

The Greysbrooke Grapevine



The fortnightly newsletter that keeps you up to date with what is going on at Greysbrooke.



AUTUMN TERM - NEWSLETTER NO. 1

www.greysbrooke.staffs.sch.uk

Dear Parents

5 September 2018

Welcome back to a new academic year at Greysbrooke. I hope that you have had a wonderful summer and I look forward to hearing about all of the children's adventures. I am sure that they will settle quickly into their new classes and routines. I would also like to extend a warm welcome to our new Reception class children and parents and to those families who have joined us for the new academic year.

In the spirit of 'welcoming' everybody back for the new academic year and also providing an opportunity for new families and pupils to meet, we do hope that you will be able to attend the many PTA (FROGS - Friends and Relations of Greysbrooke School) events scheduled for this term.

Unfortunately, we start this new academic year without Mr Berry, a much respected member of our support staff team. He is currently undergoing cancer treatment and I know that you would want to join me and his colleagues in sending him our best wishes for a speedy recovery.

School Uniform

It's wonderful to see so many children looking smart in their new uniform. Could we please remind you to label all items clearly with your child's name to ensure any lost items can be returned to their rightful owners. Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

House System

As some parents are new to our systems, I thought that you might appreciate clarification of the 'House System' that we operate at Greysbrooke. Children will continue to earn merits (for effort, progress, achievement, conduct, etc) and we will maintain records of individual progress. Every merit awarded will then count towards team points. The children are allocated to one of four houses based on jewels; Sapphire (blue), Topaz (yellow), Ruby (red) and Emerald (green). Siblings are placed in the same house colour and the children will remain in this house for the duration of their time at Greysbrooke. Houses will be used for sports day, PE lessons and other activities which lend themselves to mixed ability groupings. House captains will be elected in Year 6 and team points collected in each Friday. The winners will then be announced each Monday in assembly. We hope that the children will continue to be encouraged to earn merits for individual reward, but also to add towards their team total.

Celebration Assemblies

Celebration assemblies are a wonderful opportunity to share the work that children have been doing in class and to celebrate personal achievements in school. As last year, we will inform you of your child's participation in a celebration assembly by giving them a notification slip on the Monday before the Friday assembly.



Parking and Safety

May we remind you to be respectful to our local residents when dropping off and collecting your children. Just in case you are not aware, there is a walk through pathway which goes directly from 'The Bull's Head' carpark up to Barnes Road - go to the left-hand corner of the carpark and turn by the trees onto the path. Local police have informed us that they will continue to monitor parking around the school.

In the interests of safety, please do not drive vehicles onto the school car park or turn vehicles in the school gates. Access to the school site is via the upper pedestrian gate at all times, including when collecting children from Rainbows Nursery, Wren's Nest and after school clubs.

Dogs are not allowed on the school premises. For safety reasons, please refrain from tying them onto the carpark gates or railings.

After School Clubs

Plans for after school clubs are now being finalised. An email will be sent out in due course.

Term-Time Holiday Absence

The law places a duty on parents of every school-registered child of compulsory school age to secure their regular attendance at school. The courts have interpreted regular attendance to mean a pupil attending school every day it is open for education. There is clear evidence that any absence from school can and does impact on children's educational attainment. Failure of a parent to ensure their child attends school regularly may constitute an offence.

As stated in the 'Important Attendance Update' included in the information pack sent home yesterday, any period of unauthorised leave may result in you as a parent receiving a penalty notice fine. Leave of absence in term time will not be authorised unless there are **exceptional circumstances** (e.g. family bereavement). Any application for leave of absence should be made in advance and the head teacher must be satisfied that there are exceptional circumstances which warrant the leave. Documentation may be requested from parents as proof of the exceptional circumstance. Leave of absence request forms are available from the school office should exceptional circumstances arise.

Please also be reminded that any dental or doctor's appointments should be made out of school hours, except in the case of an emergency.

New Reception Parents

Information regarding ParentPay (the system we use for dinner money, trip payments and all communication) will be sent out to you next week.

Dinner Money

Please note that dinner money is **£11.50** per week (£2.30 per day) for Key Stage 2 children. Please check your ParentPay account as some children have started the new academic year with a debt from last year. Please credit dinner money to your account by Friday 7 September at the latest. Y3 parents are reminded that dinners need to be paid for as the children are now in KS2. Thank you.

Summer Reading Challenge

All summer reading challenge children need to return books back to Shenstone Library by Friday 7 September at the latest please. Thank you.

Y2 Swimming

Y2 children will commence swimming lessons on Monday 10 September (further details were sent out in a separate letter yesterday).

Pupil Information Forms and Acceptable User Forms

Please complete and return both forms no later than Tuesday 11 September.

Music Tuition

Instrumental tuition (Keyboard/Guitar) will commence the week beginning 10 September and the termly fee of **£68** is now due for the Autumn term. Please make payment via ParentPay by Friday 21 September.

Meet your child's class teacher(s)

On Tuesday 18 September (3.30-4.15pm) Y1, Y2, Y4, Y5 and Y6 parents are invited to attend a brief information session to meet your child's new class teacher(s) for this academic year. If you have more than one child in school, this may mean parents choosing to attend singularly the relevant sessions. This informal meeting is intended to provide an overview of such things as year group routines, expectations, curriculum information, timetables, assessment procedures, homework and any known trips planned for the academic year. We hope that you find the session informative and useful.

As YR parents have already met Mrs Wharton, this session will focus upon an introduction to the Early Years curriculum.

Y3 parents also attended a KS1-KS2 transition information meeting in July, therefore their session will focus upon information about the Ingestre Hall residential trip, which will start at 3.30pm. Y4 parents may also wish to attend this part of that meeting.

Please also note that there will be a Laches Wood information meeting for parents of Y5 pupils at 4.00pm.

Lunt Fort Trip

On Friday 21 September, Year 4 will be visiting Lunt Roman Fort in Coventry in order to complement and enhance the history curriculum. A letter will be sent home with your child tomorrow with further details.

Assemblies/Diary Dates

A copy of the school terms and holiday dates for 2018/2019 is also attached, including INSET Days (school closed to pupils but open for teacher training). Please note that celebration assemblies commence at 9.10am whilst class assemblies start at the later time of 10.15am.

School Photographer

The photographer will be in school on Thursday 25 October and all children will have an individual photograph taken. Siblings in school will also be photographed together during the morning. The proofs and information regarding the choice of packs available will be sent home but please note that there is no obligation to purchase.

Reception/KS1/KS2

Many thanks to all parents and children for your kind thoughts, generous gifts and cards received at the end of the summer term. We hope you all had a fabulous summer and are ready for a new and exciting term!

P.E/Sporting activities

PE kits are required on the following days:

Y3 - Tuesday/Wednesday

Y4 - Monday/Wednesday

Y5 - Thursday/Friday

Y6 - Monday/Friday

Lunchtime Supervisor Vacancy

With effect from Wednesday 15 November, we will have a vacancy for a Lunchtime Supervisor to work 5 days per week. Please contact the school office for further details of the position or speak to Mrs Ollerenshaw, our Senior Lunchtime Supervisor.

Kitchen Corner

Hello to all parents current and new! Just a quick note to let you know where we are within the menu cycle and a reminder about break sales.

Menu Cycle

W/c: 03/09 - Week 3

W/c: 10/09 - Week 1

W/c: 17/09 - Week 2

Break Sales

Monday/Wednesday - KS1

Tuesday/Thursday - KS2

Prices

Toast - 25p

Pancakes - 35p

Crumpets - 35p

Milkshakes - 50p

Money for break sales is paid directly to the kitchen at the service point. If possible, please send your child with the exact change in an envelope stating what they would like. Thank you.

Just to remind all parents that should you have a concern about your child's diet or should your child require a slight menu change due to special dietary requirements, please do not hesitate to come and speak to us so that we are aware and able to accommodate your child's needs.

Reception children will be introduced into the break-time system by Mrs Wharton once they are settled into the school.

Theme Days

Keep checking the Grapevine for upcoming theme days - they prove really popular in school!

Yours sincerely

Mrs T Holmes
Headteacher

STAFFORDSHIRE EDUCATION AUTHORITY
SCHOOL TERMS AND HOLIDAYS DATES 2018-19

Pupils' Year

Teachers' Year

AUTUMN TERM 2018

School Opens	Tuesday 04 September	Monday 03 September
School Closes	Thursday 25 October	Friday 26 October

Holiday Monday 29 October to Friday 02 November inclusive

School Opens	Monday 05 November	Monday 05 November
School Closes	Friday 21 December	Friday 21 December

Holiday Monday 24 December to Friday 04 January inclusive

SPRING TERM 2019

School Opens	Monday 07 January	Monday 07 January
School Closes	Thursday 14 February	Friday 15 February

Holiday Monday 18 February to Friday 22 February inclusive

School Opens	Monday 25 February	Monday 25 February
School Closes	Friday 12 April	Friday 12 April

Holiday Monday 15 April to Friday 26 April inclusive
(Easter Sunday - 21 April)

SUMMER TERM 2019

School Opens	Monday 29 April	Monday 29 April
May Day Bank Holiday	Monday 06 May	Monday 06 May
School Closes	Friday 24 May	Friday 24 May

Holiday Monday 27 May to Friday 31 May inclusive

School Opens	Tuesday 04 June	Monday 03 June
School Closes	Friday 19 July	Monday 22 July

Holiday Tuesday 23 July to Friday 30 August inclusive

STAFF INSET DAYS - SCHOOL CLOSED TO PUPILS

Monday 3 September 2018

Friday 26 October 2018

Friday 15 February 2019

Monday 3 June 2019

Monday 22 July 2019

Friday Celebration Assemblies

Please find listed below assembly dates which you are most welcome to attend, held on Friday mornings at 10.15am unless otherwise stated

Autumn Term 2018

28 September	Class Assembly*	Year 2
5 October	Harvest Celebration (KS2)	9.15am start
12 October	Sapphire & Topaz Assembly*	9.10am start
19 October	Class Assembly*	Year 1
16 November	Ruby & Emerald Assembly*	9.10am start
21 December	Carol Service at St John's	9.30am start

Spring Term 2019

11 January	Sapphire & Topaz Assembly*	9.10am start
18 January	Class Assembly	Year 4
25 January	Ruby & Emerald Assembly*	9.10am start
8 February	Class Assembly	Year 5
8 March	Sapphire & Topaz Assembly*	9.10am start
15 March	Class Assembly	Year 3
5 April	Ruby & Emerald Assembly*	9.10am start
12 April	Easter Assembly (KS1)*	9.30am start

Summer Term 2019

10 May	Class Assembly*	Reception
17 May	Sapphire & Topaz Assembly*	9.10am start
21 June	Ruby & Emerald Assembly*	9.10am start
12 July	Certificate Assembly	9.10am start (All houses & 100% attendance)
19 July	Y6 Leavers Assembly	9.30am start

*Crèche available