



6<sup>th</sup> September 2019

Dear Parents / Carers,

Welcome back to the new school year at Grimes Dyke and a special welcome to all our newest members of Team GD. The children looked very smart on their first day back and have made a great start to the term with their new teachers.



The children in Y6 have returned to a very smart new classroom which has been refurbished in the upstairs area next to the ICT suite. A new wall has appeared and the whole space has been decorated making it one of the best learning environments we now have in school. The Y6 class are especially pleased that they now have their own lockers as well as a coat peg which must make them feel very grown up. There is of course no excuse for any Y6 pupil to lose any of their belongings in future!

The classes this year are all named after trees found in the United Kingdom and children are starting to find out a little more about their tree. We will send home a list of all classes and their tree

names so it would be helpful if you could talk to your children about the different trees and maybe try and spot them when you're out and about especially as they change throughout the seasons. Also, in book bags this week you will find the calendar for the school year giving as many key dates as possible in advance. In the past parents and carers have told us how useful this is so you are forewarned about training days when the school will be closed and special events that may take place in school.



We try and keep all families up to date with news and information about your children and the school in several ways including:

- A weekly newsletter sent out on a Friday
- Class newsletters sent out every term
- Text messages (***Please make sure we have your up to date number***)
- Special letters about events, trips or school events
- Twitter [@GD\\_Primary](https://twitter.com/GD_Primary)
- The school website <https://www.grimesdyke.leeds.sch.uk/>
- The school app **School Jotter** (***All letters, calendar dates and frequent news appear on the app***)
- Talking to parents at the start and end of the day or any other convenient times
- Parents / Carers' Evenings
- Inviting parents in to see learning in action during the school year

This year we have many more classes in Key Stage Two (six in total) than in Key Stage One which only has two classes. This means we are going to make some practical changes to the way some routines work.

The first of these is **Friday morning celebration assemblies**. As reception class do not join us immediately in the year for the whole school assemblies it would not seem sensible to have assemblies split into KS1 and KS2 every fortnight. Instead we will have a celebration assembly every fortnight for children and parents / carers in Y1 – Y6 and then after Christmas, when reception start to come along, we may split into two smaller groups. For this half term celebration assemblies will take place on the following dates:

- 6<sup>th</sup> September
- 20<sup>th</sup> September
- 4<sup>th</sup> October
- 18<sup>th</sup> October

The second of the changes is about **after school collection for children in KS2**. We now have 6 classes of children to release at the end of the day which is 163 children to be passed safely to collecting adults. In the mornings children are all lining up on the bottom playground and are collected by their class teacher to be led into school. This works really well. At the end of the day we would like to do this in reverse. The children will all line up on the bottom playground and we would like parents to come and collect their children from the teacher. This means that we can ensure children are handed over safely and gives you the opportunity to talk to teachers and vice versa. I am very aware that some parents prefer to stand on the road side or near the car park to wave to children but this presents us with a safeguarding concern about children being missed. We now open both gates in an afternoon so please do come into the school grounds, we really don't want you to stay behind the fence – we're a team together and teachers don't bite.... unless it's really close to the end of term! Some children in Y5/6 walk home with parental permission – letters will be going home to all children shortly in upper KS2 to check permissions remain the same and then this can continue to happen. **I would also like to remind all parents that children from nursery to Y6 can only be collected by someone over the age of 16 years old. Could you also please inform the office if a different person will be collecting your child.**



I know it's only the start of the school year but we're already thinking ahead to the October half term which starts on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> October until Friday 1<sup>st</sup> November. We are considering running our own holiday club for the week which, depending on interest, would be open to children in reception to Y6 and will run from 9.00am until 3.30pm for the whole week with a range of sports activities throughout the day. Children would need to bring a packed lunch, but drinks and snacks would be provided by school. Although it is not finalised at this stage we are thinking of a cost to parents / carers of approximately £45. If you are interested in your child(ren) being part of this holiday club, run by Grimes Dyke staff please complete and return the form below, or email your interest to [angela.gilmartin@grimesdyke.leeds.sch.uk](mailto:angela.gilmartin@grimesdyke.leeds.sch.uk)

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### **Grimes Dyke October Holiday Club**

I am interested in my child taking part in the holiday club and would like to receive more information about this opportunity. I understand there will be a cost to the scheme.

Name of Child \_\_\_\_\_ Class \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature \_\_\_\_\_