



**GRETTON
PRIMARY
SCHOOL**

**Gretton
Cheltenham
Gloucestershire
GL54 5EY
Telephone: 01242 602679**

**admin@gretton.gloucs.sch.uk
www.gretton.gloucs.sch.uk**

Headteacher: Mr Adam Sallis MEd, NASEN, NPQH

Thursday 5th September 2024

Dear Parent / Guardian,

We hope you have all had a fantastic summer break and are feeling well-refreshed and raring to go for another busy year. A huge welcome to our newcomers to Owls Class and a welcome back to those of you who were with us last year. Obviously, this year is a little different with us splitting Year 3 and 4 for the mornings but our new Owlets (Year 3) have settled in fantastically well with Mrs Sollis.

We would just like to go through a few of our class routines - some of which may be familiar if your child was with us last year but there are a few important and new things too.

Class Meeting:

We would like to invite you to a short after-school class meeting next Tuesday (September 10th). This will be an opportunity to go through some of the important information for the year ahead. On the day, we will send children out to you on the playground but you may bring them back in for the meeting - it may be useful for them to hear the information too!

We do understand that not everyone will be able to make it - if you cannot make it, but would like to speak to us at another time, we will try to accommodate this.

Staffing:

Mrs Sollis will be taking the Year 3s in the morning in the old library and Mr Bridges will work with Year 4 in the main classroom. Mrs Phillips will work with Mrs Sollis predominantly but will be able to support Mr Bridges where needed. Mrs Lacey will also come in to support Year 4 for their session after break.

In the afternoon, Mr Bridges will take the whole class with Mrs Fowler supporting.

On Fridays, Mrs Sollis will teach both classes together in the main classroom along with Mrs Phillips in the morning and Mrs Fowler in the afternoon.

We are usually available to talk to after school so please do feel free to come and speak to us if there are any issues or you have any queries.

Showbie:

We will again be using Showbie this year to share pictures of the children participating in different activities as well as sharing documents and information.

Please connect to our class using the class code: **FEZFD**. If you are new to Showbie, you will need to create an account at www.showbie.com, Showbie also have an app which may be easier for Smartphones. If you have any issues with connecting, please let us know and we will try to help.

Website

Over the coming days we will also be placing information on our class page of the website. This will include out termly topic web where you can see a brief overview of the topics we will be covering in different subjects. Please visit <https://www.gretton.gloucs.sch.uk/page/?title=Owls&pid=27>. Do let us know if there is anything you can't find - there is always a lot to do and we may have missed something!

Key experiences (including Forest School):

We have a trip planned to visit the Cheltenham Literature Festival on Wednesday 9th October - further details will be sent out in due course.

We will also be having Forest School this half term and again we will send out details shortly. In January, we will be participating in Young Voices in Birmingham - please do register via the link sent out before the holidays or speak to Mrs Sollis if you are unsure or have not received this.

Break times:

We have a morning break between 10:30 and 10:45 each day alongside Eagles class. Please ensure your child has a healthy snack for morning break if they wish and ensure they have a water bottle in class each day. Our lunchtime is from 12.15 to 1.05pm. We do not have a standard afternoon break but may have a quick couple of minutes movement break inside or outside the classroom if needed.

Reading:

It is extremely important children are reading books which are matched to their individual level of competency and, as such, the books in the classroom are banded so that children can read with fluency and with understanding. Whilst we welcome them exploring books outside of school, we would prefer they stick to these books in school (they can borrow them to read each evening). These books do not belong to a scheme, so, even within their banding, they may vary in difficulty. We would appreciate your support in keeping an eye on what your child is reading, ensuring they can read it fluently (they should only need help with odd words rather than one or two per sentence) and have an overall understanding of what is happening.

Children will also be given **one book per week from the Oxford Reading Tree scheme**, which we follow. These are matched to your child's current reading level and we encourage these to be **read with parents** with lots of discussion and questioning to develop understanding of language and structure. These books will be given out on a Friday and we would like them returned to school no later than the following Wednesday - they are relatively short so this should be long enough. As we have a limited amount of these books, children will not receive a new one until the last one has been returned!

Reading Records:

We are again giving out reading records for this year. We hope children and parents will continue to keep records of what they have read and we will reward children who regularly bring in their record to show us! We had a good response last year from most children and felt it made a significant difference to those children who participated regularly. Any reading can be recorded in this - fiction or non-fiction and can be recorded by child or parent. We look forward to seeing which books you have enjoyed!



**GRETTON
PRIMARY
SCHOOL**

**Gretton
Cheltenham
Gloucestershire
GL54 5EY
Telephone: 01242 602679**

**admin@gretton.gloucs.sch.uk
www.gretton.gloucs.sch.uk**

Headteacher: Mr Adam Sallis MEd, NASEN, NPQH

We do also sometimes run reading challenges to complement this, which particularly challenge children to complete books and write book reports. There will be prizes and certificates to incentivise participation!

Multiplication Tables:

We have a large focus on multiplications and other basic arithmetic in Owls class. The expectation is that by the end of Year 3 children should know their 10, 2, 3, 4 and 5 times tables fluently (e.g. without counting through) and by the end of Year 4 they should know all tables up to 12 with a rapid recall (at least within 5 seconds). Year 4s will have a statutory multiplication check towards the end of the school year so we want to support the children so that they are confident in completing this. The benefits of knowing their times tables confidently are invaluable within class work and your help in practising tables with your child would be very helpful.

We are signed up to an app called 'Times Table Rockstars' which has always proved to be very popular and can make a considerable difference to the speed of children's recall. I will send out log in details for this shortly.

Spellings:

Spelling is incorporated within our Literacy Tree Scheme and will be taught within school. This will link to the text we are studying within our writing lessons. Spellings will not be sent home, however we will send home a list of common exception words and we would appreciate your support in working through these regularly with your child.

PE:

PE will be on a Thursday for this term. On this day, children should come dressed in their PE kit which they will wear all day. Please do however ensure they have a school / PE jumper and trousers for colder weather. For sports clubs they will need to bring spare kit to wear in a bag and get changed at the end of the day.

Jackets:

Given the unpredictable British weather, please ensure your child brings a coat each day so that we can venture out for break times if it is wet. We won't go out if it is pouring!

We hope this letter has been helpful - and please do come and see us if you have any further questions. We look forward to working with your child over the coming year.

Yours faithfully,

Mr Bridges and Mrs Sollis

Legal Information:
Gretton Primary School is a
company limited by
guarantee.
Company number:7836684