



## Graveley Primary School Newsletter No. 2 Autumn Term I 2020

Dear Parents,

Thank you for your patience as we all get used to the new routines at school. The children are quickly getting to grips with all the different rules in and around school; it's amazing how soon they adapt. There are a few things that we would like to tweak. When you drop off in the mornings, it can often be crowded on the pathway; especially when we have children from multiple bubbles arriving at the same time. Could we please ask for parents to stand on the car park and only children to stand on the foot-prints. This is only for drop-off. We are also looking into an option for Year 6s being able to walk down to the pub car park at the end of the school day. This is obviously a privilege that they all look forward to at this age. A separate letter explaining this will be sent to parents of children in Year 6. Please do help us in trying to prevent any transmission by adhering to the government guidelines and keeping a safe distance from each other both inside and outside of the school grounds.

Teachers are currently spending time assessing children's reading. By next Friday, all children in Classes 1, 2 and 3 will have been issued a reading book. Miss Potter has written to Class 4 to explain how it will work in her class. We do have to limit what is passed between home and school, therefore we will not be issuing a reading record at this time. All reading books must be returned on a Friday (unless the child is still reading it). Books will then be placed in 'quarantine' for 72 hours before being placed back on the bookshelves. New books will only be issued on a Friday. We will of course be teaching reading every day at school during guided reading sessions as well as any opportunity in other lessons.

There have already been cases locally where some schools have had to shut year groups due to positive cases. It is extremely important that if this was to happen here, that everybody is in a position to access learning remotely. If you have not managed to log onto Google Classroom yet, please do get in contact with your child's teacher who will support you in being able to access any learning this way. Class spellings and some homework will be uploaded here each week.

Our free fruit scheme is now back up and running for those children in Classes 1 and 2 so they will no longer need to bring in a snack each day. We have noticed that some children have returned to school wearing earrings. Can we please remind parents that earrings should not be worn in school. If your child has recently had them pierced and is still in the timescale where they cannot be removed, then please can we ask that you cover them with surgical tape each day. Thank you in advance.

You should have received an email earlier this week regarding parent consultations. If you have not yet replied, please do so ASAP. Confirmations and invitations via Microsoft Teams will be sent out nearer to the time.

This weekend, several of our children, Lyla, Charlie and Dan, will be taking part in a charity bike ride with their families. This is an event that one of our parents organises each year to raise funds for the Garden House Hospice. However due to the restrictions in place, this year, instead of the large group cycling together, each family will be completing the ride on their own. The hospice provides palliative care to those facing a life limiting illness as well as offering support to their families. This year has been extremely difficult for them with less and less donations being made as the normal routes of fundraising have had to be cut back. If you would like to donate to this worthy cause, please click the link to Kerry's fundraising page. <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Kerry-Duggan10>

We would like to say a huge well done to Will in Class 4 who was successful in his trials for the Stevenage and District Primary Schools Football Team. He has been selected alongside a squad of 11 others across the town. They compete in the Southern Counties league against other school districts from as far afield as Portsmouth and Gloucester, as well as playing friendly matches against professional academies and competing in the Southern Counties Cup and the Shires Cup. Huge congratulations!

Next week we welcome back Mrs Pilgrim to our staff team. Some of the parents of our older children may remember her working in class 1 several years ago. She will be supporting children in Class 2 each day. Mrs Morgan will be moving to Class 4 each morning. Mrs Parrott is unfortunately unable to return to school currently as her husband is awaiting a knee operation and he may require some aftercare. We will keep you updated on the situation.

Next Friday is Jeans for Genes day. Please send in a £1.00 donation if your child would like to wear jeans to school.

We do realise that most correspondence is currently by email or Parentmail. This is great for the environment as we cut back on printing, but there may be times when a hard copy of a letter is needed or you do not have access to a printer at home. If this is the case, please do contact the school office ([admin@graveley.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@graveley.herts.sch.uk)) who will provide your child with a paper copy of the letter.

We would like to begin to introduce an extra hot option for the children to enjoy at lunchtime. An undated menu is attached, beginning week commencing 14th September.

A final reminder that any bookings for early drop off need to be made by 3:00pm today for next week's sessions. Sorry for such an overload of information this week.

Have a good weekend!

*Nicky Hand* (Headteacher)

## SOME REMINDERS

**Covid-19:** If your child is presenting with any symptoms of the virus, please keep them at home and arrange for them to be tested as soon as possible:

- a new continuous cough and/or
- high temperature and/or a
- loss of, or change in, normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)

If a child develops symptoms during the day we will contact you to have them taken home and we will advise you to arrange for them to be tested at your earliest opportunity and let the school know the outcome as soon as you can. We are required to isolate children whilst they are waiting to be collected if they are showing symptoms. In some circumstances we are required to close classes if there are children or staff who are tested positive for the virus. This will only be done in conjunction with advice from public health.

**Secondary School Applications** - applications for secondary/upper school places (to start in September 2021) is now open for children in **Year 6**. Applications should be made via the online application system at [www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/admissions) If you do not have access to a computer, or have trouble in completing an application, please let the school office know. **Applications close on 31<sup>st</sup> October 2020.**

## KEY DATES for AUTUMN TERM 2020

Date	
Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> September 2020	Jeans for Genes Day.
Tuesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> September 2020	12:30pm – 4:30pm Class 2 Parent/Teacher Consultations.
Wednesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> September 2020	12:30pm – 4:30pm Class 3 Parent/Teacher Consultations.
Thursday 24 <sup>th</sup> September 2020	12:30pm – 4:30pm Class 4 Parent/Teacher Consultations.
Monday 28 <sup>th</sup> September 2020	12:30pm – 4:30pm Class 1 Parent/Teacher Consultations.
Tuesday 29 <sup>th</sup> September 2020	12:30pm – 4:30pm Class 2 Parent/Teacher Consultations.
Wednesday 30 <sup>th</sup> September 2020	12:30pm – 4:30pm Class 3 Parent/Teacher Consultations.
Thursday 1 <sup>st</sup> October 2020	12:30pm – 4:30pm Class 4 Parent/Teacher Consultations.
Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> October 2020	12:30pm – 4:30pm Class 1 Parent/Teacher Consultations.
Week commencing 12 <sup>th</sup> October 2020	Harvest Week.
Tuesday 13 <sup>th</sup> October 2020	Flu nasal spray (letters emailed).
Tuesday 20 <sup>th</sup> October 2020	AM – Happy Bags collection.
Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> October 2020	Occasional Day - school closed.
Monday 26 <sup>th</sup> October – Friday 30 <sup>th</sup> October 2020	HALF TERM – school closed.
Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> November 2020	Children return to school.
Week commencing 9 <sup>th</sup> November 2020	Remembrance Week.
Week commencing 16 <sup>th</sup> November	Anti-Bullying Week.
Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> November 2020	Odd Socks Day.
Wednesday 16 <sup>th</sup> December 2020	Christmas Party Day and Christmas Lunch.
Thursday 17 <sup>th</sup> December 2020	1:15pm – Break up for the Christmas holidays - early finish.
Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> January 2021	Children return to school.