



September 2017

Gravel Hill Primary School Newsletter

Welcome back to everyone. I would like to make all parents/carers aware of a few pieces of information.

NOTICES:

I would like to welcome new staff that have joined us this term:

Miss Bell	- Teacher RC,	Miss Wilson	- Teacher 1L
Mrs Andres	- Teacher 2St	Mr Esposito	- Teacher 5C
Miss Parker	- Teacher 6T		

We welcome them to the Gravel Hill Family. We would like to congratulate Miss Sams as she was married during the Summer and is now Mrs Kirkby. We would also like to let you know that Miss Bridges had a gorgeous baby girl in August and both are doing well. Unfortunately our Site Manager, Mr Briggs is recovering from a knee operation and Mr Kempster will be standing in for him.

REMINDERS:

I would like to take this opportunity in reminding all parents/carers the following:

Lost Property - School Uniform:

We have had a few items of lost property already that have no names in. Please put names of all items that your child brings/wears into school so that they may be reunited with their owner as quickly as possible. Thank you.

Lunch Arrangements:

Could I please remind all parents that dinner money **MUST** be paid by the Monday for the week ahead, preferably using the School Gateway system www.schoolgateway.com. If payment is not received, your child **will not** be able to have a school dinner – they will not go without food completely as on the first day of non-payment they will be given a roll and salad from the salad bar. It will be your responsibility to provide a packed lunch (or payment) from the following day. If your child is off sick, a credit will be carried over to the following week.



If you wish to change your child's meal arrangements, please notify the school office, in writing, at least one week in advance. Please be aware that we will not be able to change anything last minute unless it is an emergency as the cook needs to know exact numbers at the beginning of the week, (for example you will not be able to come to the Small Office and ask for your child to have a school meal unless your child has forgotten their packed lunch). If it is an emergency we need to know at the start of the day, by 9.00am.

Paper-Free – Letters

We would like to be as close to paper-free as possible and with this in mind we are trialling the following:

- We will aim to send all letters home via your child on a Monday or Friday (in an emergency we may have to send out on Tues/Wed/Thurs).
- We will also email you to let you know that a letter is on it's way (with the letter attached).
- The letters will also be put on the website

In order for this to work effectively we do always need to have an up to date email address for you. We will be sending a separate letter home with a tear-off slip at the bottom for you to return if your email address has changed. Thank you.

Car Parking Before and After School :

May I please remind all parents who drive to school to drop off and collect their children that they respect local residents when they park. We have had a few complaints from people that live opposite the school that parents are obstructing drives and parking in resident parking bays. Thank you.

Appointments During School Hours:

Please arrange for all non-emergency appointments to be after school or during school holidays as this can impact on your child's learning.

Afterschool Clubs: We will be running afterschool sports/craft/homework clubs again from September - December and letters have been sent out via email as well as with the children, they can also be found on the website. All clubs start the week beginning Monday 18th September.

Friday "Shop": Starting this week (Friday 22nd September) we will be starting to sell a few items in the playground at the end of the school day such as – sweets, school caps, hats, teddies, coasters, pens and second hand school uniform. All proceeds will go into the School Fund.

Early Years Open Mornings:

If you have pre-school children or know anyone who has and would like to visit the school with view to starting in Nursery and Reception in September 2018 we will be holding 4 open mornings: 19th October, 3rd November, 16th November and 5th December. Please contact the office if you would like to attend any of them.

Term Dates:

If you would like to check all term dates and any up-coming events please go onto our Website www.gravelhillschool.co.uk and click on Term Dates and Events.

EVENTS:

Meet the Teacher Sessions

During the first 10 days of this term we held 'Meet the Teacher' sessions where the teachers of all classes met the parents of their new children. Thank you to all who were able to attend and we hope that it was informative.

Punctuation/Grammar Show

On Tuesday 12th September both KS1 and KS2 watched and took part in a punctuation/grammar show in the hall. This was an interactive event and the children were able to learn whilst having fun.

FUTURE EVENTS:

Year 3 /Year 4 Family Golden Time: Parents/Carers of all Year 3 and 4 have been invited (letter sent out on Fri 16th Sept) to join their children in a Healthy Workshop on the afternoon of Friday 22nd September. Places are limited so please contact office

Tapestry Workshops – Nursery/Reception

Nursery and Reception parents/carers will be invited into school on Friday 29th September where they will have the opportunity to learn about our online learning journeys. A letter has been sent home with more details.

Macmillan Coffee Morning:

We will be holding a coffee morning on Friday 29th September at 9.00am. All parents/carers are invited in for a coffee morning in aid of the Macmillan Cancer Charity. All cakes are welcome or bring a donation with you.

Harvest Festival

The Harvest assembly will be on Monday 9th October. We ask the children to bring in items for the Bexley Food Bank in Sidcup who do an amazing job in helping those in need within the local community. A separate flyer will be sent out nearer the time.

Red/White/Blue Day

We will be asking children and staff members to dress in red, white and blue on Friday 13th October to celebrate women in the armed forces. More details will follow.

Maths Week

The week beginning Monday 16th October will be Maths Week – there will be events throughout the school focussing on maths including visiting external companies.

Parents' Evening

There will be parents' evening on Tuesday 17th October and Thursday 19th October – We may be asking parents to book via a new system online but will provide more details in the next few weeks.

Christmas Events:

Please see the table below for the dates of all of the Christmas plays and events. Letters will be sent out nearer the time with more details.



KEY DATES AND EVENTS:

DATE	TIME	EVENT
Friday 22 nd September	2.00pm-3.00pm	Yr 3/ 4 Family Golden Time – Healthy Workshop
Friday 29 th September	9.00am	Macmillan Coffee Morning
	10.30am	Nursery – Tapestry Workshop
	1.45pm	Reception – Tapestry Workshop
Friday 13 th October		Red, White and Blue Day
Tuesday 17 th October	3.30pm – 6.00pm	Parents Evening
Thursday 19 th October	3.30pm – 6.00pm	Parents Evening
Friday 20 th October		Last Day of Autumn Term 1
Monday 23 rd October – Friday 27 th October		HALF TERM
Monday 30 th October		Start of Autumn Term 2
Friday 11 th November		Remembrance Day Celebration
Friday 17 th November		Children in Need Day
Thursday 7 th December		EYFS/KS1/KS2 Christingle in school
Tuesday 12 th December	9.15am	KS1 Christmas Play (letter will follow)
	9.45am	Yr 3 / 4 Christmas Play (letter will follow)
	10.15am	Yr 5 / 6 Christmas Play (letter will follow)
Wednesday 13 th December	9.15am	KS1 Christmas Play (letter will follow)
	9.45am	Yr 3 / 4 Christmas Play (letter will follow)
	10.15am	Yr 5 / 6 Christmas Play (letter will follow)
Friday 15 th December		Christmas Lunch (letter will follow)
Friday 15 th December		Christmas Jumper Day (letter will follow)
Friday 15 th December	9.30am	EYFS Christmas Play (letter will follow)
Wednesday 20 th December		Christmas Class Parties – own clothes day
Wednesday 20 th December		Last Day of Autumn Term 2
Tuesday 2 nd January		Inset Day
Wednesday 3 rd January		Inset Day
Thursday 4 th January		First Day of Spring Term 1