



Newsletter December 2019

Thoughts from the Head Teacher:

Another year has gone by so incredibly quickly at school and I hope that it has been an enjoyable calendar year for you and your child/children.

Once again, the build up to Christmas has been very exciting and there have been lots of exciting events that have taken place in a short space of time. The children have enjoyed singing at Morrisons, performing at Snappy Christmas and singing at Schooner Court and Stichell House.

The Christmas Fair was once again a roaring success and a huge thank you must be given to the staff and the parents who helped for organising such a fantastic event. I would like to say a big thank you to everyone who donated gifts, prizes and baked for us. We raised a magnificent £1,400!

The nativity was a huge hit and Class 2 and 3 children and staff worked incredibly hard to prepare the production.

As always, we are very much looking forward to our whole school service at St. John the Baptist Church on the last day of term tomorrow. All parents and friends are invited to come along and it would be great to see as many there as possible.

May I take this opportunity to wish you all a very merry Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

Attendance

Attendance figures show that over 7% of children have dropped below 90% from September to December 2019. 7% have dropped below 85% and 40 sessions were lost. 30 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.

After School Clubs January 2020

There will be no Activity After School Clubs week beginning Monday, 6th January, apart from Year 6 Booster Club.

We are pleased to offer the following clubs after Christmas week beginning 13th January 2020:

Monday -Football with HBC Sports & Physical Activity Team for Year 4, 5 & 6

Monday- Story Telling with Mrs Boddy for Nursery, Reception, Year 1 & 2

Tuesday- Invasion games with HBC Sports & Physical Activity Team for Years 3 & 4

Tuesday- Eco and Greatham ambassadors with Mrs Sotheran and Mrs Corner for Years 2,3,4,5,6

Wednesday -Multi Sport run by HBC Sports & Physical Activity Team for Years Reception 1 and 2

Wednesday- Street Dance with Ryan Wilson for Year 3 and 4

Thursday -Gymnastics with HBC Sports & Physical Activity Team for Year 1 & 2

Thursday- Booster- with Mrs Richardson, Miss Cook, Mrs Dunn and Mr Piper

SATs 2020

KS2 (Yr 6) SATs tests take place week beginning 11th 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 – 2020

Monday 6th January:	Children return to School
Monday 20 th January:	Robinwood meeting @ 3.15pm for Year 4 & 5 parents
Wednesday 5 th February:	Y5/6 Basketball at Brierton
Friday 14 th February:	School finishes for half term
Monday 24 th February:	School re-opens
Wednesday 26 th February:	Y3 Mini Tennis Location TBC
Friday 6 th March:	Class 1 Worship at 9am
Monday 9 th March	Parent Consultation 3.30pm – 5.30pm
Tuesday 10 th March	Parent Consultation 5.00 – 7.00pm
Friday 13 th March:	Class 2 Worship at 9am
Friday 20 th March	Class 3 Worship at 9am
Friday 27 th March:	Class 4 Worship at 9am
Friday 3 rd April:	Easter Service in Church at 9.30am
Friday 3 rd April:	School closes for Easter
Monday 20 th April:	Children return to School

Our school website is updated regularly:
<http://www.greathamschool.org.uk> or

Class 1

In the first half term of this school year, the topic in Class 1 was animals. The children had a visit from company called Zoolab who brought: a snake, hissing cockroaches, millipedes, tarantulas and stick insects into school for the children to meet. The children also read the stories The Tiger Who Came to Tea, The Highway Rat and Owl Babies. All of the children settled wonderfully into school during this half term. During the second half term the topic in Class 1 has been celebrations. The children have learned about why Bonfire Night is celebrated, about how people celebrate birthdays and about the very first Christmas. They have carried out their own scientific investigation in order to make their own fireworks in a jar, have written beautiful poems and have even acted out the Christmas story. The children also shared a lovely afternoon with the residents of Stichell House. Each of them behaved beautifully while we were there and made the school very proud!

Class 3

We have been very busy this term in class 3. The Victorians topic was thoroughly enjoyed by all children and staff- we learned lots about the Education Act and what life was like in the Victorian era. Also, we created amazing art work in the style of William Morris who was very famous during the Victorian era for his wallpaper patterns. In addition, we managed to fit in a fantastic trip to Beamish, where the children had the chance to become a Victorian child in a school setting. In the second half term, we learned about technology through the ages. The children loved finding out about the technology that came before iPhones and iPads. In maths, we have completed place value, addition and subtraction and times tables. The children have been excellent at practising their times tables and are getting very fast! The children have loved swimming and are improving each week. As always, we have been very impressed with the children's homework and the effort that has been put in!

Class 2

What a fantastic first term we have had in Class 2! The new year one children have settled well into class 2 and are working extremely hard. The children have learned lots about China and The Great Fire of London. I think you will agree they put on a magnificent show for the Christmas play and I am so proud of them all. A massive thank you to all the children's families for sending in some amazing homework. It has really enhanced the children's learning in school. Have a fantastic Christmas and New Year!

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 using Scratch, completed a cycling proficiency course, sang for residents at Schooner Court and took part in the annual Snappy Christmas concert with hundreds of children from across the town. This is in addition to 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. Well done to all the children for working so hard this term.

School re-opens for pupils on Monday 6th January 2020 at 8.45 a.m.