

# Newsbites

October 5<sup>th</sup> 2020

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## The Head's Update

Dear All,

We are now heading towards the end of Term1 which seems to have flown by! I would like to say how proud I am of all of the children and how they have come back into school. It is lovely to see their keenness as they come through the gates in the morning.

Since the start of term we have made some adjustments to school life and these now are becoming the new normal. A great example of this are our school assemblies which we hold now using Microsoft Teams allowing us to all come together without leaving our rooms! In Keystage 2, our hot meals now come in a take away container with all the children having the food delivered to them. The meals have been a great success with jacket potatoes, pizza, lasagna and fish fingers being real hits!

We will be continuing with the one way system around the school for all visitors. Important points to follow:

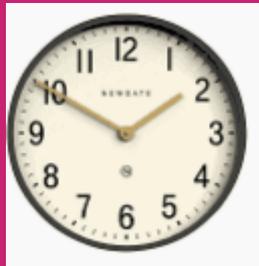
- One adult per family please – this includes teenager siblings
- Please can we keep moving on site and not stay in conversation – a good way to think of this is have a quick hug with your child and go
- Please can all parents be on time for drop off / pick up so that lessons can start promptly and for us to have time to clean at the end of the day.
- If you would like to wear a mask at drop off / pick up, please feel comfortable to do so.
- We have class emails if you have any questions or information that you would like to pass on to class teachers or the office.

Please read on to find out what else has been happening in school.

Thank you for your support

Mrs K Mackinnon Headteacher

## Ways to help us all be in school on time



The traffic can be very busy around the school. Parking slightly further away and walking the last part can sometimes mean you get in quicker.

Getting ready the night before can speed up the morning.

Try to leave a couple of minutes earlier if you know you need to.

Save watching TV and playing games for after school.

## Attendance Update

# Attendance Information

At Greenmeadow Primary School, we understand the importance of regular and punctual attendance so that we can achieve our best. We want our children to attend regularly in order to take advantage of the educational opportunities that we offer to them.

For us, every lesson matters.

### **Why regular attendance is important**

There is a direct link between poor attendance and pupil achievement. The attendance habits that children establish in primary school can follow through into secondary school and into later life.

### **Difficulties that can arise when children are late or have low attendance**

When children arrive late in the morning, they can miss the opportunity to settle with their peers. This is an important routine for children and means that we all start together. When the teacher starts the day with the visual timetable, information is shared about the day ahead. Knowing this can help children have a settled day.

The team who work in the office have a large amount of tasks to complete within the day. If a child is not in school, they need to take time to follow up on phone calls and if a child is late in they need to take time to ensure that they get to their classes. This has a big impact on the working day for the office team. By all being in, we can help them have more time for other work.

### **Monitoring absence and punctuality**

A minimum attendance of 95% is seen as good for each child. This would mean less than ten days off school over the year. Each term we review the attendance data to identify where we feel children have, or are at risk of, falling below this figure and share this with the Education Welfare Officer. Initially, this can result in letters home or an invite to a meeting to discuss this further. We do appreciate that with Covid there may be specific reasons why children are not able to come in and we have new codes for these circumstances.

If you have any concerns about your child's attendance, please email your child's teacher or Mrs Mackinnon so that we can work together.

## Parent Support Advisor Sessions

Jacqui Cook, our Parent Support Adviser, is continuing to work to support our families. If you would like to discuss worries or concerns about your child, Jacqui is able to offer advice and support. This can be related to behaviour, sleeping, eating, feelings/emotions, parenting, social issues, general well-being and she can also help you to access local services which also support families. All appointments will need to be booked in advance.

If you would like advice, please either email the school office, Mrs Mackinnon or Ms Thompson.

# Celebrating Success

## Relaunching House Points



At Greenmeadow, we love to celebrate the success we see in school. This can be through demonstrating a positive, resilient attitude to work, achieving a target or goal, demonstrating some of our values such as kindness or empathy or following our behaviour rules, When we see these and many other examples, children are awarded house points.

This year, we decided to relaunch our house teams. Each class suggested ideas for our team names and the School Council chose the new themes – Fire, Earth, Lightning and Water. Each team has a mascot, a place in the UK and a mythical defender created by a Year 6 child.

House points are collected in the library in our token collectors so we can see in assembly which team is in the lead.

The prize for the team with the most points this half term will be the opportunity to come into school in non uniform for a day.

Let's see who gets the first prize!

## Introducing our New House Mascots



Thanks to Mrs West for her amazing designs!

## **Marbles in the Jar**

**Each class has the opportunity to win a class reward. Marbles are awarded for when the class works well together. Once 50 marbles have been awarded, the class has a treat which they have chosen. Current rewards being earned are hot chocolate and a short movie, playing on the trim trail, dodgeball and extra play. Ask your child and they should be able to tell you what they are aiming towards.**



# Premises Update

## EYFS Area



I am sure you will have all seen the new EYFS outdoor area on your way around school. We now have a newly surfaced area with a sheltered canopy area. This is making an amazing difference to our learning. We can now go outside in all weathers – even the plentiful rain which we have had recently!

Miss Piercy is still looking for any donations of suitable pans, pots etc. that the children can use in the mud kitchen.

Also, if anyone does have any spare waterproof trousers or welly boots that the children could wear we would love to have them. These would be used in either our EYFS class or for when the children go out to Forest School.



## Site Security

A section of school fencing was replaced across the back of the field over the summer. Thanks to our neighbours at the back of the school for your support at this time.

At the front of the school the path has been replaced and is now a much safer pathway for us all to use. Again thanks to the neighbours at the front of the school for when we have had vehicles in to complete this work.



Watch this space for some exciting news about upcoming works!

## Forest School

**Forest School has started in our wood area. Each week, Neil works with a group from one class whilst the teacher works with the other children to support their catch up learning. Neil reports back how impressed he has been with the teamwork, determination, resilience and positivity that the children have shown. All children will work with Neil over the year.**



## Key Dates

# What's coming up?



## Anti-bullying Week

In the week of November 16<sup>th</sup>, we will be looking at how we can support each other. Watch out for further information.

## Parents and Carers Evenings

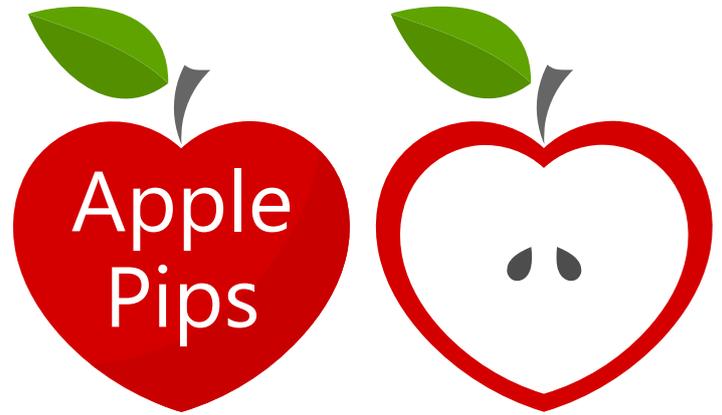
Due to the need to socially distance, we will not be holding the normal parents evenings this term. We will be producing a short report which will share how your child has returned to school and other key information. More information to come soon.

## TD Days

A calendar for October 2020. The days of the week are listed at the top: Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday. The dates are arranged in a grid. There are some small text boxes at the bottom of the calendar, likely containing school holidays or specific dates.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

**Thank you for your patience. Now that we have some premises works agreed, we are in the process of finalising training dates. TD dates will be shared shortly.**



## The tasty stuff that we love to share

Year 6 have been developing their leadership skills by helping us organise the clothes sale and improving the school grounds with tidying some of the garden beds. House captains have been chosen and Mrs Vaughan is looking forward to their support. Well done Year 6 for thinking about how you can help make us all better.

## Year 6 Residential

Last Year, we were disappointed not to hold our first Year 6 residential. In case the legislation changes, we have booked the same venue for this year for in the summer term. Fingers crossed we will be able to go. More information will be shared with our Y6 parents.

## Jeans for Genes

Thanks all – we raised £198 for this great charity.

## Uniform Sales



Thanks to all who bought from the second hand uniform sale – it is a great way to both raise money for school and get yourself a bargain. So far we have raised £60. This will be used to buy books. ☺

