Greatworth Primary School

Friday 7th April 2023

Dear Parents,

It is difficult to believe that we are at the end of the Spring Term already. Our final assembly of the term celebrated all the hard work children, teachers and parents had been doing to achieve great standards. The Friends, along with the Easter Bunny, left an egg for every child and organised an end of term raffle, which raised over £400. Thank you to everyone who bought tickets.

Keep your eye on their future events including a Colour Run. If you would like to get involved, please do. They have a busy social calendar as well as fundraising for the school.

Commitment to Clubs

This year, clubs have been really well attended and the children have demonstrated their commitment: The Players, led by Mrs Lovis, produced a fabulous finale to our term, bringing Mary Poppins to the stage. With only 45 minutes per week to practice, they filled mums, dads, cousins and grand-parents' hearts with pride. The Art Club continue to be a creative, independent and joyous group to work with. We now have a little 'zoo' of Modroc animals proudly displayed in the gallery alongside Willow and Sapling Class' Construction club 'worry monsters.'

Sport and PE

Hotshots and Football club have been very well attended again this term; if you would like your child to get involved please speak to Mrs Ploen.

Greatworth School continues to bring the largest team to the Sports competitions at Chenderit and we continue to do brilliantly in most competitions- usually taking first, second or third place. Willow Class represented our school last week in the KS1 Singing and Dancing event. The Football Team played valiantly in the Sunday League, winning their place in the semi-finals. We have sent children to the Gifted and Talented day at Chenderit, and cleaned up at the cross-country. As always, thank you to the parents who are the greatest bunch of supporters and make our sporting competitions so special. We now have a display in the hall which is tracking the number of 'caps' for the school. We will celebrate these at the end of the year.

Many children and parents have taken the time to say how much they have loved gymnastics with Sam Carter from Brackley Leisure Centre. Sam is an expert coach and I have been so impressed with the children who have taken on a range of challenges and made real improvements in their flexibility, strength and skills. There are now many superb gymnasts in school and we are looking forward to Sam coming back next year. For the summer term, our tennis coach will be in on Thursday mornings and in the final term, children will be developing skills in rounders, cricket and athletics. Beech and Oak Class will be going swimming on Friday afternoons.

Every Monday, Mr Nicell coaches Real PE. He has been with us for several years and it is evident that his focus on basic skills underpins the sporting ability, strategic thinking and team spirit that we see during our sporting competitions at Chenderit. Mr Nicell comments regularly that Greatworth children are the best in terms of attitude, focus and resilience. Thank you, Mr Nicell!

Behaviour

Children have been working hard to achieve marbles in the jar. There have been lots of rewards including a visit to the shop for sweets, films, bringing in a toy, a film afternoon. Now

that the warm weather is here, classes will be able to go to Greatworth Park or Sulgrave Park for their class rewards.

Behaviour across the school is excellent! In most cases, children behave as well when they are working away from adults, as they do when an adult is present. During my learning walks across the classes, throughout the school day, children can be observed acting with respect for, and courtesy and good manners towards, each other and adults, and pride in themselves and their school. Children, during break-times, can be seen working together to enjoy their games, some choosing to work independently in the library or organising games for younger children. I noticed a few weeks ago, during a wet lunchbreak, that children Reception – Y6 were playing basketball. They took their turn, praised winners and regrouped for the next game. Truly empowered and respectful citizens!

Special Events

Pet week was a real success and we can thank Betty and her persistence in bringing it to fruition. With Dr Alan Dick, a local vet, Dogs for Good and all the pets that came to visit including dogs, stick-insects, tortoises, rabbits and Molly even made a video of all the animals in her life. Pet week really brought home that pets are such an important part of our life. They take a lot of looking after, but what they give back in cuddles and kisses is priceless. The competition entries were testimony to the fun and creativity our children have. The children also voted as to which charities they would like to donate our 'Dress like an animal' money to. The £60 raised will be split between Dogs for Good and the WWF.

Other animal antics included Willow Class's visit from Zoolab with their amazing rainforest Creatures as part of their Rainforest Topic. Most of the children were happy to have creatures crawl on them- very brave! Sapling Class thoroughly enjoyed their visit to the zoo this term and have produced some wonderful written work following it.

Other trips included Oak Class's visit to the Ashmolean Museum to see first-hand the Ancient Greek artefacts up close and personal. KS2 children also visited the Mandir, which provided awe and wonder as well as learning lots about the Hindu faith.

In our assemblies we have been learning about a range of celebrations going on this term: Easter (Christian), Hola Mahalla (Sikh) and Ramadam (Muslim).

World Book Day

World Book Day provided an opportunity to share our favourite books and have some fun dressing up as our favourite book characters. It was lovely to see a wide variety of books being represented which shows that children at Greatworth are definitely reading more widely and ticking off the 100 Reads for their class. Have a look at the end of the letter for hints and tips on hearing your child read at home.

Mother's Day

Our first Mother's Day Celebration provided a fitting tribute to our mums in both song and poems. It brought a tear to the eye and, along with the homemade cakes, proved to be a lovely morning and one that we will repeat again next year.

We now need to plan our King's Coronation celebrations and a STEM week for the summer term and we look forward to the School Council's ideas and contributions and fund-raising ideas.

Teaching and Learning

As always, we focus on our 5 values for learning:

Curious, Creative, Empowered, Respectful and Positive.

Curious	Children know how to ask questions; is not afraid to try; is excited about learning!
Creative	open minded, inquisitive, able to harness imagination, able to identify and solve problems and develop creative approaches to learning
Empowered	Children are actively engaged in their own learning process and are developing the skills, knowledge, and resources to take control of their learning journey. They recognise they have a part to play as a British and global citizen.
Respectful	Children are respectful to themselves and each other. They know how to resolve conflicts. Children learn about British Values and are tolerant towards others.
Positive	Children show that they are resilient and say 'Yes, I can!' Children welcome feedback and make improvements to their work. They know that getting things wrong, help us to learn.

Cumulative Quizzes

This term, we have launched our new 'Cumulative Quizzes' (I know, catchy title!) These quizzes will be used for Science, History, Geography, RE and Art. They allow teachers to identify key 'sticky' knowledge which they will revisit every lesson. Children are then challenged at the end of each lesson to remember key facts. Teachers can also then used these quizzes to create Knowledge Organisers for children to learn at home and they will also be able to use them as a reminder for revision later in the term and in subsequent years. This is what some of the children have said about them:

I like to revise what we've done because that way, I can remember what I've learnt'. Zak

Cumulative Quizzes help us to get our knowledge from eyes to brain.' Lola

Cumulative Quizzes help us with our learning. It helps us with our learning. It gives us a chance to answer the key questions of each lesson and help us to have a deeper understanding of each question from each lesson' Sebby

I think it is a good idea because its fun and it tests us to see if your teaching has worked.' Ollie

I enjoy them because they remind me of what we have learnt and things I forgot I will remember again'. Seren

It will help us with putting it into our long-term memory.' Neve

It will almost be like a mini-summary of what we have learnt so it stays in our heads' Finley

It will help me build up my understanding every lesson'. Kitty

If you get a question wrong, it will push you to remember for next time around'. Molly

Parents feedback

In our recent Parental Questionnaire following Parents' Evening, parents selected 'study skills' as an area they would like more support in. Parents would like a range of face-to-face

workshops but most would like information on the website to find this information about the strategies we use in school. Watch the website for more information about how and what children learn in school. Parents felt that homework was pitched about right and they were confident that they knew where their children were and their targets. Thanks to all of those parents who participated.

- 100% of parents said that they know their child's targets
- 100% agreed that their child is pushed in reading, writing and maths.
- 100% agreed that teachers encouraged children to be independent learners.
- 100% parents said that they were able to support their child with homework and that they felt the level was right for their child. There are a few tensions at home with homework but on the whole children responded well to the expectations.
- Parents felt that their child was proud of their achievements and enjoys rewards in assembly and their shared rewards in the marble jar, which earns whole class rewards.
- The subjects children enjoyed included: maths, design technology, computing, trips, visits, science. The list went on !

Please get in contact if you are concerned about your child's well-being or progress. Together we can help!

Well-being and Safeguarding

Mrs Delvalle is our Designated Safeguarding Lead, supported by Deputies Mrs Lutas and Mrs Aris. Mrs Aris has been busy creating a well-being information page for parents on all things from dealing with anxiety to healthy sleep routines. Take a look and if there are any other areas you would like information about, please let us know.

SATS

Y6 SATS will start on Tuesday 9th May. Mrs Lovis will be running a SATs club on Tuesdays starting 18th May. We will run a breakfast club the week of SATs and looking into an end of week celebration for our fabulous and hard-working team of Y6 children. They are all on track to achieve their end of key stage expectations and we are impressed daily on their attitudes to learning.

Y2 SATs will take place in May and the Y1 Phonics Check will take place the week beginning June 12th 2023. Again, children in Willow Class have made huge progress in their phonics and Y2 are definitely looking KS2 ready.

The Year 4 Multiplication Check will take place between Monday 6th June and Friday 24th June 2023. We are confident that the children will be fast in recalling their multiplication facts to 12x12. Keep learning them Y3 and Y4.

We are looking forward to seeing you all on Monday 17th April to do it all again. Thanks for your continued support. Have a wonderful Easter!

Lesley Lutas-Brown

Headteacher

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Reading with your child at home comes with a world of benefits for you and your children, and it's also perfect for quality family time. If you're not sure where to begin, we've got some tips to get you started.

Read regularly

Little and often is the best approach with young readers. Try setting aside 10 or 15 minutes of reading time each day. For some children, especially very young readers, four or five minutes of reading may be sufficient. This short time together should be enjoyable for you both.

Get comfortable

Find somewhere free from distractions. Giving your child your complete attention will help them learn how to focus and enjoy reading. Asking your child where they would like to read also helps. They may want to curl up on the floor or lounge on your lap in an armchair. Make the choice of where to read part of the reading for pleasure experience.

Be positive

While your child is reading, try not to interrupt them if they get things wrong. Let them finish a sentence or paragraph and then go back over anything you think is important.

Always remember to first praise what your child did well, such as saying 'You sounded just like the tiger when you read this bit' or 'You looked really carefully at this word and used the sounds to help you work it out.'

Work it out together

Help your child think about how they could work out the meaning of unfamiliar words. Choose just one or two errors to look at and what might be the best way to solve each one. For example, try saying 'You said "lion" here, but look at the first letter "t" – that word is "tiger".'

If it is clear a child is unable to solve a word, then tell them the word and point out how you would read it. For example, 'This word is "tiger". I looked at the first letter "t" to help me read it, and I can see a picture of a tiger on the page.' Showing what readers do when stuck is an effective way of helping young readers solve unfamiliar words.

Take turns

With very young readers in particular, or for children who are finding the book challenging, it can be helpful to take turns in reading sentences, paragraphs and pages. This keeps the story flowing while making sure your child gets plenty of opportunities to practise.

Show your child how reading can sound like talking. Reading sentences and phrases fluently supports understanding and the development of comprehension.

Build confidence

Make sure the books you read with your child are not too difficult. When children lose the flow of a story, and find more than one in 10 words hard, they can become reluctant to read. If this happens it may be more beneficial to read the story to your child.

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Read favourites

Children love to read stories they have read before. Young children in particular will read and re-read their favourites many times. Re-reading something they can read quickly and easily is just as important as facing new challenges in reading. This helps to build confidence, speed and accuracy.

Talk about the story

Talk to your child about the books you read together. Not only will this increase their enjoyment of reading, but it will also help to improve their comprehension skills.