



**GRETTON
PRIMARY
SCHOOL**

**Gretton
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Headteacher: Mr Adam Sallis MEd, NASEN, NPQH

Tuesday 13th January

Dear Parent/Guardian,

I hope you all had a fun and relaxing Christmas. It has been lovely to hear the children's stories from the last two weeks and find out what they have been up to over Christmas. They have returned to school with enthusiasm and excitement ready for a busy, and fun, Spring Term!

Staffing:

Staffing will mainly continue as it has been since September, with myself teaching the class Monday-Friday, and Mrs Denham as our Teaching Assistant every morning and carrying out intervention sessions in the afternoons. However, Mrs Denham will now be taking the class every Monday afternoon whilst I am out of the classroom. She will be covering specific subjects, initially starting with Art (which is something Mrs Denham is much more skilled in than I am!) and Happy Minds.

Continuous Provision in Kingfishers:

As the children grow in Kingfishers, we will be continuing to offer Continuous Provision which is working well in the classroom. The impact of this on the children has been extremely positive so far and it is lovely to see children taking responsibility for their learning and developing their knowledge through play and planned activities, but also through supporting and working with each other. I am constantly working on improving the offering in Kingfishers for CP, therefore in the coming weeks I will be introducing the 'Author Zone' where children can choose to complete writing in various genres of their choice. I am really looking forward to seeing the children enjoying this new area of the classroom.

As the year goes on, children will be expected to complete more 'Rainbow Challenges' each week, and shortly after February Half Term I will introduce a separate weekly challenge for Year 2 children.

Website:

I have recently updated the website with our new Termly Overview for the Spring Term. I have also added a Gallery section where I will share photos every now and then. Please visit: [Gretton Primary School - Kingfishers](#)

Key Experiences This Term:

We have kicked off this half term with a very exciting trip to the pantomime to see Robin Hood which the children thoroughly enjoyed.

Later on in the term the children will be taking part in some DT activities involving food preparation, where they will be making a fruit salad. I think this is something they will enjoy very much! More information to follow on this soon!

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

Little Wandle Phonics:

As you know, we teach Phonics at Gretton using the Little Wandle Systematic, Synthetic Phonics scheme. This will continue to be taught every single morning by either myself or Mrs Denham. This will be the first lesson each day so it is really vital children are in school on time.

Reading and Reading Records:

It is extremely important children are reading books which are matched to their individual level of competency and, as per last year, every Friday the children will come home with their Phonics Reading Book which is linked to their specific level. The children will have already read this during school time so should be able to read it with relative fluency by the time they bring it home. Please do take the time to read this book with your child and discuss the story/information with them, then record this in their reading record. Please do comment in their reading record, or simply initial, just so we know it has been read at home. **Books must be returned the following Friday to enable a new book to be sent home.**

On Friday children will also select a sharing book from our classroom library. This is for you to enjoy together at home. **Please return this book the following Friday along with the Phonics book.**

Some Year Two children will begin to move onto our new Accelerated Reader Scheme once they have completed the Little Wandle Phonics books. When your child reaches this I will send further information.

Please also enjoy other books together at home and record these in the reading record too. It is wonderful to foster a love of reading and finding books the children love is key to this. If you don't already, I highly recommend visiting Winchcombe library and getting a card. They have a fantastic array of books there and this will give your child an opportunity to discover more.

Maths and Times Table Rock Stars:

At Gretton we use the White Rose Maths scheme for the basis of our Maths lessons. I would like to encourage all children to have a copy of the **White Rose Home Learning books** at home as I will set Maths homework every Friday for the week ahead. This can be done in your own time and doesn't need to be bought in to school weekly, but it is extremely beneficial to your child because it recaps on the learning we have completed that week. Because we teach the mixed age scheme sometimes there is the odd week that the book doesn't fully match the lessons, however I will always advise on what pages need doing each week, so keep an eye out for my weekly Friday dojo updates for this! Also please feel free to send the book in every few weeks so I can have a look and reward a Dojo or two!

These books can be bought on Amazon for around £5.

Year 1 Book - <https://amzn.eu/d/eq04Kap>

Year 2 Book - <https://amzn.eu/d/2bwKQ8t>

All children in Kingfishers now have a login for Times Table Rockstars. Please encourage your child to have a go at this at home, particularly focusing on 2x, 5x and 10x. Confident Year 2's can start to move on to 3x and 4x when they are ready. The best options to play at this stage are Gig (which can be done only once a month) and Jamming, which is a 'take it easy' game with no time pressures, giving children time to think about their answers. If your child doesn't feel ready to start TTR yet then that is absolutely fine as this will be completely new to most children. We will be completing a multiplication and division unit in the next half term in maths, so once that is complete it would be great for all children to use TTR then.



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PE:

PE will continue to be on a Tuesday in Kingfishers. 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. If you child attends any sports clubs they will need to bring spare kit to wear in a bag and get changed at the end of the day.

School Equipment:

Every day in school your child needs their book bag, water bottle, lunchbox (if not having hot dinners) and a coat. We politely request that children do not bring bulky, unnecessary bags to school because these take up so much room in the classroom which we'd much rather use for fun learning! The only time they will need a bag is for sports club clothing and/or Forest School.

Thank you for reading!

I hope this letter has been helpful. I am aware it is quite a long one, so please do keep it safe so you can refer back to it if needed! Please be assured that my classroom door is always open and I am always around school if you need to ask me questions or check anything important.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs Sollis