

GREAT BRADFORDS JUNIOR SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

September 2018

Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome back to a new academic year. It has certainly been a very busy start to the beginning of the year and sometimes it feels as though the holiday never happened.

It was fantastic to see all the children last Thursday and also to welcome all our new children. These are mostly in year 3 but there are quite a few new children in the other year groups too. My first assembly of the year was to think about our school rule 'Be Kind' and for everyone to help each other as we settle back into school routines.



I was quite surprised, when I returned to school during the holidays, to find a very large sunflower at the front of the school. The children in Gardening Club planted this last term and it is so beautiful that I decided to take a photo and include it here as a memento. We shall keep the flower to feed the birds when it begins to die. It is a lovely smiley flower to greet us all when we arrive at school!

Another welcome surprise was the appearance of a new Lollipop Lady (and gentleman!). I spoke to the children about choosing to cross the road in safety now we have a Lollipop Lady again, but I also informed them that she will only be there in the mornings. However, this is a real bonus as everyone is in so much of a hurry in the morning and it allows the children to get across the road safe and sound. We do encourage the children to cross the road at the same point in the afternoon as it should be kept clear as the yellow zig zags mean no parking or stopping and therefore, drivers can get a better view of children waiting to cross the road and often stop for them.

Make sure you check all the dates for your diary at the end of the newsletter for known events already.

I wish you all a happy and productive term, but as always, if you have any issues then please do not hesitate to find me outside the school at the beginning or end of day or contact me via the office.

Best wishes,

Fiona Dorey
Headteacher

Keeping your child safe online:

It is so important in this day and age to make sure our children know how to keep themselves safe online while using their smart phones or tablets or computers. You may think that your child is only playing games and not interacting with social media, but the majority of online games and APPs have a social media aspect to them. We have had several children who have been caught out while using some of these APPs and have been approached by strangers. Popular games and APPs are Roblox, Fortnite and Musically or Live Me. Even Instagram and Whats App are vulnerable.

We would encourage you all to follow EST Safety Training on Facebook as this page is run by the Two Johns, who have visited the school several times to keep us and the children informed. They keep us all up to speed with the latest information and I have learnt a few things over the holidays by following them.

In addition, we have received the following:

Following a football-filled summer, and with over 20 million players in the current season of FIFA, we have created a free guide for parents and carers on the nation's favourite online football game.

This free guide for parents & carers covers what they need to know about the game to help safeguard their children from potential online risks including; *online payments, in-game chat, addiction, fake accounts and more.*

Please help us spread the message by retweeting our FIFA guide for parents & carers here: <https://twitter.com/natonlinesafety/status/1037317637339054081>

Many thanks for your continued support and for helping us to achieve a safer online world for children!

The National Online Safety Team



Library Display:



As part of the Art curriculum and first activity this week, all the classes are helping to create large 3D collages of superheroes for the Library. These should be finished shortly and then will be put up in time for Parents Evening. Hopefully your children will take you to have a look. We will post photos on the website and in our next newsletter (if there is space).

Celebrating Children's Achievements:

In an attempt to celebrate our children's achievements more widely, we are hoping to use the curriculum pages on our school website ore and possibly a Facebook page too.

We will keep you informed so watch this space ...



Homework & Homework Club:

Our after school homework club is not going to be offered this year. Unfortunately, I have had to make some tough financial decisions as the school budget becomes increasingly tighter and tighter and it is not possible to pay the extra for after school clubs that we have done in the past for so few children to access it.

However, we are aware that some children still require support or encouragement or a space to complete their homework and for this reason, we have made time in the school day.

Each year group will have their homework given to them with a week to do it. Any child who does not complete their homework by the due date will be given the opportunity to attend homework club that lunchtime so that they can complete their homework.



I know that there are mixed feelings about homework and it is impossible to please everyone, but, as a teaching staff, we have thought about what makes a difference and what doesn't and the homework we set will reflect that. We understand that it is not always possible for an adult to sit down with their child and complete homework every day and so we believe that the homework, that is set, can be completed by the child on their own as well as with help.

Reading Volunteers:

Following on from homework, one thing that we do believe makes a difference is reading to an adult and talking about the reading book. However, we do not always have time in the school day to listen to the children read with all the other demands on our teaching time.

For this reason, we are looking for anyone who can give up an hour or two on a regular basis to come into school and listen to children read. Father Tim has done this for the last couple of years and the children have looked forward to reading to him. We have another couple of regular helpers too who have been sitting in the corridors and have got to know the children really well.

If you are interested and able to help please talk to your child's class teacher, leave a message with Mrs Shead on the door in the morning or give me a ring via the office.

Thank you.



Reminder



If any of your details have changed over the summer please let the school office know. We will be making use of a new app in the near future so that you will be able to update us electronically. In the meantime you can email the school office admin@greatbradford-jun.essex.sch.uk send in a note or call in to the office.

We now send out a lot of information by email so please supply us with an email address if we do not have one already.



Lunch boxes and snacks:

As we have several children in school with nut allergies could we please ask that you do not include nuts in your children's packed lunches and snacks. We are aware that many biscuits and cakes include nut traces in them so we are only referring to actual whole nuts.

Thank you.

Year 6 to 7 secondary school admissions for September 2019

As you may be aware, the new secondary school admission round opens on Wednesday, 12 September 2018, for parents of current Year 6 children to apply for a secondary school (Year 7) place for September 2019.

The statutory national closing date for applications is 31st October 2018.

Applications should be made online via www.essex.gov.uk/admissions.

Essex County Council will not be sending letters to parents about making an application. All of the application information is available on the website above.

The website also has a copy of the Secondary Education in Essex 2019-20 booklet which contains details of all secondary school admission policies. This is a link to the booklet:

http://www.essex.gov.uk/Education-Schools/Schools/Admissions/Documents/econdary_Admissions_Booklet.pdf

Dates for your Diary

Autumn Term 2018: Tuesday 4th September - Wednesday 19th December

Half Term: Monday 22nd - Friday 26th October

(Non-pupil days: 29th October and 23rd November)

18th September	Individual photos
19th September	Yr 4 Roman Day
3rd October	Yr 3 Cressing Temple visit
15th-19th October	Yr 6 Kingswood visit
7th December	Flu vaccinations School discos

“Drop In” sessions with Sharon McCormick (Family Liaison Worker)

Junior School – 17th September, 16th October, 12th November and 17th December

Infant School – 27th September, 1st November and 6th December

Parents may attend Drop In sessions at either school.

Sharon is able to offer advice and support on many aspects of family life, including behaviour management strategies, home/school communication and support, or contact with other services. Alternatively, Sharon can be contacted via 01376 552393 or sharon@lyonshall.essex.sch.uk