



Gretton Primary School

Learning and working Together

Friday 12th January 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,



Happy New Year to any parents I have not yet seen, we have hit the ground running this term. In this first newsletter, I will outline some changes we have made to the day for the children and also some curriculum changes we are making.

Within school the staff team have discussed our unstructured times and how best to manage them in order for the children to get the best experience. With this in mind, we have made some timetable changes - we will split break times into two sessions, Robins and Kingfishers go to break at 10:15am with Owls and Eagles going at 10:30am. The children may also talk about the end of break changes, so that we create a positive transition we will no longer expect children to line up in silence straight after play, instead children will calmly walk to their classes and will be greeted by the adults at the door in order to start their next lesson. One of the concerns raised by the pupils was BIG Friend, Little Friend time if breaks changed, we will ensure that we schedule time over the year for them to share and engage in activities. Lunch times are also different, at 12pm Robins and Kingfishers will now go to lunch together and then outside with Owls going at 12:15pm and Eagles going at 12:30 pm, lunch remains 50 minutes in total. The reason behind these changes are that the lunch environment was a noisy and intimidating area for some of our children, this allows less children to be sitting and eating and a better experience for all pupils. On Tuesday, I held a welcome back assembly and explained this to the children, I also informed them that I am open to feedback so if there is anything discussed at home please feel free to email.

On Monday, we had our Literacy Tree INSET, which was incredibly positive and exciting. The staff have already started to teach writing and reading in a different way and we have seen the children engaged and excited about the book based approach. This term we will also be adding their spelling approach in KS2 which focusses on teaching spellings in structured lessons linked to the text, this will mean we no longer test children on 10 words a week, however we will send age related spellings home for those who want to continue to practise and share on Showbie. Mr Bridges is also busy looking at how we can support our History and Geography teaching after successfully launching our new Science scheme. We have also re-written our school handbook and marking policy, the major change being how we present our work in books and the classroom environment. You will notice when you come in to school and look at books that there are clear approaches across the school which help the children to order their work, understand their lessons and how to be successful as well as have an opportunity to feedback on how they feel their understanding and learning was in that lesson. All of this will support children to engage in their learning, thrive with the consistency across classes and also have a voice.

Finally, we welcomed Mr Stinchcombe to the team and he has already settled in very well, it promises to be an exciting year.

Midday Supervisor Position

We are currently looking to recruit a midday supervisor, starting in January. The hours are 12:05pm until 1:20pm and this is suitable on a part time/full time basis. If you are interested, even in doing just a few sessions a week please contact the school office.

Early Birds

We are able to offer Early Birds from 8:10am to 8:30am every morning. Please continue to book in the usual way via ParentPay and pay £2.50 in advance for all sessions. There is no need to pre-book, just feel free to bring your child along on any day you need to.

Thank you

Thank you for taking the time to read the newsletter, if there is anything that you would like to contribute please feel free to email me head@gretton.gloucs.sch.uk or the office admin@gretton.gloucs.sch.uk

Mr Sallis and the Gretton Team

Gold Book Nominations (12.01.24)

Robins

George - for excellent effort with his letter formation and writing his name independently.

Kingfishers

Olivia for producing some outstanding writing. Olivia tried so hard to include lots of details in her list of things that Nyla likes.

Dominic for writing a fantastic sentence. Well done on trying so hard with your spelling. You have impressed me so much!

Owls

Peggy for writing some excellent noun phrases in her English work.

Abel – for making some excellent contributions in English, notably making the link of being ‘aware’ to work out and define the meaning of ‘wary’.

Eagles

Wren - for a fantastic piece of descriptive writing.

Galahad - for an amazing letter as the Prince's advisor.

Gretton Golden rules award – This term the focus is - We Are Kind and Respectful

Robins – Elijah - for demonstrating kindness by sharing during busy bears and making sure that everyone had a turn.

Kingfishers – Ollie for following the school golden rules impeccably.

Owls – Harry for his unfailing politeness and respect he shows at all times.

Eagles - Nina - For being an amazing friend to everyone in the class.

Spring Term 2024 Diary Dates

Mon 8 th Jan	INSET Day (Staff Training)
Tues 9th Jan	Start of Term 3
Thu 18 th Jan	NSPCC Workshops
Thu 1 st Feb	My Plan Meetings with Mrs Dodd (1pm - 6pm)
Mon 5 th Feb	Children's mental health week
Thu 8 th Feb	Cross country Race 4 - Vineyards
Mon 12th Feb	Half Term
Mon 19th Feb	Spring Term 2
Thu 22 nd Feb	Cross country Race 5 - Vineyards
Thu 29 th Feb	Cross country Fun Run - Vineyards
Mon 4 th Mar	Assessment Week
Tues 12 th Mar	Parents Evening - 3:30pm - 6pm
Thu 14 th Mar	Parents Evening - 3:30pm - 6pm
Wed 20 th Mar	Tag Rugby Tournament (Newlands Park)
Fri 22nd Mar	End of Spring Term