



Newsletter December 2017

Thoughts from the Head Teacher:

What an amazing term we have had! There has been a lot to celebrate: our sports team's successes, the wonderful arts and crafts afternoons at Stichell House and not to mention the superb Christmas performance of 'A Midwife Crisis'. All the staff, children and governors were extremely proud to find out we are the top school in Teesside for the 2016/17 results and ranked 14th in the UK. I know that with our resilience and determination, this will continue in future years. As well as our fantastic results, we were delighted with our recent Ofsted inspection where we were judged good with many outstanding features. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all parents and carers for their support while I have been the Headteacher. I have enjoyed every moment and would like to welcome back Mrs. Dunn from maternity leave. I hope you all have a fantastic Christmas and a happy new year. Mr. Piper

Attendance

Attendance figures show that over 11% of children have dropped below 90% from September to December 2017. 5% have dropped below 85% and 579 sessions were lost. 219 of these were unauthorised absences, due to holidays taken during term time. Please continue to consider the impact on your child's education before booking a holiday during term time.

We are amazed at how many fund raising activities we have organised in school. I do realise that times are hard, due to the economic climate, and

I would like to thank you all on behalf of the staff and pupils for contributing to these well-deserved charities and fund raisers for school funds. These funds have helped to subsidise school trips, transport to sporting events, ice creams for sports day, the annual pantomime, year 6 leaver's gifts, selection boxes for the whole school and other activities.

Listed below are all the activities we have taken part in over this year:-

Easter egg Raffle

Durham Leavers Service – Lesotho

Autumn Fair

Harvest Festival – Hartlepool Food Bank

Royal British Legion – Poppies

NSPCC – Carol Singing at Morrisons

Cauliflower Cards

Toys - Butterwick Hospice

Christingle – The Children's Society

Hartlepool Food Bank Advent Calendar

School Council- Food Hamper Raffle for Alice House Hospice

Thank you once again for your support.

After School Clubs

There will be no Activity After School Clubs week beginning Monday, 8th January, apart from Year 6 Booster Club. This club will start on Thursday 11th January. A letter will be sent home after the holiday with more information regarding the clubs.

As you are probably aware, Mrs Dunn returned back to school last week after her maternity leave. In January, Mr Piper will be teaching in class 3 and Mrs Seddon will remain in class 2. Unfortunately, we have to say goodbye to Mrs Brown at the end of this term. She has been an extremely valued member of the school staff and will be greatly missed. We wish her well and would like to thank her for all her hard work and dedication to Greatham School.

Nursery Places

There are currently nursery places available in school for January 2018. If you know anyone who may be interested and who has a child who will be 3 years old before January 1st, please let them know.

SATs 2018

KS2 (Yr 6) SATs tests take place week beginning 14th May. Years 3, 4 and 5 will be taking part in optional SATs. Year 2 will also take their SATs during May. Please avoid taking holidays during these dates and the weeks leading up to them.

Dates for your Diary – 2018

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| Monday 8th January: | Children return to School |
| Tuesday 16 th January: | Newcastle Falcons Rugby Taster session |
| Tuesday 16 th January: | Robinwood meeting @ 3.15pm for Year 4 & 5 parents |
| Wednesday 17th January: | Basketball at Manor Year 5 & 6 |
| Monday 22 nd January: | Cross Country @ Manor year 3 & 4 |
| Thursday 25 th January: | Small School Swimming Gala |
| Monday 29 th January: | Cross Country, year 5 & 6 |
| Monday 5 th February: | Year 2 Multi Skills. |
| Tuesday 6 th February: | Class 2 @ Pizza Express |
| Friday 9 th February: | School finishes for half term |
| Monday 19th February: | School re-opens. |
| Tuesday 20 th February: | Year 2 Multiskills |
| Friday 23 rd February: | Mid-Year School Reports go out to parents. |
| Monday 26 th February: | Parent Consultation Evening from 3.30pm to 5.30pm |
| Tuesday 27 th February: | Parent Consultation Evening from 5pm to 7pm |
| Friday 2nd March: | Class 1 Worship at 9am |
| Tuesday 6 th March: | Class 4 at Teesside Barrage & Transporter Bridge |
| Friday 9th March: | Class 2 Worship at 9am |
| Tuesday 13 th March: | School Council meeting @ St. Aidan's |
| Wednesday 14th March: | Class 3 Worship at 9am |
| Wednesday 21 st March: | M & M Production in School: The Little Princess |
| Friday 23rd March: | Class 4 Worship at 9am |
| Thursday 29 th March: | Easter Service in Church at 10am |
| Thursday 29 th March: | School closes for Easter |

Our school website is updated regularly:
<http://www.greathamsschool.org.uk> or
follow us on Twitter@GreathamCofESch

Class 1

What a busy term this has been for the children in Class 1! The topics throughout the term have been Cold and Winter Wonderlands and the children have had lots of fun reading the stories The Magic Sky, The Snowman, The Jolly Christmas Postman and The Elves and the Shoemaker, as well as many others and they have completed lots of activities relating to these stories. They have threaded their own shoes, created their own Northern Lights pictures and all through December, a little elf named Buddy visited the children every morning so they have even written daily letters to Santa Claus to tell him all about the things their little elf has been up to! They have all settled in amazingly well and have made fantastic progress in such a short time! Well done Class 1!

Class 2

Class 2 have had a very busy term. Our highlights were visiting the Chinese Restaurant and tasting the delicious food. We really enjoyed learning about the Great Fire of London and re-enacting it at Space 2 Learn. This half term we have written some excellent Monster stories based on the John Lewis advert. We have all worked hard in preparing for our Nativity and we really hope you enjoyed it!

Class 3

We have had a very successful term in class 3. In Maths we have completed a lot of work on place value, times tables and calculation methods. In English, we have written the story of Theseus and the Minotaur but from the point of view of the Minotaur. We have also had several debates on topics such as school uniform and mobile phones and we have written a balanced argument about zoos. As part of our topic work we have researched The Mediterranean, specifically the differences between Greece and England. We have also looked at crime and punishment through several eras. This included our fantastic trip to Ripon Museum. We all agree, punishments in the past were very severe. In Science, we have looked at electricity. We combined this with crime and punishment to create an alarm for a Victorian jail. Lastly, we have researched Christmas around the world, noting similarities and differences with traditional customs. We have thoroughly enjoyed this term and have worked extremely hard.

Class 4

What an action-packed term we have had in Class 4! We visited St Hilda's Church and Jarrow Hall as part of our RE topic, spent a day programming our own games at Space2 Learn, visited residents at Stichel House, completed a cycling proficiency course and took part in the annual Snappy Christmas concert with hundreds of children from across the town. This is in addition to successfully participating in a host of town-wide sporting competitions. The children have enjoyed learning all about Ancient Greece and have loved reading and writing about 'A Christmas Carol' by Charles Dickens. We even made our own Victorian-style toy with a cam mechanism.

School re-opens for pupils on Monday 8th January 2018 at 8.45 a.m.