



# Greatstone Primary School

## NEWSLETTER

Friday 6th November 2020

### OUR NEW VISION & VALUES 'TOGETHER WE LEARN MORE'

Back at the beginning of term, we reviewed our vision and values with staff, children, parents and governors, collecting your views about 'What makes Greatstone Primary School Great'. Thank you for your contribution, it was incredibly helpful to have a parental perspective.

I can now share the finalised version of the school vision and values (see below). Over the coming weeks I will take each of the values and explain them in greater detail, explaining why we have chosen them.

'A warm welcome to our friendly school where everyone is included and nurtured to be a wondrous and open learner with infinite potential. At Greatstone Primary School, we believe that learning is an everlasting journey where everyone in our family is able to grow and thrive into the mighty learning warrior they are meant to be. We are incredibly proud of how we treat one another, our community and the wider world ensuring that we remain respectful, tolerant and compassionate'

**Family**

**Thrive**

**Friendship**

**Courage**

For this term, we will be concentrating on the value of 'Friendship' with the children.

All the very best,

**Sharon Lewis, Headteacher**

### IS YOUR CHILD READY TO START SCHOOL IN 2021?



In light of the information that was released in half term about the current lockdown, the DfE statutory guidance for all schools is that parents are NOT allowed to come into schools for any visit, including those who might be new parents. We had anticipated this would be their decision and we had already included this within our risk assessment.

This means that for all new parents who are interested in a place for their child in September 2021, we will be having a 1:1 virtual meeting with myself instead (YR teachers will join us where they can). We are also currently in the process of making a virtual tour and the final details of our new prospectus are being finalised – we intend for these to be with you shortly.

Therefore, if you have already made an appointment via the school office, please can you contact them to make sure we have your email address so we can arrange a virtual meeting (for the same time slot as you had already arranged).

**All applications for starting school (even if your child already has siblings in school) must be made via:**  
<https://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/schools/school-places/primary-school-places#tab-2>

**Applications will close on the 15th January 2021**

## HEADTEACHER AWARDS

Huge congratulations to the following children for their achievements:

**Well done all of you, we're so proud of your achievements:**

**Ruby:** Codi, Oakley, Alfie, Ewan and Thomas for their brilliant writing

**Amethyst:** Millie and Andrew for completing 100% of their reading target

**Onyx:** Roxanne for always following our school rules

**Crystal:** Jasmine, Leon, Maxim and Ella for their incredible poems about the Gambia

**Ruby:** Will for his excellent Maths learning

**Amber:** Skyler for her excellent description of the ocean

**Coral:** Jack and Lucas for always being 'good to be green'

**Jet:** Yaunus for his amazing reading



## STUDY BUGS APP

<https://studybugs.com/about/parents>

As you will be aware, we introduced this new online platform for you to record your child's absence – information is directly linked to NHS advice. Teachers are now able to use an on-line register (so there are no longer paper versions) which is helping to keep everyone safer.

Please sign up using the link above. All messages from school will come through via Studybugs (or Parent Mail if you prefer this option)



## AN INTRODUCTION TO OUR SCHOOL 'HOUSE' SYSTEM

Mrs Roberts—Assistant Headteacher

When we returned in September the teachers and teaching assistants decided that we would like to introduce a 'House' system at Greatstone. The Head Girl, Head Boy and Deputies decided on a variety of names with local themes. The Young Governors then introduced the choices to their classes, these were Marsh authors, local zoos and RHDR trains and set up a voting system in their class.

The outright popular winner was zoos. So, Howletts, Port Lympne, Drusillas and Wingham will be our House names.

Each child has been allocated to one of the 4 houses. We hope that this will bring a sense of pride in belonging to a house and to enjoy the "friendly" competition between houses. Enabling children to have more opportunities for pupils to experience both winning and losing (life skills!). It will be used as a positive behaviour tool – individuals can collect points from adults around school.

The Young Governors will collate and keep the scores on our display board and update you throughout the school year. We hope the children love our house system and the opportunities that it provides.

## WHOLE SCHOOL ATTENDANCE FOR TERM 1

A huge thank you and well done to all parents for keeping us informed about your child's absence. We are seeing more and more parents using the Studybugs app. Again, if you haven't already done so, please do sign up via <https://studybugs.com/about/parents> as it has all the latest NHS/CV-19 information as well.

Mrs Roberts has started to give out certificates for children for their attendance at the end of Term 1. If your child was absent for reasons related to CV-19 (isolation, waiting test outcomes etc), their absence has not been negatively affected and isn't included in our calculations to ensure that no child is penalised.

The target is for each class and each child is to achieve attendance over 96%, for classes that are over 95%, we are currently saying they are 'on track' to achieve 96% and have therefore highlighted them as 'green'.

<b>Diamond</b>	<b>Jet</b>	<b>Jade</b>	<b>Onyx</b>	<b>Amethyst</b>	<b>Amber</b>
95.8%	94.7%	95.2%	94%	95.6%	98.1%
<b>Turquoise</b>	<b>Crystal</b>	<b>Coral</b>	<b>Rhinestone</b>	<b>Ruby</b>	<b>Whole school</b>
97.3	97.3	93.9%	95.6%	92.9%	95.6%

**Amber class are the overall winners for this term, huge congratulations to you!**

Jet, Onyx, Coral and Ruby class– come on, we know you can do this!

## PTFA UPDATE

At the end of last term, I met with the PTFA organisers to begin planning events for Christmas. However, in light of the lockdown until the 2nd December, some of our plans will no longer be able to go ahead. However, as schools, we are creative folk and have developed these skills to a high level since the global pandemic. Christmas for our children is still very much on the agenda, children will STILL have a special Christmas here at school, it will be a brand new and unique experience that will still be full of magic and sparkle.

I will share the finer details of what we have planned in the next newsletter so please watch this space.

## NSPCC NATIONAL ANTI-BULLYING WEEK

During the week beginning 16th November, it's national anti-bullying week which schools around the country use as an opportunity to learn about how to be a good friend and what to do if someone is bullying you (whether that be in person or on-line).

There will also be additional information being shared with you regarding the NSPCC class assemblies that will be taking place of the same week which focus on children knowing how to 'Stay Safe and Speak out'.