

Graveley Primary School Newsletter

Newsletter 2 - Spring Term 1 2023

Dear Parents,

FOG news

Thank you for the donations for 'Forget the Rules Day' on Wednesday - we raised a total of £77.00. Our Sweet Treat Friday this half term has raised £141.45 and Easy Fundraising £60.17, making a grand total of £278.62!

If you are planning on having a spring clean over half-term, then please hold on to any clothing as we will have a collection on Thursday 29th February (morning drop-off).

Our next two events will be the Mothers' Day Secret Shop on Friday 8th March. (Year 1 and 2 P.E. will be on Thursday that week) and the return of the Quiz Night which will see the return of Mrs Andrews to help host the evening on Thursday 21st March.

Uniform

We have had several items of new pieces of clothing go missing. This includes brand new jumpers and a black Adidas coat. The clothing is named. Could I please ask that you check to ensure your child has not taken any items home by mistake.

Racket Festival

A group of Year 5 and 6 pupils spent Wednesday afternoon learning new skills for badminton. Mrs Lingwood and Mrs Murphy were so impressed with their behaviour and attitude on the day. This was also recognised by the other schools and staff at Stevenage Sporting Futures as Graveley were presented with the Values Teddy.

Price Increase

Unfortunately, the cost for junior school lunches will increase from 1st April to £3.35 per day.

Ready, Steady, Read

We were all amazed at the staggering number of books that we were able to purchase following the sponsored read and book fair that took place earlier this term. The children have been extremely excited looking at all of the new books that will be coming into the library and the classrooms after half term. Thank you again for supporting the school so generously.

World Book Day -

World Book Day will take place on Thursday 7th March. This year we are not asking the children to dress up as a character - we do realise that this can add a significant cost to the day. We will be running a wooden spoon competition. Please see the attached flyer for more information. The children will be taking part in various activities during the day, including online sessions with an author and decorating their classroom doors from book inspirations.

Staff changes

Today, we say goodbye to Mrs Huggill as she starts her new job in a local junior school after the half term-break. We are extremely grateful for all she has done in her time with us, and her creativity will certainly be missed. We have been interviewing today and will let you know the outcome after half-term.

Reminder

School will be closed for half term next week (Monday 19th February - Friday 23rd February inclusive). Have a lovely break and we will see everybody back on Monday 26th February.

Kind regards,
Nicky Hand (Headteacher)



Hedgehog Class

This half term in Hedgehogs has been very busy with lots of learning. In Maths, the children have been exploring place value within 20, addition within 20, number bonds and odd and even numbers. In English, we have been looking at the story called '*Stanley's Stick*'. We looked at prediction, sequencing the story, writing sentences and spotting verbs. P.S.H.E. has allowed the children to reflect on the successes and challenges they have faced so far. The children have really enjoyed Geography this half term (focus on human and physical features) and looked at what they could find when exploring on Google Maps. In Science, the children have been learning about the weather, rainfall and all about evergreen and deciduous trees. In Computing, the children have been learning how to group different objects based on size, shape and colour and we have then been able to collate this information. In Music, they have been exploring beat, sound, instruments and signing 'The Dragon Song'. For Art, they have looked at collagraphs and in R.E., EYFS children have explored Ramadan and The Easter Story whilst Year 1s have been understanding the importance of Jesus, Guru Nanak and Krishna to some people.

Squirrel Class

We have had another busy half term in Squirrels. In English, we have worked on our story writing skills using the books, '*Tadpole's Promise*' and '*Beegu*'. We have also worked on developing our vocabulary. In Maths, we have started working on our 2, 5 and 10 x tables. We have learnt all about seasons and the weather in Science and have loved exploring London and Kuala Lumpur in Geography. Thank you once again for all your support and we look forward to our new learning after half term.

Foxes Class

This half term in Foxes Class, we have been using the books, '*Winter's Child*' and '*The Last Garden*' to develop our writing skills. We have worked on adjectives, tenses, conjunctions and dialogue along with developing a range of writing techniques to suit the audience we are writing for. The children created beautiful sequels to the '*Winter's Child*', called '*Spring's Child*'. It was lovely to see how proud they were of their finished books. Maths this term has had a strong focus on multiplication. We have worked hard on our times tables and related division facts. In Geography, we have been learning all about rocks, tectonic plates and volcanoes. In Art, we have used our knowledge of contrasting colours to create some vibrant volcano artwork. Using ammonites as inspiration, we have created and printed a motif, based on the Fibonacci pattern.

Badger Class

In Badger Class, we have started our topic called 'Sow, Grow and Farm', looking at different types of farming, as well as researching, planning and beginning to create our own allotments on the school grounds. Our book study this half term has been '*The Secret Garden*' and the pupils have enjoyed exploring Mary Lennox as a tyrannical six-year old child on her journey to become more affectionate. In Maths, we have mainly focused on all things fractions - simplifying; finding equivalent fractions; adding; subtracting; multiplying; dividing and finding fractions of amounts. In Science, we have been focusing on flowering plants as well as asexual plant reproduction (to help us with our allotments), and comparing life cycles of insects, reptiles, amphibians, mammals and birds. In English, we have explored the '*Three Little Pigs*' story through the media of a Guardian newspaper advert and created a discussion text on 'Is it ever ok to commit a crime?' using the three little pigs 'getting rid of' the wolf as a starting point. We have also begun to look at '*High Rise Mysteries*' and the children are part-way through exploring how to write their own detective story. We are very much looking forward to continuing this topic next half term.

World Book Day 2024

This year, World Book Day takes place on Thursday 7 March, and we hope you'll join us as we come together to celebrate our World Book Day at Graveley. The theme for this year's world book day is Read Your Way! Every year on World Book Day, we are overwhelmed by the enthusiasm of our school community.

We are however aware of the cost of living and we do not want our celebrations to be an additional burden. Therefore, as the theme is 'Read Your Way', we would like the children to come into school dressed in an outfit which they would feel comfortable to enjoy reading in – this may be their pyjamas or a football kit! (You are not obliged to buy a new fancy dress outfit.)

We will also be running a competition for you to take part in before the day: Create a wooden spoon book character! There are many different ways you could create a book character from the wooden spoon, so this is a chance to get creative! Below are some examples of these:



Please bring in your creations on World Book Day and we will look at and admire these in the assembly first thing in the morning. There will be book-related prizes for those which are judged as winners: one in EYFS and Key Stage 1 and one in Key Stage 2.

Dates for the Diary

Date	Event
Monday 19 th February - Friday 23 rd February	Half Term - school closed.
Monday 26 th February	Children return to school.
Thursday 29 th February	Morning drop-off (by 8:50am) - FOG Clothing Collection.
Thursday 7 th March	World Book Day (see page 3 for more information).
Friday 8 th March	Y1 and Y2 - P.E. day (instead of Friday 8 th March). FOG Mothers' Day Secret Shop - there will be a range of beautiful gifts for pupils to purchase during the school day. Gifts range from £1.00 - £4.00 (max of £5.00 per child). Tokens to be purchased in advance in Arbor (<i>Activities/Trips/FOG Mothers' Day Secret Shop</i>). No cash will be accepted on the day.
Thursday 14 th March	AM - Tempest Photography in to take class photographs.
Friday 15 th March	Fun Run (more details nearer the time).
Thursday 21 st March	FOG Quiz Night (more details nearer the time).
Thursday 28 th March	1:15pm - Break up for Easter holidays (early finish).

Clothing Collection



It's that time again to dig through your wardrobe & donate your unwanted, preloved, used clothing, shoes & bags that are in good condition!

We cannot accept: bed linen, underwear, pyjamas or dressing gowns.

Please bring these items in bin/carrier bags.

Please hand any logo school uniform in at the office separately for the FOG preloved school uniform shop.

THURSDAY
29 February
Morning Drop Off





facebook.com/groups/friendsofgraveley
Charity No. 1195854

**Thank you for
your support!**