

# The Greysbrooke Grapevine



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



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## **AUTUMN TERM NEWSLETTER NO. 2**

Dear Parents

19 September 2018

The first few weeks of the new academic year seem to have progressed quickly and children new to the school (both in Reception and other classes) appear to have made a pleasing start. I hope that the continuation of an induction process enabling a parental consultation with Mrs Wharton has proved useful. Certainly it provides the school with valuable information which further strengthens our assessment procedures whilst simultaneously, enabling the vital partnership between home and school to commence.

I also hope that families who are new to our school quickly feel valued members of our community and at this point, must extend a warm welcome and invitation to attend the next FROGS (PTA) meeting which is on Tuesday 2 October at 7.30pm in The Railway Pub. Please continue to support FROGS and don't forget that we are always happy for people to join the committee - it is a very informal group who meet to organise fundraising events to be enjoyed by pupils and families alike.

Most of the children appear to have experienced growth spurts over the summer holiday period and the younger children are very proud of the responsibilities associated with being in a new and 'older' class. In particular, our new Y6 pupils have built upon the very impressive start made to their new roles. They are certainly undertaking their responsibilities in a serious and mature manner and I know that our pupil librarians and house captains will also function with comparable aptitude. Well done, Y6.

We are also delighted to welcome Mrs Puzey back onto our teaching team and know that she will make a valuable contribution to the learning experiences of our Y1 children. Similarly, Mrs J Wildman has already established herself as a teaching assistant supporting a child in KS2.

**Thank you** to Mr & Mrs Slassor for their work in designing and creating our new nurture room which was originally the old staffroom. The room is designed around the theme of a beach hut looking out onto the ocean and certainly is a restful and reflective place for the children to meet. Bev Ollerenshaw also assisted in the preparation of the walls prior to the design being undertaken. The finished room will be a case study for other educational establishments to visit. Mr Sweeney continued to maintain the site during the school closure period and staff and children were pleased to return to a tidy site at the start of a new term.

### **Clubs**

We are pleased to again be offering a range of after school opportunities to our pupils. All clubs are operational from this week and will finish for this term on week ending 7 December.

### **Library Visits**

Greysbrooke children will again be visiting Shenstone Library this term - class teachers will inform the children of these half-termly visits. We will also be continuing our Y6 end of term links with 'Shenstone Cares' and the more senior members of our community. These sessions are warmly anticipated and received by young and old alike with all generations clearly benefitting from the experience.

### **Swimming lessons**

This year, Y2 children will be attending swimming lessons at the Friary Leisure Centre, Lichfield on Monday mornings. We look forward to hearing of their swimming successes and increased knowledge of water safety and life saving techniques.

### **Information Sharing YR-Y6 Parents**

On Tuesday, 18 September parents were invited to meet their child(ren)'s class teacher. I do hope that these sessions proved helpful and that information concerning expectations, routines, curriculum, homework procedures and planned trips were useful. There was particular information provided about the Ingestre Hall (Y3/Y4) and Laches Wood (Y5) residential experiences.

### **Ingestre Hall (Y3/4) and Laches Wood (Y5) Payment**

Deposit payment for the above trips will be available on ParentPay from Friday 21 September after 4.00pm. Laches Wood deposit is due by Friday 28 September and Ingestre Hall deposit is due by Friday 5 October.

### **Y4**

Please remember it is our Lunt Roman Fort trip on Friday. Children will need to wear school uniform with suitable footwear such as warm boots/wellies. Please also provide very warm and waterproof clothing as we will be mainly outside. For lunch, please provide your child with a packed lunch and drink (no glass bottles) in a named carrier bag that can be disposed of afterwards.

### **New Academic Year Information Packs**

If you haven't already done so, please return all consent forms by Friday 21 September.

### **Music Tuition**

If you haven't already done so, please pay Autumn Term's tuition fee on ParentPay by Friday 21 September. Thank you.

### **Young Voices Club**

Words have been given out today. Please can children keep these safe at home and learn them. There is no need to bring them into school to rehearse as we have on screen words.

Order forms for tickets, t-shirts and torches will be sent home with your child after Young Voices Club tomorrow. Please complete and return the form to school by Monday 24 September. Payment will be available on ParentPay from Wednesday 26 September.

### **Class Assembly**

On Friday 28 September (10.15am), Y2 will perform the first Class Assembly of the new academic year. We do hope that Y2 parents are able to join us on this day.

### **Lichfield Foodbank**

This year the harvest collection will support the Lichfield Foodbank which will see a box situated in the school entrance hall from Monday 1 October culminating in the Harvest Celebration Assembly at the end of the week. Donations of packaged and tinned foods are requested rather than fresh produce due to their longer 'shelf-life'. The Foodbank warehouse is particularly short of the following items:

**Milk (UHT or Powdered)**

**Sugar (500g)**

**Fruit Juice (Long-Life Carton)**

**Tinned Sponge Pudding**  
**Tinned Vegetables**  
**Cereals**  
**Tinned Rice Pudding**  
**Instant Mash Potato**  
**Jam**  
**Custard**  
**Chocolate**  
**Biscuits or Snack Bars**  
**Toiletries (Child and Adult)**

Thank you in anticipation of your support for this local cause and we look forward to receiving your generous donations in the school entrance foyer.

### **Please join us!**

On Thursday 4 October (9.00 - 10.00am) - new Reception parents are invited to join us for an informal coffee and cake morning with donations to Macmillan Cancer appeal. It will provide an opportunity to meet other parents new to our school and to share experiences.

### **Harvest**

The children in KS2 will perform a Harvest Celebration on Friday 5 October at 9.15am. We welcome parents to join us for this celebration. As it is the junior children who will be involved in this event, KS1 children will perform the Easter assembly. We kindly request that you do not arrive any earlier than 10 minutes before assembly is due to start. For health and safety reasons, hot drinks should not be brought into school. Please note that places are limited to a maximum 2 adults per family due to space restrictions. Please leave pushchairs in the bicycle shelter. Thank you for your co-operation.



### **Theme Days**

We will be having a Harvest Festival themed lunch menu to coincide with the Harvest Festival assembly on Friday 5 October.

### **Pupil Progress**

Parents are currently invited to attend a parent consultation with their child's class teacher in the Autumn and Spring Term. The Annual Report to parents is distributed towards the end of the Summer term when we also host an 'open evening'. Parents are always welcome to make a telephone appointment to meet with teaching staff at a mutually convenient time in addition to the above. I know that many parents will chat to teachers on an 'informal basis' where matters are of an appropriate nature. Parent Evenings are scheduled for Monday 22 October (3.30 - 6.30pm) and Thursday 25 October (3.30 - 6.00pm).

### **Reminder**

Please note that the only types of earrings that can be worn in school are stud earrings. Bracelets and necklaces should not be worn in school. Also, children should not bring mobile phones into school as they will not be able to keep them in the class during the day and we cannot accept responsibility for loss or damage. If in exceptional circumstances there is a need to bring a mobile phone into school, please note it will need to be handed into the office and collected at the end of the day.

### **Dinner Money**

Please could we remind parents that dinner money should be uploaded to ParentPay in advance of meals being taken.

### **Hometime Arrangements**

It is vitally important that parents notify the school of any alterations to hometime arrangements for their child. Under Child Protection procedures, we are unable to allow children to go home with friends/relatives other than the usual person unless we have parental permission to do so. Parents should send a note or telephone the school office, if appropriate.

### **Dietary Requirements**

If your child is not having school dinners due to specific dietary requirements, Greysbrooke's catering team are more than happy to discuss this and how they may be able to help so your child can enjoy school dinners as well. Staffordshire Catering has a policy where no nuts are used in producing any dishes to give parents the piece of mind that nut allergy sufferers will not come into contact with nuts from school meals.

### **Tuck Shop**

School Council have re-opened the Tuck Shop in Y5 at break time. Currently Key Stage 1 children have opportunities to purchase snacks and drinks from the kitchen on a Monday and Wednesday and Key Stage 2 children have the same opportunity on a Tuesday and Thursday. On the days when children are unable to purchase snacks from the kitchen, they will be able to purchase healthy snacks from the tuck shop such as cereal bars, fruit flakes or similar healthy options. The maximum price is 50p an item.

### **KS2 News**

Could all parents ensure that water bottles are named. Thank you.

### **Diary Dates**

Friday 21 September	Y4 Visit to Lunt Fort, Coventry
Monday 1 October	NSPCC Workshops for Y5/Y6 Pupils
Wednesday 3 October	Whole Governing Body Meeting (5.00pm)
Tuesday 9 October	Co-operative Trust Board Meeting
Thursday 11 October	Resource Management Governor Committee (8.30am)
Friday 12 October	Sapphire & Topaz Assembly (9.10am)
Monday 15 October	Multicultural Week
Friday 19 October	Class Assembly (Y1)
Monday 22 October	NO CLUBS
Thursday 25 October	School Photographer in School - Individual/Sibling Photographs
Friday 26 October	Inset Day - School Closed to Pupils

### **Kitchen Corner**

#### **Menu Cycle**

Week 3	24/09
Week1	01/10
Week 2	08/10

We will be launching a new Autumn/Winter menu after the October Half term so please look out for further information in the coming weeks.

We do hope that all the children in reception have been enjoying their lunches with us, they have been real superstars! Please do not hesitate to feedback any concerns you may have regarding your child's diet.

Yours sincerely

Mrs T Holmes  
Headteacher