



Graveley Primary School
Newsletter No. 1 Spring I 2019

Dear Parents,

Welcome back - I hope that you have all enjoyed a happy Christmas holiday with your children. After a well-deserved break, pupils and staff have returned refreshed and ready to start a new term with many exciting ventures ahead.

It is lovely to see so many children and adults taking part in our first Big Bang of the year – after a walk around the classes this morning, I have met Audrey Hepburn, Amy Winehouse, Princess Diana, Freddie Mercury, Mary Berry, Simon Cowell, David Bowie, Winston Churchill, Charlie Chaplin, Stella McCartney and all 5 of the Spice Girls to name but a few!! Thank you all for the huge efforts you have made to make the day so special and memorable for the children.

As you are aware, Mrs Forster will be starting maternity leave at Easter and I am pleased to announce that Ms Khanom will be joining us here at Graveley as Class 1 teacher during her absence. She will be working closely with the staff here to ensure there is a smooth transition for the children in Reception and Year 1.

We also welcome Ms Brooker to Class 2 this term who is currently in her second year studying for a B'Ed in primary education.

We also say a farewell to one of our long standing governors, Margaret Gregorios. Mrs Gregorios joined Graveley as a teacher nearly 30 years ago and after retiring, continued to support the school through her Governor role. She will be sorely missed and hope that she will now put her feet up (something that she finds extremely difficult) and take time for herself.

Over the autumn term, the staff at Graveley have been working closely with the children and Governing Body to look at our school vision and underpinning values. The purpose of adopting Values-based Education is to inspire our children to adopt positive values in their lives so that they can strive to be the best people that they can be and actively demonstrate these values in their daily lives, thereby helping to create a sustainable world.

Previously we had 3 core values of Fellowship, Harmony and Creativity which were then explored each week by further sub values. We felt that moving so quickly through each value did not give the children time to embed and truly understand the meaning of each and so we have had a revamp. The 3 core values will remain, as we do believe this is our true purpose of what we want children to experience during their time here. However, instead of a new value being introduced each week the children will explore each of our core values more deeply. This ½ term, the focus will be Friendship. This does not mean that we will not be exposing children to other Christian values as these are all seen as important. They promote a way of being that values the self, others and the environment. Research shows the positive effects on pupils, both socially and academically, when we model and teach about universal, positive human values.

Attached to this newsletter is some guidance and ideas about activities that you may wish to do with your child at home to support the value of friendship. I hope you find it useful.

Have a good weekend!

Kind regards,

Mrs Nicky Hand (Headteacher)



NOTICES AND REMINDERS

Request from FOG – we would be most grateful for any donations of unwanted Christmas decorations and gifts which we can use at future fundraising events. If you have any to donate, please give them to FOG or the school office. Thank you in advance for your support.

Please note the following changes in next week's lunch menu:

Thursday 17th January (CENSUS DAY) - Fish fingers and low fat chips or pasta; cheese and tomato pizza with low fat chips or pasta or cheese roll. Please can all children in Infants have a school lunch on this day as it determines the funding the school receives.

Friday 18th January - BBQ pork with savoury rice; jacket potato with cheese or chicken roll.

SOME KEY DATES FOR SPRING I 2019

Thursday 17 th January	AM – School photographer (Tempest) in to take class photographs.
<i>Tuesday 22nd January</i>	<i>3:45pm – 5:45pm: Rural Schools Indoor Athletics at Fernhill School (letters sent out to selected pupils).</i>
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 –Bedtime Story Theme (dress up in pyjamas).
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. Recently added events shown in *italics*.