



21/09/20
Issue 1

Graham James Primary – Newsletter

WELCOME BACK

It is so nice to have all the children back in school. The children have settled well into their new classes.

Thank you for your on-going support and co-operation in respect of the new systems. Please can we ask you to remember to give other parents space as you move around the school grounds.

OFFICE

Please limit your visits to the office. Where possible could you call or email instead.

Please see 'channels of communication' on next page for more information re contacting teachers.

If you do need to come into school, then we ask that only one person is at the office window at one time. If another parent is there, please wait outside until they have finished.

DATA COLLECTION SHEETS

Data collection sheets will be sent home for each child (Years 1-6) in the next few days. Please check the information we hold for you is correct and update where necessary. Please either give to your child to hand in or place in the black letter box opposite the office window.

DIARY DATES



Tuesday 13th October
Individual photos

Friday 23rd October
Break up for half term

Monday 2nd November
Return to school

Friday 13th November
Children in Need - details to follow

Friday 18th December
Last day of term

Monday 4th January
Return to school

Monday 10th May to Thursday 13th May
KS2 SATS WEEK

Monday 10th May to Friday 14th May
Year 5 Residential Trip to Swattenden

ATTENDANCE

The classes with the best attendance in week ending 18/09/20 and the winners of the Graham James Attendance shield are:

EYFS/KS1

**Miss Pulfer's Class 2LP with 99%
KS2**

**Miss Cape's Class 3AC
with 98.3%**

PARENT PAY

Thanks to all those who are now using Parent Pay. If you would like to start using Parent Pay and would like a log on, please email the school office.

IMPORTANT NOTICE -

DINNER MONEY

Reminder that dinner money should be paid on the day or in advance.

Our preferred method of payment is Parent Pay. If you do not have a log-on, please ask at the office and we can arrange this for you.

Now more than ever we are encouraging parents to pay using ParentPay where possible as receiving cash payments increases the chance of contact between staff, parents and children whilst social distancing measures are in place - exposing everyone to unnecessary risks.

It is the parents' responsibility to know how much credit is on their account. Parent Pay now shows up to date running balances.

Office staff will now only send dinner money arrears texts once per week.

However, please note that we do not allow arrears to go over £10.50. We will not provide a school dinner for children if the arrears are over £10.50 and parents will be contacted informing them that they need to either pay before lunch time, bring in a packed lunch or collect their child to take them home for lunch.

REGULAR ARREARS

When an account is regularly in arrears, we will insist on payment up front and a lunch will not be provided without payment in advance.

BREAKFAST CLUB

When arrears reach £10.50, parents will be contacted and asked to bring the arrears up to date immediately. Failure to do this could jeopardise a child's place at Breakfast Club.

FREE SCHOOL MEALS

Your child may be eligible for free school meals if you receive either:

- Income Support
- income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Child Tax Credit - provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190
- Universal Credit - provided your total net earnings are no more than £616.67 each month, starting from 1 April 2018
- the guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999

Please apply online if you think you may be entitled.

<https://www.thurrock.gov.uk/school-meals/free-school-meals>

Even if you do not currently pay for your child's meals (because they are in reception, Year 1 or Year 2) you should still apply if you think you are entitled. Whilst in lockdown we were able to make weekly payments to families who receive free school meals and you could miss out if we went into another lockdown.

CHANNELS OF COMMUNICATION:

Should you have any queries or concerns, in the first instance please ensure you speak with your child's teacher. **At the current time this should be by emailing in to the school office. Emails/messages will be forwarded to the class teacher who will deal with the situation accordingly. Please note that emails will not be routinely answered, but will be actioned and dealt with accordingly.**

After speaking with the class teacher, and you are unhappy with the response received please follow the escalation procedure below:

- Class Teacher
- Key Stage Assistant Head Teacher (by appointment)
- Deputy Head Teacher - Mr Turner (by appointment)
- Head Teacher - Mrs Back (by appointment)

APPLYING FOR SECONDARY SCHOOL PLACE

If your child is in Year 6, you must now apply for a secondary school place. Please ensure you apply before the closing date of 31st October 2020.

<https://www.thurrock.gov.uk/secondary-school-admissions/applying-for-secondary-school-place>

APPLYING FOR RECEPTION 2021 PLACE

If your child was born between 1 September 2016 and 31 August 2017, you must apply for their reception school place for September 2021.

The applications open on Monday 2nd November and you must apply before 15th January 2021.

NURSERY WAITING LIST

If you have younger children who you would like to add to our nursery waiting list, then please contact Mrs Tolan-Wheeler in the school office:

info@grahamjamesprimary.thurrock.sch.uk

MILK

Children under 5 receive free milk at school.

If your child is over 5 and you would like them to receive milk then please register your child online, visit www.coolmilk.com The current cost is approximately 22p per day.

IF YOUR CHILD IS OFF...

If your child is absent then you must phone on the first day of absence and leave a message when prompted. Please state the following:

- your child's name
- class
- **reason for being off**

It is not sufficient to just say that they won't be in. As a school we are expected by Ofsted and the Local Authority to know why a child is not in school and report any cases where there are persistent and/or unexplained absences.

Please ensure that you send a letter in with your child when they return to school. Please state the reason for absence as we need this for your child's file.

When children are off regularly and parents do not call in to report their child's absence we will consider doing a home visit.

LATENESS

Can we please remind you that the school day starts at 8.55am. We have an increasing number of children arriving after this time. It is disruptive to classroom and office staff when your child is late and your child is missing out on valuable learning time when they arrive after their classmates.

Letters are sent home to those with persistent lateness and meetings will be arranged if there is no improvement after the first letter has been sent.

After School - Club Timetable

Monday	After school clubs are not currently running. This is under review and we will notify parents when they re-start.
Tuesday	
Wednesday	
Thursday	
Friday	

P.E. KITS

Please could you ensure children have both indoor and outdoor P.E. kits.

- Indoor - red or black shorts, plain white T-shirt and plimsolls/trainers
- Outdoor - Outdoor trainers, tracksuits or joggers and sweatshirts or hoodies (any colour)

EARRINGS ON P.E. DAYS

Reminder that the only earrings that are permitted in school are simple stud earrings. These should be removed on P.E. days. Those who have newly pierced ears i.e. within the last 6 weeks, may keep them in provided that ear tape is worn. This must be provided by the parent.

BREAKFAST CLUB - IMPORTANT NOTICE

Due to the popularity of our Breakfast Club, you will no longer be able to attend without pre-booking. Places must be booked by Friday for the following week. Forms can be collected from the school office.

The advance notice will help us ensure that the club is fully staffed and enough food is ordered.

Please arrive before 8.30am for your child to receive breakfast.

P.T.A

Our P.T.A. are always looking for new people to join and help out. They welcome new ideas from parents and you can be as involved as you wish. We know that some parents can spare a few hours a year, e.g. at a one off event whereas others can commit more regularly. Due to the current circumstances this year's AGM will be held on Wednesday 14th October via Zoom. Please see link below. Rea Nason is the chair of our P.T.A. and she will host the A.G.M.

Time: Oct 14, 2020 08:00 PM London

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://apogeeecorp.zoom.us/j/93604296756>

PARKING

There is no parking for parents on the school grounds. This includes Breakfast Club drop off. The gate will be closed between 14:50 and 15:30 and the Site Manager has been instructed not to open the gate to parents during this time. This is to ensure the safety of the children. Therefore, if you park at school before 14:50 you will not be able to exit the gate until after 15:30.

In addition, please be considerate of our neighbours when parking in the side roads and do not park across driveways (this includes the dentist surgery).

AFTER SCHOOL COLLECTION

Please ensure someone is here to collect your child at 3.15pm. If you know you are going to be late then please make arrangements for someone else to collect your child at 3.15pm.

If your child is going to a friend's house after school, please write a note letting the teacher know that another parent will be collecting your child.

GOLD AWARDS

10.09.20	Lennie Wright	1GS	Brilliant writing
11.09.20	Vinnie Turner	6CM	Excellent effort in Maths
11.09.20	Bethany Moore	6CM	Excellent effort in Maths
11.09.20	Daisy Anderson	6CM	Fantastic writing
14.09.20	James Baker	6CM	Great rounding
14.09.20	Lainey Beaumont	2LP	Lovely writing
14.09.20	Dhian Rai	2LP	Lovely writing
14.09.20	Adam Bassett	6JCA	Excellent writing
14.09.20	Jessica O'Rourke	6JCA	Fantastic writing
14.09.20	Sarina Di Nonno	6JCA	Fantastic writing
14.09.20	Keira Owen	6JCA	Fabulous WWI and WWII knowledge
16.09.20	Taiwo Mafimisebi	2KR	Fantastic SPAG work
16.09.20	Hallie Beard	2KR	Fantastic SPAG work
18.09.20	Ethan O'Sullivan	2KR	Great English work
18.09.20	Sally Lockey	2KR	Great English work
18.09.20	Amelia Clark	2LP	Fantastic writing
18.09.20	Daisy Fitzgerald	2LP	Fantastic writing

OLIVIA - 2KR



On Wednesday 16th September Olivia decided to donate her hair to the Little Princess Trust. She has donated 20 inches.

She loves her new hair style and is happy to be helping others.

Well done Olivia. It really suits you!



ANICET - 4AB

Anicet kept busy during lockdown and enjoyed learning new things.

He got his first Arts award for drumming.

He also did a trial on coding. He listened attentively to the end and loved the tasks.

Well done Anicet!



DAISY - 6CM

Daisy has had two poems accepted to be published in a book for the Young Writers' Association. Here is one of them. The other poem is called 'The Black Widow Creeps'. Great work Daisy.

Save Our Planet

The air is dark,
My lungs are tight,
Factories producing smoke at night,
Why do we need pollution?
Use less plastic,
Make less waste,
People throw away things in haste,
We need to recycle,
Rarely seen beautiful creatures,
They have nowhere to go,
We are building on their homes,
We are making our planet die,
We are making the ocean starve,
We need to change,
Use less plastic,
Walk instead of drive so that we can survive.

By Daisy Adela Anderson age 10



ORLANDO - 1MW

Orlando has recently started playing cricket. The photo on the left was taken at his first ever game, for the under 7s against the under 9s at Orsett.

The photo on the right is with Barry and Eddie Hearn. It was taken at the Presidents' Day cricket match that Orlando's dad played in at Hanningfield. Barry is the club President.



SAFEGUARDING SECTION



Have you set up parental controls?

Parental controls are an important way to keep your child safe online.

Parental controls can be used to block upsetting or harmful content, control in-app purchases or manage how long your child spends online. And the good news is parental controls are really easy to set up.

Innocent searches sometimes reveal not so innocent results. So if you're worried about what your child is searching for online, who they're talking to or what they're seeing, we can help.

It's simple to get started. And, along with talking to your child regularly, using parental controls is one of the best ways to help keep children safe online.

What are parental controls?

Parental controls are software and tools which you can install on phones or tablets, games consoles or laptops - and even your home broadband.

You can also use them to help you block or filter the content your child sees when searching online. And family-friendly public WiFi can help when you're out and about.

Parental controls are also available to help you to:

- plan what time of day your child can go online and how long for
- stop them from downloading apps they're too young for
- manage the content different members of the family can see.

So whatever your child is doing online, there's a way that you can help keep them safe.

For more information visit: <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/parental-controls/>

OUT OF SCHOOL ACHIEVEMENTS

Further to our request last week we have had several parents let us know what their children have been up to outside school, ranging from sporting achievements, music lessons, raising money for charity and much more. We will feature as many as we can each week. Please keep sending them in and we will print a few each week. Email info@grahamjamesprimary.thurrock.sch.uk

Term	HOLIDAY DATES 2020-21
Autumn	Tuesday 1st September to Friday 18th December Half term: Monday 26 th October to Friday 30 th October Christmas break: Monday 21 st December to Friday 1 st January
Spring	Monday 4th January to Friday 26th March Half term: Monday 15 th February to Friday 19 th February Easter break: Monday 29 th March to Friday 9 th April Bank holidays: Good Friday 2 nd April, Easter Monday 5 th April
Summer	Monday 12th April to Friday 9th July Half term: Monday 31 st May to Friday 4 th June Bank holidays: Monday 3 rd May, Monday 31 st May Last day of school is Friday 9th July 2021