



Message from the Head Teacher

We have had an extremely busy summer term, I am incredibly proud of all the children and I congratulate them all on their fantastic achievements. Today we say goodbye to our Year 6 children who are moving to their new Secondary Schools in September. I am confident the children are well prepared for their move and will find great success at their new schools. The school would like to thank each child in Yr 6 for being a great ambassador for Greatham School.

We would like to say a fond farewell to our school administrator, Mrs. Smyth, who is retiring at the end of term. Mrs. Smyth has been a valuable member of our school for over 14 years and will be very much missed by the children, staff and families of Greatham. We would like to thank her for her hard work and dedication to school.

And finally as we close 2018/19, on behalf of all the staff and governors I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the parents and families who have worked closely with us over the school year and supported your children and all our policies, systems, standards and procedures. Your co-operation and support has enabled our school to run smoothly and allowed staff to focus on the children to ensure every child in the school receives the very best.

Wishing you all a lovely and very happy summer holiday.

Mrs. Dunn

Parent Meetings Autumn Term

Listed below are the dates for the very important meetings for all parents in September. On this occasion classroom organisation, timetables, homework and other curriculum issues will be discussed for the new academic school year. Individual appointments will be arranged for those parents whose children receive extra support.

It is essential that all parents come to the first meeting. The dates are listed below:-

Class 2 (Year 1 & 2)

Monday 2nd September at 3.15pm

Class 3 (Year 3 & 4)

Tuesday 3rd September at 3.15pm

Class 4 (Year 5 & 6)

Wednesday 4th September at 3.15pm

School Term and Holiday Dates 2019/2020

	Last Day of School	Return to School
Summer	Tuesday 20th July 2019	Monday 2nd September 2019
Half Term	Friday 25th October 2019	Monday, 4th November 2019
Christmas	Friday 20th December 2019	Monday 6th January 2020
Half Term	Friday 14th February 2020	Monday 24th February 2020
Easter	Thursday 3rd April 2020	Monday 20th April 2020
May Day	Thursday 7th May 2020	Monday 11th May 2020
Half Term	Friday 22nd May 2020	Monday 8th June 2020
Summer	Monday 20th July 2020	Tuesday 1st September 2020

To the left are the school term and holiday dates for 2019/2020.

The five P.D. days are: - 1st to 5th June 2020. School will be closed to all children this week.

Pupil Absence from School

If your child is absent from school, could you please telephone the office before 9.30am to inform school of the reason why. Thank you for your co-operation.

Homework Meetings

We are holding homework meetings for all parents at 3:30 and again at 6pm on Thursday 5th September. These meetings will give you information about Bug Club, Times Tables Rockstars and the new homework policy. We look forward to seeing you there.

We are delighted to announce that Greatham School has achieved the Gold award in the School Games Mark. Well done to everyone involved.

Monday 2nd September
Monday 2nd September at 3.15pm
Tuesday 3rd September at 3.15pm
Wednesday 4th September at 3.15pm
Thursday 5th September at 3.15 & 6:00pm
Friday 6th September

Monday 9th September
Wednesday 11th September
Monday 23rd to Thursday 26th September
Friday 27th September
Wednesday 2nd October
Friday 11th October
Wednesday 16th October
Wednesday 23rd October
Friday 25th October
Monday 4th November
Monday 4th November
Wednesday 6th November
Wednesday 6th November
Monday 11th November
Friday 22nd November
Friday 29th November
Friday 29th November
Wednesday 4th December
Friday 6th December
Tuesday 10th December
Wednesday 11th December
Thursday 12th December
Friday 13th December
Friday 13th December
Tuesday 17th December
Wednesday 18th December
Friday 20th December

Dates for your Diary

School re-opens at 8.45am
Class 2 (Year 1 & 2) meeting for parents
Class 3 (Year 3 & 4) meeting for parents.
Class 4 (Year 5 & 6) meeting for parents,
Homework meeting for all parents
The Admissions Team will be coming into school to talk to Year 6 pupils at 2pm. All Year 6 parents are invited to come along, as you will be encouraged to complete your child's preference for Secondary School.
Class 3 swimming at Mill House every Monday at 1pm
Class 3 at Beamish
Bikeability for year 5 & 6
Flu immunisations for Reception to Year 6 in school, please register your child on-line.
Individual and family group photographs to be taken in school from 8.30am
Harvest Festival in Church at 9.30am
Class 1 Worship at 9am
Class 2 Worship at 9am
School closes for half-term holidays
School re-opens at 8.45am
Parents Evening - 3.30 pm to 5.30pm
Class 3 Worship at 9am
Parents Evening – 5pm to 6.50pm.
Class 4 Worship at 9am
Class 1 at Stichell House
Class 4 at Stichell House.
Non-uniform day for Christmas Fair donations.
Christmas Fair at 5pm
Class 3 at Stichell House
Carols Around the Christmas Tree at 3.15pm. Everyone welcome
Christmas Lunch
Whole school visit to Billingham Forum to see Snow White
Nursery & Reception Christmas Party
Class 2 at Stichell House
KS 1 Nativity Performance at 2pm in school
KS1 Nativity Performance at 6pm in school
Christingle Service in Church at 9.30am. School closes for Christmas holidays

Free School Meals for Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 children will continue in September. This is a Government initiative.

Unfortunately, Nursery, Year 3, 4, 5, & 6 pupils still have to pay. The cost of a school meal is £2.05 per day. Dinner money will be £10.25 per week.

If you think your child may qualify for Free School Meals, there are forms available from the school office or contact the Civic Centre on 01429 284188.

Dinner money must be paid on a Monday or at the beginning of the school week. If you wish, it can be paid monthly or termly in advance.

Please send in the correct money for the week/month or term. No change will be given or sent home with the children. Any extra payments will be carried forward to the next week. A dinner money envelope will be sent out every Friday. Thank you for your co-operation.

Attendance

Attendance figures show that over 6% of children have dropped below 90% from September to July 2018. 7% have dropped below 85% and 1162 sessions were lost.

371 of these were unauthorised absences, due to holidays taken during term time. Thank you for your co-operation and please continue to consider the impact on your child's education before booking a holiday during term time.

We are currently reviewing the after school activities that are provided by the staff in school. As a result, the clubs that usually run from 3.15 – 4.00pm will no longer be running in the first half-term while we consult with parents and children about the activities that you feel the children at Greatham need and want. Clubs will resume after October half-term. A questionnaire was sent out to parents last week. Please return this to school before the end of term. Thank you.

This term saw a very successful Sports Day. All pupils, from nursery to Year 6, participated and competed against each other in house teams. It was lovely to see the children encouraging and supporting each other. Thanks to parents for their continued support.

St. Aidan's were the overall winners and have been presented with a trophy. However, a great effort was displayed by all.

