



Greatstone Primary School

NEWSLETTER

Date: Friday 4th December 2020

We're getting ready for Christmas

There's been a spot of Christmas magic in our school today with children and staff making decorations for their classrooms– there's been glitter everywhere! Very excited children had the best time listening to Christmas songs whilst cutting, sticking, folding and designing. Santa's workshop has nothing on us! Staff had a great time too (they might have even had a mince pie in the staffroom for a well deserved socially distanced treat!)

Mrs Richards has done a fabulous job in organising all things Christmas to make sure all children still enjoy our Greatstone traditions– albeit with a little twist. I have added some dates to the calendar section overleaf as you will see but there's a little summary of the activities below:

7th December: Tickets are on sale from this date for our Teddy Bear raffle. Please send your child into school with some money to purchase a raffle ticket (at 10p each) to have a chance of winning a cuddly toy. Please note, all funds coming into school should be in a named envelope. Unfortunately, we won't be able to give any change this year for obvious reasons.

KS1 nativity:

Mrs Docherty and Mrs Nelhams has been working incredibly hard organising a virtual nativity play this year. Please make sure that you have returned the form to them about the safe use of the video once it has been shared with you and to authorise permission for your child to be recorded. I'm really looking forward to watching the children in their grand performance, they've been working incredibly hard on this.

15th December: Around this date there will be a little something for you to watch from your child's class, a little treat to get you in the festive mood. I know these aren't the same as a live performance but the children still wanted to participate in something special and we know how much you will enjoy their creations.

16th Dec: Christmas Party Day

Children should come to school on this day dressed in their finest party ensemble (but with sensible shoes please, no sandals or anything with a heel). Each class will have a party at some point in the day and we will provide the party food for this. There is no need for parents to send any food in and the school day will finish at the normal school time.

17th December: School Christmas dinner and wear a Christmas jumper day.

18th December: Teddy bear raffle draw. Following a visit to each class doorway by Santa himself, each class will also get the chance to visit Santa's grotto in the hall, one class bubble at a time. We've been on the hotline to Santa for some time now to make sure all of our arrangements are as safe as they can be. Please be reassured therefore, that all gifts sent home with your child from school have been quarantined.

Lastly, we've had it confirmed that because Santa and his team of Elves are classed as essential key workers (as are the Tooth Fairy and the Easter Bunny), that he will be able to continue to deliver presents to children all around the world and he's ready to go– phew!

Sharon Lewis

Headteacher



Diary Dates

A warm welcome to a new regular feature that will be on each newsletter. We continue to be re-designing the website and once this is completed, we will of course begin to add dates to the school calendar. In the meantime, I hope you find this section helpful:

7th Dec: You are able to start sending in money for your child to purchase a raffle ticket to win the class teddy which will be drawn on December 18th (money in named envelopes please and no change will be given, sorry).

16th Dec: Class Christmas party day– children to wear their party wear (but with sensible shoes please). School will finish at normal time on this day.

17th Dec: Whole school Christmas jumper day. Children are invited to wear a festive jumper please along with normal school uniform. We will also be having our annual Christmas dinner today as well.

18th Dec: Teddy bear raffle to be drawn. Santa will visit each class doorway and each class will visit Santa's grotto in the hall.

18th Dec: Last day of Term 2

4th Jan 2021: INSET day, school closed for children

5th Jan: Term 3 begins

12th Feb: Last day of Term 3

22nd Feb: Term 4 begins

1st April: Last day of Term 4

19th April: INSET day, school closed for children

20th April: First day of Term 5 for children

3rd May: **BANK HOLIDAY, school closed**

28th May: Last day of Term 5

7th June: INSET DAY, no school for children

8th June: Term 6 begins

21st July: Last day of Term 6

Headteacher awards:

Huge congratulations to the following children for their achievements:

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

Ruby Class: Oakley for his amazing comic strip about William Harvey

Coral Class: Katy and Eloisa for their amazing Maths and English work

Onyx Class: Arthur for always being helpful and working hard

Crystal Class: Scarlett for her amazing scientific writing about the human body

Amber Class: For their 100% reading: Hollie, Millie, Robbie, Teddy, Laila, Grace, Daisy, Henry, Evie, Louisa, Teigan, Alfie

Turquoise Class: Sophia and Joey for their moving diary entries on Remembrance Day

Amethyst Class: Bobby-Jo, Henry, Teigan, Tommy for their incredible 100% AR quizzes and Maths assessments

Jet Class: Isaac for his amazing progress in phonics and reading.



Is your child ready to start primary school in September 2021?

There are just a few places left to book a place for a tour of the school, please phone the school office to make an appointment.

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

A big thank you

Look out for a big Christmas tree at the front of the school that has been kindly donated by Mark Coleman. In addition, Kevin Addison has kindly donated a further tree for the children and staff to enjoy which is going in the hall. We are incredibly lucky to have such amazing support from local businesses to ensure there is a festive spirit in our school.

As if that wasn't enough, we have two amazing ladies Pip Beard and Louise Day who are busy covering staff who are self isolating. Not only have they offered to go above and beyond to ensure the smooth running of our school but have also made alternative arrangements for their own families in order to care for our Greatstone family. We are incredibly grateful ladies– we think you're amazing.

