



Gresham Village School and Nursery

Newsletter

20th September 2024

Preparation for life's journey

Dear All,

We are looking forward to meeting Key Stage 1 and 2 parents at Open Classrooms next Thursday, 26th September. This is a first opportunity of the year for you to come into your child's classroom, have a look at the environment and the work that has been started. For year 5 and 6 parents, there is also the opportunity to talk to Mr Davies or Mrs Nahajski about the residential trip planned for the spring. The children will be dismissed as usual and then you will be able to come straight into school. There will be a signing in desk on the yard.

Thank you to the parents who came to the coffee morning on Monday- we had a great discussion about many topics, including our priorities for the year ahead. These include:

- Improving how we are teaching reading and writing. We have training programmes this year to refresh how we are teaching Read Write Inc and our new writing programme, Pathways to Write. The Friends have also applied for a very sizeable charity grant to completely overhaul our school library and the books we have on offer to all ages. School results at the end for year 6 are already good in reading, but we want every child to be able to read and write well.
- Looking at making the curriculum even more engaging and creative, particularly in foundation subjects such as history and art and design. This is something we have always done really well but want to extend what we were doing in our old curriculum to our new Cornerstones subjects.
- Making our teaching more consistent throughout the school, so we build on different strategies and means of delivery as children progress through the years. We are using a resource called Teaching Walkthrus to lead us through this.
- Improving outcomes for our children with Special Educational Needs, by making teachers the focal point for the children in their class and continuing with staff training to increase our collective understanding about SEND.

Parent Governor Vacancy

We have one vacancy for a parent governor. If you would like to take on this extremely rewarding role, please contact our clerk, Sarah Rankin (srankin@synergymat.co.uk). If you would like to have a conversation with a current governor about the role, then they will be very happy to spend some time with you. Please talk to them directly or come into the office for contact details.

Lottery Grant

The Friends and I were absolutely thrilled last week to hear that we have been successful in our application for a £14000 grant to set up a Toddler Group at Gresham Village. This is a two-year grant that helps with the set up and running costs. Our intention is for the group to start in the new year. Thank you to the Grants Committee on the Friends for all their hard work in making this happen. The Friends work very hard on both the events and fundraising sides and are now starting to make a real difference to school at a time when we are facing increasing financial pressures. If you would like to get involved on either the events or grants committees, please contact Claire Duxbury at greshamvillagefriends@yahoo.com.

Bell tower

Work has finally finished on the bell tower with the scaffolding coming down on Saturday. It looks great and means that another part of the buildings programme is complete. The bell has not been rehung- it is currently sitting next to me in the office; we are looking to displaying somehow in school.

Homework

Letters about homework will be out next week, as I know many of you are wanting to make a start at home. We are planning an approach very similar to last year with reading and mathematics resources available for you that match the learning that is being done in school. Our approach is that we respect the different views that parents have about homework but expect that all children will be supported with reading at home and that years 5 and 6 will do homework.

Music tuition

Eric Foster runs several music sessions during and after school.

There is an after-school Guitar Group that is offering half an hour group tuition at a fixed price of £3.50 per head per session for beginners and near beginners for Year 4 and up.

Piano lessons are available for individuals. A 30-minute session is £15 per session; 20 minutes for £10.

Group keyboard and violin sessions are £3.50 per head per session.

Group ukelele sessions are available for any age.

Please contact Eric directly on admin@etfmusic.com if you are interested.

Take care everyone and have a good weekend.

Marc Goodliffe

Dates for the autumn term

23 Sept	Celebration assembly KS2, 2.40pm	Including KS2 birthdays for this half term.
	KS1 multi-sports at Colby	Sports event for Robins class.
24 Sept	Celebration assembly KS1, 2.40pm	Including KS1 birthdays for this half term.
26 Sept	School Council Elections	We will be electing our Y6 School Council Leaders and each class's School Council Representative.
	Open classrooms 3- 4pm	School open to parents for you to come and see your child's classroom and books.
04 Oct	Individual and sibling photos	Info to follow
07 Oct	KS2 cross-country	Voluntary event for children in Y3- 6. Details to follow.
18 Oct	Years 1 to 6 flu vaccine programme	Info to follow
23 Oct	Wrens' Harvest Festival, 2.30pm in the school hall.	Wrens will be celebrating their Harvest Festival. Year 1 parents welcome. School Council will be collecting Harvest gifts for North Norfolk Foodbank.
24 and 25 Oct	School closed for staff training	
28 Oct- 2 Nov	Half term	
7 Nov	Cross-country inter-house event Y3- 6	Weather permitting. Held on Village Park. We will need parent volunteers, please.
14 Nov	Odd Socks Day as part of National Anti-bullying Week	
15 Nov	Children in Need	
18 Nov	Celebration assembly KS2, 2.40pm	Including KS2 birthdays for this half term.
20 Nov	Celebration assembly KS1, 2.40pm	Including KS1 birthdays for this half term.
21 Nov	Coffee morning for parents, 8.45- 9.45	Focus on children's writing
27 Nov	Parents' Evening	
28 Nov	Parents' Evening	
5 Dec	Tag rugby inter-house event Y4- 6	
12 Dec	Children's Nativity for parents	Wrens and Robins. There will be morning and afternoon performances.

17 Dec	Friends' Christmas Fayre	
18 Dec	Early Years and Key Stage 1 Christmas dinner	
19 Dec	Key Stage 2 Christmas dinner	
20 Dec	KS2 Carols in All Saints' Church, Gresham	
	Half day closing- end of term	School closes for Early Years and KS1 at 12.50 and 1pm for KS2. Return to school 7th January 2025