

Greenmount Primary School

Friday, February 17th 2017

Dear Parents,

Attendance

The classes who have been **most punctual** this week: Botticelli, Vermeer, Bruegel, Millais, Turner, Cezanne, Kapoor and Van Gogh classes – **no lateness at all!**

Well done to those parents and children – really impressive. Across the rest of the school, we lost only **58 minutes** of learning time through children being late this week.

The best **overall attendance** this week goes to **Turner** class with a practically perfect 99.21% - well done! Overall school attendance for this week has been stronger - 96.03%.

The class with the best overall attendance for this half term is Bruegel Class – 96.90%. This means that they can wear their own clothes on the *second* Friday back after half term (Friday, March 10th) – the first Friday back is **World Book Day** Celebration day and *everyone* will be dressed as their favourite book character!

More details of this special day below...

Toilets

A polite reminder that parents and other adults coming to the school site cannot use the children's toilets – please use the adult or disabled toilets if necessary – ask a member of staff if you're not sure where they are hidden.

End of the School Day - Consultation

Many thanks to all of the parents who attended the meeting on Wednesday to talk through the options and issues related to easing the end of the school day – and to all of the parents who have emailed/written/spoken to me at various points so far. Lots of useful discussion has taken place, reflecting on the issues identified and uncovering a few more along the way. As ever, a third alternative to staggering the end of the day has emerged – leaving everything alone at lunchtime and adding 10 minutes to the end of the day for years 3, 4, 5 and 6.

Amongst the other things that we've also talked about were parents could wait for older children, whether the path leading to the front of the site and the gate could be widened and whether it'd be possible to move the bike/scooter store to just inside the inner gate at the front of the building.

All of the comments and suggestions made are being noted and reflected on; the consultation continues after half term, so it's not too late to make your views known or to come in for a discussion. I'll also be talking to all staff and - of course – we'll be consulting the children! The governors are hoping to make a decision by the end of this term or early in the summer term with the implementation of any changes happening when we return to school in September 2017. Thanks for your contributions and patience!

RE Day

Today has been the half termly focus on RE across the school; the children have been learning about all sorts of elements of different religious beliefs – Journeys, belonging, babies – all sorts of things; the children were buzzing with new learning at lunchtime and I'm sure they'll be full of information when they get home. Special thanks to **Youth for Christ** who have been working with years 5 and 6 all day in the hall – all very dramatic and a really helpful way to unpack beliefs and symbolism. My thanks, as always to Miss Mitchell for her work in organising a very lovely end to a half term!

World Book Day Celebration information

Greenmount World Book Day takes place on **Friday 3rd March 2017**, and we would like to invite you to join us in helping your child to make the most of this special occasion.

World Book Day celebrates the joy and value of books and reading, especially for children. To help get them started on their reading journey, every child receives a £1 World Book Day Book Token that can either be exchanged for one of TEN special £1 World Book Day books or used to get £1 off any book costing £2.99 or more. You can find out more about the books at worldbookday.com/books.

Your child's token is enclosed and can be redeemed at most UK bookshops. Please help your child to use it on or around World Book Day by visiting your local bookshop (if you need help finding one, visit booksellers.org.uk/bookshopsearch). Nurseries, schools and libraries across the UK celebrate World Book Day with a huge range of events and activities.

Here's what we will be doing on Greenmount World Book Day on Friday 3rd March:

- Dressing up as our favourite book character
- Sharing our favourite books across the school
- Making books and writing stories
- Acting out our favourite stories
- Reading and sharing books with children across the school in mixed groups for KS1 and KS 2.
- Visiting IOW author Cat Fisher visit: www.snufflesnouthouse.com (see the reverse of this letter to learn more about Cat).
- Competitions – guess the member of staff hiding behind the book...
- Parade in the hall
- Book vouchers for all

You can join us in building your child's enthusiasm for books well beyond World Book Day by reading together regularly and joining your local library if you are not yet members. For more information about World Book Day and ideas on sharing books at home, visit worldbookday.com.

Children are never too young to start their journey with books, and the benefits of reading are enormous—so we hope, like us, you will use World Book Day to celebrate it with your child.

Please read the poster below and pop the date: Saturday 25th March, Newport, (Waterstones) in your diary for the launch of Cat's new book 'Slod the Barbarian'.

House Points

We have finished this half term by celebrating the effort and achievement of children across the school by looking to see how many house points had been earned in the first half term of the year. As you know, house points are awarded for

- ✓ Improved or outstanding learning at school or home
- ✓ Kindness and helpfulness
- ✓ Excellent behaviour and responsible actions
- ✓ Outstanding effort and perseverance
- ✓ Great collaboration skills

and the children have proved that they are able to show these attributes in all that they do, so far earning **12 620** between them!

The house scores so far (and they've been triple checked!) are...

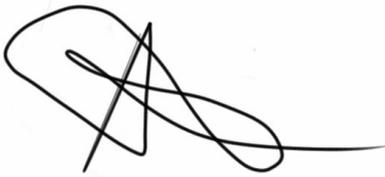
	Nightingale	Nelson	Cameron	Newton
Autumn - First half	700	640	640	660
Autumn - Second half	1540	1560	1440	1620
Spring - first half	1020	860	1080	860
TOTAL	3260	3060	3160	3140

Well done to all of the children for earning so many, but particularly to Nightingale House, who seem to be edging ahead. Still a tight race, though – just 5 completed sticker charts between the top two and *only one chart* between Cameron and Newton!

It only remains for me to thank you for all of your support and good humour over the past seven weeks, especially whilst Mrs Wilford and I have been dashing about between two schools. I hope that you have a happy, safe and relaxing break – the children certainly deserve a rest, and they'll need their energy come **Monday, February 27th**, when we open the doors again for an action-packed finish to the spring term!

I look forward to seeing you then. Meanwhile, have a restful half term!

Yours sincerely,



Richard May
Head teacher

Dates for your spring diaries

School closes at 3pm today for the half term break – we reopen at 8.45am on Monday, February 27th

3.3.17	World Book Day celebrations
8.3.17 – 10.3.17	Year 4 East Dene Residential Visit
9.3.17	Year 3 visit to Dinosaur Isle
10.3.17	Island Music Festival performance (choir)
13.3.17 – 16.3.17	Year 6 mock SATS week
28.3.17	Year 6 visit to UKSA
6.4.17	RE Day and Easter assembly
	PTA Easter Fayre – details to follow
	School closes at 3pm for Easter holiday, reopening at 8.45am on Monday, April 24 th (Friday, April 7 th is a staff development day)

Summer term dates – early warning!

2.5.17	Parents' evening – 3.30-6pm
3.5.17	Parents evening – 5-7pm
8.5.17 – 11.5.17	Year 6 SATS week
26.5.17	RE Day
	School closes at 3pm for the half term break, reopening at 8.45am on Monday, June 5 th
5 – 7.6.17	Year 6 Lodge Hill Residential Visit
12 – 16.6.17	Year 1 Phonic Screen
19 – 23.6.17	Sports Week
29/30.6.17	Year 6 transition visits
30.6.17	Greenmount 'move up day' for all other year groups – parents meetings at 9am
1.7.17	Midsummer Mardi Gras – Colour and Chaos in the Court – exciting details to follow!
3.7.17	Annual reports sent home
7.7.17	RE Day
12.7.17	Open evening – 4-6pm
24.7.17	Year 6 leavers' party/KS2 disco
25.7.17	Year 6 leavers' assembly at 9.15
	Celebration picnic, beginning at midday

25.7.17

'Leave your shoes at school and wear your sandals home' day
School closes following the picnic for the summer holiday, reopening at 8.45am on Wednesday, September 6th 2017 (Monday 4th and Tuesday 5th are staff development days)

Waterstones

Snufflesnout House proudly presents

Slod the BARBARIAN

Poor Slod, Chief of the Barbarians, has toothache and desperately needs to see the Pearly Wizard to make him better. On Slod's journey he encounters Crombar the Toothless, the Three Seas of Cheese and boats made from toast.
Truly engaging on every page, and told in wonderful rhyme, this story will have your little ones gripped and rushing to brush their teeth!!

Author reading and Illustrator signings!
The Amazing Huxley Magic!!
Games and prizes to be won!!!
Pre-order and bring along your books to be signed

Waterstones, Newport
Saturday, March 25th
4.30 PM

www.snufflesnouthouse.com

Here at Snufflesnout House we produce children's picture books with an ecological and psychological message, written in fun, flowing, easy to follow rhyme. The stories are thought provoking and encourage the developing minds of the little reader to ask questions and encourage thoughtful conversation. Whether it's meeting Charlie Snufflesnout, the monster that lives in the compost bin and eats all our leftover vegetables, Buddy the Brave and his battles with The Toilet Monster, learning about The Smile Revolution and the healing power of kindness or hearing the adventures of Slod the Barbarian and his painful teeth; these books will be well-loved by both little readers and adults alike for years to come!

At Snufflesnout House we self-publish and all of our books are Print On Demand to avoid waste. As such, they may take a few days to arrive from the supplier but we feel it is worth the wait. We hope you understand! Let's work together to make a healthier, happier planet for our children! Cat Fisher