

# Weekly Update

Friday 26th November



### **Ofsted Inspection**

As you will be aware, we had our visit from Ofsted Inspectors this week. Frustratingly, we are not able to comment on the outcome of the inspection until we publish it to you formally in the coming months. I hope to be able to do this either just before we break up or early in January. However, I am sure you know that we have been waiting for the visit so we can show Ofsted and the wider world what a wonderful school this is, something I'm sure you already know!

I would like to express my thanks to all the parents who took the time to write to the inspectors, sharing positive comments about the delightful experiences the children have at the school, and a big thank you to those who took time to give feedback via Parentview.

The inspectors spoke very highly about the children in our school and each and every one of our pupils should be very proud of themselves, they are a real credit.

As you will expect, these inspections are incredibly stressful for all school staff, and I would like to take a moment to express a heartfelt thank you to all of my staff here at GHPS. Their support, hard work and dedication is remarkable not just during this inspection week but over the past few years in helping me create a school we can all be proud of.

#### **Challenge Partners Review**

I am now able to share parts of the recent Challenge Partners review which we are so proud of.

Below are some extracts from the review:

- Under the excellent direction of the headteacher, leaders have transformed the school in every respect.
- Leaders have an ambitious 'no excuses' culture, and this underpins the rationale of the relevant, engaging, and challenging curriculum. The teaching of core skills enhances access to the wider curriculum, providing stimulating and challenging experiences for all pupils.
- Leaders have created a culture of learning that continually promotes self-esteem in pupils. One pupil, explaining growth mindset, said, 'Your brain tells you never to give up even when it's hard.' Another remarked, 'We have a mind that grows so we can learn and become better.' Older pupils were keen to explain how the school had improved. One said, 'Children are now more mature. This is because of our role models. The teachers are always teaching us how to be a better person.'
- All staff take collective responsibility and live up to the high expectations that school leaders
  have for all learners. Pupils with additional needs are provided with personalised learning to
  access the full curriculum.
- Highly skilled teaching assistants make an excellent contribution to pupils' learning, to the extent that reviewers found it difficult to differentiate between teacher and support staff.



• Leaders successfully promote the trust's aim to develop 'mutual respect, equality, an understanding of other cultures, empathy with the wider world, and a strong and collaborative work ethic'. Pupils clearly articulated these goals, frequently mentioning teamwork, kindness, and responsibility. They described how adults build their confidence, and proudly discussed their awards for demonstrating a school value. Pupils have a clear understanding of British Values and can articulate examples of respect, democracy, and discrimination, inside and outside of school. They said that lessons in PHSE had given them an understanding of these values and opportunities to discuss and debate.

We will be able to publish the full Challenge Partners report to you in the coming weeks.

Thank you for your continued support.



Richard Ferris Headteacher



#### **Attendance Stars**

Classes with the highest attendance this week:

1st Place – Leopards (98.4%)

2nd Place – Tigers (97.2%)

3rd Place – Falcons (96.8%)



#### **House Points**

House points have been totaled up across the school and the winners this week are **RUBY** with **260** house points! Well done to everyone in Ruby, GREAT work!

#### **IMPORTANT - Nasal Flu Vaccinations**

Time is running out for you to fill in the consent form for the nasal flu vaccination, which is being carried out in our school on Wednesday 1st December by the School Vaccination Team.

Please note that the form will close at 9.00am on Monday 29<sup>th</sup> November and you will be unable to complete it after this time.

The letter containing the link to the consent form and all the information you need about the vaccine is on our website in the Parent Letter section or via this link: Nasal Flu Vaccination 2021

# **School Nurse Drop-in Sessions**

The school nurse is offering us a few dates for triage sessions.

This will consist of a 15-minute appointment in school with the parent and school nurse to discuss concerns around sleep, toileting, food related issues like diet, weight, healthy eating, fuzzy eating, allergies, and/or any other medical concern that requires orientation. From the meeting, the nurse will be able to signpost to the most relevant service and/or offer advice depending on the case.

Please let us know if you think you and your child would benefit from this session by emailing the SEN team direct at: <a href="mailto:ghpssen@maidenerleghtrust.org">ghpssen@maidenerleghtrust.org</a>

## **Dates for your Diary**

Please note the following upcoming dates in our calendar:

Wednesday 1st December – Nasal Flu Vaccinations for Years R-6

Tuesday 14th December @ 2.00pm – EYFS Nativity Performance for parents – info to follow

Wednesday 15th December – Festive Jumper Day and School Christmas Lunch

Friday 17th December – Last day of Autumn Term

**Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> January** – Children return to school **Friday 7<sup>th</sup> January @ 9.15am** - Open Event for Parents with children starting school in September 2022 (click here for more information)

#### **Anti-bullying Poster Competition**

Thank you to all the children who have sent in amazing entries for the anti-bullying poster competitions. There are some brilliant entries this year and Mrs Watson and Mrs Horne will have an extremely difficult job of choosing the best!

# Mini Winter Challenge from the Library

The Wild World Heroes are back to help with the Winter Mini Challenge after the success of this year's Summer Reading Challenge. The Reading Agency are teaming up again with the WWF to explore through reading.

Join the Wild World Heroes as they embark on an Arctic adventure to find out about the creatures that live there. You will find out about the environmental issues facing this remote place and might even spot a narwhal or two.



Taking part in the Winter Mini Challenge is simple. Children can read at least three books between **1st December** and **16th January** and add them to their online profile at <a href="https://www.wintermini.org.uk">www.wintermini.org.uk</a> to unlock the special virtual badge and certificate. They will be able to find other fun activities on the website too, including games, book reviews, and author content.

# **Holiday, After School & Breakfast Care** for children aged 4-13











We are delighted to inform you that KOOSA Kids Christmas Holiday Club at Birch Hill Primary School will be offering a number of FREE holiday club places, as part of Bracknell Forest Council's Holiday Activities & Food Programme this Christmas, funded by the Department for Education.

#### Your children are invited to a four-day festive get together from 20th to 23rd December

The free (and fun-packed) holiday provision will include a healthy, hot lunch and enriching activities: eligible for children aged 4-13, who are in school, and in receipt of benefits-related free school meals.

Apply for up to 2 FREE sessions per child this Christmas (10.00am to 6.00pm). To register your interest, simply complete our online form by Friday 26th November and select your FREE Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) sessions. You will be asked to provide 2 HAF Activity Codes per child, per activity day.

By completing the form, you will automatically be added to our waiting list. We will confirm which sessions we are able to offer you by Friday 10th December. Please note, places are limited and we may not be able to offer you all sessions requested.









#### **HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES & FOOD PROGRAMME**

- Apply for up to 2 FREE sessions per child this Christmas
- Eligible for children aged 4-13 who are in school and in receipt of benefits-related free school meals
- Healthy, hot lunch & fun, active holiday club activities included (visit our website for more information on our holiday club activity programme)
- FREE sessions provided on behalf of Bracknell Forest Council's Holiday Activities & Food Programme
- Ofsted registered, fun-packed high quality holiday club childcare

This opportunity is provided as part of the government's expanded Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme being delivered across Bracknell Forest Council. The scheme is supported by Bracknell Forest Council and is funded by the Department for Education.







#### **OUR OPEN DAYS:**

Tuesday at 9.15am 28 September 2021

Wednesday at 9.15am 20 October 2021

Thursday at 6.00pm 25 November 2021 Friday at 9.15am 07 January 2022





peers nationally – come and find out why.

and have a virtual tour through our well-

team will be on hand to answer questions

'HERE' to reserve a place. Alternatively, you can call our school office on 01344 424 911.

website, www.greathollandsprimary.co.uk.



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