

Graveley Primary School Newsletter

Newsletter 1 - Summer Term 2024

Dear Parents,

150th Birthday Celebrations

The children have had a great time this week learning what school might have been like for when Graveley School opened in 1874.

Some pupils from Badgers Class have written their accounts of the week so far.

I thought the Victorian workshop was magnificent and really showed us the perspective of Victorian school life. It showed us how easy modern life is now compared to that era. People think teachers in modern life are strict, but the Victorian workshop made me think otherwise! I have always loved history, but this week and the workshop made me love it even more! By Isla-Jayne

The maypole was so fun because we got to make a bunch of different patterns by criss-crossing the ribbons. The ribbons were all different colours; it was really pretty when we were all holding them. I thought the music was nice and upbeat. By Betsy

Yesterday, me (Jack G) and a few other students showed Graveley School alumni around for Graveley School's 150th anniversary. I was showing a former head teacher around. We went into the classrooms and the hall to look at the displays of the work. Afterwards we had a beautiful cake with blue and gold icing, with a glass circle in the middle that said Graveley 150th anniversary. It made everyone's mouths blue! By Jack G

A huge thank you too to Gemma and Heather in the kitchen who cooked a lovely Victorian meal on Wednesday. Heather has been extra busy baking a special cake that some of our visitors enjoyed yesterday!



Half Term Club

Netball Youth Camps are running a free netball club during May half term (on Tuesday 28th May 10:00am - 3:00pm) at Bedwell Primary School, Bedwell Crescent, Stevenage SG1 1NJ for children aged 7-11 years old from the Bedwell area (beginners welcome). Children will need to bring a packed lunch with them. To sign up, please copy and paste the following link to complete the online form:

<https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=ur7mk6rEMUevXdc1sJfq2wJMi7UCKNIPvJNudTeRcltUMUVZQUJaWDhTSzc3SVZBWTDdTVRQR1NOMy4u>

If you have any queries please contact Sally Whittle: sally.whittle@englandnetball.co.uk

FOG NEWS

FOG would like to wish everyone a lovely break and thank you for all your support this half term.

Whether you have bought sweets from us on Friday, used Easy Fundraising for your online purchases, or guessed the Graveley Bear's favourite year, you have helped us raise £215.00 this half term. As always, the monies raised go straight towards resources and experiences for the children to enjoy. This half term, your generosity has funded new picnic benches, coach and train travel for class trips and phonics resources/reading books.

Thank you from the FOG Team 😊.

Reminder

We will be closed for half term next week. I hope you all have a good break, and fingers crossed for some sunshine! School will re-open on Monday 3rd June.

Kind regards,

Nicky Hand (Headteacher)

Hedgehog Class

This half term in Hedgehogs has been very busy and the children have been working extremely hard. In Maths, the children have been exploring multiplication and division. They are able to identify how many groups of objects there are, write multiplication number sentences, grouping and sharing. The children have really enjoyed learning about counting in 2s, 5s and 10s within our fluency lessons. In English, we have been looking at the story 'Lost and Found'. This has allowed the children to make predictions, sequencing, write compound sentences with conjunctions and opposing adjectives. PSHE has allowed the children to understand relationships and how to praise themselves when they have done something well. In History, we have been exploring Graveley Primary School and we are very excited for the school's 150th celebrations! In Science, we have been exploring plants, looking at seeds and bulbs. We have also looked at the different parts of a flower and can label them. We were also extremely lucky and went to Hertfordshire Zoo on 10th May and saw lots of animals in preparation for next half term's topic of animals. In Computing, the children have been learning how to take the perfect photograph. In Music, we have been exploring beat, sound, instruments and singing 'Zoo Time'. For Art, we have looked at colours and explored this through the artist James Rizzi. In R.E., E.Y.F.S. have been exploring different places of worship whilst Year 1 have been understanding how some people talk to God.

Squirrel Class

It has been another action packed half term here in Squirrels. Together we have read a range of books including 'The Odd Egg' and 'Where the Ocean Meets the Sky'. Using these books as inspiration, we wrote our own versions of both fiction and non-fiction texts. We have also continued to work hard on our phonics and spellings. In Maths, we have tackled fractions and we are currently learning to tell the time. We have loved our Science, as once again it has taken us outdoors, this time looking at trees and plants. We have used keys to identify the trees in the school grounds, learnt about leaf and plant parts and practiced our botanical drawing skills. In P.E. we have been practising our ball skills and learning different ways to pass the ball. We created our own art mural display in our class inspired by James Rizzi. As you know, our topic has been all about The Victorians. We loved finding out about Queen Victoria and the children enjoyed learning how to Maypole dance. The children all looked great on Victorian Day and we are very glad we do not go to a Victorian School!

Foxes Class

This half term has whizzed by! In Maths we have been working on developing our times tables automaticity alongside learning about fractions and decimals. In English, we have used the books 'The Thames Tide Club' and 'The Story of Tutankhamun' to create a biography, a narrative, letters and diary entries. Our History this half term has been The Romans and we will continue with this learning after half term. In Science, we have looked at plants which has linked with our Art unit 'Beautiful Botanicals'. The children have enjoyed using Turtle Academy in Computing to develop their programming skills. The final week of term has been filled with Victorian learning, from artwork to weaving, to learning all about what school was like in Victorian times. The children have been incredible, rising to every challenge set with enthusiasm and determination. Mrs Adams is looking forward to the final half term of the year which no doubt will be equally busy and exciting!

Badger Class

This half term we began our new topic - Groundbreaking Greeks (all about Ancient Greece), which we shall continue after half term. We have enjoyed finding out about the topography of the beautiful Greek islands and mainland, as well as the natural resources that they would have had access to. We have begun to explore the city states that make up this magnificent part of world history, looking at artifacts found throughout the country as well as researching how the Minoans lived - they had indoor plumbing nearly 5000 years ago! Pupils have enjoyed learning about paper crafts and collaging to create their own Greek inspired pieces and were fascinated with how simple but effective paper folding can be. In Science, we have been focusing on mammals, their life cycles and comparing them, ready for us to explore Humans next half term (looking at puberty). In R.E. they have been understanding how religious beliefs can aid us with dealing with suffering. In French, they have been speaking, reading and writing all about habitats.

The Year 6s have worked extremely hard this year and completed their S.A.T.s exams with confidence and Miss Potter is very proud with how they tackled them - well done!

Dates for the Diary

Dates	Event
Monday 27 th May - Friday 31 st May (inclusive)	Half Term - school closed.
Monday 3 rd June	Children return to school.
Tuesday 4 th June	Y3 and selected pupils from Y4/Y5/Y6 pupils - Weekly swimming lessons at Hitchin Pool commence (letters sent out). Please return permission slips and make payment via Arbor (<i>Activities/Trips/Foxes and Badgers Swimming - Summer Term 2024</i>).
Wednesday 5 th June - Friday 7 th June	Selected pupils going to Cuffley Camp (residential).
Thursday 6 th June	Foxes and Badgers (pupils not going to Cuffley residential) trip to Shepreth Wildlife Park (letters sent out). D-Day Menu - there will be a special menu to commemorate D-Day: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - fish and chips; - bangers and mash; - followed by bread and butter pudding.
Friday 14 th June	FOG Father's Day Shop will be open in the afternoon (during school) for pupils to purchase a range of gifts (prices from £1.00, up to £4.00). No cash will be accepted - tokens to be purchased in advanced in Arbor (<i>Activities/Trips/FOG Father's Day Shop</i>), from £1.00 - £5.00.
Wednesday 19 th June	Sports Day - more details to follow after half term.
Thursday 27 th June	Non-uniform day in exchange for a bottle (soft or alcoholic drink) towards the Bottle Tombola stall (<i>FOG Fete</i>).
Thursday 4 th July	Afterschool - FOG Summer Fete (letters given out). Fete tokens are £1.00 each and can be purchased in advance in Arbor (<i>Activities/Trips/FOG Summer Fete Tokens</i>).