



# Newsletter

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January  
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## Charity Week - week beginning 28th January

As most of you will know, each year we choose a local children's charity to raise funds for. We have a fundraising week, which we call our 'Charity Week', during which we encourage all the children to participate. The week is led by the Year 6 children who design and make games for the other children to play; throughout the week all children are encouraged to bring in cakes to sell on the playground. We also have a sponsored event which parents are more than welcome to take part in - last year, the whole school ran a mile around Greasby village. In the last ten years, we have raised over £30,000 for various children's charities including Claire House, Arrowe Park Children's Ward and Neo-Natal Unit, Ronald McDonald House (supporting families with children in hospital), The Chris Salmon Foundation, the Northern Lights Charity and for children with Leukaemia. This year, we would like to support Claire House again - since its doors opened in 1998, when it was looking after ten families, Claire House is now working beyond its capacity, supporting over three hundred families. It also provided great comfort to the family of Bethany Devlin, a past pupil of ours, who tragically lost her life in July 2018. Any support you can give during the week will be very much appreciated. More details will follow shortly.

## Teaching Spelling

Following the staff training day on 7th January 2019, a new spelling scheme will shortly be introduced to the children. The scheme is called 'Read, Write, Inc' and links to the scheme used for writing at the Infant School.

In the Autumn term, a group of Greasby Junior School staff visited a number of schools to investigate different approaches to teaching spelling but were most impressed by this one, which has an excellent reputation for its success. Spelling sessions will take place at least three times each week, in which the children will work through a number of activities in individual workbooks. Central to the teaching are the 44 speech sounds that the English language is made up of. On our website, using the 'For Parents' quick link, there are some short video clips to help parents support their children in using these sounds correctly. We are excited about introducing the scheme to the children and can't wait to get started. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to pop in to school to speak to your child's class teacher.

## House Cup/Excellence Award

November saw a rare tie for the House Cup between Royden and Day, whilst Bennett won by just one team point in December. The winners of the Excellence Award were Connie Bowen in November and Jamie Schofield in December.

Connie is 9 years old and is in 4M. Her favourite subject is Art and her least favourite is Science. She loves macaroni cheese but really dislikes sprouts! For Christmas, she got a dance bag and in her spare time, she dances at the Danza School of Dance and enjoys drawing and going Brownies. When she is older she wants to be either a teacher or a dancer.

Jamie, who is ten years old, loves Maths but is not a fan of Literacy. His favourite food is a bacon butty, but he does not like carrots! He got a new phone for Christmas and in his spare time he enjoys football and going to Scouts. When he grows up he wants to do something sporty but, understandably, is not sure what yet.



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### Chris Salmon Behaviour Cup

Each term the staff are given the extremely difficult task of choosing one child per year group who has consistently followed our 3Cs . The children chosen in the Autumn term were:

Year 3: Zaviyar Majeed

Year 4: Lottie Wallace

Year 5: Luke Sparke

Year 6: Izzy Hadley

Congratulations to you all!



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### Using devices at bedtime

Several parents of older pupils have expressed concerns that children in their child's year group are using their devices - mainly mobile phones - throughout the night. When their children turn on their phones in the morning a series of messages appear, having been sent during the night. Recent research made clear links between the use of electrical devices at bedtime and sleep deprivation. I discussed mobile phone use with a group of Year 6 children this week - all except one keep their phones in their bedroom but turn them to silent because the constant buzzing and pinging irritates them. Maybe it would be better to leave them downstairs ...

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### Staff News

Miss Coppell had her baby boy, Archie, on 12th December 2018, weighing a healthy 6 pounds, 9 ounces. Both baby and mother are doing really well.

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### Book Fair

A record £1027 was raised at the Book Fair. Thanks to all of you who bought books for your children - all of the money raised will be spent on new books for our Accelerated Reader scheme and library.

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### New menu launch

Following the results of a survey of the children's views on the school meals, a new menu will be launched on Monday 21st January. The menu balances the most popular meals with a number of new options, all of which are cooked from scratch in our kitchen (which recently received its third 5 star hygiene rating) and meet the strict nutritional compliance regulations. We will run the new menu for six weeks (three cycles) and then seek further feedback from the children. Comments from yourselves will also be welcomed. The new menu is available on the school website ('School Information') and has a 'Link' on the school APP.

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### Important Dates (Dates for the rest of the academic year are on the school website)

New menu launch - Week beginning Monday 21st January

Representative from Claire House visits school to talk to the children re Charity Week - Tuesday 22nd January

Charity Week - week beginning Monday 28th January

Yoga day (no cost for parents) for all children: Monday 4th February (as part of Children's Mental Health Week)

Skipping Workshop (no cost for parents) for all children: Tuesday 5th February

Year 4 trip to Liverpool Museum: Friday 8th February

Year 5 trip to Space Port: Friday 8th February

Northern Chess Championships held at school: Saturday 9th February

School disco: Thursday 14th February (6.30 - 8.00pm)

School closes for half term and optional non-uniform day: Friday 15th February

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