

# Headteachers Weekly Newsletter



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Heads Newsletter 23/24 Issue: 31

Date: 24.05.2024

Messages:

This Week:

## Sports Days 2024

We would like to inform you of our sports days before we break for half term:

Nursery - Wednesday 5th June 9am-10am

Reception - Wednesday 5th June 2pm-3pm

KS1 - Friday 14th June - 9am

KS2 - Tuesday 2nd July - 9am

## Phones

A reminder that bringing mobile phones into school should be avoided where possible. Should a mobile phone be brought to school, it MUST be taken to the office and collected at 3pm or 3:55 if attending a club.

## Parking around the school grounds

We have had several complaints from our neighbours and parents regarding parking over the last couple of weeks. Neighbours drives are being blocked, this is not OK. More importantly, our parents are concerned about the safety of our children and we couldn't agree more as we have shared this concern, along with parents using the school drive on many occasions. Once again we would like to remind you of the nearby Bridge Street car park, please use this to ensure the safety of our children. I also advise that anyone with further complaints should contact Doncaster council or even the community police who have supported us in the past.

## Suncream, hats and water bottles

Now the weather is finally improving, please ensure your children have everything they need to stay safe in the sun. Please apply sunscreen before your child attends school in a morning. If they bring it to school, it must be named.

## After half term - wc 03/06/2024

### Monday

Y5/6 First Aid workshops

### Wednesday

Y6 - school nurse talks - see letter emailed

Nursery sports morning

<https://greentopschool.co.uk/nursery-sports-day-2024-wednesday-5th-june/>

Reception sports morning

<https://greentopschool.co.uk/reception-sports-day-4/>

### Thursday

Learning Council - 80th Anniversary D-Day - poem reading

FS2 hearing test with school nurse team

Travelling book fair arrives

## Summer one dates:

<https://greentopschool.co.uk/summer-1-diary-dates-2/>

**Summer 2 dates will be shared soon!**



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NEW!!!! Extended Study New!!!!

## Phase Extended Study Pages

<https://greentopschool.co.uk/category/class-blogs/eyfs-extended-study/>

<https://greentopschool.co.uk/category/class-blogs/ks1-extended-study/>

<https://greentopschool.co.uk/category/class-blogs/lks2-extended-study/>

<https://greentopschool.co.uk/category/class-blogs/uks2-extended-study/>

## Letter Join

<https://greentopschool.co.uk/accessing-letter-join-at-home-2/>

## Reading

May is 'Share a story month'...make sure you get involved at home!

<https://greentopschool.co.uk/share-a-story-month/>

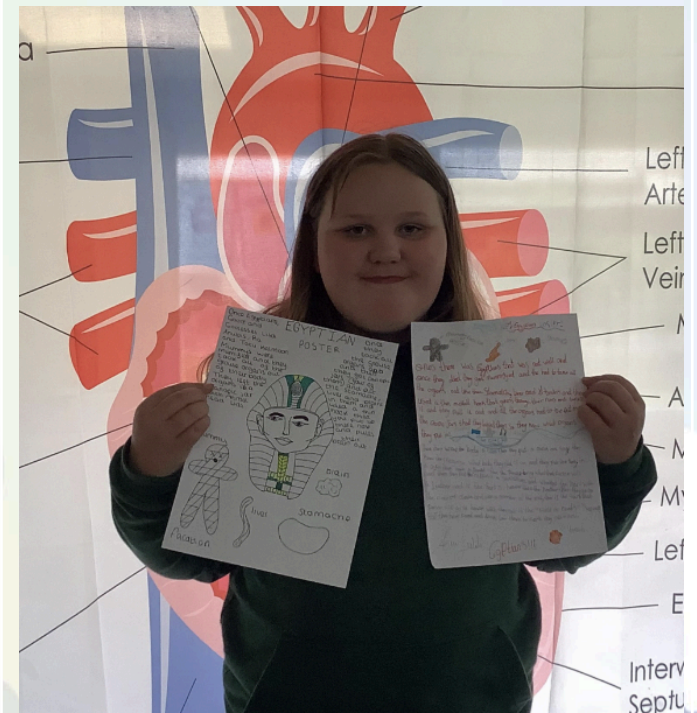
<https://greentopschool.co.uk/share-a-story-month-2/>

## Year 4 MTC - Important information

<https://greentopschool.co.uk/year-4-mtc-important-information/>

Amazing Extended study!

[https://greentopschool.co.uk/crew-spetch-  
-awesome-home-learning-2/](https://greentopschool.co.uk/crew-spetch-<br/>-awesome-home-learning-2/)



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## Expedition

The EYFS children have recorded the sea shanties they have been learning this week. This sound will be included in the Qr code on their bin sticker product. The children have enjoyed reading 'The commotion in the ocean and have written about their favourite part of the story.

In expedition this week the children have been artists and have been learning all about LS Lowry, as well as completing some beautiful sketches of buildings in Thorne. We also went on a short but wet walk of the area as part of our family learning. Thanks to everyone that took part again, the children really loved it.

## Crew

In Crew this week the EYFS children have been learning about integrity, one of GT Character traits. We have been thinking about being truthful and honest and what this looks like in school.

In crew this week Key stage 1 have had a visitor who has given them an assembly on D Day, as it is leading up to remembering the 6th June. Thank you so much to the visitor who engaged them with his stories from when he was in the war too.



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## Attendance shout outs:

Our attendance winners for last week were:  
**Crew Mumby and Crew Overson  
With 100% attendance**

Well done - great work!!



## Beautiful Work:

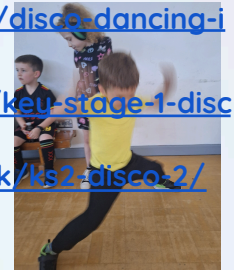
<https://greentopschool.co.uk/mr-kershaw-came-to-play-in-the-rain/>



## Blog of the week:

**DISCO FUN!**

<https://greentopschool.co.uk/disco-dancing-in-nursery/>  
<https://greentopschool.co.uk/keu-stage-1-disco/>  
<https://greentopschool.co.uk/ks2-disco-2/>



## Sharing our stories as we go...

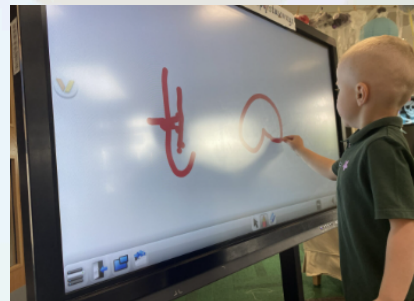
Have you seen our recent XP Trust 'Sharing Our Stories' and 'Beautiful Work' blog post?

<https://greentopschool.co.uk/sharing-our-stories-17-05-2024/>



## Academic Success:

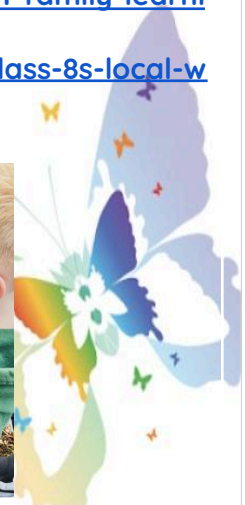
<https://greentopschool.co.uk/beautiful-phonics-in-nursery/>



## Shout out:

**Thank you to all of our parents who joined us for family learning in the wet weather! We appreciated it and the children loved it!**

<https://greentopschool.co.uk/y1-family-learning-3/>  
<https://greentopschool.co.uk/class-8s-local-walk/>



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## Message from 'The Friend's of GT':

Thank you to everyone who supported our Summer DISCO! Our DISCOs are our main source of fundraising so thank you for your support! The children had a fabulous time!

We will share a breakdown of how our funds have been given back to the children next half term!

Summer Fayre  
Wednesday 19th June - 3pm  
Additional information coming soon!

## London:

**What an amazing week our Y6 children have had in London! Please visit the school blog to see many photographs!**



## Weekly lunch menus:

Please find dinner menus attached:

📄 MENUS - April to October 2024.pdf



## Communication

Phase Leader email addresses:

EYFS - Miss Carter - [euys@greentopschool.org](mailto:euys@greentopschool.org)

KS1 - Mrs Shaw - [ks1@greentopschool.org](mailto:ks1@greentopschool.org)

Y3/4 - Miss Knowles - [y3-4@greentopschool.org](mailto:y3-4@greentopschool.org)

Y5/6 - Mr Mumby - [y5-6@greentopschool.org](mailto:y5-6@greentopschool.org)

*In the first instance please speak to crew leader or class teacher.*

## Sunset

Should you wish to access our **sunset club** you can book by contacting Mrs Fitzpatrick: [office@greentopschool.org](mailto:office@greentopschool.org).

*Please include the following details: name, teacher, any allergies/dietary requirements, days required and a Contact number.*

Sunset club runs from **4pm to 5:30pm daily at £5** per day which should be **paid in advance via ParentPay.**

## Breakfast Club

Should you wish to access our **breakfast club** you can book by contacting Mrs Fitzpatrick: [office@greentopschool.org](mailto:office@greentopschool.org).

*Please include the following details: name, teacher, any allergies/dietary requirements, days required and a Contact number.*

Breakfast club runs from **7:30am to 8:30am daily at £2** per day which should be **paid in advance** via ParentPay.

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## Uniform

### Uniform

Please ensure you add your child's name to ALL of their belongings. We are improving the amount of lost property in school with the things we are putting in place but names not being added to uniform seems to be the main issue we need to resolve.

Also, if you require support with uniform, please contact us and we will support where possible.

Phase Leader email addresses:

EYFS - Miss Carter - [eyfs@greentopschool.org](mailto:eyfs@greentopschool.org)

KS1 - Mrs Shaw - [ks1@greentopschool.org](mailto:ks1@greentopschool.org)

Y3/4 - Miss Knowles - [y3-4@greentopschool.org](mailto:y3-4@greentopschool.org)

Y5/6 - Mr Mumby - [y5-6@greentopschool.org](mailto:y5-6@greentopschool.org)

### PE Kits

Please ensure that PE kits are in school on PE days. It is important that the children have the correct kit and footwear to ensure safety during the lesson. We also don't want children ruining their school shoes due to wearing them for PE and if it is outdoors, covering their shoes and uniform in mud!

All bags and kits will be sent home on a Friday so corridors are clear. Please send children's clean PE kits back into school on a Monday morning ready for their PE lesson.

### XP Outdoor Kits

Suggested kit (if you need any support with the following items, please let us know - we don't expect you to buy additional clothing):

#### Winter Kit

- Long sleeved jumper
- Long trousers - waterproof if possible
- Warm hat and gloves
- Wellies or boots
- Waterproof coat

#### Summer Kit

- Sunscreen
- Sun hat
- Water bottle

## Safety

### ***Driving into the school grounds***

*Please **DON'T** drive into the school grounds to drop off in a morning and pick up at the end of the day. This is becoming extremely dangerous for our children. Please use Bridge Street car park and help us to keep our children and community safe!*

Please walk down the path and not the drive, keep yourself safe!  
Please dismount your bikes on the school premises for everyone's safety.

## Reminders

**Gates will be locked at 8:50am daily.** This gives a 20 minute window to ensure all parents are out of the school grounds before they are locked. We would like our children to be able to access the outside environment quicker but we can't do this until the gates are locked. We appreciate your support with this!

**Reminder:** doors open at 8:30am and learning starts as soon as the children are in class. If you are late daily, this loss of learning time adds up over time to a considerable amount!

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## Parent Information

### What Parents & Educators Need to Know about **SCHOOL AVOIDANCE**

School avoidance refers to reduced attendance or non-attendance at school by a child or young person. In 2022-23, more than one in five children in England were found to be absent from school over 10% of the time. This guide focuses on school avoidance with an emotional basis, offering expert mental health advice. However, it's important to remember that school avoidance is a hugely subjective experience which requires a tailored, individual approach.

#### UNDERSTANDING SCHOOL AVOIDANCE

#### REASONS FOR ABSENCE

School avoidance is sometimes underpinned by several factors rather than one single cause. This could include something going on for the child or young person within the family or at school. A child may have caring responsibilities at home, for instance, or a change in family dynamics; bullying and friendship difficulties at school; pressure to achieve in schoolwork and exams; or moving from primary school to secondary school.

#### PATTERNS OF ABSENCE

You may notice patterns in regular absences or children regularly expressing that they don't want to attend school (particularly being reluctant to leave home on school days). If a child or young person is neurodiverse, there is some evidence to suggest there are more aspects of school life which can cause distress – such as changes in the environment, changes of routine and sensory stimuli.

#### COMPLAINTS ABOUT PHYSICAL SYMPTOMS

There may be an increase in a child or young person's complaints about physical symptoms, particularly on school days or the evening before school. These could include tummy aches, headaches, or saying they feel ill when there doesn't appear to be a medical cause. Always check with the GP first to rule out medical causes or illness.

#### IMPACT OF SCHOOL AVOIDANCE

#### LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT

School refusal can negatively impact a young person's learning and development. Attending school on a regular basis not only supports academic attainment but is also important for the development of key life skills and the growth of children and young people as citizens.

#### LONG-TERM OUTCOMES

The difficulties associated with school non-attendance can be far reaching and may have a negative impact on long-term outcomes. It may, for example, lead to reduced future aspirations, poor emotional regulation, mental health difficulties, limited academic progress and restricted employment opportunities.

#### CYCLE OF ABSENCE

Consistent absences may contribute to sustained school avoidance over time. Further to this, the longer a pupil is out of education, the more likely it is that there is a rise in their ongoing need to avoid the activity making them anxious – increasing their desire to stay at home.

### Advice for Parents & Educators

#### WORK TOGETHER

If there's a concern about a child's absence and emotional wellbeing, it's important that there is clear communication and a consistent approach between the child's parents and the school, so you can take a child-centred approach together towards a plan of support or reintegration. This ensures a consistency of approach from both home and school, creating better outcomes for the child.

#### MANAGE OVERWHELMING FEELINGS

Acknowledge the child's worries, listen and discuss coping strategies together to help them manage difficulties. These could include mindfulness, deep breathing or going for a walk. This helps them understand that you are working together towards a common goal, and that these strategies can be used when bigger feelings arise.

#### FOLLOW REGULAR ROUTINES


Children can benefit from a regular and consistent routine. This could be a morning routine, from waking up and having breakfast through to getting dressed, packing their bag and leaving the house. A consistent evening routine which is calm and spent away from screens can also give children much needed predictability and familiarity. Schools can help create a timetabled routine for the child's school day, if required.

#### RECOGNISE POSITIVE STEPS

Drawing attention to a child's successes – be they big or small – can help to give them some much-needed confidence and motivation. Celebrate these daily victories – such as getting out of bed on time or completing school work – and don't hesitate to let the child know when you're impressed or proud of them. Such an approach can go a long way.

#### Meet Our Expert

With 30 years' experience as a teacher, trainer, consultant and interim executive board member, Anna Bateman has a superb understanding of what works in pedagogy, school improvement and leadership. She has also advised the Department for Education on their mental health green paper.




#WakeUpWednesday  
The National College

Source: See full reference list on guide page at: [nationalcollege.com/guides/school-avoidance](https://nationalcollege.com/guides/school-avoidance)

@wake\_up\_weds /www.thenationalcollege @wake.up.wednesday @wake.up.weds

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 17.05.2024

## External Information

 [school-avoidance.pdf](#)

<https://greentopschool.co.uk/parent-information-attendance/>



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TRUST

## Your Place Solihull Course Armthorpe Community Libray

The Solihull Approach: Understanding your child - from toddler to teenager  
Course length: 10 weeks, 2 hours a week

Our Solihull parent group focuses on helping you to understand your child's behaviour and to build a positive relationship between you and your child.

We will look at things like:

Different parenting styles

The developmental stages of your child - what is age appropriate behaviour

Understanding your child's behaviour

Having fun together through play

Sessions are every Thursday. Starting 25th April 2024 09:30AM - 11:30AM

The last session will be 4th July 2024

The first session will run till 12:00PM

**NO SESSION THURSDAY 30TH MAY 2024 DUE TO HALF TERM**

How to book / refer:

Email: [YourPlaceYourFamilyTeam@doncaster.gov.uk](mailto:YourPlaceYourFamilyTeam@doncaster.gov.uk)

Phone: 01302 736336

Or pop in and see us!



## PARENT VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

### £25 COMPENSATION

Are your children entitled to free school meals?  
Participate in an interview with the FixOurFood team and receive £25 compensation!



### Free School Meal Auto- Enrolment

Children entitled to free school meals have been automatically registered to receive it within your local authority (rather than asking parents to apply) by receiving an "opt-out" letter.



### What are we asking?

We are asking parents whose child(ren) have been **impacted by the auto-enrolment programme** to participate in a **45 minute interview** (in person or online) about their experiences and opinions.



### How does this benefit you?

We will compensate you with a **£25 voucher** and reimburse up to £20 travel expenses if applicable.

For more information on how you can get involved, please contact: [fixourfoodinschools@york.ac.uk](mailto:fixourfoodinschools@york.ac.uk) or visit <https://shorturl.at/rH248>







# Sleep Tight Workshop



Does your child suffer from sleep problems?  
Do you want to access support to help to improve bedtime?

Join us at our Sleep Tight Workshop



Starting Wednesday 19th June 2024  
10.00am - 11.30am  
for 5 weeks  
At Central Family Hub, Welcome Way  
DN1 3LE

To book or for more information, please contact  
Emma O'Connor or Helen Roberts  
Central Family Hub on 01302 737995  
(For sleep advice for children aged 2 and above)



Our training is delivered by practitioners trained by  
The Sleep Charity

Our workshops include :  
Understanding sleep cycles  
Common sleep issues and strategies to manage these  
Establishing appropriate routines  
Keeping sleep diaries and interpreting the data  
Environments



Find out more:  
[WWW.DONCASTER.GOV.UK/FAMILYHUBS](http://WWW.DONCASTER.GOV.UK/FAMILYHUBS)



## Workshop

### Transition from Primary to Secondary School

10.00am - 12.00pm

Booking is essential

This is a workshop for parents/carers of **Year 6 children/young people** where we will look at:

- Preparing for transitions to secondary schools
- The challenges our autistic children/young people may experience when transitioning to secondary school
- Strategies to support our autistic children/young people in preparing for the transition
- Managing anxieties around transition

## 16th May 2024

Doncaster Carers Centre  
2 Regent Terrace  
Doncaster  
DN1 2EE

01302 637566  
[dpvents@doncastercarers.org.uk](mailto:dpvents@doncastercarers.org.uk)  
[www.doncasterparentsvoice.co.uk](http://www.doncasterparentsvoice.co.uk)



Delivered by:

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Teacher/Lead practitioner for  
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support for Doncaster LEA



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