



Greatstone Primary School



NEWSLETTER

9th July 2021

WHERE HAS THE YEAR GONE?

I can't quite believe this will be the last newsletter of this academic year— where has the time gone?

There has been the most amazing atmosphere in school this week, our England 'Red and White' day created a huge amount of excitement for the big match. The children had the most amazing time, learning about players, having matches and singing football anthems (it was all for a good cause because clearly, we brought the luck they needed!)

A big thank you for the very positive feedback from you all regarding the parking situation. Apart from a small minority, everyone has used the visitors car park appropriately. This has made such a difference, it is calmer and safer coming to and from school each day, so thank you everyone.

Transition events have been taking place this week, the children are looking forward to their new classes in September, as are we. These opportunities help to answer children's questions and help them feel more comfortable about the coming year.

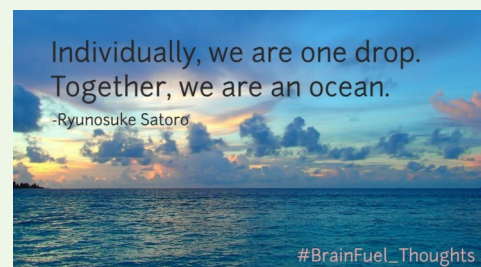
Before the end of term, we will confirm with you via letter, how we will be returning to 'normal' from September. Whilst it is expected that we will return to our previous life on the 19th July, we will continue as we are until the end of term. Like everyone, we wait for confirmation from government on the 12th but the indications currently, are all positive.

Can I take this opportunity to thank our staff, children, parents and governors for their incredible efforts, resilience and support, over what has been the most incredible year. We have come out the other end with a stronger sense of community. By working together and ensuring that the children have been at the centre of every decision we have made, we have achieved great things in the most challenging of circumstances. I know it hasn't always been easy and I appreciate there have been bumps in the road, but, what an amazing journey we have been on together. Our children have shown the strength and resilience that has astounded us. I mean it from the bottom of my heart when I say how proud of them I am. Their smiles, their love of school, their friendships and their sense of family has made it all worthwhile. In particular, I would like to thank our Y6 children who have carved out a different kind of end to their career at Greatstone. They are simply incredible, each and everyone of them has been on their own unique journey and they have shown, more than any other year group, grit, determination and sensitivity during this time. Throughout this year, they have shown they are more than ready for their transition to secondary school. Y6— you are simply the best!

Have a wonderful summer everyone, enjoy this time to be with friends, family and loved ones. We look forward to seeing you all again in September but until then, go and have a blast!

Sharon Lewis,

Headteacher



SCHOOL UNIFORM

Until now, we have been relaxed about school uniform as children have returned to school. I appreciate that it hasn't always been easy to get to the shops (for school shoes in particular) or order clothes online, so I wanted to share the following with you in good time before you begin purchasing new uniform in the summer holidays.

From September, we will return to our previous expectations that all children wear the correct uniform please. This is so that all children feel ready to learn and wearing a smart uniform helps to instil a sense of pride and togetherness in our school. May I draw your attention to purchasing shoes rather than trainers, and that PE kit should be plain dark colours only (black, grey or blue) without logos and a white plain T-shirt. Trainers or plimsolls for PE are required also.

We regularly have uniform and PE kit handed in as lost property and it's impossible to return these expensive items to the owner if they are unnamed. Please can I urge all parents to label (and regularly check them after washing) to ensure we can return them in the event of them being lost. For Year R and KS1 children, a top tip: write in pen your child's name on the inside of BOTH shoes, you wouldn't believe how many other children will have exactly the same pair (and sometimes the same size) of shoes and this can make it extra tricky to ensure they go back to the right owner.

Jewellery (other than simple/plain ear studs) and nail polish should not be worn please and hair should be tied back.



12th– 15th July: Class Adventure week

15th July: End of year reports sent home

16th July: PTA Class bubble 'Summer Fayre' (more information to follow)

20th July: 9.30am - Rhinestone leavers assembly (only 1 adult per child please)

21st July 9.30am - Ruby Class leavers assembly (only 1 adult per Y6 child please).

Last day of Term 6. NO AFTER SCHOOL CLUB TODAY.

1st Sept: INSET day, school closed for children

2nd Sept: Children return to school, Term 1 begins

21st Oct: INSET day, school closed for children

22nd Oct: INSET day School closed for children

1st Nov: Term 2 begins

17th Dec: Term 2 ends

STAFFING UPDATE

After 27 years of supporting our school and children, Mrs Maxey has decided to have a well earned rest – she more than deserves this and will be leaving at the end of this term. Mrs Cochrane is starting a new dog grooming business so will also be leaving in order to start her new adventure.

We wish both ladies all the very best for the future, they have supported our children so well at lunchtimes, they will be very much missed. TA's will be supporting children play at lunchtimes from September onwards as well as our current mid-day supervisors.

In the nursery, Miss Gemma Ward will be starting maternity leave in the summer holidays which is very exciting for her. Miss Nadia Leech will be covering the position of Deputy Nursery Manager during this time. Also in the nursery, Miss Megan Hazelwood is also leaving at the end of this term. Like us, I'm sure you will wish them all the very best.



HEADTEACHER AWARDS

Huge congratulations to the following children for their achievements:

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

Amethyst class: Evie, Millie, Henry and Grace for achieving 100% of their reading targets

Amber class: Frankie, for her exemplary behaviour for learning

Diamond class: Lilly for her fantastic writing

Turquoise class: Sophie for her brilliant data handling investigation

Crystal class: Cooper for his amazing life cycle diagrams in Science

