



16/10/20
Issue 3



CHILDREN IN NEED



This year we will be supporting Children in Need by joining with millions of others in wearing "Pyjamas for Pudsey" on Friday 13th November. The children can wear pyjamas for a suggested donation of £1.00.

One of the national Children in Need activities is "Act your Age" where you take your age and do something good with it e.g. Seth is 7 years old and is planning to act his age by riding 7 miles without stabilisers. Each class will be doing something similar to this in class. You could even try something at home. See the Children in Need website for ideas.

We will also be asking you to send in any loose change/coins as each class will be filling a huge picture of Pudsey with the coins.

We hope the children enjoy these activities and it raises awareness.

In the lead up to Children in Need we will be selling Pudsey wristbands and pin badges for £1.00 each. We will also have some Pudsey/Blush ears for £2.50. These will go on sale from Monday 9th November. Unfortunately, we will only have enough for one item per child. Can you make sure children bring the money in an envelope clearly marked with Pudsey Merchandise and the correct money?

NEW MENU

We have a new lunch menu starting after October half term. A copy of this will be put onto our website and we will also email a copy home. If you require a paper copy please let the office know.

DIARY DATES



Friday 23rd October
Break up for half term

Monday 2nd November
Return to school

Friday 13th November
Children in Need - see across

Wednesday 16th December
Jolly Jumper Day - 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

Wednesday 19th May to Friday 21st May
Year 6 Residential Trip to Stubbers

ATTENDANCE

The classes with the best attendance in week ending 16/10/20 and the winners of the Graham James Attendance shield are:

- EYFS/KS1**
- Class 2KR with 98.7%**
- KS2**
- Classes 5ES and 6CM with 98%**

CHRISTMAS CARD ORDERS

Reminder: if you would like to order, please send in order and payment by Thursday 22nd October. Cash payment or cheque made payable to:

P.T.A. of Graham James Primary Academy

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.

YEAR 6 TIES HAVE ARRIVED



Usually our Year 6 children receive a tie as soon as they start in Year 6. This year there was a delay in production, but the ties arrived just in time for individual school photos on Monday. The Year 6 teachers took photos of all the children together. They all look so smart and grown up!



FANCY A TREAT THIS HALF TERM?



Our fabulous P.T.A have arranged an exclusive treat for the families of Graham James Primary. This is a way to say thank you for supporting the P.T.A. especially with the Amazon wish list and they thought it would be a lovely end of half-term treat for the children.

The offer is to run instore just for our school- you will be able to order any 2 topping personal pizza for £1.99.

Parents will be able to order and collect from the Corringham branch between 11am-6pm on Friday 23rd October only. Card payments only.

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>

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.

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. We are currently working on a virtual tour which we will share on our website as soon as we can.

PHOTO ORDERS

The school photographer was in school on Tuesday and we should receive proofs within the next few days. We will let you know when the payment and order is due.

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.

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.

After School - Club Timetable

Monday	Jujitsu (ran by Angela Conquest)
Tuesday	Study Club – Year 6 – to start 3/11/20
Wednesday	After school clubs are under review and we will notify parents when they re-start.
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)
- Head Teacher - Mrs Back (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.

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.

GOLD AWARDS

01.10.20	Ruby Fitzgerald	6JCA	Superb report writing
01.10.20	Harry Gaywood	6JCA	Great presentation - report writing
01.10.20	Lexi Ridgewell	6JCA	Beautiful handwriting - report writing
01.10.20	Emily Kench	6JCA	Excellent presentation in report writing
01.10.20	Noah Surry	5RW	For completing all the Maths including challenge and greater depth questions using the formal method for subtraction.
01.10.20	Evie Bean		
01.10.20	Emmanuel Mafimisebi		
01.10.20	Oliver Linton		
02.10.20	Jack Rollins	5RW	For writing a diary entry as Joe Spud. They thought carefully about the words they used and created powerful emotive language.
02.10.20	George Darrah		
02.10.20	Ava Mobsby		
02.10.20	Cameron Akdeniz		
02.10.20	Kaydn Jackson	4SAT	Beautiful Buddha Art
02.10.20	Amelia Rothern	4SAT	Beautiful Buddha Art
02.10.20	Graciella Challis	4SAT	Fantastic Fairtrade poster
05.10.20	Leland Wilson	3OT	Great Maths
05.10.20	Joey Piper	3OT	Lovely handwriting
05.10.20	Frankie Sone	3OT	Fantastic effort in Maths
05.10.20	Savva Lapajev	2KR	Great Literacy work
05.10.20	Eila Hallissey	2KR	Great Literacy work
05.10.20	Michael Spicer	2KR	Much improved literacy
05.10.20	Lucas Gibson	6JCA	Fantastic division!
05.10.20	Katie Merrill	4AB	"Fairtrade opens doors!" Art work
05.10.20	Freya Harvey	4AB	"Fairtrade opens doors! Art work
05.10.20	Jessie Flowers	4AB	Pointillism Buddha Art Work
05.10.20	Darcy Caudwell	4AB	Pointillism Buddha Art Work

GEORGE (left)



George was recently awarded the man of the match trophy from his football team, Corringham Cosmos, for a determined defensive performance.

JACOB (right)

Jacob played his first golf competition since lock down. Not only did he win he also went up a level, he played a par 4 course (9holes) and scored 39



READER OF THE MONTH SEPTEMBER

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

GRACE



Grace has been out every weekend learning to ride her big girl bike without stabilisers. In three weeks she can now ride her bike, and has persevered even after falling off lots - great attitude!



YEAR 4 BIKEABILITY

4SAT and 4AB did Level 1 Bikeability on 9th October. We enjoyed it. This was to get us ready for Year 6 Bikeability when we will go out on the road. We learnt how to do hand signals to let cars know we were turning.

At the start they showed us how to make sure the wheels were safe. After that we tested the brakes. Next we were taught about the cones, there were different colours. Green was go, orange was stop and red was stop too.

Then we had a race where we had to stop in the middle. We were then put into pairs and drove through a gap. Then we went through some cones but it was hard because some were big.

We got our badges and then went back into school. It was fun.

By Amelia Summers and Jacob Fox

RYDER

Congratulations Ryder for taking Man of the Match for the Pegasus Club Under 7s. Ryder and Teddy McLean scored 6 goals and played fantastically to win the first league match. Ryder plays a defender but also managed to score in the game.

Well done to the coaches for encouraging the children and coaching them to play as a team.





TIMES TABLES ROCKSTARS AWARDS

Most coins earned in the last two weeks
on 16.10.2020



Daria Gorobcic	3AC	1 st	Frankie Sone	3OT	1 st
Charlie Lloyd	3AC	2 nd	Dylan Gray	3OT	2 nd
Ayden Nason	3AC	3 rd	Riley Henry	3OT	3 rd
Isabelle Gaywood	4AB	1 st	Madison Pogmore	4SAT	1 st
Caleb McQuade	4AB	2 nd	Eren Van Litsenborgh	4SAT	2 nd
Arlo Robinson	4AB	3 rd	Mack Boxall	4SAT	3 rd
Adam Wafik	5ES	1 st	Oliver Linton	5RW	1 st
Harry Spencely	5ES	2 nd	Thomas Pope	5RW	2 nd
Joseph Mann	5ES	3 rd	Ruby Dear	5RW	3 rd
Henley Jackson	6CM	1 st	Marco Minter	6JCA	1 st
Vinnie Turner	6CM	2 nd	Lexi Ridgewell	6JCA	2 nd
Lewis Hatchett	6CM	3 rd			

BIKEABILITY

Over the last two weeks, children in Year 4 and Year 6 had the opportunity to take part in the Level 1 and Level 2 Bikeability training programme. The training was provided by Thurrock's Road Safety Team.

On the next newsletter, we will include photos and reports by the Year 6 children.



The PTA has set up a wish list on behalf of the school with various items, including books, needed for the school during these current times where many items need to be isolated for 72 hours. Keep checking the link below for new items added to the school wishlist:

https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/HNVDFVYED9SS?ref=wl_share

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

YEAR 5 UKULELE LESSONS

This term we are fortunate to have Thurrock Music Services in school. Each Thursday the children in Year 5 have been having free ukulele music lessons.



Kaiden 5ES "Ukulele lessons have been amazing and we've learnt how to play our first song, It's raining, it's pouring."

Ava T 5ES - "I love to learn the ukulele. All of the different songs are fun. Every Thursday I look forward to learn different strings."

Emily 5ES - "We have been learning how to play different songs on the ukulele. We have learnt My Ukulele and Thumb, Brush, Strum."

William 5ES - "We learnt how to strum and we love the fun songs. It's really fun!"



Joseph 5ES - "We can't wait for the next lesson where we will learn how to play Raining its Pouring with an added rap."

Daisy 5ES - "Mr Sayer comes in on a Thursday and he taught us the different parts of the ukulele and how to hold the instrument properly!"



CLEAN AIR DAY 2020

In Year 6, the children have been learning about the environment. Clean Air Day is the UK's largest air pollution campaign. The campaign normally takes place on the third Thursday in June. However, due to COVID-19, this year Clean Air Day took place on 8 October 2020. Some of the children have written open letters which they would like to share with you:

Dear Parents,

We are most grateful for you taking the time to read this letter. We are writing to express our feelings about our local environment. Air pollution is a big problem that needs to be tackled as a matter of priority.

We ask that you support our plan for our council to make our air cleaner. We are students in 6CM and worry that our air has a big impact to the children in our community. Everyday we face the risks air pollution has to bring. Air pollution can cause heart and lung diseases and may even contribute to mental health issues. During the Covid-19 lockdown we experienced cleaner air and saw massive shifts to low pollution behaviours. We believe if we keep up the momentum, we can keep our air clean.

We understand that the council have been working on this, however it is still a massive problem to our community. We would like to show our support for urgent action to be taken. In addition, we think school streets, should be closed to vehicles at pick up and drop off times. Air pollution has also been linked to Covid-19. Those with health conditions that are caused or worsened by air pollution such as asthma, heart disease and COPD are more vulnerable to complications, even death. There is evidence to suggest that air pollution is contributing to the number of Covid-19 cases. However, it doesn't have to be like this. If we all play our part we could have clean air. Air pollution effects us from our first breath to our last.

If there are any things that we can do, to clean up air, please tell us.

Yours faithfully

Callie Strong and Bethany Moore

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Dear Reader

I am writing to you to inform you about the horrible thing that is happening to our planet. The ozone layer is slowly melting. The ozone layer is a layer of gas which protects us from the sun's incredibly hot heat.

In addition to this, ice caps are melting at an incredibly quick rate and the coral reefs are turning white which is turning beautiful oceans into lonely wastelands. The ocean is now unable to absorb gases and has increased in temperature therefore the ice is melting rapidly. To stop this we can stop using an un-needed amount of gas. We can also help by walking even it is a one hour walk you are helping to save our planet because we only have one.

Did you know that 70% of air pollution is caused by car emissions. It is against the law to idle your car engine unnecessarily. Don't idle - spare our lungs and save our planet. There is a gas called smog which is a deadly gas which makes it hard to see and can harm our precious plants. In lockdown there was less gas in the air than usual which was better for our lungs. Global air temperature was stable until the 90s. Now the temperatures are out of control. Dirty air is an invisible killer. Class 6JCA are passionate about changing your view on travelling by car.

You can try to walk or cycle as it's healthier and saves you money. Also you can give your car a break every now and then. Switch off your engine if you are parked for more than 10 seconds.

This is our planet. We only have one. You make a difference.

Jessica O'Rourke and Keira Owen.

YEAR 6 VISIT TO ST MARY'S CHURCH

On Friday 9th October, Year 6 visited St Mary's Church in Fobbing to learn about the local heroes that fought for us in WW1 and WW2.



SAFEGUARDING SECTION

WALK ONLINE ROADSHOW FOR PARENTS, CARERS AND PROFESSIONALS - FREE EVENT

Virtual Walk On Line Roadshow for Parents, Carers & Professionals

9th December 2020 at 18:30 till 20:30

OR

25th February 2021 at 18:30 till 20:30

Overview

This workshop will look at the online world and how our young people are using it. It will explore how they are navigating around restrictions and using the internet without parents' knowledge.

The workshop will include content in regards to favourite apps and games and it will look at the dangers young people face not only from predatory bad people but also how they are being groomed in games which ranges from receiving gifts for the younger player (Primary age) and being groomed on servers for the older players (Year 5 and secondary).

The workshop will look at bullying across all age ranges and explore the use that gangs make of the online world. It will also look at sexting and how the wrong reaction from a parent can destroy family relationships forever.

The workshop will look at how all young people are being influenced online and forming ideologies and views that might be diametric to the parents, which can also give them a skewed view of the world. It also looks at how influencers work, which can lead our children to conduct dangerous challenges.

The workshop also explores solutions that parents can adopt to help keep their children safe which includes how to use settings on apps to ensure safe use of games and how parents should approach the online arena. The workshop also explains the Stranger Danger message that parents are familiar with to make it ready for 2020/21.

Feedback from previous sessions

"Every Parent needs to go to this event"

"I was shocked at how much I didn't know"

"You Need to put more of these events on so more Parents can benefit"

These events get booked quickly. To avoid disappointment complete and complete the application form below.

To attend this training, please click on the desired date below to complete the online booking form.

9th December 2020

<https://www.thurrocklscp.org.uk/form/ACF5B4BFB7DA1B32217B4624135126E0>

25th February 2021

<https://www.thurrocklscp.org.uk/form/CDBD7ABC19BDF96E1C566BF3588BDBA8>