsletter this week is the Spring edition of the Online Safety Newsletter, produced by Herts for Learning. This brings up to date news of how to keep your child safe online.

In Spring Term, we will be starting our new topic of 'The Best of British.' As mentioned at the beginning of the year, we will launch this on Friday 11th January by asking all children to dress up as a significant person in British history – be imaginative as you like! Watch out for some ideas from Miss Potter on our Facebook page.

On behalf of all the staff here at Graveley, can I say a huge thank you for your generous gifts and cards. I would like to wish you a very peaceful and happy Christmas. Having worked hard all term, the children will be ready for a break and the opportunity to recharge their batteries (whilst wearing yours out no doubt!).

Kind regards,

Mrs Nicky Hand (Headteacher)



Message from Nicola Taylor (Vice Chair of the Governing Body)

We have reached the final newsletter of the term and I've been asked to write a summary explaining what the Governing Body has been doing since September.

We meet once a term as a full governing body and each of us also sits on a sub-committee (Finance & Resources or Curriculum and Standards). The first meetings of the year are usually to check we have the necessary governance documents in place and responsibilities are clear. Albert Swinson was re-elected as our Chair, with me (Nicola Taylor) as Vice-Chair.

A key role of the governors is to set the strategic direction for school development. For the second year running we spent a day off site in September to set our priorities. We discussed the school improvement plans, how to implement recent OFSTED recommendations, the upcoming Church of England (SIAMS) inspection and finished off with a session on mental health and wellbeing (for children, staff and governors).

Governors are also invited into school for various occasions. Here are some highlights from this term:

- Maths Learning Walk round each class to see how the new maths teaching works across the school.
- Governors Training session on Pupil Premium (money which is allocated from government to improve learning outcomes for disadvantaged children).
- Christmas lunch with the children and staff, followed by the Carol Concert.

Being a governor is a varied role. You get to see how the school operates 'behind the scenes' and influence some important decisions. If you have any questions, please let us know. We also have a vacancy for a new parent governor so if you would like to find out more, please speak to the school office or contact me directly.

On behalf of all the governors, I would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas!

Nicola Taylor (07789 768 601)



NOTICES AND REMINDERS

Children return to school on Tuesday 8th January 2019 at 8:50am.

Afterschool clubs start on Tuesday 8th January 2019. There are still spaces on the afterschool clubs (with the exception of cookery). Please complete and return an afterschool club booking form if you would like to make a booking for your child. Forms are available from the school office.

SOME KEY DATES FOR SPRING I 2019

Christmas Holidays	Monday 24th December – Monday 7th January 2019 (inclusive).
Tuesday 8 th January	Children return to school. Afterschool Clubs start.
Thursday 10 th January	1:30pm – Information afternoon for parents of prospective Reception 2019 children.
Friday 11 th January	Launch of new topic 'The Best of British' – children to dress up as a significant person in British history.
Wednesday 16 th January	1:00pm – 3:00pm: KS1 Fire Cricket
Thursday 17 th January	AM – School photographer (Tempest) in to take class photographs. 1:00 – 3:00pm: KS2 Fire Cricket
Tuesday 22 nd January	12:00pm – Rural Schools Indoor Athletics.
Wednesday 30 January	1:00pm – 3:00pm: KS2 Mini Olympics at Stevenage Leisure Centre.
Thursday 14 th February	PM – FOG Valentine's Disco.
Friday 15 th February	2:30pm – Open Afternoon.
HALF TERM - Monday 18th February – Friday 22nd February (inclusive)	
Monday 25 th February	Children return to school. Afterschool Clubs start.
Thursday 28 th February	PM – Mixed KS1 Football (Barnwell Leisure Centre).
Monday 4 th March	Reception height, weight, hearing and eye tests.
Wednesday 6 th March	PM – Tag Rugby (King George Playing Field).
Thursday 7 th March	World Book Day – dress up in pyjamas for Bedtime Story Theme.
Friday 15 th March	Comic Relief Day.
Thursday 4 th April	1:00pm – Y3 and Y4 Mini Tennis.
Friday 5 th April	Easter service at St Mary's Church. Break up for Easter holidays. 1:15pm – Early finish.
Easter Holidays – Monday 8th April – Monday 22nd April (inclusive)	
Tuesday 23 rd April	Children return to school.

Please note - The above dates may change and additional events may be added during the course of the term.