

# Graveley Primary School Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we come to the end of a busy and joyful half term, I wanted to take a moment to reflect on everything the children have experienced and achieved. It has been a wonderful few weeks filled with learning, community spirit, creativity, and plenty of festive fun!

**Learning, Respect and Community** - We began the half term with our **Remembrance Assembly**, beautifully led by **Badgers Class**. The children showed maturity and thoughtfulness as they shared poems, reflections and readings. Thank you also for your support in purchasing poppies and accessories — we were proud to raise funds for **The Royal British Legion**.

Our **Environmental Ambassadors – Lily, Gracie and Faith** – represented Graveley brilliantly at the **Stevenage Schools Parliament**, where they discussed ideas with other local schools about how to make positive environmental changes within our community. We are extremely proud of their leadership and enthusiasm.

**Sporting Success and New Experiences** - It has been a fantastic half term for sport across the school.

- Our **Year 3 and 4 boys** took part in the **Rural Schools' Football Competition**. They played with great teamwork and determination. A huge thank you to **Chris Hinch** for his time, coaching, and refereeing on the day.
- A group of **Year 4 children** represented us wonderfully at a **Boccia competition**.
- Some of our **Year 5 and 6 pupils** attended Barnwell School for a **rowing competition**, and we were thrilled when **Chris Bull from Fit Kidz** later brought the rowing machines into school so all of **Badgers Class** could have a go.
- To top it off, our **Year 5 and 6 archery teams** took part in a local competition - and **both teams came first!** A fantastic achievement.

**Workshops and Whole-School Experiences** - We've had a number of exciting visitors this half term:

- **Hedgehogs** enjoyed a brilliant **Wild about Nature workshop** led by **Sporting Futures**, sparking lots of curiosity about the natural world.
- The whole school enjoyed a Virtual Reality adventure during a visit from **The Education Group**. Each class explored a range of fascinating topics, making learning feel truly magical.

**Promoting Kindness and Wellbeing** - Children arrived in school wearing wonderfully colourful **odd socks** as part of **Anti-Bullying Week**, reminding us all of the importance of celebrating our differences. Every class then took part in an engaging **anti-bullying workshop** led by **Smiling Minds**, finishing the week by raising money for **Children in Need**. Thank you for your continued support with these important initiatives.

**Festive Fun and Celebrations** - Graveley has been glowing with festive cheer this December! It was lovely to see so many **parents and grandparents** joining the children in classrooms to make Christmas decorations - the school has never looked so beautifully Christmassy! Thank you for helping to make the morning so special.

We have enjoyed a wonderful **Carol Concert** telling the story of the **Nativity**, and a delicious **Christmas Lunch** shared together. And of course, the children had a fantastic time at the **FOG Christmas Fete**, which brought so much excitement and joy to end the term. A huge thank you to the FOG committee for their time and efforts in organising and of course to those parents and grandparents who volunteered their time on the day.

Today, we say goodbye to Miss Radford and Miss Gauci who will begin new roles in the new year. We look forward to welcoming Mr Harte as our new teacher in Hedgehogs.

As always, I want to thank our staff, parents, and children for their hard work, positivity, and support throughout the term. I am incredibly proud of our school community and everything we have accomplished together. Wishing you all a peaceful, happy, and safe holiday. We look forward to welcoming everyone back in the New Year.

Warmest wishes,

*Nicky Hand* (Headteacher)



## Message from the Chair of Governors

### Class News

As the Christmas season approaches, we would like to take a moment to thank you for your continued support of Graveley School. It has been another busy and positive term and we are proud of the warm, caring atmosphere that makes our school such a special place. We would like to thank the staff for their hard work and dedication, and you as parents and carers for the support you give every day – it truly makes a difference.

Special thanks goes out to the highly successful Reverse Advent Calendar in support of Stevenage Food Shed. Your generosity has made a big difference – the gifts will provide some Christmas cheer for families where there is very little and help maintain the Food Shed's ongoing work through the rest of the winter months.

As governors, we enjoy seeing the school community come together, especially at this time of year. The children's enthusiasm, kindness and festive spirit have been evident through the amazing Christmas Carole Concert and of course the annual FOG Christmas Fete which was once again a huge success.

We hope you enjoy a happy, peaceful Christmas and wish you all the very best for the New Year.

Best wishes,

*David Marriott*

## Message from FOG (Friends of Graveley)

Thank you to all our parents for your continued support since September and throughout the autumn term. It truly makes a difference and never goes unnoticed. We are also delighted to share that thanks to your generosity, we have raised approximately £1,333.77 so far, which will go directly towards enhancing our school's outdoor play equipment.

As a committee, we fully appreciate that December is an especially busy month for everyone. We are always mindful of how much we ask of you, but without your support and donations, we simply wouldn't be able to run the events that we do.

The FOG Christmas Fete was a huge success and it was wonderful to see some new parents volunteering – a huge thank you from everyone at FOG. While our efforts are focussed on fundraising, they are equally about creating lasting memories for the children, and we hope your little ones thoroughly enjoyed the Christmas Fete.

At the beginning of next term, we will be hosting a Quiz Night and would love for you to join a team – a great opportunity to raise more funds while having some fun together.

From all of us on the FOG Team, we wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

## Some Dates for the Diary

DATE	EVENT
Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> December	1:15pm – Break up for Christmas.
Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup> January 2026	Children return to school. (If your child keeps long-term medication in school, please bring into the school office).

## P.E. arrangements from 6<sup>th</sup> January 2026

- Hedgehogs:** Thursday – Year 1 only (come to school wearing PE kits).  
**Squirrels:** Tuesday and Friday. Come to school in PE kits.  
**Foxes:** Wednesday. Come to school in PE kits.  
**Badgers:** Tuesday. Come to school in PE kits.

## **TURN YOUR SHOPPING INTO SUPPORT FOR THE SCHOOL!**

Did you know, your every day online shopping can help raise money for our school - at no extra cost to you? With **easyfundraising**, over 8,000 retailers will donate every time you shop!

Sign up today and turn your shopping into donations for our school. It's easy, free and makes a big difference!

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/graveleyprimary>

Thank you for your support!

From the FOG Team