



02/10/20  
Issue 2

## BAGS OF HAPPINESS



Last month we had a fantastic delivery of ten 'Bags of Happiness' from Faith, a local 9-year-old.

During lockdown Faith wanted to help others and after gaining funding from local businesses she has been able to make these bags with the aim of supporting children who are finding it difficult to return to school. Each local school has been offered ten bags.

The 'Bags of Happiness' contain stationery, sensory toys, sweets, and fun activities for the children as well as a note from Faith herself.

What an incredible act of kindness that is going to help some of our children!

## 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.

## DIARY DATES



Monday 5<sup>th</sup> October  
Flu Vaccination (nasal spray)

Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> October  
Individual photos

Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> October  
Break up for half term

Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November  
Return to school

Friday 13<sup>th</sup> November  
Children in Need - details to follow

Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December  
Last day of term

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January  
Return to school

Monday 10<sup>th</sup> May to Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> May  
KS2 SATS WEEK

Monday 10<sup>th</sup> May to Friday 14<sup>th</sup> May  
Year 5 Residential Trip to Swattenden

Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> May to Friday 21<sup>st</sup> May  
Year 6 Residential Trip to Stubbers

## ATTENDANCE

The classes with the best attendance in week ending 02/10/20 and the winners of the Graham James Attendance shield are:

EYFS/KS1  
Class 1GS with 99%  
KS2  
Class 6JCA with 98.7%

## PARKING

We have had a complaint from the Sorrells Dentist this morning about parking. Please use consideration when parking and do not park across drives or on the dentist property.

## 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.

## 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 14<sup>th</sup> 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://apogeecorp.zoom.us/j/93604296756>

## 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 31<sup>st</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> November and you must apply before 15<sup>th</sup> January 2021.

## SCHOLASTIC BOOK CLUB

Our new Scholastic Book Club is up and running! Go

to <http://schools.scholastic.co.uk/graham-james-primary/digital-book-club> to browse the latest books and order online. For every **£1** you spend on this month's Book Club, our school will earn 20p in Scholastic Rewards. Please place your order online by **October 14th, 2020**.

## 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](http://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	Jujitsu (ran by Angela Conquest)
Tuesday	After school clubs are under review and we will notify parents when they re-start.
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)

## 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.**

## 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)

## 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.

## 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.

## DATA COLLECTION SHEETS

Data collection sheets have now been sent home for each child (Years 1-6). 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.

## GOLD AWARDS

21.09.20	Millie Farmer	6CM	Great Maths effort
22.09.20	Latoya Ennis	6CM	Amazing independent home topic research
23.09.20	Christopher Mann	6JCA	Fantastic Mathematician
24.09.20	Pixie Wells	4SAT	Superb Science leaflet
25.09.20	Lewis Hatchett	6CM	Excellent Maths
25.09.20	Callum Clifford	6CM	Excellent Maths
25.09.20	Jamie Vice	6CM	Excellent Maths
28.09.20	Georgia Flint	4AB	Fairtrade acrostic poem
28.09.20	Dara Abdul-Azeez	2LP	Great Maths
28.09.20	Ruby Lawrence	2LP	Great Maths
28.09.20	Thomas Dear	2LP	Excellent Writing
28.09.20	Freddy Challis	2LP	Excellent Writing
28.09.20	Frazer Wilson-Green	6CM	Amazing multiplication
28.09.20	Harrison Meredith	6CM	Fantastic non-fiction History writing
28.09.20	Ellsie Webb	6CM	Fantastic non-fiction History writing
28.09.20	Callie Strong	6CM	Fantastic non-fiction History writing
28.09.20	Neveah Collier	6CM	Fantastic non-fiction History writing
29.09.20	Daisy Anderson	6CM	Superb Poems
30.09.20	Freddie Merrigan	3AC	Fantastic Maths



### JOSHUA - 6JCA

Joshua has recently started drumming lessons.

### TEDDY - 1GS

Teddy has recently got into carp fishing with his daddy, he has taken more of an interest since lock down and his parents think this will be his hobby going into adulthood.



### RILEY - 5ES

Riley got awarded Managers' Player and Players' Player for his football team.

### 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](mailto:info@grahamjamesprimary.thurrock.sch.uk)

## READER OF THE MONTH

RSD	Michael P
RSK	Katy S
1GS	Lennie W
1MW	Bonnie M
2LP	Autumn Rose T-K
2KR	Dolcie R
3AC	Sonny C
3OT	Dylan G
4AB	Anicet M
4SAT	Daisy T
5ES	Finley B
5RW	Max S
6CM	Bethany M
6JCA	Billy W



### EVIE - 2LP

Evie won an award for "best dancer in her dance class"

### HARRY - 5ES



Harry has played for County Park Football Club since the age of 6 and has always been a goalie. Harry's mum said, "he has come on leaps and bounds and is such an amazing goalkeeper". He has recently been put forward by his coach to attend intense goalkeeper sessions. He now plays 4 times per week.



### JOSH - 4SAT



Josh has become the new Goalkeeper for his football team Corringham Athletic Team u9s.

He got the award for most improved player at his football club.



## SAFEGUARDING SECTION

There are times when we all feel the strain. As parents and carers, there are ways we can support children and young people to give them the best chance to stay mentally healthy.

Some children and young people have enjoyed being off school, while others will have really struggled - with the coronavirus outbreak keeping them at home and away from friends. Others may be coming to terms with family problems, loss or changes to their living situation.

As restrictions lift in some places, they might also face difficulties in being back at school, or have worries about getting or passing on the virus. It's also still uncertain what further changes we all may face.

Feelings like these will gradually ease for most, but there are always steps you can take to support them emotionally and help them cope with problems they face.

There's also further support available if you feel you or they need it.

<https://www.nhs.uk/oneyou/every-mind-matters/childrens-mental-health/>

### Top tips to support children and young people



#### Be there to listen

Regularly ask how they're doing so they get used to talking about their feelings and know there's always someone to listen if they want it. Find out how to create a space where they will open up.

[How to start a conversation with your child](#)



#### Support them through difficulties

Pay attention to their emotions and behaviour, and try to help them work through difficulties. It's not always easy when faced with challenging behaviour, but try to help them understand what they're feeling and why.

[Help with difficult behaviour and emotions](#)



#### Stay involved in their life

Show interest in their life and the things important to them. It not only helps them value who they are but also makes it easier for you to spot problems and support them.



#### Encourage their interests

Being active or creative, learning new things and being a part of a team help connect us with others and are important ways we can all help our mental health. Support and encourage them to explore their interests, whatever they are.



#### Take what they say seriously

Listening to and valuing what they say, without judging their feelings, in turn makes them feel valued. Consider how to help them process and work through their emotions in a more constructive way.

[The Anna Freud Centre support guide](#)



#### Build positive routines

We know it has not been easy recently, but try to reintroduce structure around regular routines, healthy eating and exercise. A good night's sleep is also really important - try to get them back into routines that fit with school or college.

[Sleep tips for children](#)

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

# HARVEST FESTIVAL

Thank you so much for the donations for Harvest Festival. The food is being distributed to St Luke's Hospice and Thurrock Food Bank.

