

The Greysbrooke Grapevine



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



www.greysbrooke.staffs.sch.uk

AUTUMN TERM NEWSLETTER NO.7

Dear Parents

5 December 2018

I am writing to you after a very successful Christmas Fayre and would like to thank the many parents, friends, pupils, governors and staff of Greysbrooke School for participating in the seasonal gaiety whilst raising valuable funds. The school hall was a hive of activity with raffles, toy stalls and games - so once again, thank you for your support and donations of tombola items. Fittingly, sincere thanks to FROGS for all their hard work 'front of house' and 'behind the scenes' which saw areas of the school transformed into Santa's grotto and elves workshop. It provided a truly 'magical' experience for the children. We must also remember to thank 'Santa' for taking time out of his very busy schedule to spend the lunchtime and afternoon at Greysbrooke. Prior to the Fayre, thank you to Mrs Fox, Mrs Botha & Mrs Bull for dressing the school Christmas tree in the entrance foyer for us. It looks splendid and has attracted many compliments.



Thinking of Others

Thank you again to the children and families who donated money to the British Legion Poppy Appeal which helps support military personnel, the injured and families of the Armed Services. We managed to raise **£295.64** for the Appeal.

Thank you also to everyone who sent in a Shoebox Gift for Operation Christmas Child - 49 boxes were gratefully received.

Also a huge thank you for your donations of hats, scarves and blankets which the Eco Council are collecting as part of the 'WrapUpBrum' operated by Birmingham Cathedral, which hopes to provide some comfort for the homeless this Christmas.

Birches Valley Trip (Reception)

YR children eagerly made a visit to Birches Valley on Tuesday 4 December which offered the opportunity to meet Santa in person, despite his very hectic schedule at this time of year! The children were very excited and keen to relay their experiences to me upon their return to school.

Places available for Guitar & Keyboard Tuition

We currently have a couple of places available for guitar tuition and one place available for keyboard tuition to commence after Christmas. Tuition takes place on a Monday afternoon for guitar and a Tuesday afternoon for keyboard and the cost for the term is £68.00. Each session is for 20 minutes and the children are in small groups. If you are interested in your child having a trial lesson with a view to starting after Christmas, please contact the school office

REMINDERS...

Rugby Club

Due to Christmas activities, Rugby Club is cancelled tomorrow and has been rescheduled for next week - Thursday 13 December.

Guitar Lessons

Guitar lessons have been cancelled on Monday 10 December and Monday 17 December due to Christmas activities. The sessions will be replaced with a DOUBLE lesson taking place on **Friday 14 December**, which will be the last lessons for this term. Please remind your child to bring their guitar in on that day.

School Clubs

With the exception of Rugby Club, all clubs finish this week for the Autumn Term (w/e 7 December). Clubs will restart week commencing Monday 14 January. Further information regarding Spring Term clubs will be sent out before the end of term.

Prospective Parents

It is the time of year when headteachers typically tour their schools with prospective parents of YR children and I am delighted to report that interest in our school for 2019 has again been high. Several visitors have commented upon the friendly atmosphere and happy children that will readily share their love of learning.

Snow Policy and Emergency School Closure

Whilst I am pleased that we have (so far) avoided the severe weather conditions (and I am hopeful that this will remain the case!), here is a brief account of what happens in the event of a school closure:

Firstly, for headteachers and parents, I know the disruption that the need to close our school would cause and as such this decision is only taken following much consideration about the health and safety of pupils and staff. The ability of Catering staff to travel to school to provide the children with lunch is another necessary consideration, as is the advice received from Pupil Transport Services about the accessibility of outlying country roads and the safe transport to and from school of the pupils residing there.

Schools update the Staffordshire County Council website www.staffordshire.gov.uk/schoolclosures in the first instance to see if Greysbrooke is listed. A smart phone version of the school closure list is also available for those not at home or without access to a computer. Schools no longer contact radio stations as they will also refer to the County Council website for information about school closures.

We will update the school website and office staff will send a 'Parent Text' to inform parents of the closure. We aim to achieve this by 7.45am at the latest, subject to there being no technical difficulties. Staff who live locally and can walk to school will place a notice on the school gate and leave a message on the answerphone if possible.

Christmas Arrangements

- On Wednesday 12 December KS2 children will be visiting the Garrick Theatre in Lichfield where they will be participating in the annual pantomime, which this year is 'Dick Whittington'. Thank you to FROGS for organising and funding this activity.
- Christmas parties will occur on the afternoons of Friday 14 December (YR/KS1) and Monday 17 December (KS2) respectively - the excitement mounts! Information related to party dress and food will be distributed by class teachers.
- Christmas lunch will be served for the children in the school hall on Friday 14 December. Children are invited to wear a Christmas Jumper (to be worn with uniform trousers/skirt). In return, we ask for a £1.00 donation which we will send to 'Save the Children'. If children do not have a Christmas jumper, they can wear one of their own choice.
- KS1/KS2 children will again be an enthusiastic audience for our Christmas pantomime 'Peter Pan' on the morning of Monday 17 December and I am sure that they will enjoy this interactive theatre experience; they were certainly very good at responding to 'He's behind you!' last year. Again, thank you to FROGS for organising and funding this.
- All children are invited to attend the FROGS Christmas disco to be held in the school hall on Tuesday 18 December. **KS1: 6.00-7.00pm / KS2: 7.15-8.15pm.**

- On Thursday 20 December at 2.15pm parents are invited to join myself and some of the staff and school governors for a mince pie, coffee and informal chat in the school hall. Please complete and return the slip below by Wednesday 12 December to enable us to confirm numbers. Thank you.
- Our Carol Service will take place at St John's Church at 9.30am on Friday 21 December. We hope that you will be able to join us for this end of term festive celebration. Children are also invited to wear their Christmas Jumpers (or jumper of their choice) with their school trousers/skirt on this date.

Post Box

Following the arrival of our Christmas Post Box in the school entrance foyer, the Y3 pupils have enthusiastically assumed the responsibility of designated 'post people'. To assist them with their deliveries, please could you encourage all children to address their envelopes clearly with both the recipient's name and class. You would be amazed how many children share the same Christian name in school, so this really is helpful as Y3 organise and sort each day's mail.

Christmas Charity

Each year we select a charity to support at Christmas with all proceeds from the children's performances going to this cause. This year we are recognising the work of the 'YoungMinds' charity who support children and young peoples' mental health. There will be voluntary collections at the end of each performance. Thank you in anticipation of your support.

Staffing Update

We were pleased to hear of the safe arrival of baby 'Phoebe Grace' to Mr and Mrs Pickett. Many congratulations from us all.

Payment Reminders

Ingestre Hall (Y3/Y4)

The second payment of £80.00 is now due on ParentPay - please make payment no later than Friday 7 December. Thank you.

Laches Wood (Y5)

The third and final payment of £70.00 is due on Friday 25 January via ParentPay.

YR/KS1 News

Reception

Reminder...Please check your child's book bag every evening for any correspondence (especially at this time of the year). Please also ensure book bags are as empty as possible each day to ensure new letters, etc are not missed. Thank you, Mrs Wharton.

KS2 News

Y3

Reminder...Please send a clean jam jar with a lid attached into school by Friday 7 December. Please put your child's name on the bottom of the jar. Thank you, Mrs Hepworth

Thank you!

A big thank you to all parents for providing costumes and supporting your child to learn their words.

Kitchen Corner

Menu change reminder

Fish and chips will be served on Wednesday 12 December, due to Christmas dinner being served on Friday 14 December.

Christmas dinner

We are really pleased that so many children are joining us for Christmas lunch this year, don't forget to wear your Christmas jumpers!!

Menu cycle:

We are currently on week 2.

W/C 10/12/18 Week 3

W/C 17/12/18 Week 1

Reminder Diary Dates

Tuesday 18 December Y1/Y2 Trip to Conkers
Wednesday 19 December Rocksteady Concert (2.30pm)

Father Christmas - Shenstone Village Hall

Father Christmas will be making an extra visit to Shenstone this year on Saturday 8 December (2.00-4.00pm) to spend the afternoon with us. Come and enjoy the Christmas activities/refreshments to see Santa and receive a present. Free Admission!

Christmas at Shenstone Library

Key Stage 1 Decorations

Our library Christmas tree is looking beautiful, with lovely decorations kindly made by Key Stage 1 pupils at home. If your child brought in a decoration, there is a small treat waiting for them in the library to collect.

Key Stage 2 Christmas Card Designs

The amazing artistic talents of Greysbrooke pupils were clear to see from the entries received for our Christmas Card Design Competition. We were very lucky to have Shenstone based artist Kate Brinkworth as our honoured judge. The standard was very high, but Kate was finally able to choose an overall winner and three runners up from each year group, and these winning designs will be on display in the library gallery from Thursday 13 December.

The winners in each Year Group are:

Year 3

Overall winner - GS
Runners up - AP, SG, IM

Year 4

Overall winner - CC
Runners up - HS, CP, JH

Year 5

ES
Runners up - WK, DS, SS

Year 6

CW
Runners up - JB, JW, HJ

We look forward to seeing competition winners in the library where they can pick up a small treat.

Making Christmas Tree Decorations

Please come along to the library from 10.30am on Saturday 15 December if you would like to join us to make Christmas tree decorations.

Yours sincerely

Mrs T Holmes
Headteacher

**School closes at 3.10pm on Friday 21 December and
re-opens at 8.45am on Monday 7 January**

Mince Pies, Coffee & Chat - Thursday 20 December (2.15-3.00pm)

Please complete and return by Wednesday 12 December

*I / WE *WILL / WILL NOT be attending the Mince Pies, Coffee & Chat on Thursday 20 December at 2.15pm

(*please delete as appropriate)

Name:

Parent(s) of:

Signed: