



**GRETTON
PRIMARY
SCHOOL**

**Gretton
Cheltenham
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Telephone: 01242 602679**

Headteacher: Mr Adam Sallis MEd, NASEN, NPQH

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Tuesday 1st September 2026

Dear Parent/Guardian,

I hope you have all had a relaxing and enjoyable summer holiday – the beautiful weather has been a real bonus! It is so lovely to see the children and hear about their lovely summer adventures. They have all come back to school with wonderful enthusiasm and excitement and are enjoying exploring their new Kingfishers classroom. There have been a few changes over the summer – mainly the addition of our fantastic new art area – a huge thank you to Mr Sallis for working so hard on that! We now have a sink and proper art storage which will make accessing art and creative activities far easier.

This letter is just to go through a few essential classroom routines that you will find useful for the term/year ahead.

Staffing:

I am the full time teacher in Kingfishers, with Mr Sallis covering me on a Monday afternoon for my PPA time. Mrs Denham will continue to be our Teaching Assistant and will be in the classroom every morning and will run interventions and ELSA sessions during some afternoons.

Continuous Provision in Kingfishers:

Last September we introduced Continuous Provision (learning through play) into Kingfishers as we felt this would benefit our children and enhance our KSI educational offer here at Gretton. The impact of learning through play is huge and it also eases the transition between Reception and Year One for our youngest children. This was highly successful last academic year and we will be continuing to offer this in Kingfishers throughout the school year. This process will be explained more during our Parent Meeting and there is also further information on the class page on the website.

Class Dojo:

We will continue to use Class Dojo this year to share pictures of the children participating in different activities as well as sharing documents and information. It is really important to be a part of the Dojo community as I will use this for important messages and reminders, including homework information.

Website:

The class page on the website is full of useful information, including our Autumn Term Topic Web, information on provision in Kingfishers, how we teach phonics and much more. There are also useful links and documents to help support your child with their learning. Please visit:

[Gretton Primary School – Kingfishers](#)

Key Experiences This Term:

We are very lucky to have ten weeks of Violin lessons booked in with an outside music agency. This will be starting soon and the children and I are very excited! At the end of the term the children will perform a concert to the rest of the school, which I will record and share on Dojo.

Forest School with Mr Bridges will be taking place in Autumn 1. More information to follow on this.

As always, Christmas time means Nativity time! Nearer December we will start working on this with our new Robins class and you will get the opportunity to come and watch your children taking part. We will inform you of performance dates as soon as we can. This is always an exciting and magical event in the Kingfishers diary and one of my favourite events of the year!

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. **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.**

When Year Two children finish the Little Wandle Phonics books they will move onto the Little Wandle Fluency Scheme, which is new to us at Gretton. The Fluency Scheme allows children to be introduced to longer, more complex texts, often with chapters, whilst ensuring they still read regularly in adults in school and access comprehension questions. The aim of these books is to encourage speed and accuracy so children are ready to move onto Accelerated Reader as they approach Year 3.

When children are ready, they will begin to move onto Accelerated Reader. 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 Numbots:

At Gretton we use the White Rose Maths scheme for the basis of our Maths lessons. I would like to highly encourage all children to have a copy of the **White Rose Home Learning books** at home as I will set Maths homework every Friday based on what we have been learning that week. 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



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week. Please feel free to send the book in every few weeks so I can have a look and reward some Dojos!

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>

We have recently started using an app called 'Numbots' which is linked to Times Tables Rockstars. This is a progressive maths programme which helps consolidate important number knowledge such as place value, addition and subtraction etc, with a focus on speed and accuracy. It is a fantastic app and the children thoroughly enjoyed using it last year. I will send out log in details for this shortly.

PE:

PE will 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 your 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.

Our Class Friend – Wilbur the Bear:

We are very lucky to have a special friend in Kingfishers – Wilbur the Bear! Wilbur will be coming home on Fridays with children to have an adventure! Each week a different child will be randomly chosen to take Wilbur and his special Adventure Book home. Please spend some time with your child to record what Wilbur and his friend have been up to, this could be with writing, pictures or photographs – it doesn't have to be anything amazing or expensive – it could be snuggling up in bed and reading a book together, or playing on the swings at the park. Wilbur must be returned with his Adventure Book the following Thursday so your child can share their fun experience with the rest of the class, before he goes off with another friend! I am sure the children and Wilbur will have so much fun together. ☺

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. I am really looking forward to working with your children this year and am sure they are going to have a wonderful academic year.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs Sollis