



Grateley Primary School Newsletter

Friday 24th January

Issue 19

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

Dear parents/carers,

First of all can I say a BIG thank you to you for being so supportive and understanding about the difficulties we have had with staff absence. We had some very positive comments on Tuesday.

This week has been tricky with staff absence and we are still seeing high numbers of absence from children. Hopefully we will break the cycle soon.

This half term is flying, it is already week 4 next week. The closing date for the after school club assistant position closes today and successful applicants will be interviewed next week. Then the school team will work with the successful applicants to build the curriculum to move forwards with this becoming a Grateley School provision. We will continue to communicate with you with any updates.

Mrs Hill.

Chill

'We are all in this together.'

Diary Dates:

27/1/25-SATS Workshop
6/2/25- Parent Coffee Morning- 8.45am
4/3/25- Parent Consultations
6/3/25- Parent Consultations
6/3/25- World Book Day

Spring Half Term: 17th-21st February
Easter holiday: 7th-21st April

PTA

Valentine's heart - January

Friday 14th February:

Valentine's disco (£5), red/pink clothing, Valentine theme bake

INSET Days:

INSET Day 4: Friday 23rd May

INSET Day 5: Monday 14th July

Anti-Bullying Ambassadors

We are extending the student leadership team to recruiting anti bullying ambassadors. This was open to children in Years 5 and 6 and we had lots of applications. The children had to write a statement against the job description. The successful children were:



Attendance:

'Every minute counts!'

Congratulations to
Attenborough class
for fantastic attendance this week!

Current attendance percentages are:

Whole school for the year: 95.36%

Whole school for the week: 91.55%

Bear Class: 83.33%

Darwin Class: 92.01%

Adamson Class: 88.15%

Attenborough Class: 100%



Year 6 Boosters

As a school we believe in giving children every opportunity to support their cognitive load and give them repeated exposure to learning opportunities so that they can focus on the learning not the task.

Reading- The purpose of the booster classes is for the children to have the opportunity to be exposed to SATs style questions so that the understanding of the question and format does not get in the way of learning. The session is 20 minutes.

Maths- The purpose of the booster classes is for the children to have the opportunity to be exposed to SATs style questions so that the understanding of the question and format does not get in the way of learning. The children will also look at the most efficient method of finding the answer. The session is 20 minutes.

Year 3 and 4:

Fishbourne Roman Palace Visit

Next half term the children will be learning about Romans. The Project is going to be enriched by a visit to Fishbourne Roman Palace in Chichester. The visit has been booked for Tuesday the 11th March. The PTA have very kindly agreed to pay a significant proportion of the visit so it can go ahead. We are asking for a payment of £15.00 from you per child and this has gone live on Scopay today. If we do not have enough payments then we will need to consider whether the trip can go ahead and if you would like to discuss a payment plan then please contact Mrs Kitching.

Mrs Kitching will be sending the permission letter next week for you to complete and return no later than Friday 14th February.

Home Learning:

Thank you to the parents who attended the parent forum yesterday about Home Learning. The next steps for me are to talk to the team, to create a Home Learning Guidance and then communicate this to you.

The new Home Learning expectations will go live from half term onwards.



Valentine's Events

To start back in full swing for our 2025 first Pta Events please see event calendar below

Over the next couple of weeks your child will receive a heart to colour in, and to write something/someone they love

These will be displayed on the school gates for February to show some love (please return by 31st January)

On **Friday the 14th** children can come into school wearing red/pink clothing to celebrate in exchange for a valentine theme bake that will be sold after school for tuck shop

And the main event we have booked a school valentines disco for your children to enjoy on **Friday 14th February**- Dress to

impress

£5 per ticket for entry, party bag and cake

5.30pm to 7pm

Younger Children can be collected earlier

Please pay by cash with your names on envelope

**or by bacs to Grateley 60-01-17
45523584**

**please let me know Hannah
07985467538 so I can make a note**



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.



Attendance

I would like to highlight to you that the information that we put on the newsletter last term regarding attendance in Autumn 2024 is in effect. I would like to highlight section 3 of the information regarding unauthorised absence.