



Grateley Primary School Newsletter

Friday 18th October

Issue 7

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'A school where every child becomes a lifelong learner and realises their potential.'

Dear parents/carers,

The children have had a really busy week of learning. Darwin class have been to the school field on a welly walk. Bear class have walked around the village. Adamson class have been writing a section of their story in the style of Roald Dahl. Year 5 and 6 have been learning about an imaginary island and giving their opinion as to whether to visit it or not.

I have completed formal observations in classes this week and the outcomes have been very positive. Most children have good learning behaviours and are being challenged in their learning. There was also opportunities for some children to have small group or 1:1 interventions.

Parent Forum – I want to consider setting up a parent forum which would take place termly. These meetings would be organised to consider different things happening at school. It would be an opportunity for me and you to discuss an agenda item that is a focus in the school. We would create terms of reference for the meeting and 6-8 parents would be invited. The first one would take place on Wednesday 6th November at 2pm with a focus on our 'wrap around care.'

Please email Mrs Kitching if you would like to be a part of this first parent forum.

Have a super weekend
Mrs Hill.

'We are all in this together.'

Diary Dates:

New Yr R 2025 Open Days:
Tuesday 14th Jan 2025 5.00pm

Coffee and chat:
Tuesday 22nd Oct 8.45am- 9.15am

Parents' Evenings:
Tuesday 12th Nov 3.50pm
Thursday 14th Nov 3.50pm
Muffi Days:
Friday 8th Nov – Bring a Bottle
Friday 22nd Nov – Colour Raffle

15th Nov – Children in Need
26th Nov-2nd Dec - Winter Book Fayre
Tuesday 10th Dec - Panto, Theatre Royal

INSET Dates:

INSET Day 1: Monday 2nd September 24
INSET Day 2: Tuesday 3rd September 24
INSET Day 3: Monday 6th January 25
INSET Day 4: Friday 23rd May 25
INSET Day 5: Monday 14th July 25

Attendance:

'Every minute counts!'

Congratulations to
*Adamson and
Attenborough classes*
for 98% attendance this week!

Current attendance percentages are:

Whole school for the year: 97%
Whole school for the week: 94%

Bear Class: 93%
Darwin Class: 89%
Adamson Class: 98%
Attenborough Class: 98%

Who's Who?



This is Mr Stow and Mr Emans. They will be our new Sports Coaches from after October half term and they will be teaching P.E every Wednesday.



The attendance information can be very confusing. As we have had new updates from Hampshire, I have tried to simplify this. We have the policy on the website but this may be helpful for you.



New Government Attendance Rules



What do they mean for families?

1

'I'm a parent and I want to take my child out of school for a full or half day – what do I need to do? Will it be authorised?'

You must fill out an absence request form. This form allows us to decide whether an absence is valid for authorisation based on The Department for Education's guidance. Holiday requests will not be authorised.

2

What are the typical reasons given that won't be authorised?

- A family members birthday
- Shopping for uniform
- Child being used as a carer
- Issues with transport
- Sporting events
- Poor family organisation
- Visiting relatives abroad
- Family holidays
- Non-essential appointments
- Travelling before a weekend or authorised holiday



3

'If my absence request gets denied and I take my child out of school anyway, what will happen?'

If your child misses 5 school days, you will be given a penalty notice fine. The fine is £80 per parent, per child if you pay within 21 days. After 21 days the amount per parent, per child will double to £160 per parent, per child.

4

What happens if the school suspect my child has been on holiday and no absence form has been completed?

If you have phoned your child in sick, or have had their absence authorised and...

- Holiday photos from social media are brought to our attention
- We try to phone you and receive a foreign dial tone
- We conduct a home visit and you are not there

Your absence may be unauthorised.

5

'What happens if I get a penalty notice and then my child continues to have unauthorised absences?'

If in any period of not more than 3 years, your child has a 2nd or 3rd leave of unauthorised absence, or a pattern of irregular attendance, the fines increase without any discount for early payment.

2nd time charges with 2 parents

1 child = £320
2 children = £640
3 children = £960
4 children = £1280



3rd time

This time, a penalty notice will not be given. Instead, your case will be taken forward for prosecution. A magistrate can fine each parent **£2,500 for each child.**



6

Who do I speak to if I want more advice or information on attendance?

Our Headteacher, Mrs Hill, will be happy to speak to you.

Contact the Admin Office to arrange a time to speak to them.



JOIN US FOR

GRATELEY WINTER FAYRE

SAT 30 NOV
12 - 3

at Grateley Primary School

Craft Stalls | Hot Food | Santa's Grotto | Face Paints
Gingerbread Decorating | Tombola | Raffle | Lucky Dip
and much more...

VOLUNTEERS & EXTERNAL
STALLS CONTACT
HANNAH ~ 07985 467538