

NEWSBITES

IN THIS ISSUE – THE HEAD'S UPDATE | TIMES TABLE HINTS, TTRS & READING EGGS | ONLINE SAFETY | LENDING LIBRARY, MAKE A CARD, GOLDEN MOMENTS & PREMISES UPDATES | UPCOMING EVENTS

THE HEAD'S UPDATE

Dear Parents, Carers and Families,

Well with the start of Term 4, I have chosen this spring image for our latest newsletter as a symbol of the positivity we are sending to you all. It has been some time since we have all been together in the building but that hasn't stopped us from working as one team. It has been so impressive how we all – children, staff and parents – have adapted to work in these new times. The government will be making announcements for the weeks ahead and as soon as we have further information and plans we will share that with you.

For now, we are all looking forward to the term ahead and are excited for how we will work together.

K Mackinnon - Headteacher



Ways in which we can work together:

- Using the school website class pages to see home learning
- Join Teams sessions so we can learn together and keep connected as a Team
- Use class emails to contact Year group teachers

Enjoy our latest 'Newsbites' and have a great month

GREENMEADOW PRIMARY SCHOOL, PEN CLOSE SWINDON , WILTSHIRE SN25 3LW
TELEPHONE: 01793 521 141 (8.00 AM – 4:30 PM)
EMAIL: admin@greenmeadow-pri.swindon.sch.uk





Times Table Rockstars

Times Table Tips

There are a range of ways in which we learn quick recall of our times tables. Here are some:

- We use – 'If I know... then I know..' If I know $4 \times 2 = 8$ then I can double it to work out 8×2 which would be 16
- There are a couple of rhymes which help learn some facts e.g. Wakey, Wakey rise and shine, 7×7 is 49 or I ate and I ate until I was sick on the floor, 8×8 is 64
- We can notice things as an unusual fact 7 and 8 are consecutive numbers as are 5 and 6 – this helps me remember $7 \times 8 = 56$
- We can use tables that we know – if I want to know $x \times 5$ I can x by 10 and then half it e.g. $7 \times 5 = ?$ Well I know $7 \times 10 = 70$ and half of this is 35
- If you know any other great ways to learn your tables, let us know as we would love to hear them!

TTRS is a great way to develop your quick recall of the times tables. The 'Garage' area has been set up for each child to allow them to work on the times tables selected by their class teachers. The 'Soundcheck' area will allow you to practise answering 25 questions with 6 seconds per question just like the end of year 4 government check. We can also get together and play using the arena area at set times. Look out for information from class teachers to know when they will be logging in. Remember you can also challenge someone (even teachers) using the 'Rockslam area'. To access TTRS, please visit: <https://trockstars.com/>

If you are unsure of your username and password, please ask your class teacher or Mrs Vaughan – the maths lead.

Reading Eggs and Reading Express



Reading Eggs is a highly motivating sequence of online reading activities and books that keeps children engaged and on task. It allows children to reinforce the reading skills that they have learnt at school and gives them access to a wide variety of fiction and non fiction books at home.

Simply go to: <https://readingeggs.co.uk/> and login, using the user and name and password provided by your child's class teacher. Once logged in, you have a choice of Reading Eggs, which is for Key Stage 1 or Reading Eggspress which is for Key Stage 2 pupils. Click on the icon in the middle of the screen and there will be a lesson to complete.

Children love the games, songs, golden eggs and other rewards which, along with feeling proud of their reading, really motivates the children to keep exploring and learning.

If you do not have a login and password, then please let your class teacher know so they can send it to you.



10 Safeguarding Tips

1.

Don't give anyone your password, name, address, school name or any information about your family

2.

Don't talk to strangers on the Internet

3.

Don't agree to meet anyone in person that you've met online

4.

Don't fill in a profile that asks for your name and address

5.

Don't visit a chat room without an adult's / parent's permission

6.

Don't stay online if you see something you think your parents won't like

7.

Don't post pictures of yourself without your parents' permission

8.

Do not download or install anything on your computer without your parents' permission

9.

If you have any questions about something you read, ask your parent or guardian

10.

If you are talking to someone online and they make you uncomfortable, remember you don't have to talk back to them – tell an adult.

ONLINE SAFETY

Technology seems to be a bigger part of our lives now than it ever has in the past – if someone had said to schools a year ago that we would be teaching online, I am sure not many people could have imagined where we are now. The behaviours that we start now are the ones that our children will become familiar with and continue as they move forward, so it is important that we set our expectations together. Below are some ideas for developing healthy online use:

- Try to have a balance of screen time and non-screen time. Our eyes need a break from the bright screen lights and we can become uncomfortable sitting in one position for too long.
- At the end of the 'school day', we know some people play games on computers, Xboxes etc.. Try to finish this at least an hour before bedtime so that minds and brains can switch off and relax.
- Having connections with 'real' people is important – this could be talking on the phone or Teams to a relative. It is always good to talk 😊
- If you have any questions, please email your class emails or a useful website for ideas is the NSPCC at <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/talking-child-online-safety/>

Helpful idea...

So you can see what your child is doing and support them, it can be good to encourage use of computers in open spaces such as the kitchen or front room.



Lockdown Lending Library is now open

Hopefully, you will have seen that our lending library is now open at the front of the school. All our families are welcome to come and borrow some of the books inside to read at this time. There is a box where returns can go to be quarantined before being put back out. It is fantastic to see all the children and families who have visited so far – we love to say hello so please do come and see us. If there is someone looking, please follow social distancing and then you are free to look ! All donations welcome.



Premises Updates

Our Keystage 1 new Trim Trail is now open for use – it looks amazing and adds a new dimension to playtimes in KS1. Our side fences are currently being replaced as part of our site security – this work should be completed soon. You may well have also noticed a path leading onto the field – this is part of a plan for outdoor use for learning which we are developing – more news to come.

Are you feeling creative? Can you make a card?

One thing that can brighten anyone's day is receiving some post or getting a hello from a friend. We would love to be able to send some more cards to Rose Cottage Care Home as one of our close neighbours to say hello and welcome to Spring. If you can design a card we will happily deliver it for you. This could be on a computer, hand drawn, a collage, a photo – the choice is yours!

Let's say hello and bring art to life ☺

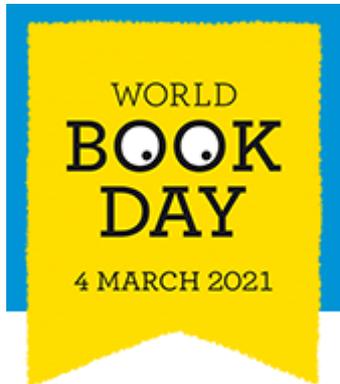


Golden Moments

Has your child achieved something special? This could be winning an award, getting a scout badge or winning a competition. Let us know as we would love to share the celebrations.



Upcoming Events

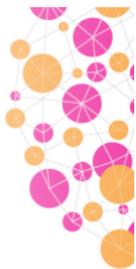


World Book Day will soon be upon us with more information coming soon. Knowing that some of us are in school and some are at home, we are planning to hold events on this day and in the weeks around it. If you have any ideas which we could do, we are always happy to hear them to see if we can incorporate them into our plans.

Science Week

This year has really shown us the importance of science and how it can influence many aspects of our lives. This year, we will be looking at being innovative.

British
Science
Week
2021



Parent Evening Consultations

At this time of year we would typically be holding parent evening sessions. We know how important it is for us to work together and so are planning to offer slots for these on Teams. A letter has been sent out which will show you how to book these. We do fully appreciate that the home learning experience has been different for many of us and so this will be a great opportunity for us to share ideas as parents and teachers so that we can work well together. To be able to organise these, we have allotted ten minute slots per child – it will be important that we keep to these so that we don't end up with lots of people waiting in lobbies! In the session, the teachers will be able to talk about your child's learning and supportive targets for English and Maths. Please do also share with us any helpful updates or where you feel your child has excelled or needed support. This will really help us when we come back together.

Microsoft Teams

Stars of the Week

We will be continuing with our stars of the week – it has been so impressive what has been achieved over the last few weeks.

