



20/11/20
Issue 5

JOLLY JUMPER DAY

On Wednesday 16th December we will be taking part in Jolly Jumper Day. Your child can come to school wearing a Christmas jumper if they have one. There is no need to purchase one if you do not have one though.

Children do not have to wear uniform but we ask that they do not wear football kits.

We are asking for a suggested donation of £1.00 per child for wearing non uniform and this money will go to Basildon Hospital.

One of our pupils, Amelia, became unwell in 2018 and after a blood test at Basildon hospital she was quickly called back to hospital and transferred to Great Ormond Street Hospital. She was diagnosed with Leukaemia and has spent the last two years having treatment at both hospitals. Anytime she feels unwell, she is transferred to Basildon and spends time in the apartment room for children like her. This means she cannot go into main children's play area and can only use what is available in this room.

The money raised will be used to buy a Nintendo switch and games for children with Cancer that will often have to spend up to a week in this apartment.

ATTENDANCE

The classes with the best attendance in week ending 20/11/20 and the winners of the Graham James Attendance shield are:

EYFS/KS1

Class RSK with 99.4%

KS2

Class 5ES with 96.4%

DIARY DATES



Friday 27th November
Birthday Friday

Monday 14th December
Reception/KS1 Christmas Lunch

Tuesday 15th December
KS2 Christmas Lunch

Wednesday 16th December
Jolly Jumper Day - details across

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

CHRISTMAS PLAYS

We are pleased to announce that children will still get the opportunity to perform in Christmas plays this year. Unfortunately, Government guidance means that we will not be able to have parents watching this year but the plays will be recorded by a professional company and parents will have the opportunity to purchase the recording either as a digital download or on a USB. Letters will be sent out next week regarding the Christmas show recordings. Please return the form to the school office as soon as you can but no later than Monday 7th December.

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 are 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 schools are forced to close again.

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 opened on Monday 2nd November and you must apply before 15th January 2021.

Check out our website for virtual tours of the school. Please check these out by clicking on the link below:

<http://www.grahamjamesacademy.co.uk/>

Please share with friends and family who are looking at prospective schools for next year

VIRTUAL TOUR

Unfortunately, due to COVID-19, we are unable to have visitors in school for tours. However, our teachers have made short videos of their classrooms and some of our Year 6 children have also made some videos of our school.

Lots of children took part in the filming of these videos and the children all enjoyed taking part.

Please share this with friends with children who are due to start school next year.

We would love to have prospective parents in to see our school but we hope that these virtual tours give parents some opportunity to view the school and nursery.

<http://www.grahamjamesacademy.co.uk/>

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the school office on 01375 675889 or by email.

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 will not 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.

ROLL OF HONOUR

This will now be sent out by e-mail at the end of each month and only the most recent gold awards will appear on the fortnightly newsletter.

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 (not running during lockdown)
Tuesday	Study Club – Year 6
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) |

MUSIC LESSONS (Years 3-6)

If your child is interested in participating in Music lessons from January, then please contact the office. A minimum of at least 3 children per instrument is required for the lesson to go ahead.

The cost is £56.00 for 10 lessons.

The form and payment will need to be returned by Friday 11th December.

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 into 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.

BIRTHDAY FRIDAY

As a result of the current Covid restrictions, many children are missing out on celebrating their birthday with family and friends as they usually would, with parties or gatherings that are currently not allowed during this time.

Therefore, we would like to give them the opportunity to celebrate their birthdays in school with their class friends. A party will be held within each class on the last Friday of each month, this will be to celebrate all who have their birthday in that month.

Staff will provide fun games, activities, and a party atmosphere. If children wanted to bring in sweets to give out to their classmates for their birthday, please can you ensure they are individually wrapped and sealed sweets that the children can take home to eat. We will hold the sweets in school until the Party Friday when they will be distributed.

Hopefully this will enable our children to feel they have had a celebration for their birthday. We will start this on Friday the 27th November with a bumper birthday party for all birthdays during September, October and November.

The logo for Amazon Wish List, featuring the word 'amazon' in its signature font with a curved arrow underneath, followed by 'wishlist' in a sans-serif font with three small star icons above the 't'.

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/HNVD FVYED9SS?ref_=wl_share

GOLD AWARDS

09.11.20	James Putnam	2KR	Fantastic Poetry
09.11.20	Teddy McLean	2KR	Fantastic Poetry
09.11.20	Lilly Edmonds	2KR	Fantastic Poetry
09.11.20	Freddie Norman	2KR	Fantastic Poetry
09.11.20	Nicholas Huluta	2KR	Fantastic Poetry
09.11.20	Hollie Bates	2KR	Fantastic Poetry
09.11.20	Ryder Notley	2KR	Fantastic Poetry
10.11.20	Daisy Baalham	5ES	Knowing all times tables
10.11.20	Riley Bradley	5ES	Knowing all times tables
10.11.20	Maisie Rudman	5ES	Knowing all times tables
10.11.20	Leah Sargent	5ES	Knowing all times tables
10.11.20	Adam Wafik	5ES	Knowing all times tables
10.11.20	Kaiden Collier	5ES	Knowing all times tables
11.11.20	Frazer Wilson-Green	6CM	Fantastic singing
11.11.20	Jake Hurst	6CM	Fantastic DT and helped others
11.11.20	Latoya Ennis	6CM	Fantastic DT and helped others
16.11.20	Amber Morgans	5ES	Superb effort - multiplication
17.11.20	Daisy Walters	5RW	For creating quiz-Billionaire Boy
17.11.20	Evie Bean	5RW	For creating quiz-Billionaire Boy
17.11.20	Lexi Shuti	5RW	For creating quiz-Billionaire Boy
17.11.20	Amber O'Sullivan	5RW	For creating quiz-Billionaire Boy
17.11.20	Cameron Akdeniz	5RW	Times tables- 144/144 in 3m35s
17.11.20	William Putnam	5ES	Times Tables in different order
17.11.20	Emily Kortlandt	5ES	Times Tables in different order
17.11.20	Kenaya Idikayi	5ES	Times Tables in different order
17.11.20	Harry Spenceley	5ES	Times Tables in different order
17.11.20	Clayton Pope	5ES	Times Tables in different order
18.11.20	Emmett Wood	6CM	Amazing fraction work

CHRISTMAS DINNER

An e-mail was sent home last week re Christmas dinners.

If your child does not wish to have a Christmas Dinner on their designated day, then please send them in with a packed lunch.

Please respond to the email no later than Monday 23rd November.

There is no need to print off the reply slip, you can simply reply to the email.

READER OF THE MONTH OCTOBER

RSD	Lexi Giller
RSK	Logan Bevan
1GS	Arthur Lloyd
1MW	Erny Perry
2LP	Lainey Beaumont
2KR	Michael Spicer
3AC	Daria Gorobcic
3OT	Mia Clark
4AB	Freya Harvey
4SAT	Alissia Latham
5ES	Kaiden Collier
5RW	Ava Mobsby
6CM	Tallulah Wevers
6JCA	Emily Kench



TIMES TABLES ROCKSTARS AWARDS

Most correct answers from 4th November to 18th November



Charlie Lloyd	3AC	1 st	Dylan Gray	3OT	1 st
Ayden Nason	3AC	2 nd	Mason McGovern	3OT	2 nd
Daria Gorobcic	3AC	3 rd	Rose Denton	3OT	3 rd
Jessie Flowers	4AB	1 st	Travis Gorham	4SAT	1 st
Minh Tran	4AB	2 nd	Mack Boxall	4SAT	2 nd
Caleb McQuade	4AB	3 rd	Eren Van Litsenborgh	4SAT	3 rd
Adam Wafik	5ES	1 st	Thomas Pope	5RW	1 st
Harry Spenceley	5ES	2 nd	Cassie Peters-Clark	5RW	2 nd
Joseph Mann	5ES	3 rd	Cameron Akdeniz	5RW	3 rd
Amy Horncastle	6CM	1 st	Bobby Icton	6JCA	1 st
Bobby Long	6CM	2 nd	Callum Anderson	6JCA	2 nd
Harrison Meredith	6CM	3 rd	Samuel Munro	6JCA	3 rd



NUMBOTS

Week ending 13.11.20



Cameron Dickens	RSD	1 st	Lacie Whittle	RSK	1 st
Naomi Gray	RSD	2 nd	Lottie Walshe	RSK	2 nd
Theo Winchester	RSD	3 rd	Anderson Couves	RSK	3 rd
Arthur Lloyd	1GS	1 st	Francesca Walker	1MW	1 st
Chloe Nason	1GS	2 nd	Connor Griffiths	1MW	2 nd
Kienan Akdeniz	1GS	3 rd	Oscar Gilbey	1MW	3 rd
Evie Hinks	2LP	1 st	Ashton Gorham	2KR	1 st
Nathanael Nsubuga	2LP	2 nd	Hallie Beard	2KR	2 nd
Daisy Fitzgerald	2LP	3 rd	James Putnam	2KR	3 rd

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

MATHS WEEK ENGLAND TT ROCKSTARS COMPETITION
9th - 14th NOVEMBER 2020

A massive well done to ALL the children who took part in the Maths Week England TT Rockstars Rock Out competition. Graham James Primary came 499th out of 3887 schools that took part. A fantastic effort by all the children. The top three classes in GJPA were:

1st 5RW 2nd 5ES 3rd 3AC

The top 3 in each class were:

Charlie Lloyd	3AC	1 st
Ayden Nason	3AC	2 nd
Daria Gorobcic	3AC	3 rd
Dylan Gray	3OT	1 st
Mason McGovern	3OT	2 nd
Nathan Zukas	3OT	3 rd
Jessie Flowers	4AB	1 st
Minh Tran	4AB	2 nd
Anicet Mavita	4AB	3 rd
Travis Gorham	4SAT	1 st
Amelia Summers	4SAT	2 nd
Tyler Holmes	4SAT	3 rd
Adam Wafik	5ES	1 st
Finley Bines	5ES	2 nd
Joseph Mann	5ES	3 rd
Thomas Pope	5RW	1 st
Cassie Peters-Clark	5RW	2 nd
Jacob Smith	5RW	3 rd
Amy Horncastle	6CM	1 st
Daisy Anderson	6CM	2 nd
Tyler Griffiths	6CM	3 rd
Samuel Munro	6JCA	1 st
Ronnie Garland	6JCA	2 nd
Kodey Reed	6JCA	3 rd



MOST VALUABLE PLAYER
(OUT OF WHOLE SCHOOL)
DURING THE MATHS WEEK ENGLAND COMPETITION
ROCK OUT 2020 09.11.2020-14.11.2020

1st place - Thomas Pope
2nd place - Adam Wafik
3rd place - Charlie Lloyd



YEAR 6 BIKEABILITY

In October Thurrock Road Safety Team visited our school to provide Bikeability training for Year 6 children. This is what some of the children had to say about it:

"First we started by swerving around cones and learning hand signals, then we learned to signal when we stop and look over our shoulder when we stop and go. We also did some U-turns. Secondly, we went on the road and learned about minor and major roads. Also we were taught about give-way marks and primary and secondary position. Thirdly we were taught about junctions and at the end we went on a bike ride and used all of our skills. There was one person at the back doing all the signals. We really enjoyed it and it will keep us safe on the road when we get older."
- Tyler and Tallulah

"Dear Michelle and Lisa (Bikeability trainers)
Thank you for teaching us how to be safe on the road. I was very nervous but when I got on the road you helped me and I got there in the end. Thank you for teaching us." - Lexi

"Bikeability was very challenging but when Michelle and Lisa were helping me I felt more confident and I believed in myself more. I knew I wouldn't crash and I had lots of fun and enjoyed it. I wish I could do more and now I can finally ride on the road." - Zhané

"The first day was fine but when we got on the road it was scary because cars were behind us. Some of the roads had cars on so we couldn't see in front. I needed help a couple of times when we did it the first time, I was scared because I didn't know what to do. But after I did it twice I was more confident. I memorized, observation, communication, position, priorities and secondary and primary. Now I know how to spot give way lines and let cars go first. Thank you Michelle and Lisa." - Bobby

"We practiced on the playground from Monday to Wednesday. We went on the road and did crossings, indications, snake and more. I was happy when we did it. It was good. We got a badge and certificate." - Calvin

"Bikeability was great. We learnt how to do many things safely. Each obstacle was fun and they motivated us to do our best. We all had so much fun whilst still being safe." - Emma

"Bikeability was incredible. I started off excited and nervous. Each obstacle was scary but when it was my turn it wasn't as scary as I thought it would be." - Kodey

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.

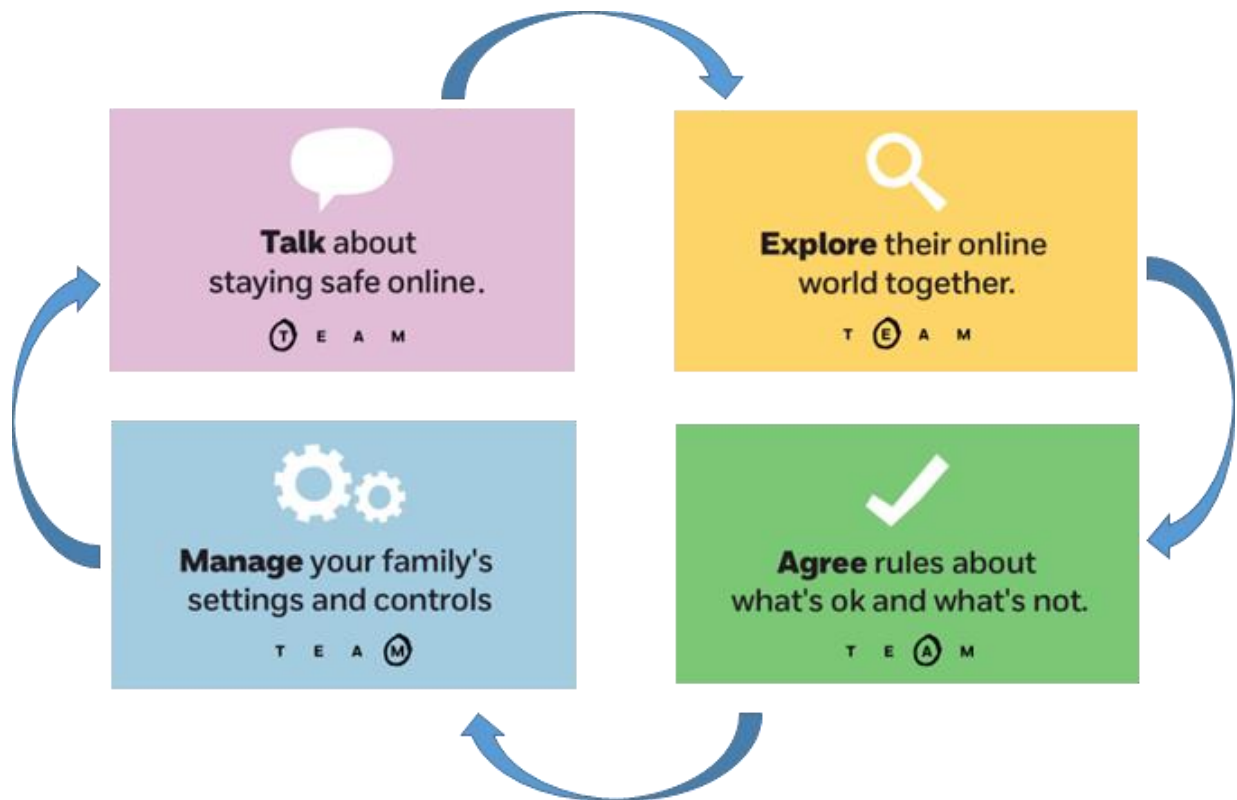
PARKING

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.

SAFEGUARDING SECTION

The internet is amazing! Children can play, learn, create and connect - opening up a whole new world of exciting opportunities and possibilities. But with the digital world changing all the time, how can you make sure your child's staying safe?

The NSPCC recommend that you apply the TEAM principle - Talk, Explore, Agree and Manage.



PAIGE AND AMBER (Year 5)

Paige and Amber recently took part in a virtual interview with Kylie Minogue hosted by Magic Radio. They asked Kylie what her favourite thing about herself is and Kylie responded with kindness.



DAISY (6CM)

Daisy has had another poem published and her parents would like to share it with the parents and children at Graham James.

Daisy will be donating all three books that she is currently in to the school and hopes to inspire future talented students.

The grounded witch

Once a witch you're always a witch,
Or so thought Agnes who one day found herself in a ditch,
You see Agnes was the one that could always fly,
But on this particular day she fell from the sky,
She brushed herself off and up she got,
With her broom in her hand she was hot to trot,
She tried and tried with all her heart,
But her dam broomstick just would not start,
So off she walked to the nearest town,
Determined to turn her frown upside down,
Have you ever heard of a witch that walks!!
It's like a seagull that never squawks!!!
Into town she went with all her might,
But what to do in the middle of the night,
She was hungry and she was scared,
But there were no villagers around! No one cared,
You see Agnes was a wicked witch,
Some would say she deserved that ditch,
Nightfall ended and morning soon came,
Agnes was woken by a strange looking flame,
Her fire was about to go out,
When a fire pixy gave her a clout,
You see Agnes had taken her favourite spot,
When she laid her head she must have forgot,
Witches can fly but they need pixy dust,
A fire one that they can trust,
Agnes had never been grounded before,
Out of her context that's for sure,
The little pixy nice and robust,
Sprinkled Agnes with plenty of dust,
With a kick start her broomstick rose,
And off Agnes flew away she goes,
You see we are not always what we seem,
Black could be white and yellow could be green...

Written by Daisy Adela Anderson age 10



CHILDREN IN NEED



On Friday 13th November the staff and children all wore "Pyjamas for Pudsey" for a donation of £1.00 per person. We also sold the Pudsey merchandise we had left from previous years and collected coins all week. Thank you to all those who donated. Even though the new merchandise did not arrive in time we still managed to raise £1211.57 which is amazing! Thank you so much.

