



# Greenfield Primary School



*'Everyone can grow in a Greenfield!'*

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*Headteacher: Mrs Claire Stylianides*

## End of Term Round Up of News and Important Information – December 2023



What an incredible term! There has been so much happening in school, especially in the last few weeks. The younger children's Christmas plays have been very entertaining, and it was lovely to see the fruits of all the hard work and time spent practising. The older children have also enjoyed practising carols and poems for their Christmas service in St Thomas's yesterday. All these events were very well attended by lots of proud parents and grandparents – it was great to see you all leave with big happy smiles. We have enjoyed all the other festivities too, including breakfast with Santa and the Christmas movie nights. It's been a challenging time with all the roof work and scaffolding, and we really appreciate all the support from FrOG in putting on these events, so we haven't missed out on too much by not having a Christmas fair.

As well as enjoying all the festive fun, the children have learned lots and made great progress this term. In between all the wonderful reading, calculating and fractions, pupils have been learning about rivers, the struggle between the Anglo-Saxons and the Vikings, the geography and history of the school and local area, how to control Beebots or write algorithms to try out with a Crumble kit. We have been particularly pleased to see the hard work and improvements made with the children's writing and in their artwork. We introduced a new approach to handwriting which has helped the children to write much more neatly, with many developing a lovely, joined style and they have composed some excellent pieces. We worked on our art curriculum plans and the children have enjoyed improving their painting and drawing skills, whilst learning about great modern, contemporary and traditional artists. Many classes are taking home calendars that feature their wonderful work. The reception children composed some splendid natural sculptures in the style of Anthony Goldsworthy. This week the teachers have been busy looking at the curriculum plans for next term, which are equally inspiring, and they can't wait to introduce them to the children in January.

Well, I can't believe it's only 3 more sleeps until Christmas! I hope you all have a brilliant time and I wish you much joy, peace, love and laughter. See you on the 8<sup>th</sup> January 2024.

Mrs Stylianides





### **Shine Star Shine – by Matilda and Maddie, Year 6**

On Monday afternoon, we watched Reception class performance about the star who couldn't shine. The children remembered their actions well and projected their voices when singing and speaking. They also remembered where to stand and when to say things and they knew when they had to stand up and sit down. Overall, the children performed really well in their nativity, and everyone enjoyed it. We would give it 5 stars! ★★★★★



### **A Tale of Two Birthdays – by Queena, Esmae and Lottie, Year 6**

The Year 1 and 2 play was a joyful experience, including singing dancing and acting. The children remembered all their lines and spoke clearly and accurately. Everyone joined in the singing and dancing, even if they were offstage. The children looked like they really enjoyed participating in the show as they had smiles on their faces. The teachers must have been a great help as the children kept looking over to them for support and reassurance. The children showed the Greenfield values of endeavour, teamwork and resilience. All in all, their play was an absolute success.



### **KS1 Theatre Trip**

This month the children in Year 1 and Year 2 had a wonderful time at The MAC in Birmingham, watching 'Starchitects Save Santa'. The story was about an adventurous group of friends who left their cosy sleepover to embark on a daring rescue mission. All the children were transfixed by the magical characters and their amazing dancing and acrobatics. Thankfully Santa was saved, and the show ended with a big snowball fight!



### **Governor News**

Our new parent governors, Steve Hancock and Muhammad Ali, have been finding their feet this term and we are grateful for their support. Next term a new co-opted Governor will be joining us. We have been busy putting an information pack and advert together to recruit a new headteacher for next September, which we hope will generate a strong field. And we are extremely grateful to colleagues and children alike for all their hard work despite the challenges posed by the roof work and hope everyone will join us in keeping our fingers crossed for a dry spring.

### **Class Assemblies**

It has been lovely to see many parents (and grandparents) in for our class assemblies this autumn. The children have really enjoyed sharing the different themes. Here are the upcoming dates for your diary:

- Y5D Pankhurst Class – Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> January
- Y5/6C Edison Class - Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> January
- Y5S Armstrong Class - Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> February
- Y1/2 Curie Class – Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> March
- Y2 Ceesay Class – Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> March

In the summer term it will be the Y1 and the Y3/4 classes, followed by the Reception children.

### **Friends of Greenfield School - FrOG News**

Everyone in the FrOG Team would like to thank you all for your support this half term - from our Old Quarter ghost hunt to the bauble competition, the advent calendar and everything in between, all of this would not be possible without everyone's help and support, and it is very much appreciated. Obviously, we have not been able to put on our usual Christmas fair but, whilst this has been missed, we have come up with other ideas, such as the Christmas movie night, to get everyone in the festive mood and raise much needed funds for the school. With all that we have raised, we will be looking to putting this towards improving the playground area, including much better sheltered areas, in the spring.

We have also been coming up with some ideas for next year and we will be holding our first meeting in January to get the planning for these moving. We will send out further details straight after the holidays. As always, if you are interested in getting involved with FrOG, you can either contact Ben on 07903 177726, email [frog@greenfield.dudley.sch.uk](mailto:frog@greenfield.dudley.sch.uk) or speak to anyone who is already involved. We look forward to welcoming new supporters in the New Year.

*Merry Christmas from everyone at the FrOG Team!*

### **After School Clubs**

We have lots of clubs on offer each week, providing lots of opportunities for pupils to stretch the skills and talents. Here's an update on the clubs running after half term:

- Monday – Y4-5 Tag Rugby with Ace Coaching
- Tuesday - Neat Feet Dance – contact directly for spaces
- Wednesday – Y5/6 Music Fitness *PLACES STILL AVAILIABLE (Y3/4 after half term)*
- Wednesday – Y2 Art Club *(Y1 after half term)*
- Thursday - Y3/4 Archery *(Y5/6 from 29<sup>th</sup> February)*
- Thursday – Y5/6 STEM Club - *PLACES STILL AVAILIABLE (Y3/4 from 29<sup>th</sup> February)*
- Friday – Y1-4 Invasion Games with Ace Coaching

Where all places have been allocated, we refer to waiting lists if a place becomes available.

Young Voices are super excited for the performance in Birmingham on the 12<sup>th</sup> January. They have one more after school rehearsal on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> January. We will send home the pre-ordered tickets and t-shirts on that day too.

### **Wraparound Care with Active Care**

Active Care provide wraparound childcare from 7:30am and until 6:00pm. Parents need to register and book places in advance directly with Active Care to ensure a place.

- Annual contracts are ideal if you require the same days or sessions every week and want to secure your child's place. Invoices are sent on a monthly basis and are charged in advance of your childcare provision.
- Ad hoc sessions are suitable for working parents that work shift or irregular work patterns. These sessions allow you to book as and when you need childcare. Ad hoc sessions are subject to availability and require parents to log into the booking system each time you wish to book a session.

Click on the link and select the option for parents, then 'Book Now' to start your registration.

<https://www.rbactivecare.co.uk/>

### **Safe Places Scheme**

Safe Places is a scheme for vulnerable people. It gives people a place of safety if it is needed when out and about in their local community. Follow this link to find out more:

<https://dudleyci.co.uk/categories/safe-places-scheme?page=1>

### **Every Little Helps**

If you shop at Tesco Stourbridge, we'd be really grateful if you would drop your blue tokens into our box. We are hoping to raise funds to develop our fairy garden. Please spread the word to family and friends. We are also collecting at Oldswinford Express and Audnam Stourbridge Express. Thank you for your continued support.

### **Thank You**

This term we raised £257 for Children in Need on our Mufti Day and £265.39 for The Royal British Legion through the sale of poppy merchandise. We were also pleased to send contributions from our reverse advent calendar to the Black Country Food Bank. Thank you for supporting these super causes.

### **Lost Property**

Where items are named, we will return to pupils as we usually do. The remaining items are put in the lost property bin (it's green in colour) which you'll find in the main entrance near the school office. Please pop in anytime to check the lost property bin if your child has any missing items. When the bin is full, we will have to dispose of items. Although we send continual reminders, there are many sweaters, cardigans and coats have no name in them and are never claimed. We even have several pairs of glasses! During the holidays, please, please, please double check that ALL your child's uniform items have your child's name in them.

### **Primary School Transition**

Do you have a child who is 4 years old or will be turning 4 before 31<sup>st</sup> August 2024? Please be aware that the closing date to apply for a Reception school place is 5pm on 16<sup>th</sup> January 2024. Any applications received after this date will be classed as a late application unless there are exceptional circumstances. If you've not done so already, you can find all the information and apply online via this

link: <https://www.dudley.gov.uk/residents/learning-and-school/school-information/school-admissions/primary-reception-intake/> The local authority handles all admissions and sends out their decision on 16<sup>th</sup> April 2024.

### **PE Kits**

We are sending the PE kits home today for washing over the holiday. When pupils always have their kits for in school, lesson time is used much more productively. Please ensure your child brings their kit back into school on the Monday they return – please also double check that each item has a name label. Many thanks😊

### **Music Tuition**

We work with Dudley Performing Arts (DPA) to provide additional music lessons in school and, if your child is thinking of taking up an instrument, now is a good time to start! Learning a musical instrument is a great thing for young people to do. It can help in all sorts of ways and research suggests that it can help children develop academically and socially. The team at DPA have decades of experience and are the biggest provider of music education in our area. Students can start for as little as £8 a session and lessons take place in school making it easy to fit in around your busy family lives. If you would like your child to start simply click on the link to find out how it works: <https://www.dudley.gov.uk/things-to-do/dudley-performing-arts/information-for-parents-and-young-people/music-lessons-in-schools/>

Piano tuition is also available in school. Mrs Hill comes in to provide this and she does have some availability. Please contact the school office if you would like more information.

### **School Lunches**

School lunches are supplied by Shire Services. If you would like your child to have school lunches, you can order them on ParentMail by midnight the day before, including if your child is entitled to a free meal. The cost of a paid



meal is £2.50. For food allergen and intolerance information please contact the school office and we will arrange for Shire Services to call you to discuss. Please keep us up to date with any allergies or special dietary requirements your child has. You can view the menu on this [link](#).

### **Healthy Lunchboxes**

Parents and carers can take advantage of a new Dudley Public Health and Wellbeing website to help them create healthy, yummy and tooth-friendly children's lunchboxes. To visit the site, please go to:

[www.dudleyhealthylunchbox.org.uk](http://www.dudleyhealthylunchbox.org.uk) It includes:

- Ingredients and easy-to-follow recipes for 14 lunchboxes
- Advice on how to make lunchboxes that are healthy, tooth friendly, cost-effective, time saving and full of variety
- Scrummy swaps helping make the lunchboxes suitable for a variety of dietary needs
- A downloadable weekly lunchbox planner and an editable template for parents/carers to personalise to suit their own families and more!

### **Is your child entitled to Free School Meals?**

Did you know that schools receive extra funding from the government to help them improve the attainment of their disadvantaged pupils? This primarily includes pupils that are or have been entitled to receive free school meals. Schools use this funding to ensure high quality teaching, provide interventions when disadvantaged pupils need extra support and to support wider curriculum opportunities like school trips. Even if your child does not want a free school meal, it is still worth signing up if you are eligible. You may be able to claim if you get any of the following:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseekers Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- the guaranteed element of State Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit Run-on - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit (you must have less than £616.67 a month net earned income (after tax - and not including any benefits))

If you wish to apply for Free School Meals, please go to [www.dudley.gov.uk/resident/your-council/council-tax-and-benefits/benefits/free-school-meals](http://www.dudley.gov.uk/resident/your-council/council-tax-and-benefits/benefits/free-school-meals)

If you need further information, you can contact the Free School Meals Team by:

- Telephone -01384 814988
- Email – [freeschoolmeals.benefits@dudley.gov.uk](mailto:freeschoolmeals.benefits@dudley.gov.uk)
- Visiting – Dudley Council Plus, Castle Street, Dudley between 8.30am and 5pm Monday to Friday, 9am and 12 noon Saturday

### **Measles - Don't let your child catch it!**

Measles cases are on the rise locally. The NHS is calling on you to check your child's MMR vaccination status. Measles can lead to serious complications, but two doses of the MMR vaccine provide lifelong protection. Protect your children's health, contact your GP to catch up on any missed vaccinations.

### **Attendance and Reporting Absences**

We are continually working with the Local Authority and families to improve attendance. We would like to thank all families who ensure that their children attend school regularly and are on time.

If your child is absent from school, there are a number of ways you can report the absence. Please ensure that your message includes the child's name, class, reason for absence and the name/relationship of the person reporting the absence.

- Call the school office on 01384 818585, select Option 1 and leave a message

- Report the absence using the 'Absence' tab in ParentMail – this system will go live ready for the start of term in September.

With both systems a message can be left at any time of the day/night.

Please report the absence to the school office (not the class teacher) no later than 9.30am on the first day of absence. For sickness and diarrhoea, the school office will enter an absence for the 48 hours so there is no need to call on the second day of absence. For all other absences, please provide an update on a daily basis unless advised by the school office of any isolation periods as recommended by Public Health. The NHS have produced some helpful information about when is it appropriate for parents and carers to send their children to school with a mild illness: <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

Medical appointments should be booked outside of the school day. Where this is not possible, please contact the school office and provide details of the appointment. A copy of the appointment time/letter may be requested.

If you know your child will be late for school, you must contact the school as soon as possible to let us know and provide the reason for the lateness.

If you are having any difficulty getting your child to attend school, you should notify the school (school office, class teacher or Headteacher) immediately about the concerns. We will make every effort to meet with parents and provide the necessary support.

### Important Dates and Term Dates

Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> January	Pupils return to school
Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> January	Young Voices at Birmingham Resorts World Arena
Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> February	Pupils break up for half term
Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> February	Pupils return to school
Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> March	Parents Eve – 3:45-6:00pm
Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup> March	Parents Eve – 4:45-7:30pm
Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 6 Residential Visit to Pioneer Centre
W/c 18 <sup>th</sup> March	Y3/4 Performances
Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> March	Y5 Trip to Bishops Wood
Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> March	Pupils break up for Easter
Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> April	Pupils return to school
Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> May	InSET/Polling Day – School closed to pupils
Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> May	InSET Day – School closed to pupils
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> May	School closed for Bank Holiday
W/c 13 <sup>th</sup> May	Y6 SATs week

Parents can check term dates and InSET days on our website <https://greenfield.dudley.sch.uk/term-dates/>









