

Greenvale Primary School

February Newsletter



Key Dates:

February

- 11th YR 6 Natural History Museum
YR 4 Science Museum
- 14th Break up from school normal time
FOG Disco

17th - 21st February half term

- 24th Inset day
- 25th Pancake Races - 2:40pm
- 26th Introduction to Phonics 6:30pm
- 28th YR 6 Cake sale

March

- 5th World Book Day & special lunch
Bedtime Stories 6:30pm - 7:30pm

9th - 13th NO TEACHER RUN CLUBS

- 10th Parent Consultations 4pm - 7pm
- 11th FOG Mother's Day Breakfast
Parent Consultations 5pm-8pm
- 13th YR 1 Cake sale
FOG Family Race Night

Eco Week

During the week of 20th January, children and staff took part in an Eco themed week at Greenvale. Many different aspects were considered including Wildlife and extinction, Consideration to the amount of meat that we eat and the impact that this has on the planet, the importance of recycling materials (including our very own fashion show) as well as writing our very own song to the theme of 'Shake it off' by Taylor Swift.

The children really enjoyed their week and it has been really encouraging to hear from parents and carers as to how this work has impacted into life at home.

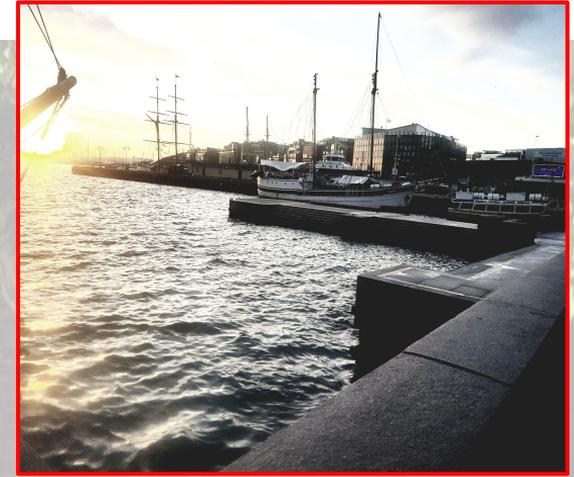
The School Council have recently agreed that rather than have one Monday every three weeks which is meat-free, for the summer term, we would like to try and have every Monday as a meat-free day. Each class has come up with three meat free dishes from which we will choose as options. One of the popular options seemed to be Falafel wraps which the children had a go at making for themselves.



Australia Fundraiser

A HUGE well done to Florence and Sophia for raising an incredible £460 for the animals that have lost their homes or have been injured in the recent bushfires in Australia.

They would like to join me in thanking the Greenvale community for all of your support with this event. Well done to Tommy who was successful in the name the koala competition and won a cuddly toy.



Pancake Day

As per tradition, on Tuesday 25th February, we will be celebrating Pancake day by holding races on the playground.

Children are invited to come to school with a pancake in a named pan ready for the races which will involve them running the length of the netball court and flipping the pancake either 3 times (Rec and KS1) or 5 times (KS2). *To clarify, children will not be eating these pancakes.*

Parents will be welcome in the playground from 2.40pm where refreshments, served by The Friends of Greenvale will be available.



As many of you will be aware, Wiktor, our Lollipop man, served in the Navy from 1957 up until 2002. Recently, Wiktor was part of a small group of former sailors to return to Norway to seek permission for a memorial statue for the Norwegian sailors who served in WWII.

Included are a couple of photos from his visit as well as a picture of the sculpture that the memorial will be based on which is a mermaid on an anchor. Well done Wiktor!

Phonics Training Session for Parents

On 26th February at 6.30pm, we will be welcoming parents to an 'Introduction to Phonics' session. This session will last an hour.

Over the past couple of years, we have run these very popular sessions for parents in order to inform you of the way in which we teach children phonics and early reading skills.

Who should attend?

This session is a must for Reception and KS1 parents. We therefore hope that at least one parent is able to attend. If you attended last year and you still have a child in EYFS or KS1, we would still recommend that you attend.

What will it cover?

A mix of information about the Phonics system and practical examples for how this can then be implemented both in the classroom and at home.

Why should you attend?

By being aware of the way in which we are teaching your children, it will support you when you listen to your children read aloud and ensure that your child is getting a consistent message should they require any support. You will also receive some practical ideas that you can use at home with your child which will ultimately, make them better readers. Better readers make better learners.

To sign up [please click here](#).



Swimming Success

A very big well done to all who represented the school during last week's swimming trials. Our children not only swam incredibly well but were commended for their behaviour. A big thank you to Mrs Martin for giving up her own time to take them to this event.



Changes to swimming at Greenvale

Having given considerable thought to the curriculum provision within each year group, as of September 2021, swimming will take place from September to July for Year 5 pupils. This is primarily to ease congestion within the curriculum for our current Y4 class, who also have a weekly Soundstart session as well as trying to fit in many other areas of the curriculum. .

Swimming will cease for our current Y3 class at the end of the Spring term.

Greenvale's Got Talent

A big well done to all of those who performed or those who came to support at Greenvale's Got Talent 2020.

It was an incredible evening and each and every act made the evening one to remember!



Forgotten Items

Just recently, the office has seen an increase in parents dropping off forgotten items for their children. Whilst we understand that in emergency situations some items such as glasses and medication may need to be dropped off for children, we would ask that parents refrain from regularly bringing in water bottles (children are able to use the water fountains provided), PE kits, snacks, packed lunches and homework. The office wastes valuable time having to personally deliver the items and disturb classes during the school day.

Children should come into school each morning with their book bag, water bottle, healthy snack, instruments (for music lessons), coat (according to the weather) and packed lunch (if they are not having a school lunch). They should also have their PE kits in school from Monday to Friday so there should be no need to drop anything off during the school day.

One of our school values this term is '**Responsibility**' and it is the responsibility of your child to bring to school anything they may need for the day. It is not the job of parents or school staff to do it for them.



Packed Lunches and Snacks

It has recently come to my attention that we currently have a small number of children who are being provided with items in their packed lunch box and breaktime snacks that are not in keeping with the school food standards which are in place to ensure that children are provided with a healthy diet whilst at school and to prevent the onset of childhood obesity and tooth decay.

When certain children are provided with foods that are not in keeping with the standards it can cause a number of issues, most notably, children feeling a sense of injustice when other children are provided with items such as crisps or chocolate biscuits.

We will be closely monitoring lunchboxes over the next couple of weeks and ask parents for their support in abiding by the guidelines. Please remember that it your child's health that we are concerned about and that we have a duty to challenge where these guidelines are not being adhered to. For information and ideas about packed lunches, [please click here to watch a short video.](#)

As you are aware, Greenvale is a NUT FREE school. We have a responsibility to keep our children, staff and visitors safe and reduce the risk of harm to anybody who has a nut allergy. Children should NOT bring in any food that contains nuts, including peanut butter spread in sandwiches.

Below, I have responded to some common questions that we often get from parents:

School dinners contain chocolate cake - What's the difference?

This chocolate cake is not a cake that you may buy at a supermarket with icing / added sugars. This is a basic sponge mix which contains considerably less sugar than a typical chocolate cake that you may purchase in the supermarket. Our menus are checked for compliance against the food standards and are not signed off until they are in keeping by these guidelines.

I make sure my child has a balanced diet. I should be able to decide on what goes into their lunchbox...

We see it as both of our jobs. Our job is specifically to educate children about healthy choices which include what they eat for lunch. We do allow children to have a treat on a Friday as a compromise to demonstrate that sweet things are okay in moderation. We do however ask that on the other days, parents abide by the guidelines.

My child does not like what is on the menu...

Not a problem. Riddlesdown now offer a packed lunch option each day which is in keeping with the guidelines. All your child needs to do is inform their teacher on the morning that they would like a packed lunch.



Tissues

As we are experiencing lots of children who have colds, we would be very grateful for a supply of tissues. Please pass these onto your class teaching assistant at drop off in the morning.



PPG

PPG PPG The government currently allocates additional funding to schools in the form of 'The Pupil Premium Grant' for children whose parent/carer is in receipt of certain benefits. Pupil Premium is used by the school to support students and help them reach their full potential academically, through extra curricular and pastoral provision. If you feel that your child may be entitled please complete the online form [here](#).

School Pick Up

Can we please ask that teachers or teaching assistants are informed first thing in the morning if somebody else is collecting your child at the end of the school day. It is often difficult for the office to get a message to your child during the afternoon if you call to say that arrangements have changed.

The new system of collecting children from clubs has been working really well. Just to confirm:

Teacher Run Clubs

Please wait at the locked green gate into the playground at 4:15pm (Forest school 4:30pm). If you are late, your child will be taken to the office where you will need to collect them. Children will be taken to Afters if you are later than 4:30pm.

Chris' High Vaultage

Please collect your child via the double doors outside the hall.

Afters

Please open the green gate (shutting it behind you) and collect your child from the Poppy Garden door.

Safeguarding our children is paramount and teachers need to ensure that children go home with the correct adult.

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

General enquiries: enquiries@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