



**GRETTON
PRIMARY
SCHOOL**

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Gretton Termly Newsletter – February 2024

Message from Mr Sallis

The school continues to go from strength to strength and I am so pleased with the strong relationships we are forming between staff and the community. After the whirlwind of last term it finally feels like we are putting ideas into place and that they are already having a positive impact. The atmosphere has been one of constant positivity and I would like to say a big thank you to all of you for your continued support.

Staffing

I'm sure he would agree, it has been a whirlwind 5 weeks but Mr Stinchcombe has proved to be a real asset to the school already and I know the Eagles class is very happy with their new teacher. Mr Bridges has continued his forest school training with gusto and Miss Cross has been inspired through her NPQEYL sessions. Mrs Penson has done a fantastic job taking on maths and giving TTRS a boost around school. Mrs Dodd as mentioned previously has already completed her ELSA training and will now begin her Mental Health Lead training. On top of this Mrs Lacey, Mrs Fowler, Mrs Sollis, Mrs Denham and Mrs Phillips have all taken part in a range of training on top of their already demanding roles in school. Finally, a thank you to Mrs Bignell who has stepped in to support lunchtimes as well as Early Birds. On this final note, we will welcome Ms Worts to start work with us in the new term as our midday supervisor.

A thank you

FOGs once again have proved how amazing they are for the school by investing in new learning materials for Robins and a variety of resources for other classes which all makes such a difference to the children's learning. So a heartfelt thankyou from the staff and children. Another big thankyou goes to Mrs Dodd for the wonderful Mental Health week that goes down as one of my favourite weeks to hear about and celebrate. There was a real enthusiasm around school and I know this was felt by the parents who made some absolutely lovely comments over the course of the week.

Literacy Tree

After a wonderful inset day it has been amazing to see Literacy Tree get started. The writing produced across the school has blown me away already and the Headteacher stickers are flying out of the door. It has been a pleasure to look at the writing and reading comprehension books and see the already obvious progress. This has also been alongside the buzz from the children of reading the new books and the discussions they are having at home.

Student

Hannah completed her final placement before heading off into the successful career we all know she will have. Hannah has done a great job in Kingfishers and has grown into a confident and personable teacher, this has been echoed by her outstanding University observations. Well done Hannah, we wish you all the luck in the future.

Behaviour

This term we have started to put our new behaviour policy in place, it has had an excellent impact and children are more attentive and thinking about their actions and behaviours more. The Golden Book certificates have been very well received and I have a wall full of amazing work already for Headteachers stickers. Our new Golden Rules stickers have also been very well received and have led to lots of talk about the Golden Rules which is excellent. Next term we will carry out pupil voice across the school to see how children are finding things and we will open our Dojo Shop to celebrate collecting those points.

Pupil Progress Meetings

This term we introduced our new pupil progress meeting strategy, this is where the class teacher, myself and Mrs Dodd sit down to discuss all of our children's progress and attainment and look at where we can provide support for children who are finding learning more tricky. This new format of sitting down together to look at the data has proved very positive and allows us to get a real insight into each child as well as whole school patterns. The meetings will be held three times a year and will feed into the previous and next year.

OFSTED prep

Whilst everything we do is to benefit the children and we hope that this would be recognised by OFSTED, it is important that we are keeping up to date with training and inviting challenge from outside of school in preparation. Recently a mock OFSTED at Oakhill with an advisor from Primary Quest provided us with that opportunity. Miss Cross took part in an early reading and Early Years deep dive. The feedback about reading was that we were on the right track and Miss Cross brought back lots of ideas for ensuring we are robust in how we monitor and evaluate reading. Early Years was a huge success and Miss Cross should be very proud of the fact that we are already good in their opinion and could push on to Outstanding. Mrs Penson had the maths deep dive and again the positivity around how Mrs Penson knows her subject already, the way we approach maths and the future was very reassuring. Finally, the feedback around the website was also incredibly reassuring, the term exemplary for some of our pages was used and this is testament to all of our hard work last year on improving the site. Thank you to Oakhill and Primary Quest for the amazing opportunity and the great feedback and next steps that we received. The plan in the near future is to invite the same review at Gretton for them to see everything in action.

Moderation

I am very fortunate to have passed my KS2 Moderators exam again this year which allows me to have training and insight into the end of KS2 writing expectations. As part of my role I am invited to visit schools in the county to ensure that they have fully understood the standards and to offer coaching if needed. This is a great opportunity for us to see what other schools are doing but to also have confidence in our own judgements at the end of KS2 for our children who are moving on to Secondary school.

Visitors

A quick reminder of the visitors we have had in this term – the NSPCC came to talk to us, Trustees came to do subject visits, we welcomed storytellers via Teams, cricket coaches, circus skill coaches, yoga teachers and our regular visit from Rev Penny and Mr Carter. Thank you all for taking the time and your lovely comments about the school.

Trustees

We have also had a busy half term with trustees who have completed a number of monitoring visits. These have been an excellent opportunity to share the great work in school. We have also had plenty of support in IT equipment, money saving opportunities, professional discussions and policy writing. The trustees do a great job as volunteers and the enthusiasm they have shown to understanding and supporting the school journey has been much needed and appreciated.

Thank you

As always, thank you once again for all of the support.

Mr Sallis and the Gretton Team