

Greenvale Primary School

December Newsletter



Key Dates:

January

6th - Back to school

10th - YR 4 cake sale

16th - 'Australia Day' lunch

24th - YR 5 cake sale

30th - Croydon Borough
Schools' Swimming Gala

Christmas Fair Donations

A very big thank you to all of our families for your kind donations over the past few weeks. These donations go towards prizes for the Friends of Greenvale's Christmas Fair.

We do hope that you all had an enjoyable afternoon at the fair on Friday and want to thank FOG for all their hard work.



New Lunch Menus

Please click [here](#) for the new 2020 menus.

Christmas light switch on in Selsdon!

A big thank you to all those pupils and families who came to sing in the choir or provide support on 22nd November. The children did a great job and Father Christmas even made it on time!



Ideas for Christmas

Still after a stocking filler for your child for Christmas? Why not purchase a book from your child's class reader selection so that they are able to follow along with the class teacher? Please note, class readers are only for children in Years 3-6.

There are also a number of titles on the 10 before 10 lists (for every year group) that you may wish to purchase.

Titles for each year can be found on our new Reading page on our school website. Please click on the following link for quick access.

[Reading website](#)



Thank you St Johns

A very big thank you to those as St John's church who very kindly made the knitted Christmas Angels for each of the children. You are likely to have seen a number of the fairies tied to the school fence on Monday 2nd December.



It is safe to say that Greenvale families' trees will be looking extra festive this Christmas.

New Home Learning Policy

We now have a new 'Home Learning Policy' following on from a request from a parent. Within this policy, we outline the expectations for each year group. If you have any questions that relate to your child's homework, please do not hesitate to contact your child's class teacher. To access this document, please [click here](#).

Understanding Finnish Education



During the October half term, Mr Bowden and Miss Kemp made their way alongside a group of 16 teaching colleagues from Croydon to visit Finland for the week to find out a little about their education system. Finland are often seen as one of the leading countries within Europe in terms of academic success.



The visit was a real success; we were able to visit three different schools as well as learn a little bit about the Education system in Finland. Children do not start school until 7 years of age, there is little in the way of differentiation within the classes with most children completing similar work from set text books. The value of Trust was very prominent within the Finnish culture, with children (aged around 5 / 6) making their own way to and from school without parents in sight. We saw children aged around 10 years of age using circular saws and electronic sanding machines without a teacher close by and there is very little by way of observation of teaching.



It is fair to say that following the visit, there was much to reflect on. We look forward to taking some inspiration from our visit and trying some of the ideas that we were able to observe on our visit. Should you have any questions about our visit, please do not hesitate to speak with either Mr Bowden or Mrs Kemp.



Pantomime

A big thank you to the Friends of Greenvale for paying for the pantomime performance on the last day of term.

During the morning of Friday 20th December, the children will be treated to a performance of Cinderella.

Filming of Christmas Performances

We are pleased to announce that both the Reception and KS1 performances will be filmed once again this year.

A separate letter will be sent out shortly with information on how to order yourself a copy of one of these DVDs.



Election - 12th December - School closed



Back to school Date

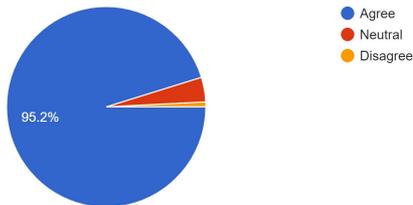
A reminder that the children return to school on Monday 6th January 2020.

Parent Survey Feedback

A very big thank you to parents for completing the online survey at the beginning of parent consultations. We are now in a position to share the results of this with parents.

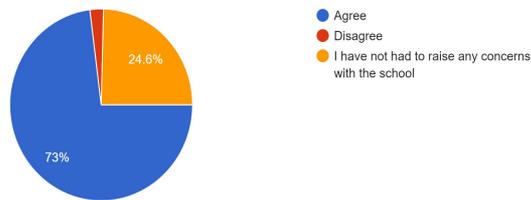
My Child is happy at Greenvale

126 responses



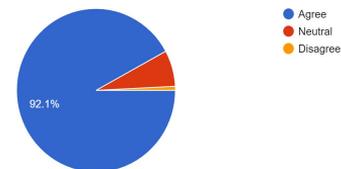
If I have had to raise a concern with the school, they have responded promptly.

126 responses



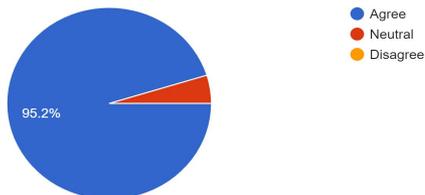
I would recommend Greenvale to another parent

126 responses



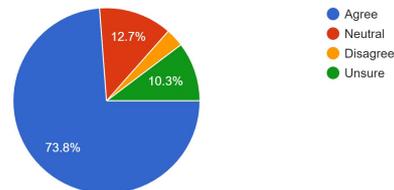
My child feels safe at Greenvale

126 responses



The school works quickly and effectively to deal with any instances of bullying behaviour and promotes a caring and respectful culture.

126 responses



We were pleased with the results of this survey. We are however mindful of those who may be dissatisfied with any areas of the running of the school.

Whilst we appreciate that it may be difficult to please all, we are keen to work with our parents to get the best for those in our care.

Areas for Development

We are aware that there may be aspects of the school that parents feel could do with some improvement. Some of these are out of our control, such as funding, however Mr Bowden is one of the two Maintained Primary School representatives of the School's Forum which make decisions around school funding. Mr Bowden regularly attends meetings to ensure that the voices of small schools are heard when funding decisions are made.

Other suggestions included:

- Updating aspects of the school building such as replacing carpets.
- Working hard to ensure that staffing is consistent in year groups - This is something we are very mindful of however there have been times where we have been extremely limited due to a lack of candidates for roles.
- Increasing the range of after-school clubs.
- More helpers at events
- Can we put a copy of the homework policy on the website (Already actioned)
- Increasing the range of PE at the school.

A very big thank you for your suggestions. In some cases, we have already try to make improvements in some of the above areas. Again, we really appreciate any time that you are able to give in supporting at any events, in particular those run by the Friends of Greenvale. The Friends do a great job of raising money for the school and any time that you are able to give is appreciated.

December Dates

- 10th Robins Christmas Performance 9:30am
- 11th **KS1 (Year 1 & 2) Christmas Performance 9:30am (had originally been on 12th December)**
- 12th **SCHOOL CLOSED TO CHILDREN DUE TO GENERAL ELECTION**
- 13th **KS2 Christmas Concert at St John's Church 2pm**
- 16th IRock Concert 2pm (Parents of children who attend IRock are invited to attend)
- 17th **Volunteer Coffee morning in school hall 9:30am**
- 20th **Break up from school at 2pm - NO Afters facility**

*One adult per child, more information will follow shortly in a separate email with menu.
Please check the Greenvale calendar on the website for all diary dates by clicking [here](#)



Christmas Dinner

A very big thank you to all those who were able to make the Christmas dinners. Our apologies for the power cut that took place on Wednesday; thankfully we were able to get this matter resolved in good time. It was pleasing to see the number of parents/ grandparents who were still able to attend on the Friday.

We would also like to thank the kitchen staff who did such a great job cooking all of the dinners.



Contact Details

Role	Staff name	Email
Headteacher / Safeguarding	Mr Bowden	dbowden@greenvale.croydon.sch.uk
Deputy Headteachers Inclusion / SEN Assessment / Safeguarding	Mrs Whiting Mrs Svradd	twhiting@greenvale.croydon.sch.uk ssyradd@greenvale.croydon.sch.uk
Business Manager	Mrs Bell	sbell@greenvale.croydon.sch.uk
Office staff	Mrs Smith Mrs Thorpe	parents@greenvale.Croydon.sch.uk

Phone number: 0208 651 2833

Parent enquiries: parents@greenvale.croydon.sch.uk

Absence: absence@greenvale.croydon.sch.uk

Role	Staff name	Email
Reception	Miss Clow	mclow@greenvale.croydon.sch.uk
Year 1	Mrs Neri Mrs Chapman	mneri@greenvale.croydon.sch.uk lchapman@greenvale.croydon.sch.uk
Year 2	Mrs Malik	mmalik@greenvale.croydon.sch.uk
Year 3	Miss Kemp	ckemp@greenvale.croydon.sch.uk
Year 4	Mrs Harrison	hharrison@greenvale.croydon.sch.uk
Year 5	Mr White	cwhite@greenvale.croydon.sch.uk
Year 6	Mr Crow	acrow@greenvale.croydon.sch.uk

Twitter handle:



@greenvalesch